

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2020 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Bill Rascher - KT5TE

Vice Pres: Steve Bartlett-WB5IDY

Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

Visit our web site at

<https://w5nac.com/>

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club is to support and promote Amateur Radio by public service, offering training to unlicensed interested parties and licensed Amateurs, mutual support of other Amateurs, engaging events that promote Amateur radio to the general public and other Amateur radio operators, and continuing fellowship by regularly scheduled organized meetings and events and having fun.



## NOVEMBER MINUTES

The November meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on November 4th. Because of the Wuhan virus, the meeting was again held as a virtual meeting using the club's 147.32 repeater. **President Bill KT5TE** opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Ten members and guests checked in. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

At the October meeting, the President appointed a

nominating committee consisting of **Army AE5P**, **Ralph N6RH** and **Robert KD5FEE** to find candidates for club officers and report back at the November meeting, at which time election of officers will be held. The Nominating Committee reported that their recommendation was to hold the present officers over for another year. There being no other nominations from the floor, a unanimous ballot was cast for **Bill KT5TE** as President, **Steve WB5IDY** for Vice President, and **Army AE5P** for Secretary/ Treasurer.

A report was made on the several on-air contests scheduled during October. Several club members entered some of them and reported having a good time in them. The month

of November has a number of excellent contests scheduled as shown on the Upcoming Events page in this newsletter. All club members are encouraged to participate in these events as they are an excellent way to improve your skills as a radio operator.

A short report was made on the Tailgate Sale held in Central, north of Lufkin. There was good turnout and sales were brisk.

**Program:** The program was split between a short update by **Army AE5P** on the status of adding an external controller to the club 147.32 repeater, and a report on the ARRL GoKit provided to the club and in the hands of **Steve WB5IDY**. Steve noted that he intends to have the GoKit and a Club Orange Box kept at City Hall, with new antennas added to the roof there.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another fast month is behind us and there are some great plans for December. To start with we have a dinner for the first club meeting at the Fredonia. Like November it looks like we'll have a chance to climb another tower and disassemble. A couple months ago Tom, W5TV and I took down his antennas. Now it is time to remove the tower. It may be a while before I get enough stuff done to continue with my VHF tower plans. That is OK since it means I won't be bored and each day I'll have a plan to complete all the projects at my pace.

Right now I have to work on my Massey Ferguson no. 74 four bottom plow since the plowshares are plum worn out. Finding parts is getting tough, and taking old parts off that have been there for decades isn't at all fun. The work done in the field so far in preparing

25ac for sprigging this spring is looking good. The MF 74 is a turning plow which will bury any weed seeds, not destroyed by our fire, 7" deep. Thus fewer weeds to deal with after sprigging. This means I'll have less exposure to the herbicides needed to help establish the field. With dull plowshares my MF 4610, 100hp, tractor is working so hard it is giving transmission sensor temperature errors. In other words the tranny is getting hotter than... ..out of the sensors range. All this dry weather has caused the sand clay mixture in this field to form a barrier almost as tough as concrete. This hardness forces me to drop down to low range second gear - a crawl. It would take 6 draft horses to pull my single bottom riding plow through this field. I only have 3 Belgians. The record pull for a Belgian pair (or any pulling horse) is almost 14,000lbs. So as you can tell this soil condition is very hard on a fairly good size tractor.

My friend is disking the field across the road to prepare for watermelons next year and his tractor is working hard. The tractor is a JD 240hp articulated 8 wheel drive pulling a massive disk. So I'm not alone. My disk won't penetrate beyond a couple of inches on each pass. Worse case is I'll have to plow at about 4 inches. It would help if I had a HF radio in the cab.

I'm looking forward to a good dinner and a chance to visit with friends Wednesday, December 2. Hope to see you there.

73, Bill KT5TE

[bill@watershipfarm.com](mailto:bill@watershipfarm.com)

## FROM THE VP CHAIR

### NAC 311

This month I chose to not write a ham radio related article, but instead, I want to tell you about a new way to communicate with the City of Nacogdoches. My apologies for our folks who reside elsewhere, but this information is also available to you when you come here to visit, which I hope is often (please spend lots of money before you leave).

The City is deploying a new phone application and web app called NAC311. This app will let you identify problems, concerns, or questions directly to the appropriate City department and receive email feedback as the problem is resolved.

Go to your phone app store site and search for Nac311; it is free. When you initially setup this app, you will need to register with your contact information. We want to be able to send you messages when we have completed the work request or answer your questions directly. Registration is a one-time thing and your information is kept confidential.

Once installed, you will see an opening menu with lots of information about Nacogdoches events, etc., but you can **click on "REQUESTS" at the bottom** to start a report. This will open a menu to make Service Requests directly to a City department. Select a report issue category (Report Type).

**See Fig. 1 and Fig 2.**

*{Editor's Note: All graphics for this column can be found at the end of the newsletter}*

Pick the general category of the request so that the message will get to

the right department. Don't worry, if you make a mistake, City staff are well versed in sending it to another department if needed.

Next, locate the problem on the map. Your phone GPS location will come up as the default, but you can type in an address or move the pointer around to a site visually. **See Fig 3.** After selecting the site, tap "Tell Us More Details" and a prompt for "Issue Type" will appear. Select the specific issue. This example shows the issue type options for "Streets" as the concern. **See Fig 4.**

Lastly, you can make a comment about the problem or question in the Description field. Be nice, these folks are public servants. Sticks and stones .... If you want to send a photo, there is a button to attach one and also an option to keep the report anonymous, but you will not be able to receive any responses. When finished, select SUBMIT at the bottom of the home screen and away it

goes! The correct staff person in each department is immediately notified with a work order which is then dispatched to the field personnel or others to investigate.

This reporting system is a way for you to efficiently communicate a problem to the City and be assured it will not fall in the cracks. It is difficult for City staff to keep track of every issue in the community when folks only tell them about problems in the grocery store parking lot or when they are having lunch somewhere. This system keeps reminding each department that they have unsolved issues until they mark them as complete.

Using this system instead of calling in your complaints or reports, will also help us save money and budget more accurately for needed repairs. By tracking the location and description of these reports digitally, we can produce heat maps showing the geographic concentrations of

particular problems like repeat potholes and waterline breaks which in turn become the basis for our capital project planning and funding each year, helping our limited tax dollars go to the highest priority areas.

Download the app and give it a try. Contact the City Engineering Department if you want a personal demonstration or need help installing the free application on your phone. We are striving to do things better and your use of this portal will be a big help in improving our efficiency.

73

Steve Bartlett, WB5IDY  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

[bartlett.steve58@gmail.com](mailto:bartlett.steve58@gmail.com)

## NOTES FROM OUR EC

I expect most of us won't be worrying too much about the scales this season. I'm sure there are a number of organizations who have opted out of large gatherings. Some of my friends who usually host are deciding to keep the festivities small.

I just looked at my previous files and this is the 6th December edition of the EC Corner. Have to work on some new ideas for the column.

On to other items. Today is 22 November, so there are a few days left in the month and in the 2020 Hurricane Season. It's been the largest hurricane season we even got into the Greek alphabet. I don't have any idea what the toll has been. We've been lucky again. Can't keep saying that, Mother Nature may take offense.

Thank you to everyone who has checked into our Monday and Thursday nets. I encourage all of our members and recipients of the newsletter to check in with any of the various nets in your area. We have a few local area repeaters that can be hit with a good antenna and a little power. You HF guys, check into the traffic nets or at least listen in to see how it is done.

I'm looking forward to seeing those that can at the club Christmas dinner and meeting. And to those that will be unable to come, I will miss the time to visit with you. I hope everyone has a great Christmas, Yuletide or however you celebrate this season.

"...and on the earth, peace,  
goodwill toward men."

Peace to all this season,

73 de John Chapman  
KC5MIB

[kc5mib@arrl.net](mailto:kc5mib@arrl.net)

## VE TESTING

The October VE session saw three individuals present themselves for exams. Mike KI5JSB upgraded to Extra and traded in his callsign for a vanity call of AA5HH. James KI5LVK from Flint and Chad KI5LVJ from Henderson both passed their Technician exams. Congratulations to all three.

Two big items regarding our VE testing program. Beginning with the October testing session, anyone who passes their Technician exam will be given a current copy of the ARRL General License Manual in the hope they will return to upgrade to General. It's important that we do all we can to promote new additions to our ranks.

Second, effective with the November VE testing, we will meet at the Nacogdoches County EOC, which is located off FM3314, just west of Loop 224. Turn off FM3314 at the soccer fields, and

continue west on the interior road to the EOC. This is the same location we used for our Field Day operation in 2019.

At the November session, we had five applicants and they all passed their Technician exam. No callsigns have been issued at the time of this writing.

For the latest updates, please check the club website at:

<https://w5nac.com/about/testing/>

73 de AE5P.

email: [ae5p@arrl.net](mailto:ae5p@arrl.net)

## TWO METER CLUB NETS

Remember to join us each week for the two meter nets sponsored by NARC. Each **MONDAY** is the **NARC ARES/RACES** net, at 8:00 p.m. on the club's 146.84 repeater (PL 141.3). Second, on **THURSDAY** evenings at 8:00 p.m. is the **Deep East Texas Skywarn Emergency Weather Net** on the 147.32 repeater

(PL 141.3). Please join us for one or both.

## NEXT MEETING

Our December meeting will be a sit down Christmas dinner at the Fredonia Hotel. Club members and a guest are invited to attend. No children please.

We will have a private room to ourselves and everyone can order their favorites from the regular 1<sup>st</sup> City Café menu. A copy of the menu is attached to the email transmitting this newsletter.

Each person is responsible for the cost of the meal and will pay at the end of the evening. The club will pay for the room.

Persons attending the dinner are asked to wear a face mask except when eating. Appropriate social distancing will be practiced.

Please come and join us for this special evening. There will not be a White Elephant Auction or a book raffle. Dues for 2021 will be accepted by the

Treasurer. It will be very good to see everyone again.

Please direct any questions pertaining to the dinner to the club Secretary.

We look forward to seeing you and your guest there.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

Mark your calendars for the following events coming up in the next few months. Full information on these events and much more can be found at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Note that all dates shown here are local, CST dates while all contest logging uses UTC dates and times.

### CQ WW CW

Nov 27-29, 2020

<http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

### ARRL 160M CW

Dec 4 - 6, 2020

<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

### ARRL 10M CONTEST

Dec 12 - 13, 2020

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

### ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP - CW

Dec 20, 2020

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

### ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP

Jan 2 -3, 2021

<http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

### NAQP - CW

Jan 9, 2021

<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

### NAQP - SSB

Jan 16, 2021

<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

### ARRL JANUARY VHF CONTEST

Jan 16 -17, 2021

<http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>

### CQ WW RTTY WPX

Feb 6-7, 2021

<http://www.cqwprrty.com/rules.htm>

### ARRL INTR. DX-CW

Feb 20-21, 2021

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

## AUDIO FILTERS

by

Thomas Atchison W5TV

I recently purchased an ICOM SP-20 speaker that goes with my ICOM IC706MkIIg. This speaker has several audio filters that can be switched in and out of the audio chain for improved audio on both phone and cw. This reminded me of the external audio filters we used on some of the earlier QRP radios to improve selectivity. I then found an excellent article on audio filters in the November 2020 issue of QST; therefore, I thought it might be interesting to talk about what audio filters do for a receiver.

The ICOM SP-20 has four audio filters, two low pass filters and two high pass filters. All of these filters are LC filters. Remember from our previous articles that we discussed low pass filters and high pass filters. In the SP-20 one low pass filter passes frequencies below 2.4 KHz and the other passes frequencies below 800 Hz. One high pass filter passes frequencies above 300 Hz and the other passes frequencies above 600 Hz. By using one high pass filter and one low pass filter you can create a band pass filter. For example, if we use the low pass filter that passes frequencies below 800 Hz and the high pass filter that passes frequencies above 600 Hz we create a band pass filter that is 200 Hz wide. This provides a good CW filter. On the other hand you can create a band pass filter that passes frequencies between 300 Hz and 2.4 KHz which provides a band pass filter that is 2.1 KHz wide and works for SSB.

If you have an interest in working with audio filters I urge you to look at the article entitled "*Build a DSP Audio Filter*" by Steve Allen, KZ4TN, in the November 2020 issue of QST, pp.30-33. He describes constructing a DSP audio filter using a DSP audio module that can be purchased from DX Engineering called a LASERBEAM-VARI Module Digital Signal Processing filter. You can find more information on these modules at the following URL: [Audio DSP and Equalization Devices - SOTAbearms LASERBEAM DSP](#)

[Filter Modules - Free Shipping on Most Orders Over \\$99 at DX Engineering](#). The QST article has a list of the parts needed for building the DSP audio filter which includes source information.

Steve says his audio filter provides DSP band pass filtering with an adjustable band width of 200 to 3,500 Hz and an adjustable center frequency from 200 to 3,500 Hz. He also includes a simple audio amplifier module in case your receiver has low audio output. The audio amplifier module he uses can be purchased from Parts Express at the URL: [Low Voltage Mono Audio Amplifier Board NJM386D LM386 - Ideal for Battery Operation \(parts-express.com\)](#).

This is a good project and the result is a useful addition to any ham shack. Have fun.

## WE HAVE A NEW HOME!

Thanks to our Vice President Steve Bartlett, and to our Nacogdoches County Judge Gregg Sowell and Emergency Management Coordinator Tara Triana, the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club has been granted access to the County EOC to use for our meetings and our VE test sessions.

This is most welcome and will allow us to resume real meetings rather than virtual ones. We used the EOC for our Field Day operation in 2019 and it worked out very well. There is a lot of room in the facility, with many tables and chairs. Perfect for our use and very easy to allow for appropriate distancing.

Please plan to attend our club meeting on January 6, 2021. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30. The EOC will also be used for our VE Testing Sessions on December 16 and all sessions in 2021 unless something changes. Check the club website at <https://w5nac.com> for the most current information.

We will resume the book raffles at the January meeting, with everyone present receiving a raffle ticket without charge. The winner of the raffle will receive a current book of interest to Radio Amateurs.

### GRAPHICS FROM THE VP'S COLUMN

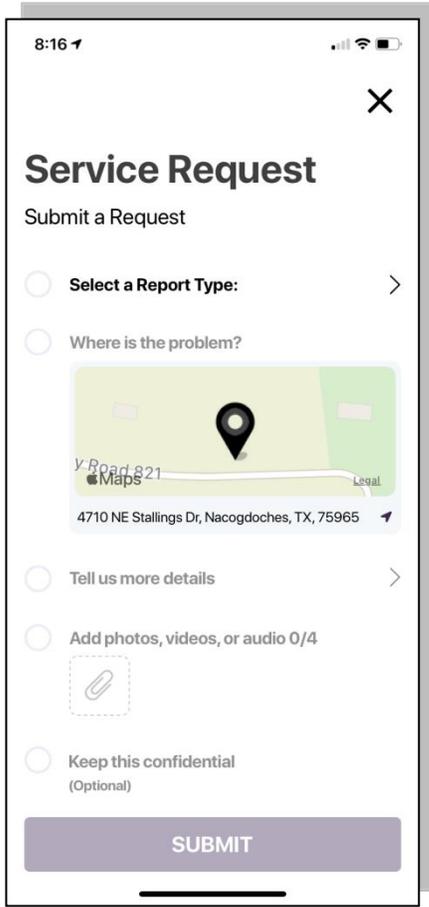


FIG 1

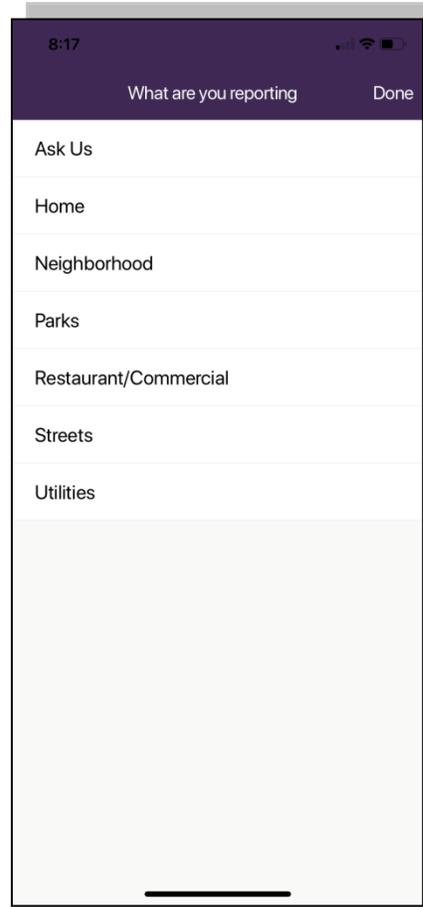


FIG 2

GRAPHICS FROM THE VP'S COLUMN (Continued)

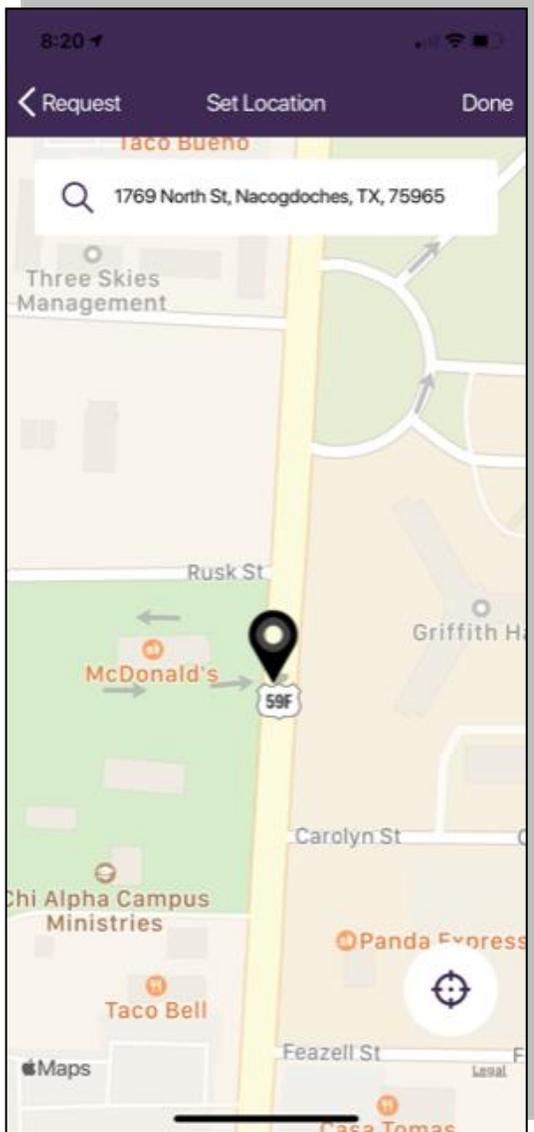


Fig 3

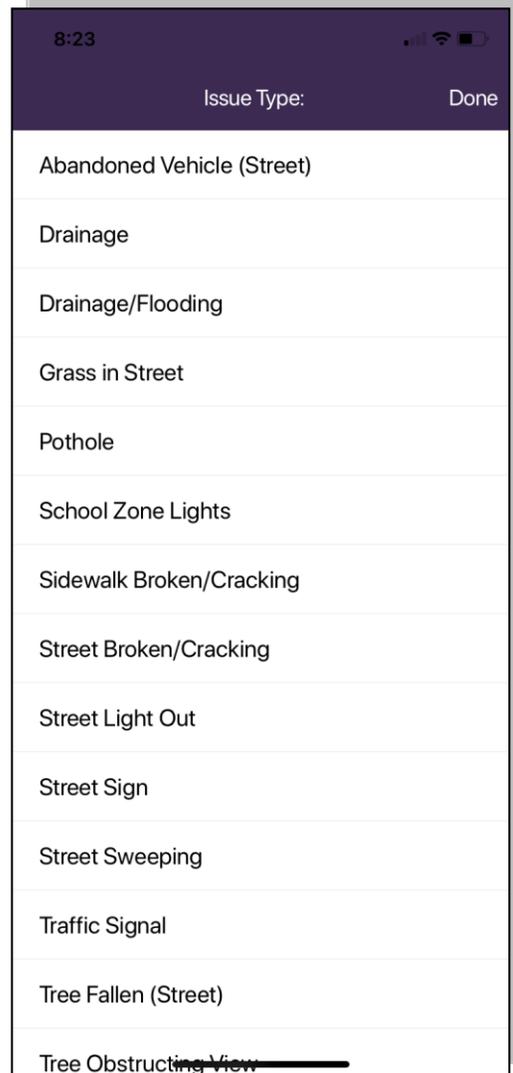


Fig 4