

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2023 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Aaron Baker - KI5FIQ

Vice Pres: Mark Phillips - KI5POH

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.



FEBRUARY MINUTES

The February business meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held on January 25, 2023, on the club's 146.84 repeater. The three club officers checked in, as well as eight additional club members.

KI5MHB gave a report on the K5C Special Event. 1,749 contacts were made during the event with 13 club members participating. Winter Field Day is coming up; several NARC club members plan to be on from SE Sabine County. Work them if you can. Net closed at 8:13 p.m.

The regular February meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club was held as scheduled on February 1st at the City/County EOC. Vice-President Mark KI5POH opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 14 members and 1 guest. Introductions were made by all present. Minutes of the previous meetings were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read.

Wolfie KI5MHB reported on the K5C Special Event, the 20th anniversary of our running this event.

Army AE5P reported on the purchase of a new PA speaker system funded by NCEC, and the order of a new Yaesu DR-2X for the 147.32 repeater.

Meeting closed at 7:16

Program: Tim Leonard KE5PQJ made a presentation on ADS-B using an inexpensive SDR-RTL receiver. Tim has made the slides he used available on a web site published on Hamlist.

2023 DUES ARE DUE

Dues are just \$20 a year and cover all licensed hams in a family. Please get your dues to AE5P. Sooner is better than later. Make checks payable to NARC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the end of February and after some news last week, I'm feeling a bit sentimental today. Last week, Texas Parks and Wildlife announced that Fairfield State Park near Fairfield would be closing next Tuesday as the owner of the land had sold it to someone else who is now going to turn the land into a housing and other developments. For you POTA people, that means Park K-3007 will no longer be active and will can no longer be activated. For the sentimental feelings coming from the news, it was my first park that I got to activate and I instantly fell in love with the park itself as well. In fact I was even planning on going to it again to do some POTA during SFA's spring break next week, but looks like I get to go do that from a different park instead. Thankfully, other POTAers have felt the same way about the park closing and multiple

hams have activated the park several times a day (In fact at the time of this writing Jim N5JGE is activating it on 10 meters FT8 😊) So while it may be an end of an era for this park, many others are still out there. Get out there and listen for a POTA activation or get out and go activate a park too. Anyway, enjoy your March and hope to see everyone at the meeting.

73, Aaron KI5FIQ

Baker.barisax@gmail.com

FROM THE VP CHAIR

Our March club meeting presentation will be by ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Greg Evans, K5GTX.

Greg's presentation will be conducted via Zoom and should be very interesting.

Darrell (KI5PYQ) and I are proposing a Fox Hunt for Saturday, March 11th, to be conducted in the city of Nacogdoches. We will have more details at the club meeting.

Near by HamFests - March 3-4 is the Greater Houston HamFest in Rosenberg, TX.

Have a great March!

73, Mark KI5POH

KI5POH21@gmail.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

Good Morning everyone. At least it was when I started this. February always manages to sneak. The rains have helped as was noted on the ARES Net on Monday the 20th; 3 inches below the top of the spillway.

Just about 25 days are left before spring time arrives with its fun.

I won't be terribly long with this missive. Let's concentrate with microphone skills. Yes, Army, I know there are very few ambiguities with CW.

A couple of things I've noticed are saying numbers especially a string of numbers and key discipline.

Disclaimer: these communicators are "professional drivers" not hams or professional communicators or do voice overs for the Cuban Numbers station on SW.

Okay, John, what do you mean saying a string of numbers? Much of the information passed is as a string of numbers in a purchase order. Let's take for example the string 632754 (just some numbers I pulled from the ether.) When he said it did he mean 63 or 60 3 20 7 50 4 or any combination of the string. The blanks were intentional. Yes, in some cases it was the numeral 60 and numeral 3. Very few say the string as individual numerals: six three two...four. It can be a bit of a problem. In our need to pass traffic with things like lat/lon, time and such, precision in presentation is necessary. And a quick PS here, I have even gotten some of the drivers to use ITU phonetics, well only one letter W-Whiskey. W precedes a serial number string.

The second area, key discipline. My marksman friends might call it trigger control. What is it? We have heard conversations where the first syllable was lost when keying the

radio, especially on the repeater. I've experienced this on APCO 25(see note) trunking repeater systems. Having no experience, yet, with DMR, I expect it is probably true. Why, APCO 25 radios do a hand shake to sync the two radios. It's an easy fix and we've heard it before on the radio, Key the radio, take a breath and then speak.

Thanks to everyone for taking time out of their schedules for our nets and to our Net Control operators.

73 and see you on the nets de John Chapman KC5MIB
kc5mib@arrl.net

APCO 25: Association of Public Safety Communication Officer, Standard 25, an early trunking standard to allow multiple groups to use a limited number of repeater pairs for communication. Predominately used in the Land Mobile radio environment in municipalities and many governmental installations.

VE TESTING

We had no applicants for the February VE test session.

Many thanks to VE's, **Mike AA5HH**, **Ralph N6RH**, **Robert KD5FEE**, and **Army AE5P**.

Remember that we give in-person VE tests the third Wednesday of **EVERY** month. For the latest information always check the club website at:

<https://w5nac.com/ve-testing/>

73 de AE5P.

email: ae5p@arrl.net

TWO METER CLUB NETS

Please join us each week for the two-meter nets sponsored by NARC. All stations are welcome to check into the nets.

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.

HAMLIST

Are you on Hamlist? Check it out and join at:

<https://w5nac.com/about/email-reflectors/>

NEXT MEETING

Remember that our meetings are now in two separate sessions. The monthly business meeting is held on the Club's 146.84 repeater, 8:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before our normal scheduled meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. For the regular March meeting, the business meeting will be held on Wednesday February 22 on the 84 repeater. Everyone is welcome to listen to the meeting, however you must be a current dues paying

member of the club to participate.

The next regular NARC meeting will be Wednesday March 1st at the Nacogdoches City/County EOC. Meeting begins at 7:00; doors open at 6:30. Come early for socializing before the meeting. After a very short business meeting, we will have what promises to be a most informative program by our North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator (NTX SEC) Greg Evans K5GTX on everything you always wanted to know about ARES.

Hope to see ya'll 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 <https://www.contestcalendar.com//contestcal.html>

NAQP RTTY

Feb. 25-26, 2023

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

ARRL International DX Contest SSB

March 4-5, 2023

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

North American Sprint - RTTY

March 12, 2023

<http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>

BARTG HF RTTY

March 18-20, 2023

<http://www.bartg.org.uk/>

CQ WPX SSB

March 25-26, 2023

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

San Jacinto Day Special Event Station K5T

April 27-30, 2023

w5nac.com

7th Call Area QSO Party

May 6-7, 2023

<http://7qp.org>

New England QSO Party

May 6-7, 2023

<https://neqp.org/rules/>

Volta WW RTTY

May 13-14, 2023

<http://www.contestvolta.com/rules.pdf>

CQ WW WPX CW

May 27-28, 2023

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

ARRL International Digital Contest (No RTTY)

June 3-4, 2023

<https://contests.arrl.org/dig/>

ARRL June VHF Contest

June 10-12, 2023

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

ARRL Field Day

June 24-25, 2023

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Check out the many contests listed on the Contest Calendar link shown here. There are many State QSO parties and 'Parks-On-The-Air' events that may be just right for you. Check 'em out.

Chasing DX, continued

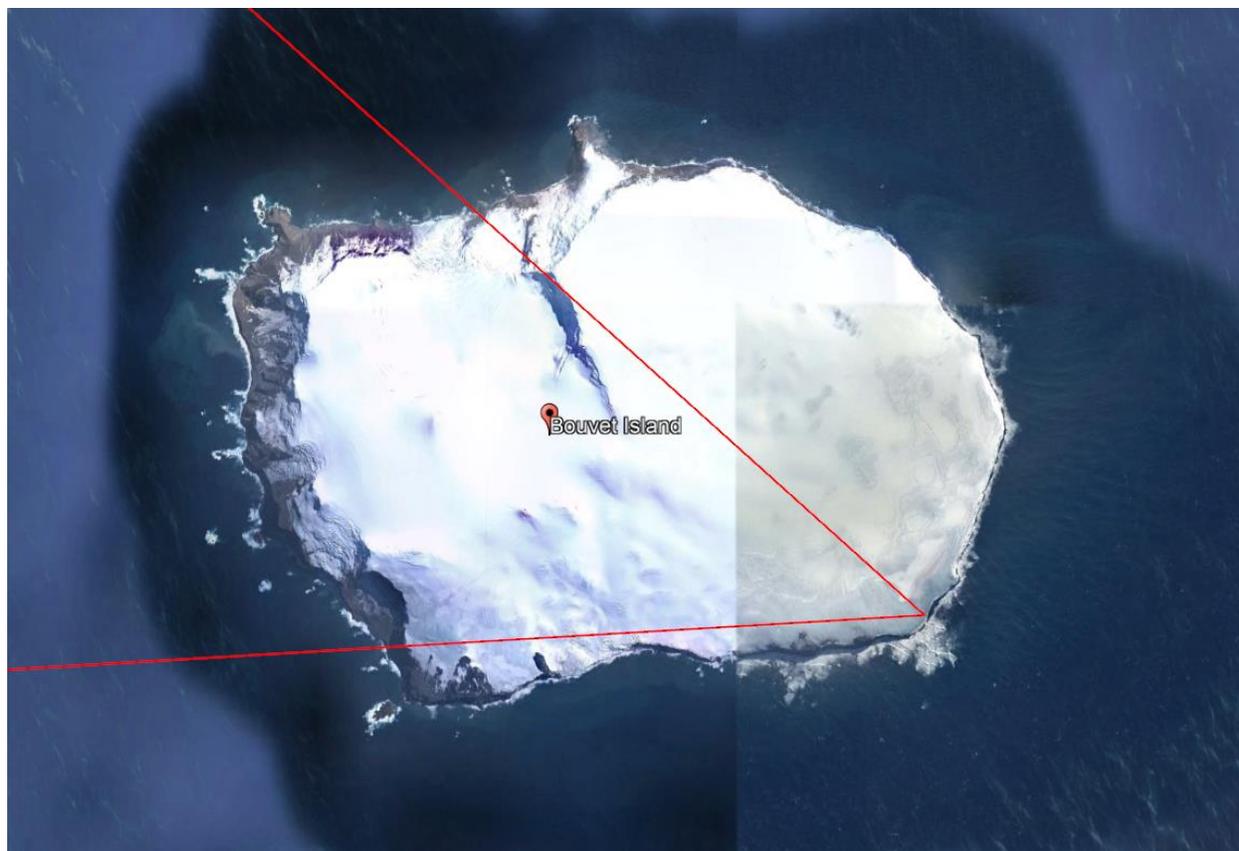
Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

Last newsletter, I wrote about getting the DX bug with the uptick in Cycle 25 solar activity and DX-peditions to Bouvet and Crozet Islands. These are the second and third most wanted DXCC entities in the world. These DX-peditions have had drastically different outcomes as I will describe below.

First, the bad news - Bouvet Island. This DX-pedition seemed behind the curve since it left The Falklands and sailed to Bouvet on the Marama. I fully expected that they might be on the air as early as my birthday - January 27th. That would have been quite the gift! However, it was not to be and four members of the team first landed on the island on January 31st. They came ashore at Cape Fie, on the southeast side of the island - more on that later. The plan was to land but return to the boat overnight before spending the next day bringing much of the equipment ashore. Heavy seas prevented their return to the boat and they spent the night on the island without shelter, sleeping equipment or heat. It was the second day before they could get more gear ashore. The initial four who landed spent four days on Bouvet but had to return to the ship in advance of a storm with 60 knot winds. They were never able to fully provision the island for the intended operating conditions and plans were made for a greatly scaled-down operation upon return to the island.

It was not until February 6th that radio operations commenced from Bouvet - 15M SSB and 12M CW at 100W using only wire antennas. 30M was added that same day and by the next day they had setup on 20M as well. Power was from gasoline-powered Honda generators; the more powerful diesel generators and RF amplifiers were never landed. Operating conditions were very poor with operators sitting on the ground and radios on upside-down buckets. Some conspiracy theorists spread rumors that the team had not actually landed, but were operating the radios remotely from the Marama.

There were hams QRM'ing 3Y0C operating frequencies for some inexplicable reason. There was no internet or GPS on the island so the computers clocks were off by as much as 14 seconds! This caused 3Y0J to be operating on the odd cycle of FT8 instead on the even cycle reserved for "foxes" in fox / hound mode. And, of course, there were the usual FT8 operators who do not understand fox / hound, time cycles, how to use the waterfall or who just thought that it would be a great idea to call CQ alongside 3Y0J messing things up. I listened several times on FT8 frequencies when



alerted by spotting sites or the TDXS email list and never picked up a decodable signal.

One TDXS member (Matt, KM5VI) argued that their choice of Cape Fie made it difficult to get a short path signal into North America except the west coast. Cape Fie was chosen due to the ability to make a beach landing. Other DX-peditions in 2003 and 1989 / 1990 operated from Nyroysa and used helicopters to go ashore. The highest point (~2000') on Bouvet is near the center of the island and directly in the short path to North America. The island geometry requires a minimum takeoff angle of 8 - 10° to clear the mountains, too high to reach into North America. The lines on the figure below show the short path to the east and west coasts of the US. Long path over the ocean allowed low takeoff angle signals to propagate towards North America unimpeded. Despite these issues, several Houston area guys were able to work 3Y0J.

On February 14th after 8 days of operation, the supply of gasoline for the Honda generators ran out and radio operations ceased. Per ClubLog, 3Y0J made 18,845 QSO's with 8,597 unique callsigns. The original goal was 200,000 QSO's over their

permitted operation of 22 days! Obviously, there were a lot of dupes in the QSO list despite the 3Y0J operators asking those that already made QSO's to let others have a shot.

Not to take anything away for the 3Y0J team's efforts, but in my opinion, the team was overly optimistic and under-prepared for what they faced in making a shore landing on Bouvet. While hindsight is 20-20, there were good reasons why previous DX-peditions used helicopter landings and located on the northwest side of the island. I hope that am still around when another team takes up this challenge.

Now for the good news. I was able to use the resources described in last month's article to make a QSO with FT8WW on Crozet Island. On February 17th a little before 0300 UTC, I saw FT8WW spotted on the DXMaps spotting page ([DXMaps-FT8WW](#)) at 14.085 MHz. I tuned in and saw a faint undecodable signal at 360Hz on the wsjt-x waterfall. Over the next 20 - 30 minutes the signal grew much stronger and decoded easily. I called several times with 75W and was rewarded with +01s/n reply to his +03 s/n signal. It was all over in a matter of minutes and then he QSY'ed to the CW portion of the band. It's all about preparation meeting opportunity for good DX, although a little luck helps too!