NOVEMBER 2026 Volume 11-2026

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

**2026 CLUB OFFICERS**

**Pres: Mark Phillips – KI5POH**

**Vice Pres: Aaron Baker – KI5FIQ**

**Sec/Treas: Darrell Thornton – KI5PYQ**

**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.

## OCTOBER MINUTES

Mark, KI5POH, started the meeting off at 19:00. Introductions were made and minutes were approved. The treasury report was read.

Old Business – Donation of UHF duplexer to Mike, WD5EFY, for NESTxLINK System, Aaron, KI5FIQ, to report on SFA's Pinelog article.

New Business – November is the month we vote in new officers for the NARC. Mark, KI5POH, and Darrell, KI5PYQ, meet with the SFA's Engineering Group with an introduction to amateur radio. It was well received and hopefully we piqued some interest. The Nacogdoches High School ROTC program has changed from Navy to Army. Any traction there will have to be restarted.

Meeting was adjourned.

## SKs HONORED

Just to let our club members know, a webpage was created to honor our silent key members. If there are names that belong on that list, please let Darrell, KI5PYQ, know.

## SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

Are you a member of NARC? How can you help the club and amateur radio by leading a project. Ask yourself, how can I participate and advance amateur radio in our community.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As this year is quickly coming to a close, I would like to thank everyone in our club for being a part of our club, participating in our weekly nets, working and participating in Field Day and being willing to step in when disaster strikes and normal communications go down. The public seldom sees or knows about the efforts Ham Radio Operators make during times of communication blackout. While I hope we do not need our skills, I know that our club is ready for the challenge!

At November's club meeting we will elect officers for the 2027 year and discuss our Christmas Party for December. I hope you will be able to attend Tuesday's meeting. Doors open at 6:60pm and the meeting starts at 7:00pm.

I am thankful for each of you for being a Ham and being part of our club!

73, Mark KI5POH
KI5POH21@gmail.com

## FROM OUR VP

Happy that it's starting to feel almost like fall. But don't let the cooler weather fool you, usually around this time is when we start to see our second round of severe weather season with all of these fronts come through. Time change also happens on November 1st so don't forget about that as well.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting and on the air. Hope all has a good November and happy early thanksgiving.

Aaron Baker KI5FIQ
baker.barisax@gmail.com

## VE TESTING

Our October VE testing session had one candidate and he was successful. Congratulations to Jonathan Dillion of Rusk, TX. KJ5SDU, with his Technician license.

Thanks to Dave NR5AT, Mike W5NXK, Ralph N6RH, Rusty KD5GEN, and Mike AA5HH for showing up and making VE an option for folks.

Remember that we provide VE testing sessions on the third Wednesday of EVERY MONTH with exams for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses. Sessions are held at the EOC with doors open at 6:30 and testing beginning no later than 7:00 p.m.

### STAY CONNECTED

I've picked up the mic as the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club's Public Information Officer, or PIO. I'm **Andy Delgado, KE5EXX**, and one of the things I'll be working on is

helping us share more of what amateur radio—and our club—is all about.

We've started publishing short articles on **W5NAC.com**, with a goal of adding a new post about once a week. Some will be written for people who are brand new to ham radio, while others will cover things that long-time operators may enjoy sharing with friends and family.

Recent topics include *What Is Amateur Radio, Anyway?*, *Why Ham Radio Still Matters in 2026*, and *What Can You Do With a Ham Radio License?*

You can keep up with the latest articles at:

**w5nac.com**

We're also sharing new posts, club information, and other updates on the W5NAC Facebook page:

**facebook.com/W5NAC**

If you use Facebook, give the page a follow. If you know someone who has ever asked, "So what exactly do you do with ham radio?" send them our way.

We'd like W5NAC.com and our Facebook page to be useful not only for club members, but also for local hams and anyone in East Texas who is curious about amateur radio.

## 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 20:00 on the club's 146.84 repeater (PL 141.3).

Second, on **THURSDAY** evenings at 20:00 is the **Deep East Texas Skywarn Emergency Weather Net** on the 147.32 repeater (PL 141.3).

Please join us for one or both.

| | |
|---|---|
| ARES/ RACES Mondays | 146.84 (PL 141.3 |
| 1st | Jonathan W5WJC |
| 2nd | Robert KD5FEE |
| 3rd | Robert KD5FEE |
| 4th | Tom W5TV |
| 5th | Jonathan W5WJC |

| | |
|---|---|
| Skywarn Thursdays | 147.32 (PL 141.3) |
| 1st | Wolfie KI5MHB |

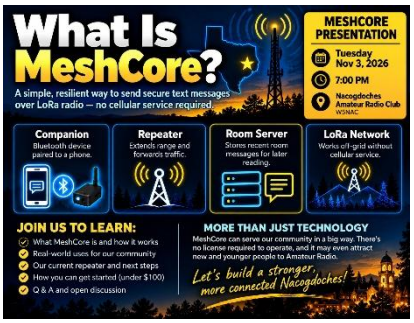
| | |
|---|---|
| 2nd | Mark KI5POH |
| 3rd | Rusty KD5GEN |
| 4th | Aaron KI5FIQ |
| 5th | Darrell KI5PYQ |

## HAMLIST

Are you on Hamlist? Check it out and join at: https://w5nac.com/about/email-reflectors/

## NEXT MEETING

The next regular NARC meeting will be on TUESDAY November 3rd at the Nacogdoches EOC. Doors will open at 18:30 and meeting will start promptly at 19:00. Following the business meeting we will a program introducing Meschcore. Andy, KE5EXX, we lead the presentation. We hope to see you there.




## FOX HUNT

The Fox Hunts will be on hold for now. We currently do not have enough attendance to continue currently. If you would like to have another fox hunt, please let Darrell KI5PYQ or Mark KI5POH know that you would like to participate. We would be happy to create one.

## 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 here. You will need to scroll to find the correct month.

**Link to ARRL Contest Calendar**
https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

**Club Meeting Dates**

Nov 3rd 19:00
Dec 1st TBD (Christmas Party
Jan 5th 19:00

# POTA.app Gets an Extreme Makeover

Jim Edmondson, AE5JE

The POTA website has undergone a significant upgrade. The new version has been live for some time at and may still be undergoing some changes / tweaks. The basic structure of the "Spots" page has been largely retained but many new features have been added. You still view the Spots as tiles or in a table format using Light or Dark "Late Shift Mode" in pota.app) modes. In addition to the many new features and capabilities on the Spots page, the map functionality has also been significantly enhanced. I will describe what I think are the most useful new features of both below.

First, is a screenshot for the traditional POTA website (Figure 1) followed by a similar screenshot from new POTA website (Figure 2). The first thing to notice is that only icons are used in the uppermost (green background) menu bar of the new POTA site. The same links to spots, activations and docs are there, but the space saved by using icons only on the new POTA site allows the addition of feedback and donate icons (orange icons at the right of the icon group). In my opinion, the use of the icons makes for a cleaner look while providing more links. The POTA volunteers are actively soliciting feedback on the changes and, of course, would like your financial support to continue hosting and expanding the site.

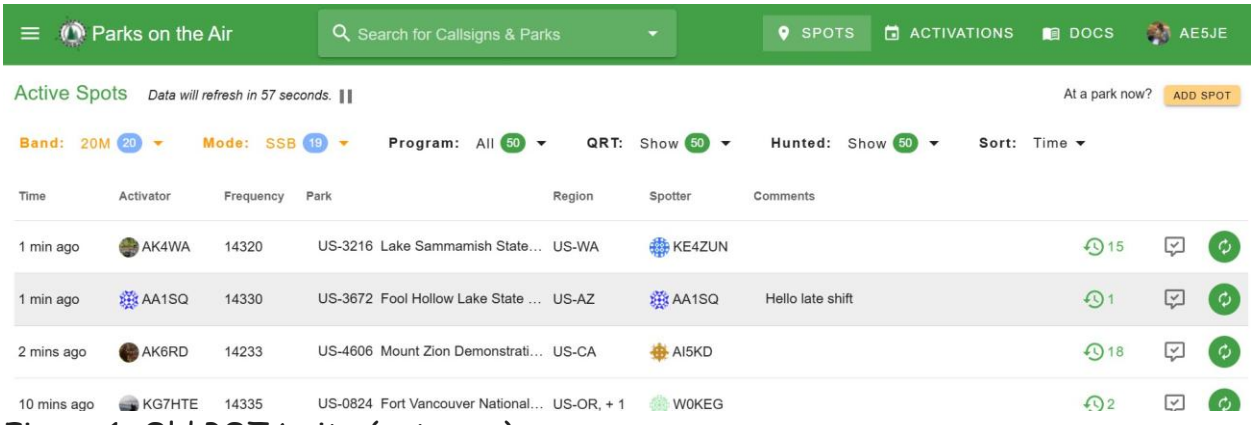


Figure 1: Old POTA site (pota.app)

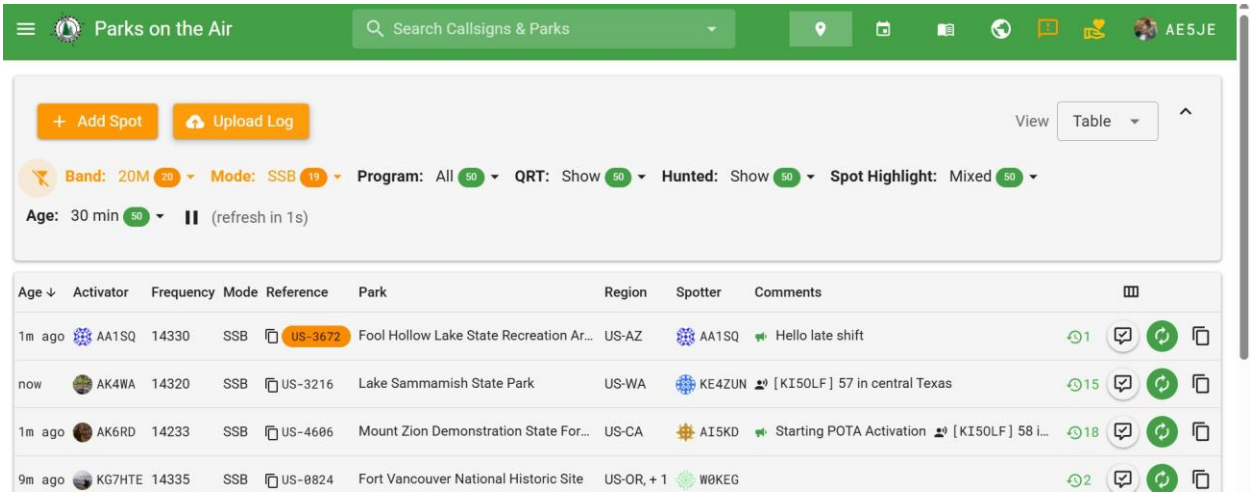


Figure 2: New POTA site (next.pota.app)

The next area of note on the new POTA site is the area above the spots list where you set the selections for which spots to show. This is now contained in a subtly shadow-outlined, off-white box. This effect also applies to the spots list itself and serves to clearly separate those areas. The two large orange buttons at the upper left really standout and are intended to help activators. The first is to "Add Spot" when you are in a park to activate. (The old POTA site had a more subtle light orange button on the right for activators to add their spot.) The other button on the new POTA site allows an activator to "Upload Log" when their activation is completed. On the far-right side of this box is a dropdown to view the spots in various ways. The traditional table and cards are there as well as new views: List (an abbreviated table view), Map (Flat) and Map (Globe).

Next, looking at the dropdown lists of the new POTA site, we see that they now include checkboxes so that multiple Bands, Modes and / or Programs can be selected simultaneously. In Figure 3 below, the 40M, 20M and 15M bands boxes are checked and all of those spots will be listed. If more than one band is selected, the Band heading shows how many bands are selected and the spots count next to the dropdown link as shown below. This applies to modes and other selections as well.

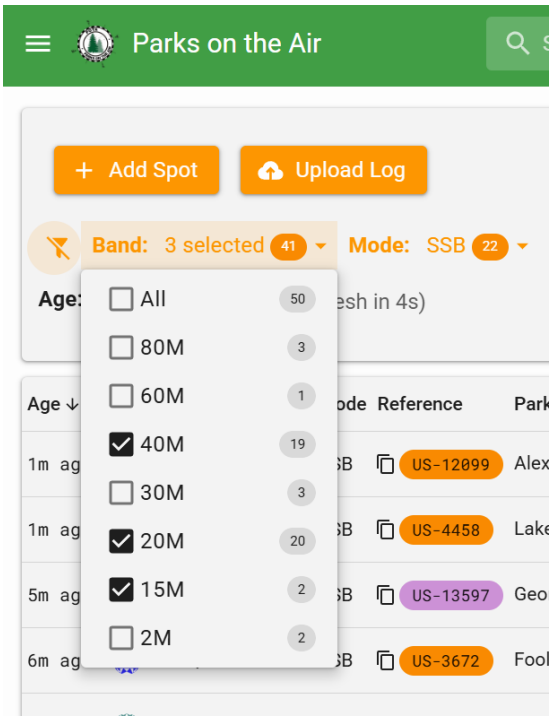



Figure 3: Spot Selection Dropdown Checkboxes

The QRT and Hunted dropdowns are unchanged, but the Sort dropdown has been replaced with a dropdown labeled "Spot Highlight" - with several very useful features for the hunter. From this dropdown (Figure 4 below) you can elect to highlight "ATNO" or park that "You Never Hunted", both of those ("Mixed") or "None". Next, you can pin these selections to the top of the Spots list to make them easier to find when there are many spots listed. The second half of this dropdown adds various counts in blue circles ("chips" to the spots list: number of QSO's with an activator (Op 2 Op), number of QSO's at a park (Repeat Offender) or number of bands towards N1CC. The lower "Pin to top item", pins spots with the selected counts "to the top" below the ATNO's and You Never Hunted spots.

The final item in the header row is "Age", allowing you to select spot ages to be included in the list (10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 minutes).

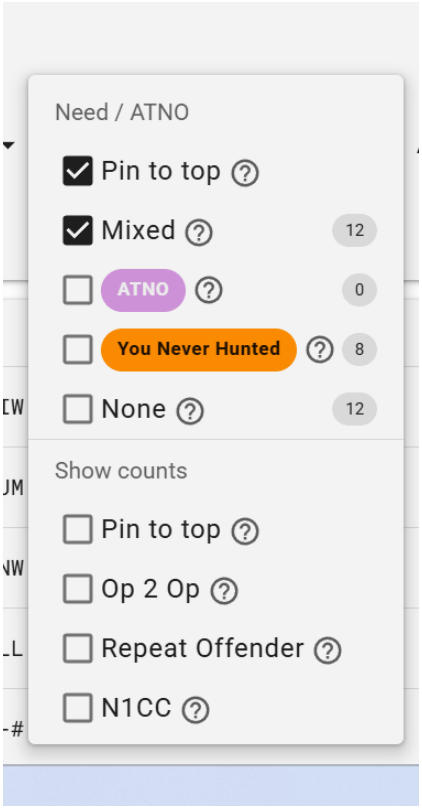



Figure 4: Spot Highlight Selection Dropdown Checkboxes

Moving to the shadowed box containing the spots list, we can see a small down arrow next to the "Age" heading (left middle of Figure 2 above). This means that the spots table is sorted from the newest to the oldest spots. This appears to be the default sort unless you change it. By clicking the Age table heading, the sort changes from ascending to descending. Any of the headings from Age to Region can be used to sort in ascending or descending order. Up to three different sort criteria can be applied and a small number shows up next to each to indicated the sort order. I am not really sure how useful this is, but you could sort for the newest CW spots from outside the US to be listed first. At the far right of the header row, there is a button to select which columns to show in the spots list. You also change the column order in the dropdown list. Finally, there is a button to refresh the spots list. These features make the spots table very customizable to list exactly which spots and spot data that you want to see and in what order.

While the old and new POTA sites do not interface with logging software directly, the new POTA site spots list includes "Copy"; buttons that allow you to easily paste callsign, frequency, park references (numbers), park names, etc. into your logging

program. The copy button on the far right triggers a dropdown where you select what to copy while the one near the park number just copies the number directly. Finally, we get to the map improvements and they are very cool and useful especially for the activator. We are camping at Lake Somerville State Park (US-3030) as I write this article. When I open the POTA map (Figure 5 below), it is centered on US-3030 with all other parks in view shown on the map and in a sidebar list with distances from my location. This is automatic if you have location turned on. If location is turned off, you can manually enter your location. I had to turn off location and manually enter US-3030 in the location, since my hotspot was reporting my location as downtown Houston! The map now allows different layers such as outdoors, satellite, streets, etc.

Clicking on a park icon on the map (US-3030 in the screenshot below) opens a box with my activation and hunt stats for the park with the number of QSO's for each. Also, notice that different parks have different color trees in the locator icon. The code is: Red - no hunts nor activations, Blue - hunted but not activated, Green - activated, but not hunted and Yellow - hunted and activated. This allows you to quickly spot new parks to activate while out in the field. Parks that are too close together to differentiate at the current map scale are shown with a count in a brown circle.

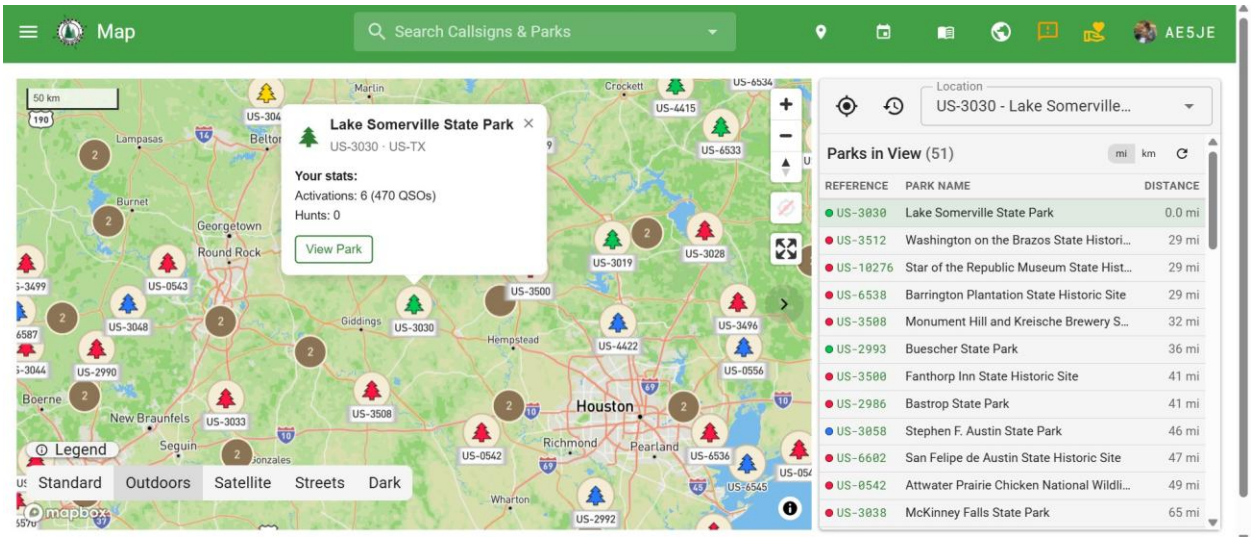


Figure 5: New POTA Site Map

Clicking the "View Park" button on the Lake Somerville State Park popup box opens the Lake Somerville specific page (Figure 6). This page includes all of the data from

the old site plus it now includes a "Spot Me at ..." button and your specific stats activity / stats as shown below.

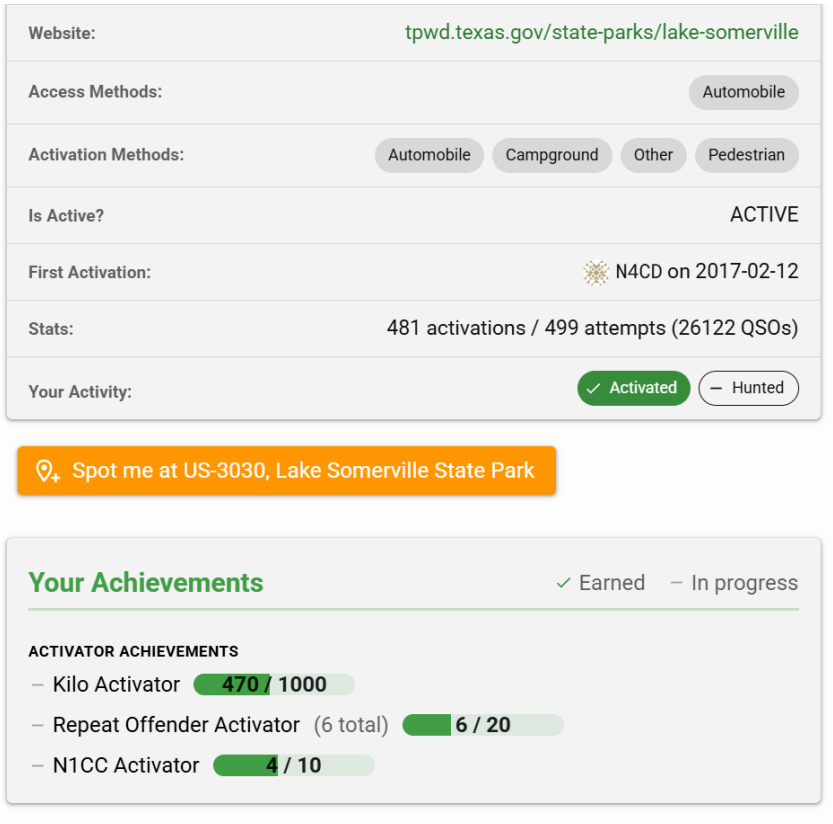



Figure 6: New POTA Site US-3030 Partial Screenshot

That's a lot of new features to digest and learn to how to use based on your operating style when hunting or activating POTA. Take some time to explore the new POTA site and learn more about as I am sure that I missed some new features and they are adding to and tweaking the site continually. I think that the all-volunteer POTA team deserves a lot of credit for taking on a project of this scale. If you are a serious POTA operator, please consider making a donation to support this awesome ham radio resource.