Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2025 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips – KI5POH

Vice Pres: Dave Emmerling – NR5AT
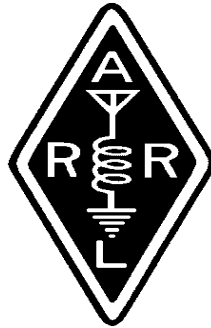
Sec/Treas: Darrell Thornton – KI5PYQ

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.

DECEMBER MINUTES

December's meeting was our annual Christmas Party. We had a wonderful dinner and great conversations. Mark, KI5POH started the party off for us. John, KC5MIB, did a great job with our White Elephant Auction. Army, AE5P, was presented with a token of the clubs appreciation for 25+ years of service to the club. Rusty, KD5GEN, and Mark, KI5PYQ, did a wonderful job presenting the token.

We had 15 members and 9 guest in attendance.

2025 DUES ARE DUE

Dues are just $20 a year and cover all licensed hams in a family. Please get your dues to KI5PYQ either in person or mailed to his home address. Sooner is better than later. Make checks payable to NARC.

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

Are you a member of NARC? Do you check into one or more of the weekly nets on 2M? If not, why not? Do you participate in the club Fox Hunts? If not, why not? Do you participate in the club Special Events

K5C and K5T? If not, why? Let us know how we can get you involved in our club. Is there an event or program that you would like to see, let your club officers know.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Wow, 2025 already! Last year passed very quickly. We had a great time at the Christmas Party and White Elephant gift auction. We had some interesting items for the auction. It was great to honor Army (AE5P) for his many years of work and dedication to our club. Thank you again Army for all you have done for our club! I look forward to the new year and the possibilities it will bring. Remember that our club meetings will now be on the first Tuesday of each month. Our January meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7th at 7pm and doors open at 6:30pm. I look forward to seeing you there. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and the New Year is your best one yet!

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 New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas! New Year's is just days away, and my wish for everyone is a safe and happy New Year!

With the new year comes reflection on happenings of the past year and hopes and plans for the year ahead. For me the past year brought new windows for the house, a NICE gravel driveway (after 20 years of dirt), a new sky loop antenna (Thanks to John, Mike, Mike and Roger) Starlink, and an upgrade from General to Extra.

Looking ahead, on a personal note, I plan to continue to lose some weight, work on my health, keep my mind busy, and do some serious traveling! My radio plans for the coming year are to do at least one

POTA activation and reach 3000 parks hunted (currently at 2200).

Hopefully your New Year's Resolution(s) include something new for your radio hobby! Possibly a new radio, a commitment to upgrade your license, a renewed and excited interest in NARC and helping the club however you can.

As VP my task is to secure the monthly programs. It's not an easy task asking for volunteers, or asking the same members to once again put on a program. It's not easy coming up with ideas for a program let alone finding someone to put a program on. SO, I thought I would try to get a jump on the year by asking for people to commit to putting on a program sometime during the coming year, now, at the first of the year. We need 8 members to commit, just 8 (that's only one more than seven!). You can give a program on POTA, FT8, winlink, soldering, circuits, frequencies, CW, your station, your radio, 6m, 10m, **whatever you want**!

Doesn't have to be long, doesn't have to have handouts, slides, or visual aids, just a simple program to present something you enjoy/have knowledge of, to the membership. If you are interested, please contact me, see me at the January meeting, email me, call me, leave a note on my Jeep, **your help will be greatly appreciated**. I mean I'm most probably going to call you anyway so ya might as well get it over with! Seriously, please help out if you can.

Anyway folks, I hope the new year is good to you. Be safe, exercise a little more, eat a little less, more FT8, less TV.
'73

73, NR5AT
Dave Emmerling
Dke1955@duck.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

It's 21 December as I write this. I'm at the office and the sun is creeping up in the east. It's the Winter Solstice, the longest night or the shortest daylight or the start of winter. We will have a bit over 10 hours of daylight today.

Winter, for many, is a time of reflection and gatherings of family and friends.

This will be a short byline. We'll just hit on Hurricane season 2024. 2024 had a very active hurricane season. There were 18 named storms, 11 becoming hurricanes, Five becoming major hurricanes. There was over $227B in damages and 400 fatalities. Most occurred during Beryl, Debby, Helene and Milton.

Let's take a quick look at the aftermath of Beryl which struck Texas and passed through our region. Beryl caused 42 deaths and significant impacts to over 2.7M households especially in Houston and Harris county.

In Deep East Texas, we had an EF1 tornado in Timpson. It caused road blockages and trapped one person.

We can be thankful the weather skirted Nacogdoches, and we didn't have much more than we did.

As always there are a number of discussions on the web from WIKI and the World Metrological Organization (WMO).

I hope everyone had a good time at our Christmas gathering. I had a good time doing the white elephant auction. I don't think I'll be called to the livestock show to run one of those auctions.

I'll close it off here. we'll get into something next month..

Best wishes to all during the Christmas and holiday season.

73 and see you on the air,
de John Chapman KC5MIB
Jlchapman2@gmail.com

VE TESTING

We had one tester at the EOC. Joe Haveman, KJ5JMY, successfully passed his technician exam. Congratulations, we hope you keep studying and go all the way. Those that were there for the VE Testing to administer the exam were Army AE5P, Rusty KD5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Mike AA5HH, Mike W5NXK, Robert KD5FEE,

and Dave NR5AT. Thank you, guys, for volunteering!

73 de AE5P.
email:
ae5p@suddenlink.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 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.

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 TUESDAY January 7th at Nacogdoches EOC. Meeting begins at 1900; Please plan to arrive early for socialization with the doors opening at 1830.

Mike Miles will be doing the program. He will talk about the connected repeater system he has created with many cities in East Texas. Plan to join us, I imagine it will be a very educational program.

Hope to see y'all there.

FOX HUNT

Next fox hunt will be on January 11 2025 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. After the fox hunt, we will enjoy lunch at CC's Smokehouse. Be the first to find the fox and your lunch will be on the club. How long will it take you to find it?

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 You will need to scroll to find the correct month.

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

Club Meeting Dates

January 7th, 2025 (Tuesday) 19:00
February 4th, 2025 (Tuesday) 19:00
March 4th 19:00
April 1st 19:00

Notes of Interest

This is a reminder that our club meetings will be moved to the first Tuesday of the month starting January 2025.

Dues for 2025 are now due.

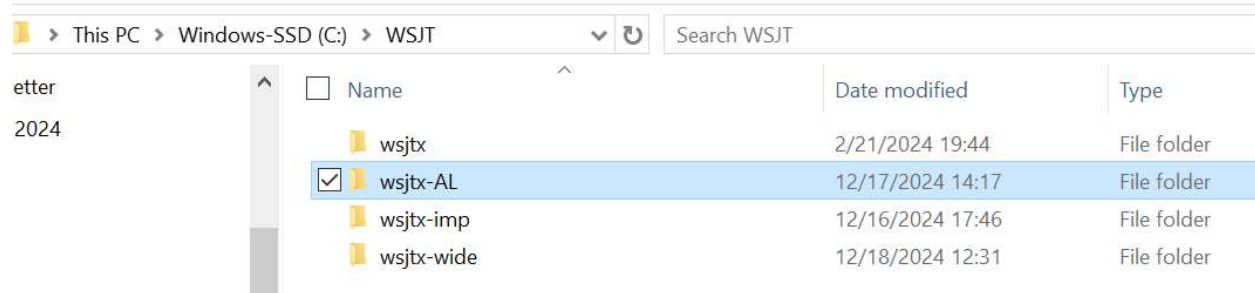# wsjt-x_improved for Digital Modes, Part 1

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

For this article, I assume that the reader is familiar with the features of standard wsjt-x software (by Joe Taylor, et al version). This month and next, I will highlight what I think are some of the most useful features of wsjt-x_improved. DG2YCB created wsjt-x_improved and is now part of the wsjt-x development team. He wrote the new version to add some user-friendly features and to improve the user interface. The above link is to the SourceForge site which provides a description, features list, screenshots and download links for the various versions of wsjt-x_improved.

Versions are available for Windows 32-bit and 64-bit, macOS, Raspberry Pi and Linux. For Windows there are three sub-versions: "PLUS" which has a typical wsjt-x window look and feel, "AL", or alternate layout, designed for smaller device screens, and "widescreen" with a longer receive window.

For those who like to learn by watching, K8MRD and LB4FH have good Youtube videos that demonstrate many of the features of wsjt-x_improved.

The first thing to be aware of is that wsjt-x_improved will install itself "over top" of your existing wsjt-x installation. This means that if you change your mind, you will have to reinstall regular wsjt-x. To avoid this, I installed the "PLUS" version into a new subfolder, that I named "wsjt-imp". I also installed the "AL" and "widescreen" versions in new subfolders "wsjt-AL" and "wsjt-wide", respectively (see below).

	Name	Date modified	Type
	wsjtx	2/21/2024 19:44	File folder
☑	wsjtx-AL	12/17/2024 14:17	File folder
	wsjtx-imp	12/16/2024 17:46	File folder
	wsjtx-wide	12/18/2024 12:31	File folder

This PC > Windows-SSD (C:) > WSJT

The second thing to be aware is that all of the wsjt-x_improved versions automatically use all of your existing wsjt-x settings and radio configurations. This saves a great deal of work to re-create those for each version.

The next two screenshots show the user interfaces of wsjt-x and wsjt-x_improved.

Standard wsjt-x user interface

wsjt-x_improved PLUS user interface

Careful inspection of the screenshots shows several differences: the wsjt-x_improved
Menu Bar includes a "Filter" tab, there is a row of "Band Buttons" below the activity
windows, there is a checkbox labelled "BP" below the Band Buttons, in the "DX Call" area
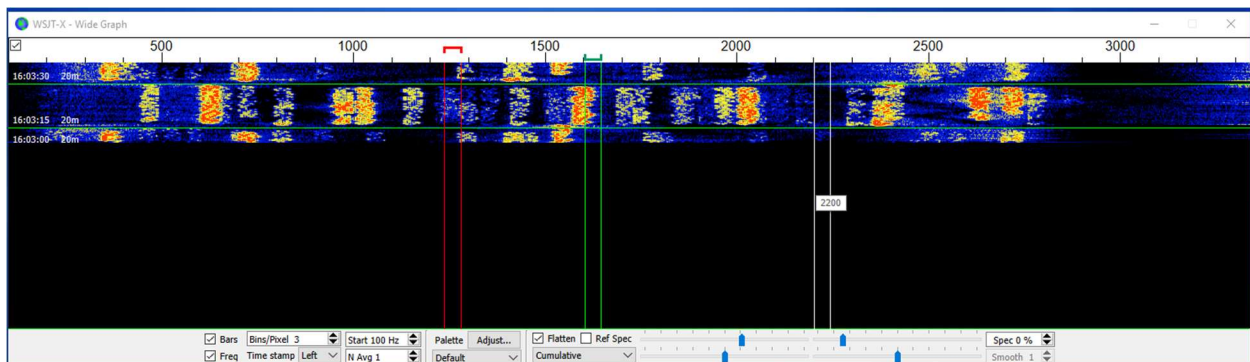
there is a new button "Ignore", there are two additional boxes on the Status Bar at the bottom of the screen and the "DX Call" and "Enable TX" buttons are colored yellow. Some of these differences are because of the specific options that I chose when setting up wsjt-x_improved. The major new features of wsjt-x_improved will be described further below and next month's article.

One thing that I dislike about the wsjt-x_improved user interface is that the height of the bottom half of the user interface is fixed. This means that when you shrink the size of the interface window, the Band Activity and Rx Frequence sub-windows become quite short and can contain only a few lines. The original wsjt-x window proportionately reduces the size of all of the interface sections and sub-windows. To me, this is much more usable approach.

Before jumping into all of the new features, I want to highlight improvements of the waterfall display (see below). The main feature to note is the inclusion of vertical bars for the transmit frequency (red), the receive frequency (green) and the mouse cursor position (white). Additionally, one can select the receive frequency by a left-click of the mouse. The transmit frequency can be selected by a right-click of the mouse. The vertical bars allow you to more accurately position the frequency selection between other signals (transmit) or on the desired station (receive). This is especially helpful if the band is crowded.

wsjt-x_improved waterfall display

The Band Buttons are toggled off and on in the View tab of the Menu Bar. These are used to rapidly change bands just like the Mode Buttons in original wsjt-x and wsjt-
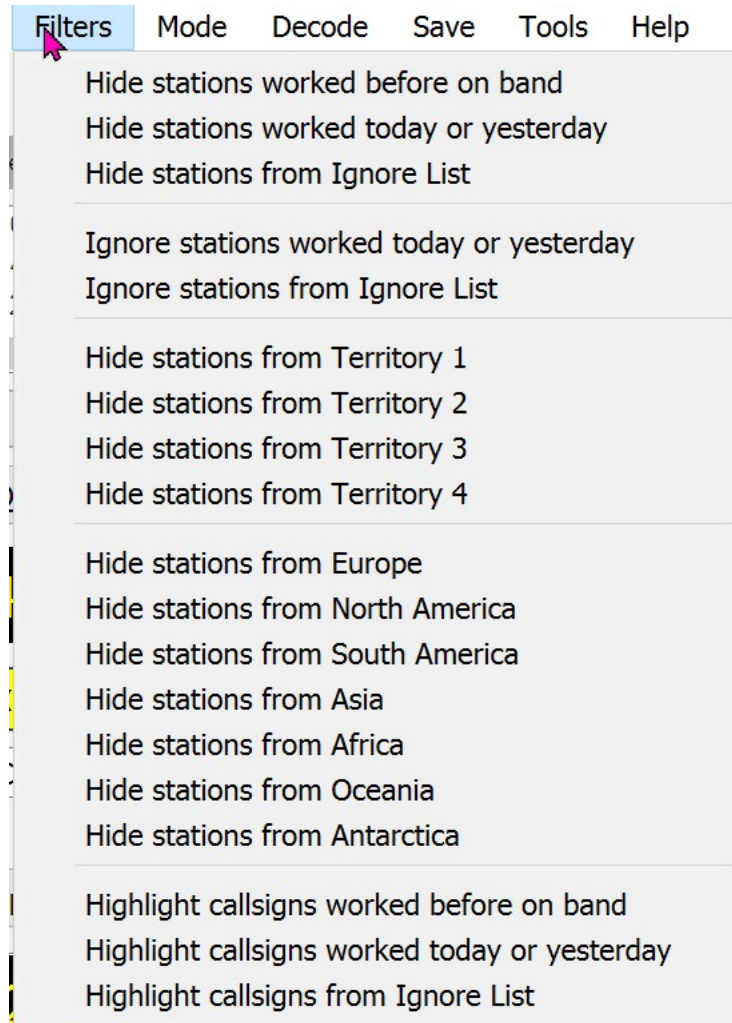

x_improved are used for changing modes. A related setting in General Settings window ("Additional Features" section at bottom) will erase the Band Activity and RX Frequency windows when the band is changed. I find this very handy as I was always manually doing that in standard wsjt-x when changing bands.

The last features to discuss this month are the Filters. Actually, there is quite a bit to this topic, so I finish this in next month's article. The opened "Filters" menu tab is shown below. As you can see there are quite a few pre-defined filters to use – most are self-explanatory. The ones that refer territories are defined in the deeper Settings Menu. Basically, you can enter country names there to be selected from the main Filter Menu.

If you use GridTracker or GridTracker2, the filters will affect what you see in the roster and on the map!

A related item is that "BP" checkbox that I mentioned earlier. Checking that bypasses all filters and lets all of the decodes show in the Band Activity window without having to toggle each individual filter setting.

Next month, I will continue with more details on filters and then some other cool features!

wsjt-x_improved Filters Menu