

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2024 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips - KI5POH

Vice Pres: Darrell Thornton - KI5PYQ

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.



APRIL MINUTES

President Mark KI5POH opened the meeting at 7:00 in the EOC. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read.

President Mark KI5POH gave a report on the status of our 147.32 repeater. We have been asked to remove our equipment from the County Road and Bridge communication shack by the end of April 30. The plan is to move our equipment to the City water tower on Park Street. A formal

agreement between the club and the City for our use of the water tower has been approved by the City Council.

Robert KD5FEE reported a comet is now visible to the naked eye.

Army AE5P reported on our needs for the water tower before making the installation of the 32 repeater permanent.

Meeting closed at 7:21.

Ticket drawing resulted in Ralph N6RH receiving a copy of the new ARRL Operating Manual. Congratulations Ralph.

Program:

Wolfie KI5MHB presented a program on frequency bands and how they are

used. Very interesting and instructive.

Meeting wrapped up at 7:39.

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 not? Do you participate in Field Day with the club? If not, why not?

Participation in the various club events usually involves only a tiny few of our membership. Why is that? If you are a member, are you part of the problem or are you part of the solution? Is there something we can change that would make it easier for you to participate?

Let the club officers hear from you. You are the club and without you we don't have a club.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 32 repeater (147.32) has been successfully moved to it's new location and seems to be working better than it has over the past several weeks. We were granted permission by the City of Nacogdoches to move the equipment to the water tower on Park Street (East side of Nacogdoches). The equipment was moved on Saturday, April 20th. Thank you Darrell (KI5PYQ) for spearheading this task!

Field Day is coming up in June 22nd-23rd. This is always a good time working with members of our club and spending time on the air. If you are new to being a ham or just haven't participated in a while, we would love to have you come and be a part of the event!

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

73, Mark KI5POH

KI5POH21@gmail.com

FROM THE VP CHAIR

April is done. We are busy at my house. My wife and I are about to release another kid into the wild. Brooks, my son, is wrapping up his senior year. If you go by Lone Star Farm & Home Center in the afternoons or on Saturday, he is there. Congratulate him on his high school graduation.

The next club meeting will be fun. Mark, KI5POH, will show us how to build a tape measure yagi antenna before our next fox hunt. Tape measure yagi antennas are really easy to build and don't take much money. He will show how to use the antenna with a miniature fox hunt at the EOC. Below is the Zoom meeting information:

<http://tinyurl.com/ym4bwfhn> (I shortened the URL for those that might type the URL)

Meeting ID:
87186663202

Passcode: 578262

With the addition of the 34 inch screen on top of my other two monitors, the shack is rocking and rolling! I have the panadapter working with the SDR switch. My panadapter only works on HF. I'd have to do some more modification for it to work VHF.

Mark, KI5POH, and myself moved the 32 repeater to the City Water Tower on Park St. We still don't have electricity as of this article, however, the repeater is working off an extension cord. We changed the repeater from the DR-2X to a DR-1X that we had in storage. Seems to be operating without issue. We have not attached the controller to the repeater. When we did testing, the

controller/repeater transmitted some static type noise. We decided to disconnect the controller and worry about that on another day.

Army, AE5P, will be hiding the fox for our May Fox Hunt. Please join us on our May Fox hunt. It is a fun time trying to find the tiny device. Afterwards, we eat some lunch and tell some stories. Look for a date coming soon

73, KI5PYQ
Darrell Thornton

NOTES FROM OUR EC

Spring has certainly sprung. The typical cool to cold mornings and shirt sleeve weather in the afternoon interspersed with the active storms and the variety of weather warnings. Normal Texas weather.

The biggest event in quite a while was the eclipse April 8th. I heard from a few of my truck drivers that a few counties had asked large vehicles to stop driving during totality. I have not heard of any problems. I know a few folks that traveled to see the event and the weather cooperated, the clouds parted and they had a good view. How many of you had the opportunity to see it this time around? I worked but noticed it got a little gray and the sun had a harsher color to it.

Hurricane season is just around the corner (1 June-30 Nov). The weather researchers at Colorado

State University have predicted 23 named storms, 11 hurricanes and 5 major storms. They have also predicted a more active season based on elevated western Atlantic water temperatures. The wikipedia site has the usual good discussion about the season. Let's see what the 2024 season will bring.

What is your preparedness level? Hand held radios in good condition, access to NWS radio stations programmed. For those that may stick around, generators, batteries, shelter locations. How many can deploy to a shelter or the EC? have you checked your bug-out kit?

Those of you who are facebook friendly, if you haven't, follow Tommy Gober, he has built a grp radio to include winding his own coils. Check him out.

We'll stick a fork in this one and call it done. See ya on the nets.

Again, thanks to all who check into the nets and our net controllers.

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

VE TESTING

We had three applicants for the April VE test session. Johnny Smith of Nacogdoches is now a new Tech, while Kevin Wells KJ5FIV of Bossier City, LA and Robert Davis KG1SKP of Broadus both upgraded to General.

Congratulations to all.

Many thanks to VE's, Mike AA5HH, Ralph N6RH, Rusty KD5GEN 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

The next regular NARC meeting will be Wednesday May 1st at the Nacogdoches City/County EOC. Meeting begins at 7:00; doors open at 6:30. Come early for socializing before the meeting.

The program will be presented by our club President Mark KI5POH who will show us the tape measure yagi he built, followed by a mini-fox hunt using the antenna. Should be most interesting and a lot of fun to boot.

Remember that the meeting will be available via Zoom. Check out the VP's column for log-in information

Hope to see ya'll there.

FOX HUNT

The last fox hunt was held Saturday March 23rd. The fox was located hanging from a tree branch at the south end of the parking lot of the Nacogdoches Senior Center on West Austin St. Mark KI5POH reported hearing the fox on North St and found the critter in about 15 minutes. Aaron KI5FIQ reported hearing the fox at Walmart and found it in just 28 minutes. The fox was placed by Army AE5P and Ralph N6RH. Next time we'll try to find a location that's not so easy to find.

Participants were treated to lunch at Smoke House.

Darrell KI5PYQ was not able to start looking until after lunch but only required 5 minutes to find it, he says.

Next fox hunt will be in May, exact date to be determined. 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>

7th Call Area QSO Party
May 4-5, 2024
<http://7qp.org>

New England QSO Party
May 4-5, 2024
<https://neqp.org/rules/>

Volta WW RTTY
May 11-12, 2024
<http://www.contestvolta.com/rules.pdf>

CQ WW WPX CW
May 25-26, 2024
<http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

ARRL International Digital Contest (No RTTY)
June 1-2, 2024
<https://contests.arrl.org/dig/>

ARRL June VHF Contest
June 8-10, 2024
<http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

ARRL Field Day
June 22-23, 2024
<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.

A Tool to Replace POTAPlus

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

This is a follow-up to my previous article on the POTAPlus web browser extension. With the help of "ham-proxy-app.exe" and Omnirig, POTAPlus provided rig control to QSY to POTA spots and set the correct mode. With ham-proxy-app.exe, POTAPlus would also log your contact and add your spot to POTA. As you may recall, POTAPlus did not send the QSO details to ALog correctly and I had to manually add the park reference and either correct or delete incorrect time off. Park specific information was not placed in the comments as it should be per the POTAPlus documentation. The developer had not provided any updates to POTAPlus for over 2-years. An email that I sent to him went unanswered. During an email conversation with Nic, KCOUJC, after a POTA contact, he mentioned that there was a Disord server for POTA and there was an active CW group there. I joined the POTA server and started monitoring several of the groups. Long story short, I got into a conversation with a programmer, Cainan - N9FZ, who had done some work to fix POTAPlus. He worked with me for over a week or two, tweaking the code to make POTAPlus log correctly to ALog. He also fixed an issue with CW operations to turn on transmitter incremental tuning (XIT, aka Delta TX or Clar TX). He told me that he was working on a standalone tool to take the place of POTAPlus.

Shortly after that, he sent me a link to his tool, [hunterlog](#), on GitHub. This "app" is actually a self-contained web page that runs on your desktop. When you execute the app, you will likely get warnings from your anti-virus software, so you will need to allow the app to run and access the internet. I have been using the app for over a month through three updates with absolutely no security issues. After downloading the zip file, extract it into your location of choice. When you execute the file hunterlog.exe, two windows will open. First is the Dev Tools window for editing the code and second is the user interface (UI). You can close Dev Tools and just use the UI, shown in the second screenshot below.

The first thing to do is to configure the app for your use. In the title bar area of the window, you will see the "Configuration" link in green text. Clicking that opens the first window below. As a minimum, you need to enter your callsign, grid square and check if you want to use imperial units. If you want to be able to click a spot and tune to that frequency, you will need to setup flrig (or rigctlid not discussed here) to control your radio. You should make sure that the flrig "client" settings

match those in the configuration window (those shown are the flrig defaults). If your rig uses something other than "CW" as the mode, you can specify that below the flrig settings. For example, many Yaesu radios use "CW-L" and "CW-U" in place of the "CW" and "CW-R" used by many Icom radios. Next, if you want to log QSOs, you can select your logger and make sure that the local host address and port are correct (those shown are the ALog defaults). Additionally, you can enter a short text string to post when you spot an activator.

Configuration

My Callsign: N5JGE My Gridsquare (6 digit): EM21hd Default TX Power: 100

Display Imperial Units

CAT Settings

FLRIG (dropdown)

Host (IPv4 string): 127.0.0.1 Port (number): 12345

Mode strings used to specify a custom mode for RIG control (CW may need to be CW-R or CW-L if that is what your rig expects)

CW Mode: CW FT-x modes: USB-D

Logger Settings

TCP (Logger32) UDP (Log4om) AcLog

Remote ADIF Host (IPv4 string): 127.0.0.1 Remote ADIF Port (number): 1100

QTH string is inserted when posting spots to POTA.app ex: 'mid GA' is inserted into comment like '[599 mid GA] thx fb qso'

QTH String: East TX

SAVE CANCEL

To use the app, simply click on the green frequency button of any spot to tune to it and set the correct mode (or manually tune it if you have not setup flrig). The fields in the upper left will be filled in with the spot data (callsign, frequency, etc), activator and park details will appear in the upper center and the map will center on the park location. Once you complete the QSO, you can log it or log and spot.

If you hear the station, but don't make a QSO, you can spot only or clear the info and choose another spot to tune to. (You don't have to clear the fields to select another spot, it will overwrite the old spot.) When you log a QSO in hunterlog, it is stored in a local adif file (hunter.adif). If you have not setup a separate logger, those adif records can be imported into your main logger.

Activator	Time	Freq	Mode	Loc	Park	Spot	Hunted
13 K4WSD	18:44	18075.0	CW	US-FL	1 US-0252 - Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge	KC3TRT-PA	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 KZ4CP	18:44	14273	SSB	US-KY	US-1283 - Kentucky Dam Village State Park	KZ4CP-QSY	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 K5OHY	18:44	14054.0	CW	US-TX	1 US-10272 - Bush Family Home State Historic Site	W5YX-# RBN 14 DB 22 WPM VIA W5YX-#	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 KW5CW	18:44	14054.9	CW	US-TX	US-2991 - Bonham State Park	KV4TT-# RBN 4 DB 24 WPM VIA KV4TT-#	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 AC9HP	18:44	14074.0	FT8	US-IN	2 US-2251 - Brown County State Park	K1RA-# RBN 7 DB VIA K1RA-#	<input type="checkbox"/>
K15OLV	18:44	14316	SSB	US-TX	US-3054 - Sea Rim State Park	W5GFM-[57 WISCONSIN]	<input type="checkbox"/>
EA2EXN	18:44	14320	SSB	ES-CL	ES-0481 - Sabinas del Arlanza Natura 2000	M7CJW- TNX FOR THE PARK 738	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 KD8CCX	18:44	14335	SSB	US-MI	US-6645 - Clark Lake State Game Land	N1JDU- 55 MA	<input type="checkbox"/>

To fully use the app capabilities, you should import data from two files. The first is to download your hunter stats from "My Stats" page of pota.app. On the My Stats page, you will see a link "EXPORT CSV" to the right opposite the section titled "Hunted Parks". Using the "Stats" link in the hunterlog title bar area, select Park Stats to import the hunter.csv file. Secondly, you can export an adif of all of your POTA contacts from your master log. Import this file using the link Stats - Op Stats. Those data are stored in a file named "spots.db" and allow hunterlog to track how many QSOs you have with each park and each activator. That information is shown in the magenta "badges" next to the callsign and park reference of each spot. This is a powerful tool to help you hunt new parks and boost your POTA stats. Be aware that those totals do not reflect mode or band. They only indicate that you have had a contact with that operator or park, so they are less helpful for awards like N1CC.

This has been a quick overview of using the app and you may have questions not answered here. Cainan has written some very good documentation, including a [User](#)

[Guide](#) and specific instructions on [Importing Your Stats](#). If you need further help getting hunterlog setup or when using it, let me know and I will try to help. If you use the app and find bugs or think of new features that would be useful, you can enter those at [Issues](#) on Cainan's GitHub.

If you are an active POTA hunter, this is a gamechanger - give it a try.