Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2024 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips – KI5POH

Vice Pres: Darrell Thornton – KI5PYQ
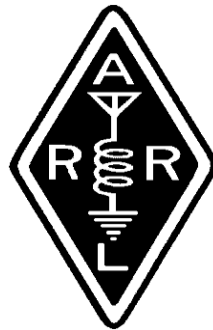
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

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.

MAY 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.

A special welcome to our newest members, **John** and **Bernice Kelley, KN6VDG** and **KN6VDH**. John and Bernice recently moved here from California and reside in the northern part of Nacogdoches County. **Welcome**.

The installation of the 147.320 repeater is now complete. Permanent electrical power has been installed by White Electric and the repeater equipment has been moved from Road and Bridge to the Park Street water tower. Initial reports indicate the repeater is working very well. Many thanks to **Darrell** and **Mark** for their hard work in making this happen.

Meeting closed at 7:21.

Program:

Mark KI5POH discussed how to make a tape measure yagi, and then used it for an on-site fox hunt.

Meeting wrapped up at 7:51.

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

Another fun Fox Hunt was conducted last month and thank you Army and Ralph for hiding the Fox. Even though your hunting parameters were a little off! The challenge finding the Fox was fun. Field Day is just around the corner, June 22nd-23rd. Thank you to all the members that have committed to helping make this year's event successful and fun. 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

It's that time again. 2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22 and 23 for NARC. June's meeting will consist of finalizing all the different areas that need to happen. Areas like radios, computers, social media, public comms, and much more. Please plan on attending and help us make this another great field day.

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

Meeting ID: 87186663202

Passcode: 578262

My son, Brooks, is now graduated. Not sure it feels any different than a summer vacation right now to him. Maybe when he starts SFA in the Fall for his mechanical engineering degree, it will set in that

he is in his next stage of life.

If you were not at the May Fox Hunt, you missed out. Army, AE5P, hid the fox in a tricky spot. Only three folks out of 12 found the fox. Mark, KI5POH, found the fox in 90 minutes. Tom, W5TV, and myself found the fox in 1hr and 55 minutes. At 12:00 we had a great lunch and discussions about the fox hunt.

With heat indexes already in the 100s, please plan your days accordingly and stay hydrated.

73, KI5PYQ
Darrell Thornton

NOTES FROM OUR EC

Here we go, It's June and Hurricane Season 20243 has started. 182 days to go. NOAA has updated their numbers: 17-25 named storms, between 8-13 will become hurricanes with 4-7 becoming major hurricanes and they did put a caveat to that, this is just against the season not land falls.

The Austin American Statesman had an article discussing the possible of effects of La Niña and El Niño and potential land fall. Grab a bucket of popcorn and a soda and let's watch as the season unfolds.

More Weather. The last few days have been nothing but weather fun. The 28th and 29th had rain everywhere, power outages over much of the city and probably county. It definite affected the mill. A tree fell on the power lines feeding the mill somewhere upstream electrically. Shut us down for a while. Many other folks were affected by other trees.

How many were without power? How long were you down for? How many have generators? Is it time to do the 100-hour service? Let's piggy back on the above, specifically lightning. There was a lot of it and the effects of it on display. The question: What do you do when the weather turns bad with lightning in the area? Disconnect the antenna from the shack? Depend on in-line lightning protection? Roll the dice and hope you don't get struck? Do you have an adequate grounding system? Many of us have a lot of money tied up in equipment.

Yes, it is June, and Field Day is not far off, 22 and 23 June. I ran into Rusty at the Farmer's Market and he mentioned that many duties have been taken care of. I'll be putting my press releases and letters together shortly.

Thanks to all of you who take a few minutes to read this. Thank you to all the net control operators and everyone who check into our nets.

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

VE TESTING

We did not have any applicants for VE testing in May, but the VE's had a great social evening anyway.

Many thanks to VE's, **Mike AA5HH, Ralph N6RH, Bernice KN6VDH, John KB6VDG, 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 June 5th 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 a detailed discussion on our plans for Field Day. Please let us know how you plan to participate.

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 May 18th. Many thanks to Army AE5P and Ralph N6RH for hiding the fox, and to Mark KI5POH, Darrell KI5PYQ, Tom W5TV, Aaron KI5FIQ, Dave KI5RAT, Robert KD5FEE, Andy KE5EXX, Justin KJ5DHA, Charles KJ5DTR, Westin KJ5DTS, Mrs. Emmerling, and Mrs. Beasley for participating in the hunt.

After the fox hunt was finished, participants enjoyed lunch at Smoke House.

Next fox hunt will be in July, exact date to be determined. How long will it take you to find it?

FIELD DAY 2024

Here's where we are at the moment:

Antennas: Darrell KI5PYQ

Computer Networking: Aaron KI5FIQ

Safety Officer: Wolfie KI5MHB

Radios: Army AE5P

Antennas/Feedlines: No Volunteers

Food: Bernice KN6VDH

FD Commander: No Volunteers

Solar Power: Dave KI5RAT

All FD radios will be Flex. Each radio will include a dedicated laptop computer.

Our operating class will be 3F with one radio dedicated to Digital (FT8), one to SSB and one to CW.

Plan is to operate continuous for 24 hours or until everyone is tuckered out.

Please attend the June meeting and let us know how you can help.

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

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.

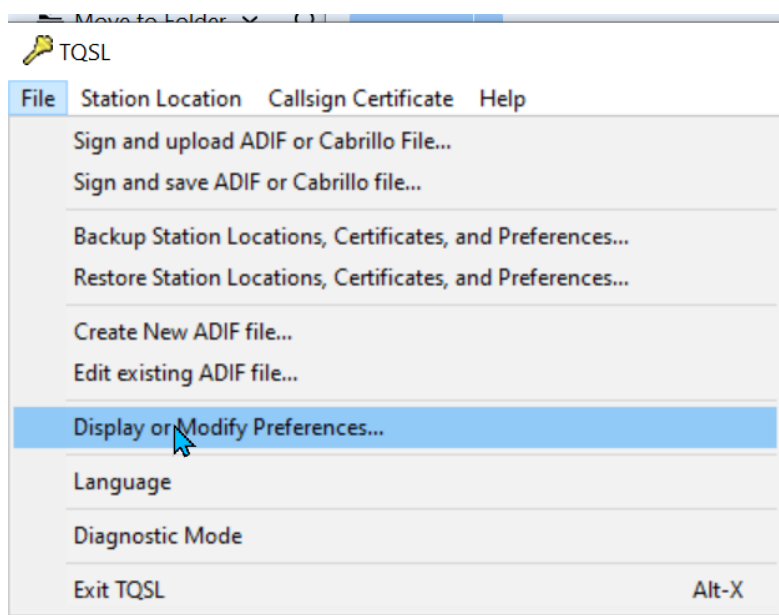# Best Practices for Logging Accurate Location Information

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

Back in April of 2023, I wrote an article about getting accurate location data into TQSL for uploading QSOs to LoTW. In that article, I described creating a new station location for each portable operating location. This is inconvenient and difficult to manage if you do a lot of portable operating. I have since learned that this is completely unnecessary! There is an optional setting in TQSL that eliminates the need for matching locations to QSOs. This is another useful and practical operating tip that I learned from my activities on the POTA CW Discord server.
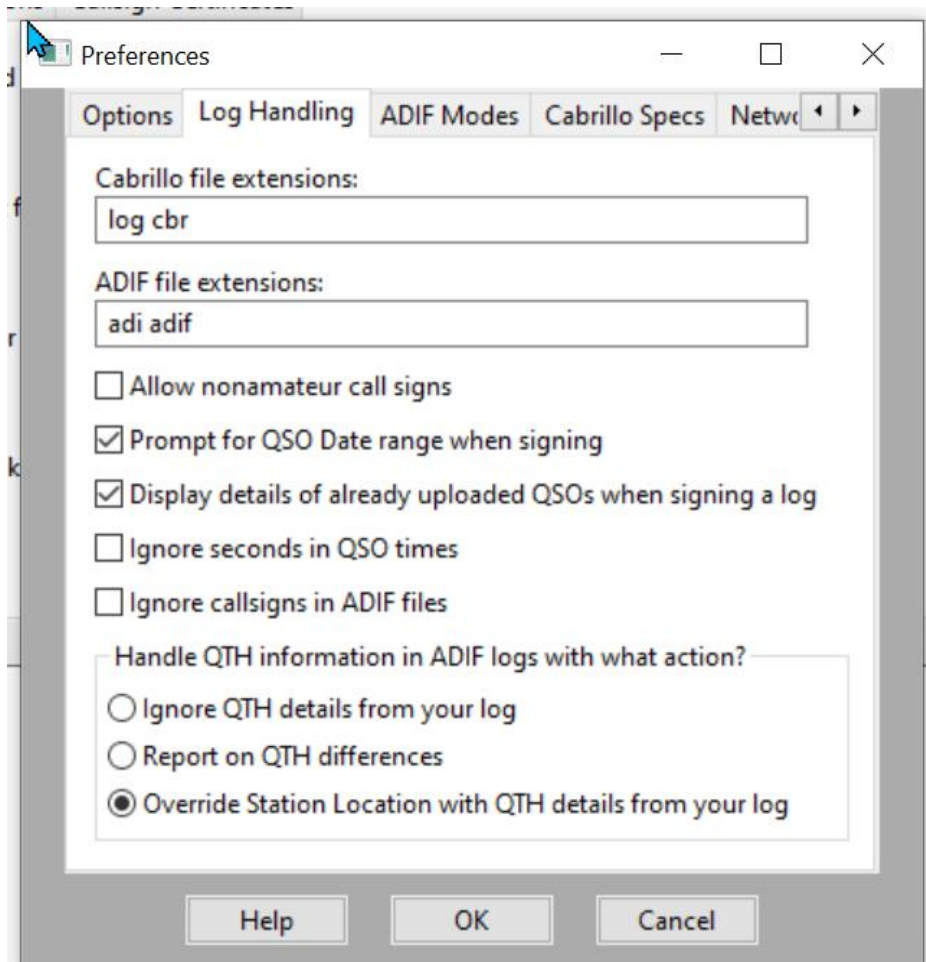
Modifying your TQSL settings is very easy and described four steps below. This setting allows you to over-ride your primary station location with the location data in each individual QSO. So, if you operate portable and record the correct grid square, county and state in the QSOs, that information will be uploaded to LoTW. Your logging software usually has a selection for location when you upload QSOs to LoTW, but this will be ignored.

To use location data from the QSO records instead, open TQSL and follow the steps below:

1. **From the "File" menu, select "Display or Modify Preferences"**

2. **In the "Preferences" window, select the second tab "Log Handling"**

3. **At the bottom are three radio buttons. The default is the second one "Report on QTH differences". This is why ACLog tells you that your location does not match and won't let you upload POTA QSOs unless you change locations to agree with what is in the QSOs.**

4. **To override QTH checking, select the third radio button "Override Station Location with QTH details from your log". This will allow you to upload QSOs regardless of the location data in the TQSL / ACLog settings and use the location data in the QSO records.**

That's it! Now you can record accurate location data for your portable operating QSOs and upload correct data. In going through this odyssey on getting correct location data, I have found many errors in my own log. Much of this is a result of letting the logging software "fill-in-the-blanks" (using QRZ.com or similar database) for your QSOs. This

will usually result in location data for the operator's home location and will be wrong if they are portable. Secondly, POTA lists 6-digit grids for parks, but these can be close to correct or wildly wrong. POTA does not list counties in the park reference data and even states can be wrong, especially for trails or very large park entities.

The following discussion refers to ACLog which is what I use for my main log. Similar features and options are likely available in other loggers. To help get more accurate location data in my log, I have made a few changes in how I record QSOs:

1. I have turned off auto-filling of missing QSO data from QRZ.com;
2. When I record a QSO before uploading to LoTW, I make sure that the operator's grid and county are empty and, if there is any doubt, I delete the state as well (you can cut and paste these into the comments to compare to what is downloaded from LoTW); and
3. For FT8, where grid is part of the exchange, I will always cut and paste it into the comments section.

Having the location data fields blank allows them to be over-written with data downloaded from LoTW when the QSO is confirmed. This assures that the location data is what the activator uploaded. Of course, you are relying on the activator to accurately upload their location data. As more and more people operate portably, I think that the awareness has increased and getting accurate location data from the operator is more and more likely. This is especially true among the POTA activators.

Lastly, make sure that your own location data are correct before clicking the button to upload your QSOs to LoTW! To help me remember this, I have the ACLog "Setup" window open every time that I start ACLog. This is the screen where you enter your callsign, country, continent, latitude and longitude, grid, etc. Seeing this screen reminds me to enter the correct location data if I am not operating from home. When activating parks, I use an app on my phone named "Grid Square Locator" to get an accurate 6-digit grid square. I also use a state map to find out what county I am in for QSO uploads to LoTW. If you use a different piece of software to log when portable, some of the location information may be recorded in each QSO and available in ACLog when you import.