

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2024 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips -
KI5POH

Vice Pres: Darrell
Thornton - KI5PYQ

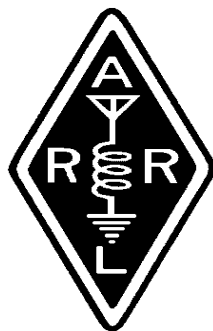
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis -
AE5P

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.

JULY MINUTES

Meeting held on 7/3/24 in the EOC with 16 members and 8 guests present.

President Mark KI5POH opened the meeting at 7:00. Self-introductions made by everyone present.

Many compliments received of the dinner Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning prepared by Bernice KN6VDH for Field Day. Thank you. (You too John)

This meeting being our annual Ice Cream Social, the meeting was immediately closed so all present could help themselves to the variety of ice cream and other goodies. Some were seen going back for seconds and even thirds. As our former club President, now a Silent Key, John Cechin W5FWR used to love to say: "And a good time was had by all."

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

I want to extend another big THANK YOU to everyone that helped set up, operate, provided food and snacks, spoke to the media, problem solved, packed up and everything in between! Our Field Day operation was a big success, and it would not have been possible

without all of you that participated this year. Your efforts and commitment to the club are noticed. There were a couple of good articles in Dailey Sentinel about Field Day. Thank you, John (KC5MIB) and Roger (KOYY), for speaking with the media.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 7th.

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

Are you liking the more mild and rainy weather we are getting in July? I know I am. The one thing that all this rain brings is more mowing. Small price to pay in my book. We will see what August will bring us.

August's program will be presented by Army, AE5P. We will cover ham radio amplifiers. The

subjects he will cover will consist of how they work, when it is best to use them, and I imagine some other thoughts. Below is the Zoom link for the meeting in case you will not be able to attend. **Should we keep doing the Zoom meeting in conjunction with our in-person meetings? Let me know!**

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

Meeting ID: 87186663202
Passcode: 578262

By the time you read this article, our July Fox hunt would have happened. I hope you were able to join us. The fox hunts are always a good time and help you practice using your radios and give us a better understanding of how propagation works.

73, KI5PYQ

Darrell Thornton

NOTES FROM OUR EC

It's time to get started on the newsletter before the editor gets after me, oh wait just got a new email, gotta hurry.

The 2024 hurricane season is now 63 days in (written Aug 2nd). It has been a while since we have had a hurricane come through. Beryl decided to visit July 8th. It was the second system of the season and the earliest CAT 5 hurricane on record, lucky us. The mill had 4.5 inches of rain in a very short time, a few tornadoes in the area and I think a fatality. I received a tornado warning on my cell phone as I'm sure many others did. Thankfully Beryl did not hang around long, but did what many other storms have done, tracked to the Northeast and back out to the North Atlantic.

Question time: How long were you without power? Generator owners-fixed generators: how many hours did you put on your

unit? Any problems? Generator owners-portable generators: with the unit or configuring for power. Did anyone evac out? If so, how were the road and traffic conditions? As for me, no generator, only out of power about 4 hours (can't say that for the mill). Other than some heavy rain and no power for a bit, it was life as usual.

Future cast, it is hot and will be hot for a while. There is a "potential tropical cyclone 4" sitting over Cuba. It has the potential to become a tropical cyclone over the next 7 days. It is the season.

How are you coming along with your ICS training. Thanks to all the net controllers and those of you who check in.

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

VE TESTING

The June VE session saw one applicant, Randy Hensley of Nacogdoches,

successfully test for Technician. Randy is now KJ5GXX. Congratulations.

The July VE session did not have any applicants for exams.

Many thanks to our VE crew: Rusty KD5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Mike Fowler W5NXX, Mike Hooks AA5HH, and Army AE5P.

Remember that we give in-person VE tests the third Wednesday of **EVERY** month promptly at 7:00 PM. 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 August 7th 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 about amplifiers and presented

by Army AE5P. It will be an educational program.

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

Hope to see y'all there.

Silent Key

Marshall Williams K5QE SK

We are sorry to report that Marshall Williams K5QE passed away on July 26 at home. Memorial service will be held on August 6 at Starr Funeral Home in Hemphill. Marshall has been a long time member of NARC and was instrumental in getting a number of club members interested in VHF and microwave contesting and roving. His contest station at Hemphill is world class. He will be missed.

FOX HUNT

The last fox hunt was held on Saturday July 27th.

Many thanks to Darrell KI5PYQ and Ken KN4BMS for hiding the fox, and to Mark KI5POH, Robert KD5FEE, Steve KB5IDY, Clayton KJ5GDA and kids (Avery and CJ), Billy KJ5GES for participating in the hunt.

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

Next fox hunt will be in September, 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> You will need to scroll to find the correct month.

Link to ARRL Contest Calendar

<https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Contest of note.

September VHF Contest

<https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Sept 14-16

Would you like to be a rover in this contest?

Club Meeting Dates

August 7th 7:00PM

September 4th 7:00 PM

October 2nd 7:00 PM

November 6th 7:00 PM

December TBD (Christmas Party)

Notes of Interest

New Newsletter Editor

Effective with this newsletter, Darrell, KI5PYQ, is the editor. Army AE5P has gratefully turned over the reins to Darrell after 25 years. Let Army know how much you

appreciate his years of service writing the newsletter. If you have complaints about the newsletter, call or write Darrell. Kind words are always appreciated also. 😊

Loggers for All Seasons and Reasons, Part 1

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

When most hams think of logging software, they probably think about full-featured general loggers or contest loggers such as ALog (N3FJP) or N1MM+. There are many other such loggers as well as lesser known special purpose loggers. In this article, I will describe some of both types that I have found useful. Accordingly, this will not be an exhaustive review of logging software, but some information about those that I have experience with. Even with that limited scope, this will be a two-part article.

I use ALog ([N3FJP](#)) for my main log. At the link, you can explore all of the features and see screenshots. N3FJP offers a 45-day free trial and the current price is \$39.99. For an additional \$20, you can also receive a license for all of their contest loggers. There is a very active user community available in [groups.io](#). A partial screenshot of my log is shown below. The colors indicate contacts not uploaded to LoTW (black), uploaded, but not confirmed (green) and confirmed (blue).

N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log 7.0.10 www.n3fjp.com

File Edit Settings Clear CallBook List Search Awards eLogs Recall Net View Help

Find Recent Contacts 20,814 List

Rec#	Call	Date / Time	Bnd	Mode	Pow...	Snt	Rec	Off	Country	ST	County	Name	SIG_INFO	S	R	Comments	Frequen...	10-10	Grid
20742	W0SK	2024/05/15 20:32	20	CW	75	529	599		USA	FL		Jim Evans	US-6312	N	N	[POTA US-63...	14.051		
20741	KD4O	2024/05/15 15:49	20	CW	75	559	599		USA	VA		Phil Moore	US-9931	N	N	[POTA US-99...	14.051		
20740	AC9OT	2024/05/15 15:46	20	CW	75	599	579		USA	WI		John G Rusfeldt	US-9857	N	N	[POTA US-98...	14.040		
20739	WW8L	2024/05/15 15:41	20	CW	75	599	599		USA	CO		Tim Annable	US-9621	N	N	[POTA US-96...	14.043		
20738	K4SWL	2024/05/15 14:12	20	CW	75	599	599		USA	OH		Thomas Wither...	US-1994	N	N	[POTA US-19...	14.061		
20737	ZL1BOD	2024/05/15 02:19	10	CW	75	559	559		New Zeal...			Roly Runciman	NZ-0581	Y	N	[POTA NZ-058...	28.044		
20736	K17QCF	2024/05/15 02:11	20	CW	75	599	599		USA	UT		Forrest Stephen...	US-10067	Y	N	[POTA US-10...	14.043		
20735	N0EVH	2024/05/14 16:42	20	CW	75	59	559		USA	MO	JACKSON	John B. Watkins	US-7519	Y	Y		14.060		EM29
20734	W0SA	2024/05/14 16:39	20	CW	75	59	59		USA	MN		Peter D. Cross	US-2484	Y	N		14.041		
20733	W1SD	2024/05/14 16:32	20	CW	75	59	59		USA	KS		Steven J. Steve...	US-7929	Y	N		14.048		

The data entry section is shown next. I have entered a callsign and then tabbed over to the "(RST)Sent" field. When doing that, you can have ALog lookup details about the contact from QRZ or another online database. ALog also automatically shows the distance and bearing to the contacts address in that database. (You need to be careful here as they might be operating from a different location.) Not shown in the screenshot is that ALog will filter your logbook on the callsign to show all contacts that you have had with the current operator. This is very useful if you are a ragchewer. The entry section is customizable as to the order of the fields, which fields are presented, etc. There is a template for POTA logging.

Call	Sent	Rec	SIG_INFO	Date	Time On	Time Off	MY_SIG_INFO	Power
KM4CFT								

Log Contact

Band	Frequency	Mode	Name	State	County	Country	Grid
20	14.04700	CW	Jonathan Kayne	CO		USA	

Bearing: 77
Miles: 780
Cont: NA

Comments

15:07:52 UTC

You can also have ALog interface with your rig to enter the band, frequency and mode as you tune around the bands. The rig interface includes the capability to control the rig using CAT commands. You can setup macros to transmit recorded CW or SSB messages. ALog, also includes DX spotting from numerous telnet servers. With rig control, you can click on a spot and ALog will tune your rig and set the correct mode for you to listen in and try to make the contact.

Every contact that I make under my own callsign ends up in ALog. When I operate digital or hunt parks from home, wsjt-x, MSHV and hunterlog (see my NARC Newsletter, May 2024 article) auto-log to ALog. When I hunt parks from a park (Park-2-Park QSOs) or activate a park, I use PoLo (Portable Logger, described in Part 2). After exporting the contacts from PoLo to the POTA site, I import those QSOs into ALog. When I use an ALog contest logger or N1MM+ for a contest, likewise, I export / import into ALog. By now, I am sure that you get the idea!

As noted above ALog also includes numerous contest specific loggers. These have an interface designed for the contest exchange and multipliers (see below). For Example, for ARRL Field Day, the ARRL US sections for each call area and the 14 Canadian sections are listed. As you make QSOs, those change color, so that you can track which sections you still need. If you attended one of the NARC field days, you saw that the sections can also be displayed on a map. Multiple computers running ALog Field Day software can be networked to display the club's progress in near

Call	Class	Section

Ready to begin! Please select your band and mode from the menu!

Clear Spot Last

Possible Duplicates Any Portion

West Massachusetts Total = 1
Bands: 20 = 1
DIG = 1

DX	3	5	7	0
<p>DX</p> <p>1</p> <p>CT RI</p> <p>EMA VT</p> <p>ME WMA</p> <p>NH</p> <p>2</p> <p>ENY NNY</p> <p>NLI SNJ</p> <p>NNJ WNY</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AL SC</p> <p>GA SFL</p> <p>KY TN</p> <p>NC VA</p> <p>NFL VI</p> <p>PR WCF</p>	<p>6</p> <p>EB SCV</p> <p>LAX SDG</p> <p>ORG SF</p> <p>PAC SJV</p> <p>SB SV</p>	<p>8</p> <p>MI WV</p> <p>OH</p> <p>9</p> <p>IL WI</p> <p>IN</p>	<p>Canada</p> <p>AB ONE</p> <p>BC ONN</p> <p>GH ONS</p> <p>MB PE</p> <p>NB QC</p> <p>NL SK</p> <p>NS TER</p>

Bearing: Band: 15 Mode: PH N5JGE 1D STX

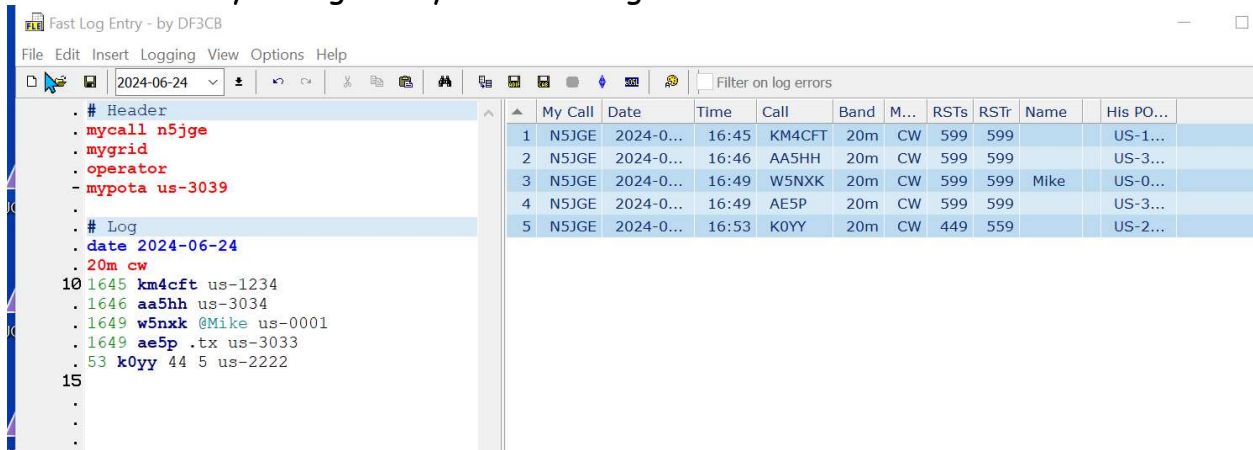
10:22:57
15:22:57 UTC

real-time on the map.

Contest software requires specific capabilities not present for general logging. Firstly, duplicate contacts are not allowed in most contests, so there is a warning for duplicates and some software will not allow you to log duplicates. Secondly, contesting software usually checks the callsign that you enter against a contest participant database ("Super Check Partial"). Thirdly, contesting software usually has a history file that can fill in exchange info when you enter the callsign. Lastly, contesting software usually can write a "Cabrillo" file which is commonly used for submitting your log to the contest sponsors.

If you are trying to learn CW (see my NARC Newsletter, December 2023 article), a useful practice tool is the K1USN SST (Slow-Speed Test). This is a twice per week "contest" where the exchange is your name and state. This is the same exchange as for the North American QSO Party (NAQP). So, the ALog NAQP logger has an option for the SST. For the SST, you do not upload a log, but rather enter your QSO and multiplier counts by band to the K1USN 3830 Scores website. The NAQP software will output a table of the data that you need to enter at the website.

Another option for K1USN SST or other simple exchange contests is a free program called FLE (Fast Log entry). This has a minimalist interface where you can quickly enter a contact's callsign and some simple exchange info. There are built-in logging options for general operation, contesting, WWFF (World-Wide Flora and Fauna), WWFF plus SOTA (Summits on the Air), SOTA and POTA. This program does not interface with your rig or any online callsign databases.



In the left-hand pane, there are sections for header info and then the log entries. You must enter your callsign after "mycall" in the header section. Your grid and the operator's name are optional. Depending on the type of operation, you can also enter your POTA, WWKK, or SOTA reference. While only the callsign is mandatory, using the header info will populate into any adif that you export making later editing of the adif easier or unnecessary. To make log entries, you must specify the band and mode first. There are a lot of shortcuts to enter log info. For example, on line 12,

the "@" means that the following word is a name. On line 13, the "." Designates that the following is received exchange. F1 inserts the current date and F2 inserts the current time. In the above screenshot, where time was 1649 (line 13), entering a "53" on the next log line changed the time 1653! Entering a 44 after the call sign on line 14 makes the sent RST 449 and entering a 5 after that makes the received RST 559 (599 is assumed if nothing is entered). Below is the adif exported from FLE for the log shown above.

ADIFMaster - C:\Users\jimed\Desktop\test.adif

Line	STATION_CALLSIGN	CALL	QSO_DATE	TIME_ON	BAND	MODE	RST_SENT	RST_RCVD	MY_SIG	MY_SIG_INFO	SIG	SIG_INFO	NAME	SRX
1	N5JGE	KM4CFT	20240624	1645	20m	CW	599	599	POTA	US-3039	POTA	US-1234		
2	N5JGE	AA5HH	20240624	1646	20m	CW	599	599	POTA	US-3039	POTA	US-3034		
3	N5JGE	W5NXX	20240624	1649	20m	CW	599	599	POTA	US-3039	POTA	US-0001	Mike	
4	N5JGE	AESP	20240624	1649	20m	CW	599	599	POTA	US-3039	POTA	US-3033		TX
5	N5JGE	K0YY	20240624	1653	20m	CW	449	559	POTA	US-3039	POTA	US-2222		

There is very good [documentation](#) for FLE on the internet and the program is updated regularly. While a bit quirky, this looks like a good option for quick contests or POTA use. I have used it a few times for the K1USN SST.

The last essential logging tool is "ADIFMaster". This is shown above and allows extensive editing of adif files if needed before importing into your master log, uploading to the POTA site, etc. It works similarly to a spreadsheet with copy / paste, find / replace, etc to quickly edit or add info the QSOs by individual cell, columns or selected cell ranges.

Well, that is a lot of info for this installment. In the next article, I will cover N1MM+, hunterlog (brief review of May 2024 article) and PoLo.