

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2024 CLUB OFFICERS

**Pres: Mark Phillips -
KI5POH**

**Vice Pres: Darrell
Thornton - KI5PYQ**

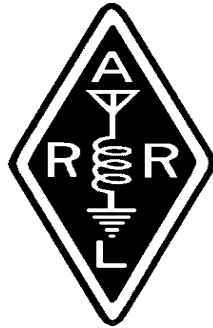
**Sec/Treas: Army Curtis -
AE5P**

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.

AUGUST MINUTES

President Mark KI5POH opened the meeting at 7:00 in the EOC. 16 members and 3 guests in attendance. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read. Treasurer noted that the club's bank account has been split between Cadence Bank and CBTx

and will soon all be at only CBTx.

Old Business

Darrell KI5PYQ reported they missed the deadline for the school grant program and will reapply in October.

New Business

Robert KD5FEE reported he met a retired Navy guy WB5GNO at the Senior Center.

Darrell KI5PYQ is now the club newsletter editor.

The raffle was won by Rusty KD5GEN and received the book "DX Adventures." Bill Rascher KT5TE and Jim Edmondson N5JGE reported they had some books that could be used for future raffles and will bring them to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:17 p.m.

Program presented by
Army AE5P on HF
Amplifiers

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

It seems like this year has flown by, with September already here. September is National Emergency

Preparedness month. Our federal government has a site dedicated to emergency preparedness at www.ready.gov. This site has a lot of information to help be prepared for many different disasters and emergency scenarios, with building a disaster supplies kit, financial preparedness, being tech ready and how to care for our families and pets.

Check out this site. It has some good information. Being a Ham Operator, also means making sure we are prepared help provide communication when needed. Check your equipment often and participate in the weekly ARES/RACES nets.

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

Here is hoping the 100 degree days are over. Last week, the high was 95. This week it looks like the temperature will drop some more with the chances of rain increasing. Keep your fingers cross.

My youngest son started his senior year in high school. They have been going for over two weeks now. My other two start SFA today (8/26). Brooks (freshman) will be studying Mechanical Engineering and Lianna, my daughter, is in her junior year studying Mechanical Engineering as well.

September's program will be presented by Steve Bartlett, KB5IDY. He will be informing us how to safely hook up a generator for a whole house setup

which will include hooking up your power supplies and sensitive equipment to a normal generator.

Let me know if you would like a Zoom link for the meeting. Zoom option will be by request only going forward. Didn't seem to be a need for it.

73, KI5PYQ
Darrell Thornton

NOTES FROM OUR EC

Let's get started. First we'll look at the 2024 hurricane season and some other weather.

So far, the 2024 hurricane season hasn't been busy, only 5 named storms or hurricanes since the season started 1 June. September has the busiest month over the past 4 years with an average of 8 storms a year. August has been hot and 0 rainfall. Yes, I know we had a brief and very light shower the 23rd, just enough to rearrange the dust on the windshield. As

I have told some of my friends, it's August, we are in Texas and it's 2-a-day season for football. I'm sure some many of you remember 2-a-days back in high school.

I returned to Nacogdoches in July of 2015 and returned to my role as the EC. We've covered a lot of topics during this time. There always seemed to be a weather element. Storms led to more communications needs both inside and outside the storm area. We've practiced various communications apps, participated in Field Day, SET and various public service events, as well as our regular nets.

No, this is not my resignation letter. I'll stick around for a while. I do need more ideas.

Look for an OP-ED next month. What do the "if it's too good to be true..." TANSTAFU, ISM, AES, and LTE all have in common. A final note before I close. My Juno email account has been compromised. Please do not use my

KC5MIB@arrl.net account to contact me, at this time. Please use jlchapman2@gmail.com. I let you know when I get things resolved.

As always thanks to the net controllers and all of those who check into our regular nets.

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

VE TESTING

The VE testing on August 21 saw Randy Hensley KJ5GXX upgrade to General. Randy is now looking for a HF rig to purchase. Many thanks to our VE team: Rusty KD5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Mike Fowler W5NXX, Mike Hooks AA5HH, Bernice Kelly KN6VDH, and Army AE5P.

Remember that we give in-person VE tests the third Wednesday of **EVERY** month promptly at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 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 September 4th 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 generators and presented by Steve KB5IDY. This will be some great information to have during hurricane and winter seasons.

Remember that the meeting will be available via Zoom if requested. Email Darrell KI5PYQ @ dalbcthornton@gmail.com for the Zoom information.

Hope to see y'all there.

Silent Key

Marshall Williams K5QE
SK Update

Marshall Williams K5QE
passed away at home on

July 26. A memorial service was held at the Starr Funeral Home in Hemphill on August 6. Marshall's son Randy K5RMN is working with Bill N5YA to form a club to keep Marshall's world class VHF/UHF/EHF station on the air using the K5QE callsign.

Charlotte Turner wife of Jim Turner W5QI passed away August 14 after a lengthy illness. A visitation will be held August 23 at Cason-Monk Funeral Home in Nacogdoches.

FOX HUNT

Next fox hunt will be in September 28 10:00AM to 12:00PM. 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/contestcalendar.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

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 2

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

This month, I highlight two great logging apps for POTA operators - one for hunting (hunterlog) and one for activating (PoLo) as well as the premier contest logger, N1MM.

hunterlog was the subject of an article in the May NARC Newsletter, so you can see that for more details. Since May, the app has been updated three times, fixing bugs and adding functionality. hunterlog is free and runs on the PC desktop as a browser app. It pulls spots from the POTA.app website and presents them in a filterable table. Clicking on the spot's frequency will use CAT control to tune your rig and set the correct mode. Modes specific for your rig (for example: CW / CW-R for iCOM or CW-L / CW-U for Yaesu) can be entered in the configuration window. flrig (or RIGCTLD) is used for CAT control. flrig can control almost all rigs out there, but must be setup for your specific rig and COM port. I have not used RIGCTLD which is TCP-based rig controller. It can be used to control multiple rigs or multiple apps can control one rig.

The hunterlog app will display info about the park and the activator above the spots table including a small map image, bearing, distance, etc. If the spot includes multiple operators, hunterlog will create a QSO for each one and send to your logging program. hunterlog also maintains statistics regarding the number of contacts with specific activators and parks. This is helpful to build your total number of entities contacted. The filterable table allows you to select specific bands, modes, regions (DXCC entities) or location (states for the US). You hide spots that have gone QRT or those that you hunted in the current session. You can also only show new parks in the table. After you make the QSO, hunterlog will send the QSO information to ALog, Log4OM, or logger32.

Polo is short for Ham2K Portable Logger. This a portable device-only app. It can run on Android or iOS, including phones and tablets. This app is under active development with an active user community on Discord. It is a great alternative to the HAMRS portable app with more features. PoLo is designed to allow easy and efficient logging for POTA and SOTA activators or operators during ARRL or Winter Field Day. PoLo is free and the logging features will always be maintained in a free version. There may be paid versions in the future with enhancements. Cloud storage of your logs has been mentioned as a possible future enhancement.

PoLo refers to your activations as "operations". When you initiate a new operation, you choose your activity: POTA, SOTA, a field day or custom. I will choose POTA. PoLo uses your device's location feature to determine your grid square and list the closest POTA parks for you to choose from. For me at home, that is US-4417, Davy Crockett National Forest. It does not show SOTA since there are no SOTA summits near me.

Once you choose the park, you are ready to log after setting your frequency and mode. The main logging window has four tabs: QSOS, SPOTS, MAP and OPERATION. OPERATION is where you edit your grid, park, etc. MAP shows a world map with your QSOS marked by map pins. Hovering over the pins shows QSO data. SPOTS is pulled from the POTA spots webpage. You can directly tap a spot listing to enter it into the QSO list. Doing this strikes-through the text indicating that you have hunted that P2P. This is a great feature if you are in a park and trying to increase your P2P QSO count. Polo is also capable of handling multiple parks or multiple operators easily.

After you complete an activation, PoLo will export your log files ready to upload to your POTA logs. There is an excellent online manual that uses captured app screen video, so Read The Fine Manual (RTFM).

N1MM is a beast of an application, it is free, and it is entirely written by volunteers. N1MM is updated at quite often, fixing bugs, tweaking performance and adding features. It has so many capabilities and features, it would require many, many pages to describe it all. If you think that I am exaggerating, the manual download is 757-page pdf file of almost 14MB! The primary use case for N1MM is contesting, however, operators also use it as their general logger or for specialized uses, like POTA or chasing DX. The flexibility of N1MM is mainly due to the fact that it has about 300 "contest definition files" used to change all features of operation for a given contest: bands of operation, the exchange, hours of operations, macros, etc. Users have also created "UDC" (or User Defined Contest) files for specific uses such as POTA.

N1MM can work with many plugins (CWGet, MMTTY, 2TONE, fldigi, WSJT-X, etc.) to facilitate operation. CW and various digital mode (mainly RTTY, PSK31, FT8 for contests) plugins provide decoders and tuning aids. There is a band map and selectable spotting services to find specific contacts. Spots can be filtered for band, mode and location of contact or spotter. Clicking on a callsign in any of these windows populates the QSO callsign window. You can call that operator using macros for any mode. If you are using a check file, the callsign is checked for validity. If the contact would be a duplicate, you are warned. Usually when you complete the

QSO, the exchange info is automatically filled-in or you can click in the decoder window to enter the exchange items into the QSO window.

In addition to these basic features, N1MM has many tools to help the serious contester. Windows that track your QSO rate, time on / time off, specific entities contacted (DXCC, prefixes, states, whatever the contest rules include), multipliers are tracked, etc. N1MM can select antennas and rotate beams automatically based on the callsign and frequency. Most contest logs are submitted electronically using a specific file format, known as a Cabrillo file. You can have N1MM generate this file when completing the contest. You can also export your contacts in adif format to import into your general logger if different from N1MM.

In my experience, N1MM has a pretty steep learning curve to get the rig interface setup initially. I have successfully interfaced my IC-7300, IC-7100 and FTdx10. The N1MM manual is helpful for general rig setup concepts, but there are many web resources for specific rigs (IC-7300, FTdx10, Flex 6xxx, IC-7100) that are more helpful. If you are interested in contesting, then, N1MM is a must have logger. If contesting does not interest you, it is definitely optional