

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2024 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips -  
KI5POH

Vice Pres: Darrell  
Thornton - KI5PYQ

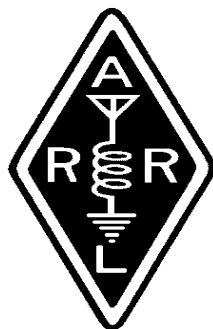
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis -  
AE5P

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.

## SEPTEMBER MINUTES

President Mark KI5POH called meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the EOC with 14 members and 1 guest present, and 2 more members and 1 guest also present via Zoom. Self-introductions made by everyone physically present. Minutes of previous

meeting approved as published. Treasurer's report read.

### New Business

Motion made to officially change the meeting night for NARC to the first Tuesday of the month, beginning with January 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

President appointed Army AE5P, Ralph N6RH and Rusty KD5GEN to a committee to report back to the club at the next meeting with a recommended slate of officers for the club. Election of club officers to be held at the next (November) meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:07 P.M. Several raffles held. ARRL book on POTA (Parks on the Air) won by Mark KI5POH. Jumper cables left at EOC following Field Day in June won by Mike W5NXK. Cell

phone battery left at EOC following Field Day in June won by Robert KF5FEE.

**Program:**

Mark KI5POH made a presentation on the club's Orange Box radio and antenna.

Mark answered questions about the equipment and its uses. Instructions for its use are available on the club website

<https://w5nac.com>.

Meeting over at 7:35 P.M.

## 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

Every other month, we have a Fox Hunt. A Fox Hunt is a low power transmitter that is hidden, usually inside the loop of Nacogdoches. The fun begins when we hams try to find the Fox (transmitter). The challenge is finding the signal and the determining where the signal is coming from and finding the Fox. This is when a good directional (yagi) antenna is good to have to narrow down the direction of the signal. The yagi antenna helps isolate the direction of the signal and then we dial in on its location. This sounds really simple, but it can be very challenging with the signal bouncing off structures, trees and other obstacles. We will

be announcing the next Fox Hunt soon and I hope you will join the hunt!

I am thankful for each of you being a part of our club and look forward to seeing you at our club meeting on Wednesday, November 6th.

73, Mark KI5POH

KI5POH21@gmail.com

## FROM THE VP CHAIR

I hope everyone has been enjoying the cooler weather. I know I have. Lately it has been creeping back up in temps. Looking at the forecast for the week of Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, I'm excited to see some rain chances.

We only had one person hunting the fox at the last fox hunt, ME! Aaron, KI5FIQ, did an excellent job hiding the fox. Our next fox hunt will be in November 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00-12:00PM. If you feel like you don't know what you are

doing or would like to hunt the fox with someone, give me a shout! I will gladly introduce you and/or show you how I hunt the fox.

The program at the upcoming meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> will be presented by Jim, N5JGE. He will do a show and tell on his new oscilloscope. It is a Rigol DHO804. Should be very interesting to learn about this scope and what it can help us do as HAMS.

73, KI5PYQ  
Darrell Thornton

## NOTES FROM OUR EC

It's a pretty day with some fog in the low spots. How about that fog on the 23rd? The Cal-Tex yard is about a mile or so away as the crow flies from my south facing window at the mill. You could not see any of the shadows of the trees.

We'll cover a couple of things, hurricane season (duh) and daylight-saving time.

Hurricane season ends 30 November. Looking at some

stats, November has had 1 tropical storm and 1 hurricane. We'll see if that holds true for this year.

As of 23 October there have been 5 land fall events, 1 in Texas, 1 in Louisiana, 3 in Florida, 370 fatalities, a few here in Deep East Texas, and \$140 billion in damages mainly in Florida. It's been a rough year.

Daylight Saving Time comes to an end 3 November. It's usually a good time to check batteries in smoke

detectors, flashlights and such. It's also a good time to check other batteries and for those of you who have generators, How many hours are on the meter, when was it checked over last. You know prepare for the upcoming winter

Thanks to all of the net control operators and those that step up to cover the empty shifts and to those that check-in and the lurkers for being there.

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

## VE TESTING

There were no applicants for testing at our regularly scheduled session October

16. Many thanks to our VE's Rusty KD5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Mike W5NXX, Mike AA5HH, and Army AE5P.

Remember that we hold VE testing sessions for all classes of Amateur Radio

licenses the third Wednesday of every month at the EOC. For the latest information always check the club website at:

<https://w5nac.com/ve-testing/>

73 de AE5P.

email: [ae5p@arrl.net](mailto: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 November 6th 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 Rigol DHO804 oscilloscope presented by Jim N5JGE

Remember that the meeting will be available via Zoom if requested. Email Darrell KI5PYQ @ [dalbcthornton@gmail.com](mailto:dalbcthornton@gmail.com) for the Zoom information.

Hope to see y'all there.

## FOX HUNT

Next fox hunt will be in November 16<sup>th</sup> 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/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

November 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

December TBD (Christmas Party)

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
(Tuesday) 7:00 PM

February 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

## Notes of Interest

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

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

In light of recent disasters in the Southeast caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, this month I take a look at one aspect of preparedness overlooked by me. In reading about the destruction caused in Western North Carolina, I found one recommendation that I had not thought of before: having access to maps that do not rely on internet or mobile data connectivity. This seems like a very good tool to have in your prepping toolbox. It also has applications to outdoorsman, off-roaders, search and rescue, etc.

One way to do this besides paper maps is [Organic Maps](#). As a side benefit, Organic Maps does not collect any personal data and does not track your location. I have recently been on a mission to improve the privacy and security of our family's digital life. Organic Maps seems to be a good fit for this mission.

Organic Maps is a free app available for both the iOS and Android operating systems based on [OpenStreetMaps](#). There is a high-level base map supplemented by downloadable regional maps for points of interest, fine detail and contour lines, etc. The OpenStreetMaps website describes it as being built by a community of mappers contributing roads, trail, café, railways and many other points of interest and navigational data. It is used as the basis of maps by many websites and mobile apps. It is important to note, that this mapping system does not provide satellite imagery or street views as are available in Google Maps.

So far, I have downloaded six maps to cover central and East Texas (Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Tyler and Waco). These use 620MB of storage, which is not a huge amount of memory on a typical cell phone today. The app itself uses about 600MB more memory than Google Maps due to the need to download the high-level base map as part of the app.

A screenshot from the Organic Maps website is shown below on the left with walking directions shown as a dashed blue line. The layout will be familiar to anyone who has used other mapping apps. Features include zoom controls, compass indicator, layer selection, search and favorite button (star). Directions can be provided for walking, driving, public transport, bicycle and re-routing by clicking a point on the map. You can see the contour lines and shading for vegetation types. On the right below is a view showing a developed area with building shapes. So, while there is no satellite imagery, you can still get a good feel for the infrastructure in the area.





I tested navigation capabilities on a recent trip from my home to lake Whitney State Park. The app worked very well, handling a route change while driving. It seemed to more rapidly manage the route change than Google Maps. I have found that Google Maps seems to suggest a U-turn for a long time before giving up and re-routing. The app kept the screen on the entire time and used relatively little battery capacity compared to Google Maps which I find to be a resource hog. The difference is probably due to the fact that Organic Maps is not continuously using wi-fi or mobile data. The tradeoff is using memory to store the downloaded maps.

In my opinion, a significant benefit of Organic Maps are the data privacy features. Organic Maps claims to be free of trackers, does not collect any data, does not "phone home". It also does not require any registration and does not contain ads. App development is completely funded by volunteers and donations. Likewise, the app has no mandatory tutorials upon installation and no push notifications. You don't need to provide an email, but if you do, they don't spam you or sell it to other companies.

KM4ACK has a very recent YouTube video out on this very topic ([KM4ACK Map Video](#)). He discusses Organic Maps starting at the 8:35 mark, followed by OsmAnd Maps. The latter is not totally free, but looks pretty good as well. At the beginning of the video, he discusses paper maps and an application for Linux users.

For me, Organic Maps is a good replacement for Google Maps. If you rely on satellite images or street view, however, Organic Maps is still a good option to use when you may not have connectivity.

