

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2025 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips -  
KI5POH

Vice Pres: Dave Emmerling  
- NR5AT

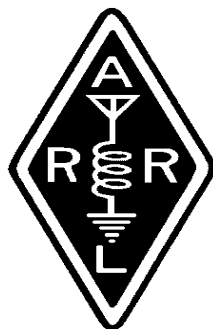
Sec/Treas: Darrell  
Thornton - KI5PYQ

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.

## JANUARY MINUTES

January's meeting started with the President Mark, KI5POH, calling the meeting to order on 1/7/2025 at 19:00. There were 18 members present and 1 guest. Self-introductions were made by everyone present. December 2024 minutes were approved, and the Treasurer's report was read.

Mike, AA5HH, announced that DETARC is having a Winter Field Day on 1/25/2025, one day only. Army, AE5P, reminded everyone about the VE Testing on 1/15/2025 at 19:00. Darrell, KI5PYQ, announced the club membership was going to an online database called HamClubOnline.com. As you pay your membership fees, you will be entered into HamClubOnline.com. The Fox Hunt was announced for 1/11/2025 at 10:00. Rusty, KD5GEN, gave a weather report in a slide show format talking about the upcoming cold snap that could include some icy conditions. The meeting ended at 19:20. Program: Mike Miles, WD5EFY, gave a program on the connected repeater network. Mike showed the reasons to have the repeaters connected and

how this system is designed, and which repeaters are currently connected. He asked NARC if they would like to join. We tabled the discussion to February business meeting.

## 2025 DUES ARE DUE

Dues are just \$20 a year and cover all licensed hams in a family. Please get your dues to KI5PYQ either in person or mailed to his home address. Sooner is better than later. Make checks payable to NARC.

## 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? Let us know how we can get you involved in our club. Is there an event or program

that you would like to see, let your club officers know.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We had a great Fox Hunt in January with many hunting the Fox. Congratulations to the Beasley Family and Andy Delgato for being first to find the Fox! Our next Fox Hunt will be in March and I hope we will have even more hunting then.

At February's club meeting, we will be discussing and voting on whether to link either the 32 or 84 repeater the Lufkin Ham Club's connected repeater system.

Upcoming Hamfests:  
March 1<sup>st</sup> - Irving Hamfest, Irving, Texas  
March 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> - Greater Houston HamFest, ARRL Texas State Convention, Rosenberg, Texas

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

73, Mark KI5POH  
[KI5POH21@gmail.com](mailto:KI5POH21@gmail.com)

## FROM OUR VP

Greetings everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed Mike Miles WD5EFY presentation as much as I did, lots of good information. While Mike's presentation remains fresh I would like to see the matter discussed and the subject of NARC joining the network voted on at the next meeting. If we are going to do it, let's get the ball rolling and get it done (tornado season around here is typically April May). If we are not going to do it we'll put the matter to rest and move on.

The question of Skywarn classes came up at the meeting. I emailed NWS Shreveport and this was their reply:

*We're still in the process of scheduling classes for this winter/spring season. Please continue to check <https://www.weather.gov/shv/skywarn> for our latest schedule of classes. If you have any more*

questions about the SKYWARN program, please email Warning Coordination Meteorologist Chris Nuttall

at [chris.nuttall@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.nuttall@noaa.gov) or NWS Shreveport SKYWARN Coordinator Davyon Hill at [davyon.hill@noaa.gov](mailto:davyon.hill@noaa.gov).

I took the class, along with others from NARC and DETARC in 2022. If you take the course and pass the little exam at the end you will receive a certificate for the SKYWARN spotter training course. Truth be told, during bad weather, if I left the wife to go help with spotting, I would most likely come home to a front yard full of my stuff and having to cook my own dinner for the rest of my life. So, spotting is not practical for me right now, but the course did teach me a few things. At the very least, if you have no idea what a wall cloud is, what the sky is trying to tell you when bad weather is coming I would suggest taking the class (the class is online also: [https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education\\_training](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education_training/course/23)

[/course/23](#) ) just to educate yourself.

Ok, on to the dark side. **I need everyone's help.** As the VP, my sole and primary responsibility is securing/seeking/pleading/calling folks to ask/inquire/beg/bribe them to put on a program. It isn't fun. I don't want to be in the position of when members see me coming they turn and run cause they think I'm coming to ask them to put on a program. **THIS IS A CLUB, everyone** has something to contribute. We have lots of very savvy and intelligent folks as members. I need 7 programs, 30 minutes (if that) **one day a year.** I have told Mark and Darrell I will do my best but I refuse to let chasing down presenters to consume my time. If I can't get anyone to commit, if no one comes forward, then it will be as simple as we will not have a program for whatever month this occurs (I hope it never does). If having a monthly program is something you look forward

to then I urge you to consider helping out. I have yet to see a program presented at either the NARC or DETARC club where I did not learn something. We are all teachers, we are all students. I will put my contact info. at the end of this article.

Ok, out of the dark and into the light. In trying to decide how to move the club forward one topic has come up more than once. The topic is "Where is everyone?" If you haven't made it to a meeting, or called into the weekly net in a while we would like to know why? This is not an attempt to pry. We would like to know, as far as the club goes, if you have lost interest, life has gotten in the way, etc.. If you view the club as just the same ol same ol then we would like to know, and address it if we can. If you can't make meetings for whatever reason, let us know, it might be as easy as we will pick you up! Point here is how to get members to become engaged/engaged

again? But, we can't fix it if we don't know it's broken. So we are asking if you haven't been to a meeting or hit the nets in a while, take a second to text/email or call (no yelling!! 😊) Mark, Darrell or myself. Nothing you say will be published, nothing printed, you will not have black roses (is there such a thing?) delivered to your door. Your concerns will remain with the officers of the club and we will, if at all possible, do our best to address them.

That's all for now!  
Take care everyone, be safe, stay warm, see you in February.

73, NR5AT  
Dave Emmerling  
Dke1955@duck.com

## NOTES FROM OUR EC

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

## VE TESTING

Our January VE testing session saw one applicant wanting to upgrade his General Class license to Amateur Extra. Unfortunately, he was not successful.

Many thanks to our VE team of Army AE5P, Rusty KD5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Dave NR5AC, Mike W5NXX, Mike AA5HH, John KN6VDG, and Bernice KN6VDH.

Remember that we provide VE testing sessions the third Wednesday of EVERY MONTH with exams for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses. Sessions are held at the EOC with doors open at 6:30 and testing beginning no later than 7:00 p.m.

73 de AE5P.  
email:  
[ae5p@suddenlink.net](mailto:ae5p@suddenlink.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 20:00 on the club's 146.84 repeater (PL 141.3).

Second, on **THURSDAY** evenings at 20:00 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 **TUESDAY** January 7th at Nacogdoches EOC. Meeting begins at 1900; Please plan to arrive early for socialization with the doors opening at 1830.

Mike Miles will be doing the program. He will talk about the connected repeater system he has created with

many cities in East Texas. Plan to join us, I imagine it will be a very educational program.

Hope to see y'all there.

## FOX HUNT

The January's Fox Hunt was a blast. We had eight folks hunting and two doing the hiding. Albert, KJ5HRM, and Darrell, KI5PYQ, hid the fox the the 32 repeater location. The signal bounced around and gave everyone a challenge. The Beasley bunch found the fox first and were treated to lunch. We had great conversations over a tasty lunch. Thanks everyone that came out and enjoyed the hunt.

Next fox hunt will be in March. Details to come and hopefully announced at the February Club meeting. 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

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
(Tuesday) 19:00  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 19:00  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 19:00

### Notes of Interest

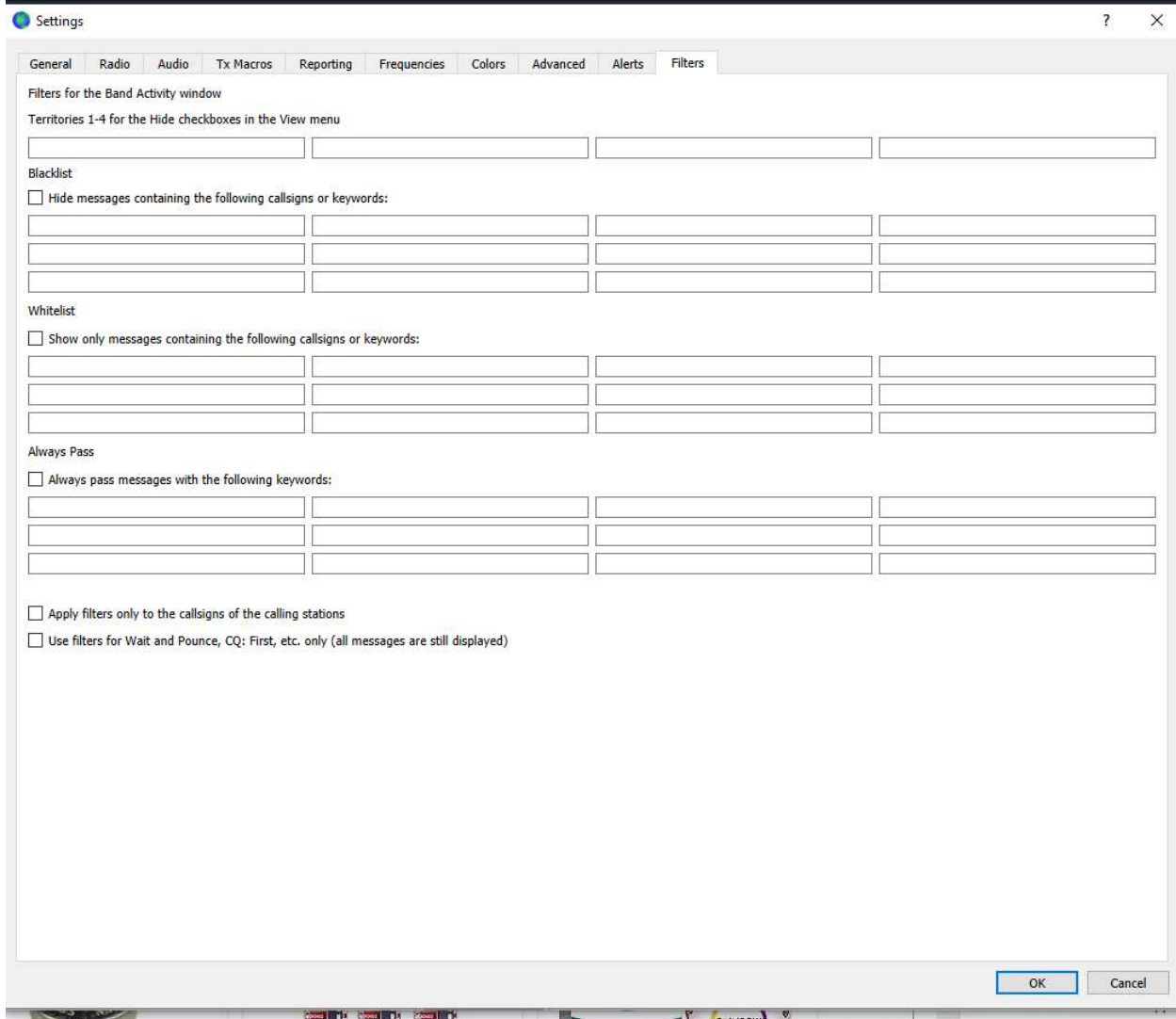
This is a reminder that our club meetings will be moved to the first Tuesday of the month starting January 2025.

Dues for 2025 are now due.

# wsjt-x\_improved for Digital Modes, Part 2

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

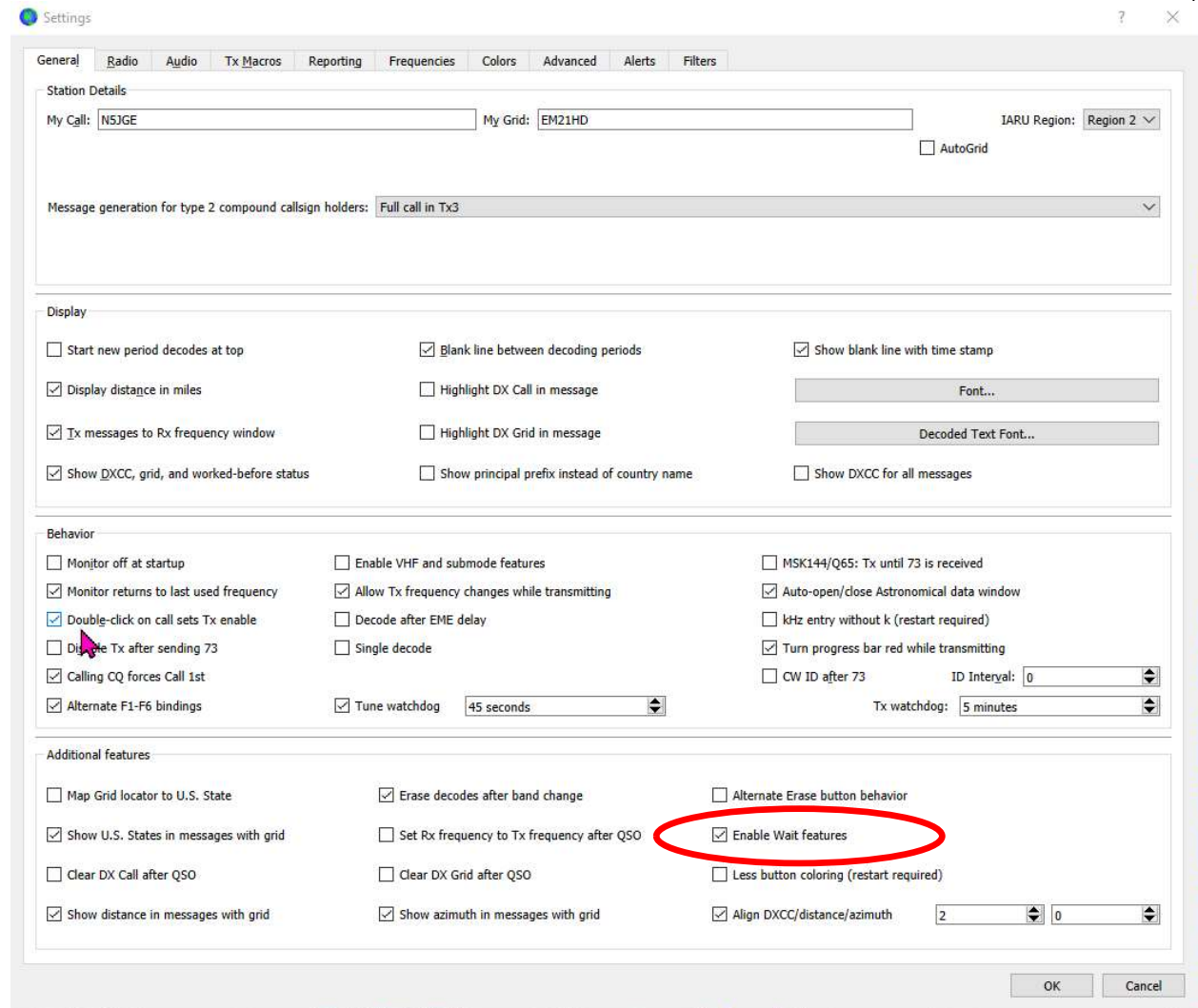
Continuing from last month's article, I was discussing the filtering options in wsjt-x\_improved. Below is a screenshot of the Filters tab from the Settings Menu. At the top you can enter the territories (USA, etc) to ignore. There are also "Blacklist" and "Whitelist" entry boxes for callsigns or keywords and "Always Pass" (keywords) entry boxes. One good use for Blacklist is to filter out callers sending "Test" if you are not in the contest.



## *wsjt-x\_improved Filters (deep) Menu*

Next is a screenshot of the General Settings Menu. A useful feature is "Enable Wait features". This helps make contacts under difficult conditions both when you are calling or when stations are calling you. "Wait and Reply" will continue your QSO when a

station that you have called answers you after working other stations. This is enabled by default for the callsign in the "DX Call" box. "Wait and Call" will call back to the station in the DX Call box (up to 3 times) whenever they re-appear on the band with a CQ, 73, or RRR message. This prevents you from continually calling them and causing unnecessary QRM.



### *wsjt-x\_improved General Settings Menu*

When Wait and Reply or Wait and Call are active, the "Enable Tx" button is highlighted in yellow. This is to warn you that the radio may begin transmitting without you initiating it. To disable any pending Wait features, just right click on the DX Call button to clear the DX Call box. The Enable Tx and DX Call buttons will go back to white color.

Finally, the "Wait and Pounce" option is active when you select a category from the CQ dropdown box (CQ: Max Dist, CQ: Max dB, CQ: Min dB) and then Enable Tx

button (which then turns orange). In next and subsequent receive cycles, wsjt-x\_improved will reply to the CQ station which meets the CQ category that you selected. This feature can also transmit without you initiating it and can be cleared by right clicking on the DX Call button.

Also, from the "Additional Settings" of the General Settings (screenshot above), you can choose to have the azimuth and distance displayed in the message window for each station received that transmitted a grid square. For US and Canadian stations, you can choose to have the grid square translated to the US state or Canadian province and to display the state on the message line.

In the Radio settings menu, you can choose to have wsjt-x\_improved display the power and output and SWR provided your radio supports this feature. In addition, wsjt-x\_improved will prevent you radio from transmitting if the SWR exceeds 2.5:1. Below the DX Call box is an "Ignore" button. This will add the call in the DX Call box to the Ignore list. Ignoring those calls is toggled on and off in the Filters list on the Main Menu Bar. The Ignore list can be cleared from the File list of the Main Menu Bar.

In the Save list of the Main Menu Bar is a toggle for "Diagnostic Mode". This creates additional log files to help troubleshoot program or rig control problems. The files can be sent to the wsjt-x\_improved development team for assistance. The mode is described in the screenshot below.

Some additional features are listed below:

- Slightly better (more sensitive) decoders
- Progress bar turns red when x\transmitting (green when receiving)
- Additional "Behavior" settings erase band activity on band change
- Sort soundcards alphabetically on Audio Settings tab
- On the Frequencies Settings tab can set preferred frequencies, used when band button is pressed
- Band hopping

I'll leave to those interested in wsjt-x\_improved to those and the many other features of this interesting software development.



