

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2005 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Kent Tannery -  
KD5SHM

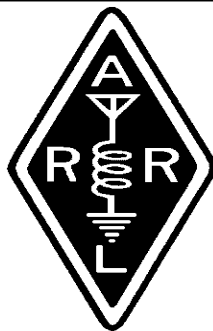
VP: James McLaughlin - N5VOO

Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

## MARCH MINUTES

The March meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on March 2nd. Twenty-one members and three guests were present. **President Kent, KD5SHM**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Bailey Library of Christ Episcopal Church. Each person present introduced himself. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read.

**Army - AE5P**, gave an update report on the heliax situation, and the lawsuit status. The lawsuit has been settled. If any



member wishes to obtain some of the heliax, please contact AE5P.

**Tommy - N5DUX**, gave a report on improvements to the club's website, <http://www.w5nac.com> Be sure to check it out when you have a chance.

**VE Testing** - Our own N5DUX upgraded from Tech to General at the February VE session, by passing both his morse code and General written exams. Congratulations Tommy!

**Editor's Note:** At the March VE session, N5DUX upgraded to Extra! Way to go Tommy!!

**Net Controls:** We need some additional volunteers for net control duties. Please contact one of the club officers if you would like to help. Net scripts are available to help you.

**Army - AE5P**, gave a report on the controversy surrounding the recent NTX SM election. Official complaints have been filed with the ARRL Election Ethics Committee.

**WAS - QRP:** 14 states worked so far. Get on the air and see what you can work with 5 watts or less.

**Field Day:** After a lot of discussion, it was decided to hold our Field Day this year at Pecan Park. A permit will be obtained from the City.

**Neches River Run:** A lot of help is still needed for

this yearly event. This year will be especially challenging, as it is scheduled for the same week-end at HamCom, June 4.

**March of Dimes** walkathon will be held on April 30.

**Fredonia 5 Miler** will be held on May 7.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Program:**

**James - N5VOO**, presented a program on the **W1AW Code Proficiency Runs**.

**PRESIDENT'S  
CORNER**

**QRP Challenge**

When the NARC decided to have a group effort WAS at QRP levels, I wondered how long it might take to work all of the states. Would it be a long process that everyone would forget about before it was over? But, instead it took off at a quick pace and after only a few weeks we are down to the final 10

states to work. This is as good as or better than our WAS at any power level.

The whole concept of QRP is fascinating to me, especially after one particular contact. I was speaking to a guy in Northern California at 10 watts and he asked me how low my rig would go. I advised him that it would go down to 1 watt on SSB and he suggested giving it a try. I turned the power down and he said he could still hear me fine! He did say that the signal was fading up and down some but he could understand every word. Nacogdoches to Northern California on 1 watt. It still amazes me to think about it. This is less power than children's walkie-talkies put out and I talked across the country. This was not only exciting but it was challenging. Yes, that is the best way to describe it, QRP is a challenge and I think that is why some people like it so much. And doesn't the study material for obtaining a ham license talk about using the "minimum power" that

effectively makes the transmission between two stations?

The challenge of QRP also opens the doors to using your equipment to its most effective level. You only have limited watts so you want to optimize your antenna, swr, and anything that makes your signal appear better. Those into QRP seemed to really enjoy optimizing their equipment.

QRP also allows you to become VERY portable. As Dr. Tom (W5TV) showed us with his newly built Elecraft KX1, his transceiver, power, paddles, tuner and antenna were packed into a camera bag less than 6 inches square! QRP stations have this ability to be extremely portable and can be taken with you for portable operations or easily give you radio access on your vacations. Along the same lines, a QRP station can operate a LONG time on small batteries due to the low energy consumption. A QRP rig, rechargeable

batteries and a portable solar cell will allow a hiker or camper to operate to his hearts desire. QRP and portable operations go hand in hand.

Another offshoot of QRP seems to be home brewing of equipment. Due to the small size and simplicity of QRP there are many QRP transceivers available in kit form for you to build and try. The rockmite is a CW QRP transceiver that fits inside of an altoid can. The radio can be purchased for about \$27. See

<http://smallwonderlabs.com/Rockmite.htm> for information. A search of the web will lead one to many QRP projects including tuners, meters, etc.... all of which are interesting. Enjoy the QRP challenge.

73 de KD5SHM



**V.P.'s  
CORNER...**

See page 6.

### VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Applicants should bring a picture ID, their current Amateur license and any CSCE's, along with a copy of both, and \$14 to cover the cost of the exam(s). Take note of the price change; the cost of exams is now \$14. Correct change is always very much appreciated.

### CLUB NETS

Remember to join us each week for the 2-meter nets sponsored by NARC. Each MONDAY is the NARC ARES/RACES net, at 8:00 p.m. on the club's 146.84 repeater. Remember the 141.3 PL tone now in use. Second, on THURSDAY evenings at 8:00 p.m. is the Deep East Texas Skywarn Net on the club's 147.32 repeater (PL 141.3). The PL is turned off for the net. Please join us for one or both.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. This is at the corner of Starr and Mound Streets in Nacogdoches. Hope to see y'all there.

### CONGRATULATIONS

To club member Shari Wilson, KD5ROW, who is graduating valedictorian from her high school at Lamar University in Beaumont, and will be attending the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Way to go Shari!

### Humpty Dumpty: SK

E5GG, Humpty Dumpty, became a silent key Day Before Yesterday in an apparent accidental fall. He was preceded in death by his mother, the Goose That Laid the Golden Egg. "We were running the investigation as an accident" stated the Constable, "but after finger printing All the King's Horses and All the King's Men we think the

case warrants further investigation. We have interviewed a number of characters already and want to speak with a few more. Humpty was a friend of Enforcement and a community activist. He organized the Hanzel and Gretel Search and Rescue Effort and he provided equipment for the Little Red Riding Hood Sting Operation which resulted in the death of that serial killer wolf."

First Responder The Little Dutch Boy was still visibly shaken by the incident. "I t was all over when I got there. I only have eight fingers. There was nothing I could have done." Passerby Baa Baa Black Sheep called in the incident. "I was delivering some wool to the Little Boy That Lives Down The Street, I deliver to the Master first of course and the Thief wasn't home. I did see King Midas dumpster diving and panhandling up the street. He's become completely derelict since he lost his daughter and the golden touch. I first

saw Humpty helping the Three Blind Mice across the street, when I looked back he was down by the wall."

The Little Red Hen, Mr. Dumpty's cousin commented "Humpty helped everyone all the time. Nobody really knows where his money came from but he had plenty of it. He gave his time to Amateur Radio and the community. I guess it could have been an accident. Humpty was delicate but he didn't let that stop him." "Humpty was quite a man" added the Little Old Lady That Lived in a Shoe. "We were very, very close. He was a frequent guest and paid all my bills. I don't know what I'll do now."

"They want to talk to a few people" piped in Peter. "I heard Big Bad Wolf make some threats because Humpty had advised that little pig to make a house out of brick and because Humpty was a 'goody two-shoes techno geek.' I'm not agreeing with Big Bad, but not

everybody just loved ole Humpty, even some that are claiming to. Plus the Boy that Shot Cock Robin just got out of Juvenile Detention. Word is he already picked up a slingshot. I heard they want to talk to the Cow That Jumped Over the Moon but she's away at NASA on a research project."

"I think he was involved in some secret spy stuff. Humpty was always messin' with electrical stuff. I'm surprised he didn't fry himself. We used to see him with radios and boxes up the hill all the time," added Jack and Jill. "He would be talkin' sometimes, tappin that morse code or just listening and writing stuff down. Last time he acted all surprised and nervous when we came up, like something secret was going on. As if we'd care." Added Jill, "the only attention I ever paid was if he would fall, Jack would have had a bad tumble from up there. That kind of thing would

have killed Humpty. Oh, I guess it did."

"Talk to Jack Horner" commented Little Miss Muffet "he's smart and he and Humpty were working on some kind of project together. I haven't seen Jack since before the accident. He stood me up on a date last night. Talk to Itsy Bitsy Spider too. That little creep is always sneaking around spying on everyone. I'm going to file a missing person report on Jack and a stalking complaint on that spider."

"We are looking to interview a few more characters" acknowledged the Constable. "I won't name names but Big Bad Wolf is always a suspect. He's known to associate with terrorists and that prankster Quick Brown Fox. I won't comment on the Cow or Little Jack Horner. We want more information from those mice."

Memorial services for Mr. Dumpty will be held April first and all are welcome to attend. Little Boy Blue

will blow the horn and chorals will be presented by Four and Twenty Blackbirds. Ole King Cole has declared it a day of national mourning. In lieu of flowers Memorial contributions should be made to the ARRL's Microwave Society or Anti-BPL Interference Fund.

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