

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2005 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Kent Tannery -
KD5SHM

VP: James McLaughlin - N5VOO

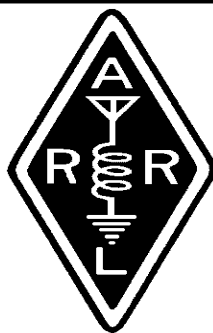
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

AUGUST MINUTES

The August meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on August 3rd. Twenty-two members and six guests were present. **President Kent, KD5SHM**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Each person present introduced himself. Minutes of the previous meeting were not available. Treasurer's report was read.

VE Testing - John Chapman, KC5MIB, passed his General written. Congratulations!

Old Business:



The original 146.84 repeater has been removed from Medical Center at their request.

Several projects need work. Interference with our radio at Memorial Hospital. Install radio and antenna at City EOC. Install antenna at County EOC. Motion made to authorize AE5P to purchase suitable antennas. Passed.

New Business:
ARRL UHF contest this coming weekend. Look for FM simplex at 9:00 p.m. local time.

Texas QSO Party coming up September 24-25.

Need to install a 40M dipole for the TJR club. AE5P has offered his home station as the club station once again. Several members are planning to be rovers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Program: Jerry - K5JLW, presented a program on coax fittings and adapters. Very well done!

Mark - W5TXR presented a program on the Texas Communications Emergency Response Team (TCERT).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Emergency Net Operations

"Voodoo 2 - Pelican 1. The Landing Zone is Hot, Need all available MPs. How copy?"

pause....pause... pause...

"Voodoo 2, Good Copy. Pelican 1 out".

This is an example of some of the traffic I heard this past week while monitoring the New Orleans / Baton Rouge EOC main net frequency. The traffic on the net included Coast Guard, National Guard, Army, the State EOC, FEMA, NEMA, and numerous others but the communication procedures during the week were the same, no matter who was on the air. This was the first time I had monitored such a military comm net that had so much traffic and it was very educational to hear HOW they operated.

The thing that amazed me the most was the pause between transmissions. We have all read that good

radio operating procedures allow for a pause between transmissions to allow a chance for emergency traffic to enter if needed. This pause between transmissions was the normal procedure during the military New Orleans Operations Net even when the event seemed urgent. The transmissions were brief, to the point and confirmation of reception was acknowledged.

When I first started to listen to the net it was all about what was happening, in real time, during the horrible conditions of flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina but the more I listened, the more I started to pay attention to HOW they were operating on the air.

I also monitored several amateur emergency nets including the West Gulf Emergency net on 40m and 80m. Every net control had their own "style" and most net controls were very good and emergency traffic passed smoothly but, one was not. Let me

describe what I considered an example of a "bad" net control operator since I had also listened to what I considered excellent net controls. This particular net control operator spent more time talking than listening. I listened to him describe, over and over, what was happening in the affected area, (ie...the authorities are trying to evacuate the people, they are using helicopters to airlift people to safety, no messages are going in because they want everyone out, the streets are flooded because the levy broke, and on and on and on). An operator in Covington, LA finally was heard after this net control had just rambled for 4-5 minutes on what was happening (no joke, 4-5 minutes at least) and the first thing this operator said after his call sign was "I am on emergency power and have been trying to get in for 30 minutes. Net Control will you please shut up. I have emergency traffic."

So listening to all the radio traffic, both military communications and ham nets, has been a big learning experience for me and I would like to STRESS the following points for radio operations and especially during an emergency net: (1) allow a pause between transmissions, (2) keep your message brief and to the point, (3) ask for confirmation, and give confirmation ("How copy?" and "Good copy." are examples of how the military did it without repeating the message) and (4) LISTEN for emergency traffic (if you hear something and the net control station does not respond to the message in a reasonable time, say "Relay" and help get the message to net control.

May we never need an emergency net, but if we do, please practice good operating procedures.

73 de KD5SHM

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Applicants should bring a picture ID, the original and a copy of their current Amateur license, the original of any CSCE's and \$14 to cover the cost of the exam(s). 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 (PL 141.3). Second, on THURSDAY evenings at 8:00 p.m. is the Deep East Texas Skywarn Net on the 147.32 repeater (PL 141.3). Please join us for one or both.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday September 7th 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.