Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2014 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: John Cechin – W5FWR

VP: John Chapman – KC5MIB

Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

Visit our web site at

http://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.

FEBRUARY MINUTES

The February meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on February 5th. **President John W5FWR**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Thirteen members and eight guests were present. Each person present introduced themself. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

Old Business:

The **Shuttle Columbia Special Event Station (SES)** was held on Saturday February 1st at the shack of AE5P. The special call sign of K5C has been obtained for the event. Planned hours are 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. A good turnout of visitors was more interested in hanger flying than in operating, but that worked out quite well. A grand whopping total of two contacts were made, but we had some great discussions and the pizza was wonderful. The suggestion was made that we hold similar discussion / elmering sessions in the future, but the pizza is mandatory.

New Business:

This past week (January 29 – February 4) saw W1AW/5 on the air from Texas at NR5M. Marshall K5QE spent the week as one of several operators at the station.

Meeting closed at 7:23 p.m.

Program:
Dwayne Prestwood presented a program on the loss of the Shuttle Columbia. Dwayne worked for IBM under contract to NASA on the shuttle program.

MY 2 CENTS
FOX WILLY ROGER

Flash, news from the Cat House:
My cat, or should I say the cat that lives with me and that owns me, is in the long process of training me. Training doesn't come easy to me. When she was younger, in her mischievous ways she was content to just race through the house and in general tear up cardboard boxes. She still does that. Tar Baby, that's her name, soon figured out that wasn't enough to fill her waking hours, so she discovered **TAG.** Tag started out with a dash at me, only when my back was to her, and wrapping her arms around my ankle and continue running through the house. The next step was to reach a bit higher and grab my caves. This worked fine for about a month until the next step, yes you guessed it, higher and faster, at this stage Tar Baby was grabbing my waist. Now if you know anything about cats you know that is not the end of the game. The next step is to race past me and with one arm, mostly her right arm, and in midair at the same time slapping my thigh and proceeding at top speed to her destination. I was walking down the hall when I chanced to turn around and watch Tar Baby flying through the air and reached out to tag me while proceeding down the hall, and she did that without missing a beat. Looking back on the event, I can only describe the happening as to watching Superman fly through the air. You and I know that this isn't the end of this game, don't we?

Phase two: The grand plan.
The second part of my plan was to introduce a second cat into the house; someone to play with Tar Baby, her name is Gray Baby. Tar Baby went ballistic; she kept me going way past midnight telling me of the strange cat in her house. Just as I would fall asleep Tar Baby would jump up on the bed and get as close as she could to my ear and talk and talk and talk. Talks OK, I was married once. This plan included a trip to the VET and getting Gray Baby all better, and fixed. All that fuss and I now have a visiting yard cat, GB just walks into the house and looks around and leaves, all the time TB is still, shall we say not comfortable, with the visits. It doesn't seem to bother GB, maybe that her plan, to wear TB down, could be?

Phase Two:
The second part of this plan was to introduce COAL into the house, she is still at the vet's, we shall see?

The boogie cats are still with me, in fact there seems to be more of them, I hope the boogie cats are not keeping my babies awake at night or giving them bad dreams. I can't understand how I got more boogie cats, first one and now about five, I just don't understand it. I walked all over my property looking for a sign with a Lollypop or something saying "this is the place", I just don't understand it.

Did anybody think to drop a note to KC5MIB our great VP for that outstanding program that was given at the last meeting? Well I am here to say, on the record, thanks John. What would it take for you to drop a line and telling him what a great job he is doing, I tried it and it ain't easy, **THANKS JOHN.** And remember folks, next year he will be president, and be handing out assignments!

The **SES,** our annual honor to the COLUMBIA SHUTTLE CREW, went off without a hitch, food,

drink, and great company. A few contacts, a bunch of ELMERing as well, AE5P even provided napkins with the food, and no one had to use their sleeves, what a great day, thanks again to all. I understand the plan is to make the gathering a weekly event. Talk shop, radio or whatever, work radio, talk, eat, and of course ELMER, it doesn't get any better than that. So when is the next get together? Thanks ARMY for all.

The tree is begging for mercy, no more words, please.

Remember; keep your powder dry and your head below the horizon.

Happy Trails
73 Enjoy
What do you think, let me know?

73,
John Cechin W5FWR

Carrots4ever2u@suddenlink.net

VEEPS CORNER

March is upon us, in like a lion out like a lamb or is it the reverse? Daylight savings time is coming soon, Lent starts Wednesday and spring will soon be here. The over night long haul DX for 160, 80 and 40 will be a bit of a memory until fall returns.

Our own Tommy Gober, N5DUX will be our guest speaker at our next meeting. If you have been sorta following him, you know he has been doing a lot with the ARRL and technology in the classroom, helping teachers to bring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to their students. He is pictured on page 73 (hmmm interesting number, eh?) in the March issue of QST showing some teachers how to make a contact with one of the AMSAT satellites. Great fun I'm sure. Hope he had a good contact that day, be sure to ask him.

In April we will have a program on ham radio in

balloons. We've helped here before. We will have a little class time in May and don't forget, drum roll please, the 2nd annual Ice Cream social will be coming in June.

Looking forward to seeing everyone the 5th. 73 and 88 to one and all.

73 de
John
KC5MIB
jlchapman2@juno.com

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ray Fuller, KG5AMB, for becoming a new ham at our February VE testing session.

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th 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 $15 to cover the cost of the exam(s). Correct change is always very much appreciated. 73 de AE5P

email: ae5p@arrl.net

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 Emergency Weather Net** on the 147.32 repeater (PL 141.3). Please join us for one or both. We are always looking for folks who would like to become net control operators. If you are interested, please contact any of the existing net controls. We will be pleased to help you in any way we can.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday March 5th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. The church is at the corner of Starr and Mound Streets in Nacogdoches. Please come join us and bring a friend.

EDITOR'S NOTE

With the Lenten session in full swing, the church has some special programs planned for Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall during March.

Arrangements are being made to find an alternate location at the church for us to use for our March meeting and March VE testing session.

LEARNING MORSE CODE
by

Thomas Atchison W5TV

Several people have expressed an interest in learning more about receiving and sending Morse code (CW) on the amateur bands. I know this is a little risky and everyone has his/her own idea about how it should be done, however, I would like to give my opinion about how to get started.

First, there are several books available both in print and on the web that discuss learning Morse code. I believe one of the better ones is a book called *The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraph* by William G. Pierpont, N0HFF. In my mind this is one of the most comprehensive books on the subject.   The author died in 2001, however, he left us some excellent information regarding the art and skill of telegraphy.

In the **July 1923** issue of **QST** there was an article that stated the following:
"The first step in learning the code is to memorize the dot and dash combinations representing the letters.   They must not be visualized as dots and dashes, however, but rather should be 'auralized' as sounds.   There is no such word as auralized, but if there were it would express the correct method of grasping the code.   The sound dit-dah (meaning a dot followed by a dash) in the head telephones must impress your mind directly as being the letter 'A' for instance, without causing black dots and dashes to float before your eyes for an instant. This is a point that always troubles beginners, but if you learn from the first to recognize the sounds as letters immediately without reverting to dots and dashes, you will make much better progress…"

When I started learning the code in 1951-1952, I don't really recall whether I learned it by 'auralizing' or not, however, it wasn't long before the process, for me, was aural. After you learn the code by hearing then you need to hear the characters sent fast enough that you do not analyze each one into dits and dahs. That is, when you hear 'dit dah' your mind should immediately produce 'A'. Let me go further than that. First, the dits and dahs should bring to mind letters associated with the **patterns** of dits and dahs. Later, you should be able to hear words, not letters, and still later you should be able to hear phrases rather than words. In this sense, you are learning a new language.

People who learn a second language do not stop to translate each word in their minds, but rather, they learn to think in that language. Code is very similar.

To continue, every code letter, number, and symbol is a unique pattern of sound. When you hear the pattern 'dahditditdit' you should immediately recognize it as 'B'. Since the purpose of code is to communicate you move from letters to words, therefore, even while you are learning to hear letters you can begin to recognize short words like **'the'** and **'of'**. Hearing code becomes easier and faster when you learn to recognize words instead of spelling them out as strings of letters.

The plan as described by Pierpont is as follows:
1. Learn the alphabet of sound patterns so well that you recognize each letter instantly,
2. Learn to recognize most of the words you hear as words, not a string of letters, and
3. Learn to listen to the stream of code as you would listen to someone speak in words and ideas.

Your goal should be to learn to use the code so that it becomes easy and natural, like the way you read and talk. I must say, your attitude toward learning is important to your success. Always try to create a relaxed atmosphere, free of tension, pressure, any sense of hurry and anxiety. Enjoy yourself! You should get your first impression of code characters by **listening** to them.

You can find help learning code at the ARRL web site. In particular, there are several MP3 files for code at various speeds starting at 5 WPM. The URL for the ARRL site that contains the MP3 files is as follows:
http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-files .

You may also be interested in listening to the W1AW code practice sessions. These are on-the-air code practice sessions at various speeds, depending on the day. The current schedule for code practice can be found at the following URL:
http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule .

Learning code can be fun so I urge you to give it a try. Just don't rush it. The main idea is to practice, practice, practice.