

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2023 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Aaron Baker - KI5FIQ

Vice Pres: Mark Phillips - KI5POH

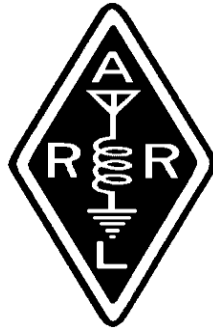
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

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

The September business meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held August 30 on the club's 146.84 repeater. The three club officers checked in, as well as three additional club members.

Army AE5P reported on the new ARRL membership dues structure as well as changes to print version of QST and other ARRL publications.

Wolfie KI5MHB announced the next fox hunt will be Sept. 16, 10:00 till noon.

It appears we will not have sufficient rovers to participate in the Sept. ARRL VHF contest.

Net closed at 8:32 p.m.

The regular September meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club was held as scheduled on August 2nd at the City/County EOC with 13 members and 1 guest. **Vice-President Mark KI5POH** opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Introductions were made by all present. Minutes of the previous meetings were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read.

Army AE5P discussed ARRL membership renewals and the changes being made to printed QST and other publications. In a nutshell, effective January

2024 ARRL dues will increase from \$49 to \$59 a year and the print version of QST will only be available for an additional \$25 a year. QST and several other publications will be available to all members in digital format.

Program: Wolfie KI5MHB presented a program on Fox Hunting, including equipment and strategies. There really is no substitute for experience and if you haven't done a Fox Hunt before, you are most welcome to participate. Comm will be on the 84 repeater.

Meeting closed at 1950.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is here and the weather has kind of gotten its act together. Looks like now I get to track down what's causing interference in the house that just happens to stop somewhere between the 84 and the 32. Speaking of the 84, don't forget that the Wednesday before each meeting at 8 PM we host our business meeting on the 84 repeater. Even if you can't make the in-person meetings, it's still a good way to keep up what's happening around the club. Would love for more to check in! Hope y'all have a good October and see y'all soon!

73, Aaron KI5FIQ
Baker.barisax@gmail.com

FROM THE VP CHAIR

We had a great Fox Hunt last month and Wolfie (KI5MHB) did a great job hiding the Fox. We will have another Fox Hunt in November. October's club meeting program will be discussing tracking and communicating with satellites. Club President, Aaron Baker, will be presenting this program.

Belton's Hamfest is Saturday, October 7th, from 7am to 1pm at the Bell County Expo Center, in Belton, TX.

Parker County Hamfest is Saturday, October 14th, 8am to Noon at the Cornerstone Community Church, in Springtown, TX. Springtown is Northwest of Fort Worth.

I hope to see you all at the October meeting.

73, Mark KI5POH
KI5POH21@gmail.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

Let's start with something other than the weather. We'll get to that later.

Oct 2nd at 2:20 pm ET (1:20 pm CT) FEMA and the FCC will conduct a nation wide Emergency Notification Test. The test will include both broadcasters and the cellular networks. Most of us are acquainted with the EAS warning system and some of us have our cellular devices set up to receive AMBER and Silver alerts. The test will run about 1 minute and end with a "no action required" statement. The system has advanced from dedicated telephone cable, through broadcast notification and now added cellular services. The link to the FEMA press release will be at the end of this article. Thanks to Fred Varian KD5ERD for this information.

Hurricane season is still upon us until 30 Nov, 61

more days give or take. I won't go over the season to date, just September: Tropical storms--5, Category 1--1, Category 2--1, Category 5--1. September lived up to its history of having the most storms. October and November seem to be the season closer with 1 each and fairly quiet. We didn't get anything our way. We did get some rainfall but not hurricane generated so there is that, but a few more inches widely spread over some days would be nice.

Let's go to ARES now. There will be a SET in October and April. I'm going to blatantly borrow, um with attribution, some information about the SETS:

Fall SET for North Texas: The Fall SET will be held on October 14, 2023 to coincide with the Annular Solar Eclipse. The Communications Plan for the SET will be communicated the first week of October.

Spring SET for North

Texas:

Next year, the Spring SET will coincide with the Full Solar Eclipse and will start on April 7, 2024 and conclude on April 9. Greg Evans, K5GTX, NTX SEC

I'll have more information next week and will get it out. Hopefully it will be in time for the regular club meeting.

Net Controllers, thanks for all your hard work, thanks to everyone who checks into the nets and you lurkers out there, key that microphone and check in would ya?

73 de MIB
John

<https://www.fema.gov/pre-ss-release/20230803/fema-and-fcc-plan-nationwide-emergency-alert-test-oct-4-2023>

VE TESTING

We had one person for the September VE test session. Kenneth Hill KJ5CLO from Pasadena, took and passed his General and Extra exams, both with perfect scores.

We do want to remind everyone that we offer in-person testing for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses on the third Wednesday of every month.

Many thanks to VE's, Rusty KD5GEN, Mike AA5HH, Mike W5N XK, Ralph N6RH, Robert KD5FEE, and Army AE5P.

For the latest information always check the club website at:

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

73 de AE5P.

email: 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 monthly business meeting is held on the Club's 146.84 repeater, 8:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before our normal scheduled meeting which is always the first Wednesday of the month.

The next regular NARC meeting will be Wednesday September 6th at the Nacogdoches City/County EOC. Meeting begins at 7:00; doors open at 6:30. Come early for socializing before the meeting. After a very short business meeting, Aaron KI5FIQ will present a program on tracking and communicating with satellites.

Hope to see ya'll there.

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>

California QSO Party

1600Z, Oct 7 to 2200Z,
Oct 8, 2023
<https://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

CQ WWDX SSB

Oct 28 - 29, 2023
<http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

Check out the many contests listed on the Contest Calendar link shown here. There are many State QSO parties and 'Parks-On-The-Air' events that may be just right for you. Check 'em out.

POTA Adventures

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

This month's article will highlight a few POTA adventures that I went on earlier this year. POTA hunting and activating have been a large part of my operating activities for the last two and a half years. In fact, as I am writing this, we are trailer camping at Caddo Lake State Park which I just activated September 25th and 26th. I plan to activate several other close by POTA entities while here later in the week.

Roger, KOYY got me started when he organized a POTA outing to Mission Delores State Historic Site (POTA Reference K-6582). AA5HH, W5NXX and KB5EDR also activated and we had a great time even though it was cold and damp. It has been pretty damp here at Caddo Lake State Park, but I sure wish it was a little colder. The high was "only" 91° F today, so I guess I shouldn't be complaining with how hot this summer has been! While activating the park last night, I used my IC-7100 at 75W into a Wolf River Coil on 20M and made contacts as far as Chile and the Azores. While not on the POTA leaderboards, I spend a fair amount of my operating time "chasing parks". Lately, I have been using the POTAPlus browser extension (see August newsletter) to highlight parks that I have not hunted before and boost my hunter score. I also operate all of the major modes that activators use (SSB, CW, digital) to boost my totals. I am actively learning CW using the CW Ninja YouTube video series ([CW Ninja](#)) so the vast majority of those QSO's are "PC-assisted". That is, I use a decoder to verify that I received correctly. Initially, I also used PC sending (via ALog), but lately, I have been sending my replies using an iambic paddle.

For POTA activations, I have been much less active, although with the cooler weather coming, I plan to get out more. This summer, my activations have been in the truck, replacing my dual-band antenna with an NMO to 3/8-24 adapter and a hamstick. I operated QRP digital from the driver's seat using the QRP Labs QDX transceiver and notebook computer. I drove a 3.5-hour loop hitting 4 parks out of Waxahachie, TX as shown on the first map below. The goal was to get 4 quick activations and meet my wife back in Waxahachie for dinner. Despite using only 5W and truck-mounted hamstick, the 59 QSOs spanned the entire US and reached into southern Canada on 20M in the early afternoon (see second map below). These activations could have also been done using CW. However, for SSB I would want to use a more powerful rig.

I first activated Mission Tejas State Park in March of this year. When I noticed that remnants of El Camino Real de Tejas National Historic Trail were visible in the park, I decided to activate a "two-fer". The marked portion of El Camino Real is not in any of the developed areas, so this would involve a short hike and setting up in the field. POTA rules require that your entire "station" be within 100-feet of a linear entity such as a trail and on public land. That means that your antenna / coax, rig, battery, PC etc. must all be within 100-feet to be a good activation.

3 hr 32 3 days 16 hr

- Hampton Inn & Suites Waxahachie, 2010
- Cleburne State Park, 5800 Park Rd 21, Cleburne, TX
- Dinosaur Valley State Park, Glen Rose, TX
- Meridian State Park, 173 Park Road #7, Meridian, TX
- Lake Whitney State Park, 433 FM1244, Waco, TX
- Hampton Inn & Suites Waxahachie, 2010

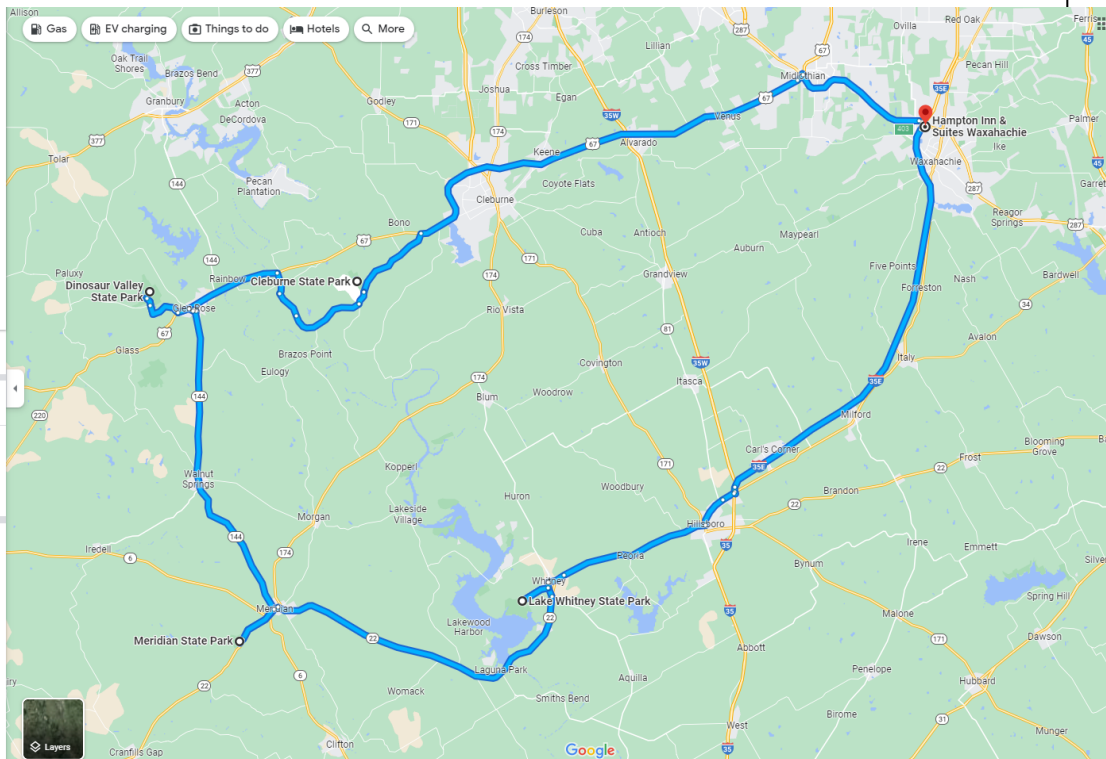
Options

Send directions to your phone

via US-67 S 3 hr 32 min
 3 hr 32 min without traffic 186 miles

Explore nearby Hampton Inn & Suites Waxahachie

- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Gas stations
- Parking Lots
- More



Note: Route for POTA Rove to K-2998, K-3004, K-3039 and K-3032 (park names in the map route listing)

N5JGE EM21HD

log start 19-Aug-2023, 16:33
 log end 19-Aug-2023, 21:50
 operating period 5 hours 17 min
 operating time 3 hours 4 min
 off time 2 hours 13 min
 QSOs 59
 Digi 59

Band	QSO	CW	Phone	Digi
20m	59	0	0	59

Gridsquares 46
 Gridfields 9
 Countries 2

ODX (km)	Call	Loc
3070	VA7GEM	CH9SLI



Note: QSOs made on POTA Rove to K-2998, K-3004, K-3039 and K-3032



Note: Operating position in Mission Tejas (K-3040) and El Camino Real (K-4568)

I assembled my kit and made the second trip to Mission Tejas in April 2023. You can see the operating position in the photo directly above. For this activation I used the 5W (tr)uSDX transceiver. It is the orange box sitting on the PC. The (tr)uSDX does not include a built-in sound card, so a USB sound card and audio cables are needed to operate digital with it. The (tr)uSDX does have USB CAT control to interface with common digital software. The green box is a 6A-hr LiFePO4 battery that would run the (tr)uSDX for ~12 hours at a 50% duty-cycle.

For this activation, I chose the KM4ACK QRP 40M EFHW (End Fed Half Wave) antenna. The KM4ACK antenna is an easy to build kit and very lightweight. It is resonant on 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M, so a tuner is not needed for those bands further saving weight and cabling that can be easily left at home. I carry 25-feet of RG-316 lightweight coax to connect the antenna and rig when field-portable.

Some QRP rigs have final RF amplifier transistors that are sensitive to poor SWR, especially when impedance is less than 50Ω . So, an antenna analyzer or some sort of SWR measuring / indicating device is necessary in the kit. QRP-specific SWR bridges often include an attenuator to limit the portion of rig power supplied to the antenna to reduce the likelihood of "blowing" the finals. (The power not sent to the antenna flows through a 50Ω resistive load.)

An arborist throw weight with line and some guy rope completed the kit. An appropriate tree stood near the downed pine used for operating, so I was able to get the antenna up in a sloper arrangement with the high end at about 30-feet and the low end staked to the ground.

This activation demonstrated that you have to be ready for anything when operating in the field. After getting the antenna up and verifying the SWR, I fired up the PC and setup wsjt-x for the (tr)uSDX. CAT control worked fine, but the rig would not key when a software PTT command was issued. So there I was like a bump on a log wondering what the heck am I going do now. Well, I watched the wsjt-x timing carefully and noted that transmission started (as expected) every 15 seconds and ended after 12 seconds. (The additional 3 seconds are used by the software for decoding the received signals.) So, I manually keyed the rig when wsjt-x initiated the tone and released the PTT button after 12 seconds. It worked flawlessly. I made 20 contacts in 57 minutes, completed my hike in two-fer activation and had a very satisfying day!