

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.

MARCH MINUTES

Mark, KI5POH, started them meeting off at 19:00. Introductions were made and minutes were approved. The treasury report was read.

Updates on several topics including connected repeater project, K5C with 748 contacts.

The subject about having a swap meet on a Saturday. Betrice Kelley, KN6VDH,

said she would head that up.
 Meeting was adjourned at 19:12.

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

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we first started discussions about moving the 32 repeater. Time has flown and the repeater operating good at the new location and will soon be part of the East Texas wide area network of repeaters. It will be interesting to see our repeater connected and operating.

The ARRL Field Day will be June 28 and 29th. Get this date on your calendar and we will begin planning at the May club meeting. I hope to see everyone at our club meeting on Tuesday (4/1).

Up coming Hamfests:
April 5th - Temple
Amateur Radio Club's
Hamfest, Belton, TX
April 26th - Emory
Hamfest, Emory, TX

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

73, Mark KI5POH
KI5POH21@gmail.com

FROM OUR VP

Well, happy March everyone. Hope everyone is doing well and playing radio as much as possible! Unfortunately, as far as radio goes I haven't been able to spend much time on the air. For me I've been spending a lot of time out in the shop trying to get things organized, celebrating my wife's 70th birthday, putting in some new work benches, working outside, and trying to get the RV ready for travel season.

As always if you have an idea for a program or possibly know someone who would be a good source for putting on a program at our monthly meetings, I would appreciate the information and the contact.

Also, the Neches River Run will be here before you know it. The River Run is handled by the Angelina

River Authority and the Lufkin radio club DETARC will be having a speaker from the river authority at their meeting next Thursday. If you've never attended the river run, I encourage you to look it up on the web and just give it a read. I personally didn't know that it was such a big event and that so many people attended. Amateur radio is an integral part of the event, and the organizers depend on amateur radio to make sure that the event happens safely and in an organized manner. I think this is an outstanding opportunity to promote amateur radio. If you're at all interested in possibly attending the River Run, I encourage you to make the meeting next Thursday.

In closing, we should have a great program next month re: emergency clotting procedures, I'm truly looking forward to it and hope to see as many of you as possible there.

73, NR5AT
Dave Emmerling
Dke1955@duck.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

Nothing for this month.

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

VE TESTING

Our March VE testing session did not have any applicants, but the VE team had a great social evening out. Many thanks to our VE team of Army AE5P, Rusty KD5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Mike W5NXX, and Mike AA5HH.

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

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** April 1st at Nacogdoches

EOC. Meeting begins at 19:00; Please plan to arrive early for socialization with the doors opening at 18:30.

Our program will on Stopping the Bleed. This will be very instructional and great to have in your library of skills in case of an emergency.

Hope to see y'all there.

FOX HUNT

Next fox hunt will be in May. There wasn't enough interest to hold a Fox Hunt in March. Would love to have everyone attend. I believe you will have fun.

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

April 1st 19:00

May 6th 19:00

June 3rd 19:00

July 5th 19:00

Notes of Interest

Dues for 2025 are now due.

SOTA - It's Like POTA With an Altitude

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

SOTA - Summits on the Air - is a program that encourages amateur radio operators that enjoy the outdoors to take their radios with them. SOTA is active in over 100 countries around the world and there are award programs for both activators and chasers (same as hunters in POTA-speak). SOTA tends to be more Euro-centric than POTA, however, an increasing number of US hams are participating. Recently, several SOTA contacts that I made both SOTA and POTA activations. I have become re-interested in chasing SOTA activations because [hunterlog](#), which I use for POTA hunting, now includes both SOTA and POTA spots. Please see the May 2024 NARC Newsletter for [my hunterlog article](#). The link above is for the current version (v0.0.8, March 2025).

The main SOTA website is operated from the UK at [SOTA Main](#). The main page has a brief description of the program, a list of latest spots (see screenshot below), a link to the main spotting page ([SOTAwatch](#)), summit listings, activator / chaser leaderboards, etc. The "[Joining In](#)" web page explains how to get started. Basically, you register a free account to allow you to upload your activator or chaser logs, alerts and spots. There is a separate registration for the [SOTA Reflector](#) that allows to post in the user discussion groups. You can read the posts without registering.

 Latest SOTA Spots

17:21	AA7OY on W5N/AP-048	10.112 CW
17:15	KG6MZS on W6/SC-311	7.227 SSB
17:09	M7JBF/P on G/LD-047	145.525 FM
17:07	AA7OY on W5N/AP-048	10.112 CW
17:01	KG6MZS on W6/SC-311	28.392 SSB
16:47	NS7F on W7A/MN-094	14.272 SSB
16:46	N2TQT on W2/EH-019	14.0615 CW
16:42	NS7F on W7A/MN-094	14.253 SSB
16:42	NS7F on W7A/MN-094	14.253 SSB
16:38	NS7F on W7A/MN-094	14.063 CW

>> [See more on SOTAwatch](#)

The Latest SOTA Spots table (above) includes the time, callsign, summit reference, frequency and mode. As you can see, the summit references (the blue hyperlink text) are somewhat complicated. The first summit reference, W5N/AP-048, means that the SOTA "association" is USA - New Mexico (W5N), the "region" is Apache National Forest (AP) and the summit is number 048 in that region. [SOTAwatch](#), the full spots page, provides more information, alerts (scheduled activations), reflector posts and display options. A small snippet is shown below.

16 Mar 2025

18:29 UTC

13:29 local

SPOTS

ALERTS

Reflector Posts

8

latest 50 spots

18:29	MM0CBC/P	7.005	CW	GM/ES-002	10	TEST ONLY	SOTAMAT	
18:27	MM0CBC/P	7.005	CW	GM/ES-001	10	TEST ONLY	SOTAMAT	>
18:25	KO6EQN	14.039	CW	W6/CC-062	2	[RBNHole] at W6YX 17 WPM 36 dB SNR	RBNHOLE	

Chasing is pretty straightforward and much like POTA. You look for spots and make the contact. One difference is that chasers also upload logs to the SOTA website. The website automatically assigns chaser awards as you make QSOs (screenshot below). It also has a nice set of statistical graphs that shows your activity by year, band, mode as well as the activators and summits which you have contacted most.

N5JGE

Activator Stats

Chaser Stats

Chases



113 points



25 unique summits

11 associations
19 regions26 QSOs
Top Activator: AA1F (2)
Unique Activators: 24Chasing since
25 Dec 20200 S2S points
0 total S2S QSOs

Recent chases

Date	Time	Other Callsign	Summit	Band	Mode	Map
13-Mar-2025	21:31	W7DLZ	W7N/WC-090 (Juniper Ridge)	14MHz	CW	
08-Mar-2025	22:40	NM5S	W7A/MN-087 (First Water Creek Overlook)	14MHz	CW	
07-Jan-2025	19:42	WC1N	W4G/HC-045 (Heath Mountain)	14MHz	CW	
22-Dec-2024	22:50	K6TW	W6/CT-052 (Timber Mountain)	14MHz	CW	
22-Dec-2024	22:41	N6ARA	W6/CT-226 (Cerro Negro Benchmark)	21MHz	CW	

[Add Chase](#) | [More...](#)

Chaser Badges

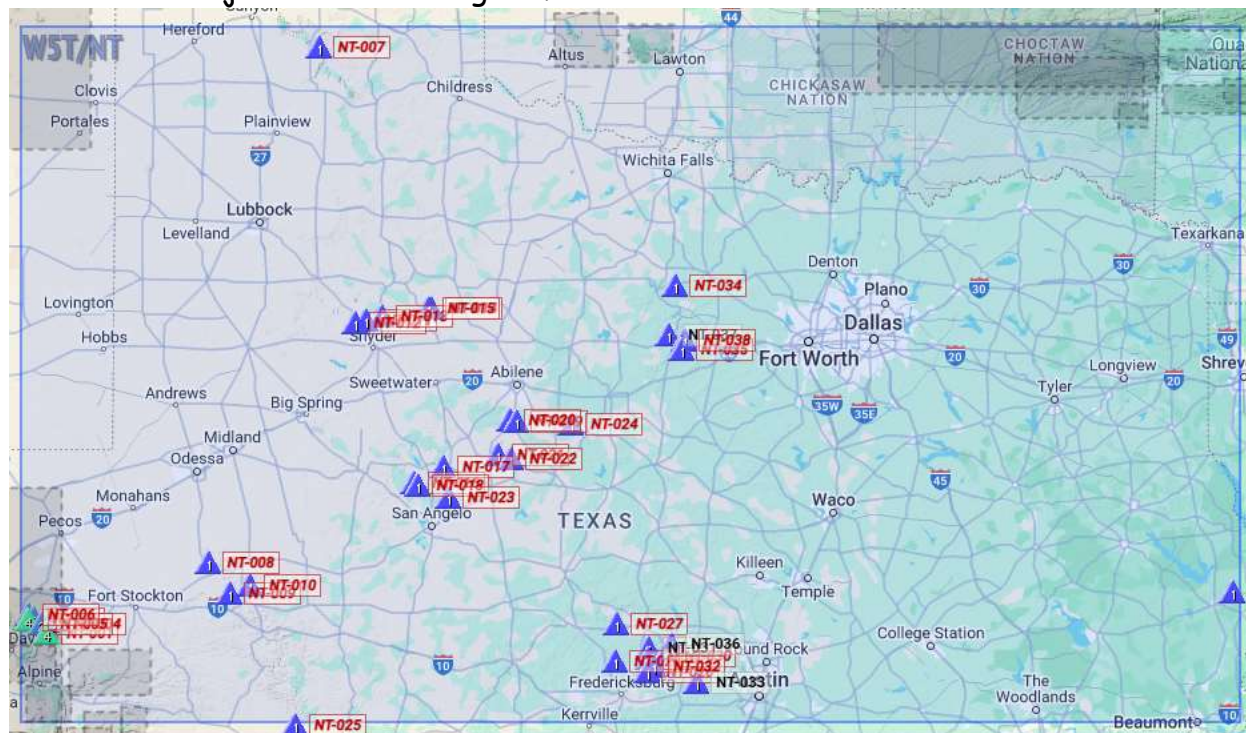
HF
26 Dec
2020Chased NA
26 Dec
2020SSB
26 Dec
2020Kilometer
Up
26 Dec
2020CW
30 Jul 2022DATA
26 Dec
2022Two
Kilometers
Up
30 Sep
2024Three
Kilometers
Up
07 Oct 2024Frodo
27 Oct 2024Chaser 100
22 Dec
2024

There are several major differences between SOTA and POTA for activators. First is that only 1 contact is required for a valid SOTA activation, but 4 (with different stations) are required to earn the summit points that count towards activator awards. Contacts must be made in the "activation zone" which generally less than 25 vertical meters below the actual summit. Activations cannot be made from or near a vehicle and all equipment must be transported to the activation zone by the activator(s) using "people power" - hiking or biking. All equipment must be operated using portable power, generally batteries or solar cells.

As implied above, SOTA summits provide different amounts of points toward activator and chaser awards. In POTA, all parks are equal for earning activator and hunter awards. Points for each SOTA summit depend primarily on the elevation of the peak. There may also be "seasonal bonuses" if difficulty changes greatly with the seasons - think Texas in August or a fourteener in January!

As you might expect, most of the US SOTA activity is in the eastern and western mountain ranges. However, there are a surprising number of summits in Texas with 39 summits in the poorly-named North Texas region. "North Texas" includes most of the state and all of the summits are west of I-35. See the SOTA map below. Other Texas regions in the mountainous areas (Guadalupe, Davis Mountains, etc.) are much smaller. Each peak has its own webpage with details and links to other map sources (Google, OpenStreet, OpenTopo, etc.). If a peak has been activated, the

activators frequently add commentaries on access, hike details, photos, etc. One such page for an interesting summit at Possum Kingdom Lake is shown below. I think that I just made a new goal for 2025 - at least one SOTA activation!



W5T/NT-037, Johnson Peak - 412m, 1 point

[Association List](#) | [Back to W5T Association](#) | [Back to NT Region](#)

[+ Add Spot](#) [+ Add Alert](#)

Association: USA - Texas, **Region:** North Texas

Latitude: 32.8809, **Longitude:** -98.4787

QTH Locator: EM02sv

Valid From: 31 Mar 2014

Bonus Period: 3 points between 1 June and 30 September

ARRL WAS: Texas

CQ Zone: 4

[View ALL Summit Activity](#)

33 Activations

Latest

- 14 Jul 2024 by N4VV/P
- 11 Apr 2024 by KC6ARY
- 08 Apr 2024 by NE7ET
- 08 Apr 2024 by K7HY
- 07 Apr 2024 by N0MTN

First activation

- 05 Apr 2014 by KC5CW

Often activated with:

- [W6/NC-191 - El Sereno](#)

Upcoming Activations

2025-Mar-17 10:45 -
KD8EQA (Raymond)

2025-Apr-08 11:00 - N4TU (Andy)

Resources

Feel free to add External Links [🔗](#) and Articles [📄](#) relating to this summit that activators and chasers may find useful or interesting. Please read the disclaimer notice at the bottom of the page.

- 📄 [N4VV alias DL1MP](#) (submitted by DL1MP on Jul 15, 2024)
- 📄 [Bicycling and as good as it gets for DFW](#) (submitted by KG5AUU on Jan 9, 2021)
- 📄 [Pleasant Hike and SOTA Summit](#) (submitted by KONR on Apr 14, 2019)
- 🔗 [12/10 Activation](#) (submitted by KB1KXL on Dec 12, 2018)
- 🔗 [Parking and trail map](#) (submitted by AF4B on Apr 5, 2018)
- 📄 [Update on public access](#) (submitted by AF4B on Apr 1, 2018)
- 📄 [Trail info](#) (submitted by W6BJB on Sep 24, 2017)
- 📄 [Summit access info and 1st activation log](#) (submitted by KC5CW on Apr 5, 2014)