

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.

Reminder about the Neches River Rendezvous Meeting was adjourned at 19:03. Shortest meeting yet!

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

Being active in our club is crucial to keeping the Ham Radio hobby active and relevant. Our club has several opportunities every month for you to participate. We have our monthly club meeting, 2 weekly nets, an every other month Fox Hunt and the upcoming ARRL Field Day on June 28 & 29th. Get this date on your calendar and we will begin planning at the May club meeting. We will need volunteers for several areas to help make this Field Day successful. I hope to see everyone at our club meeting on Tuesday (5/6).

Up coming Hamfests:

May 3rd - Panhandle Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

May 31st - Texarkana Tailgate Mini-Fest

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

Hope everyone had a nice Easter. Denise and I spent Easter on the road returning from a short vacation in Hot Springs Arkansas. We took the jeep to an offroad park to do a little trail riding. If you've never been to Hot Springs, it's got a few things to offer which make it a nice getaway. There is a national park in Hot Springs, (actually a fair portion of the city is part of the park), tours of the bath houses, a rich history of gangsters (Al Capone era), major league baseball conducted spring training in the area (Babe Ruth), a beautiful arboretum Garvan Gardens, this place alone is worth the trip.

If you didn't make the last meeting you missed a great program. Jeff Burns gave an excellent presentation about tourniquet use, proper technique and equipment. Thanks again to Mr. Burns for taking the

time to share his knowledge with us!

Lastly FIELD DAY is fast approaching, so please be thinking of ideas and what you would like to see happen and bring you and your ideas to the next meeting!

Everyone be safe, take care, see you at the May meeting.

73, NR5AT
Dave Emmerling
Dke1955@duck.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

We are about halfway through Spring 2025. Spring has brought its share of nasty weather, both rain and wind. How has everyone fared through it? If you missed the April meeting, you missed a good one, Great speaker, hands on, show how, tell and do. Which brings the question, how well stocked is your first aid response kit. Are you really prepared both equipment and material wise as well as mentally?

June 1st isn't far off. And you know what that means,

Hurricane season 2025 starts up. Thankfully it hasn't started early. We'll take a look at the season projections in the June edition of EC Corner. Are you prepared?

And of course, don't forget Field Day in June. It is scheduled for 28-29 June. The theme is RADIO CONNECTS. Highlighting how wireless technology connects people across distances near and far.

This should be a good event considering how the interest in wireless comms has ballooned.

A short one this month, hope everyone had a good Easter.

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

VE TESTING

Our April VE testing session did not have any applicants, but the VE team had a pleasant social evening out.

Many thanks to our VE team of Army AE5P, Rusty KD5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Mike

AA5HH, John KN6VDG and Bernice Kelly KN6VDH, and Donna Hooks AA5HH xyl.

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** May 6th at Nacogdoches EOC. Meeting begins at 19:00; Please plan to arrive early for socialization with the doors opening at 18:30.

We will begin discussions on ARRL Field Day in June. Please plan to attend and help us make it a successful field day by volunteering with any one of the jobs that are needs to be taken care of.

Hope to see y'all there.

FOX HUNT

Next fox hunt will be May 3rd at 10:00 AM to 12:00

PM. We would love to have you test your skills on finding a 15 mW transmitter somewhere in the city of Nacogdoches. Can you do it? If you are the first to find the fox, the club will buy your lunch. After the fox hunt, we will meet up at CC's Smokehouse for a wonderful lunch, great discussions and stories on what you went through to find the fox. Please let Darrell, KI5PYQ, know you are planning on participating. If you are new to fox hunting and you

would like to tag along with someone to see what it is about, let Darrell know as well. He can get you teamed up with someone.

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

May 6th 19:00

June 3rd 19:00

July 5th 19:00

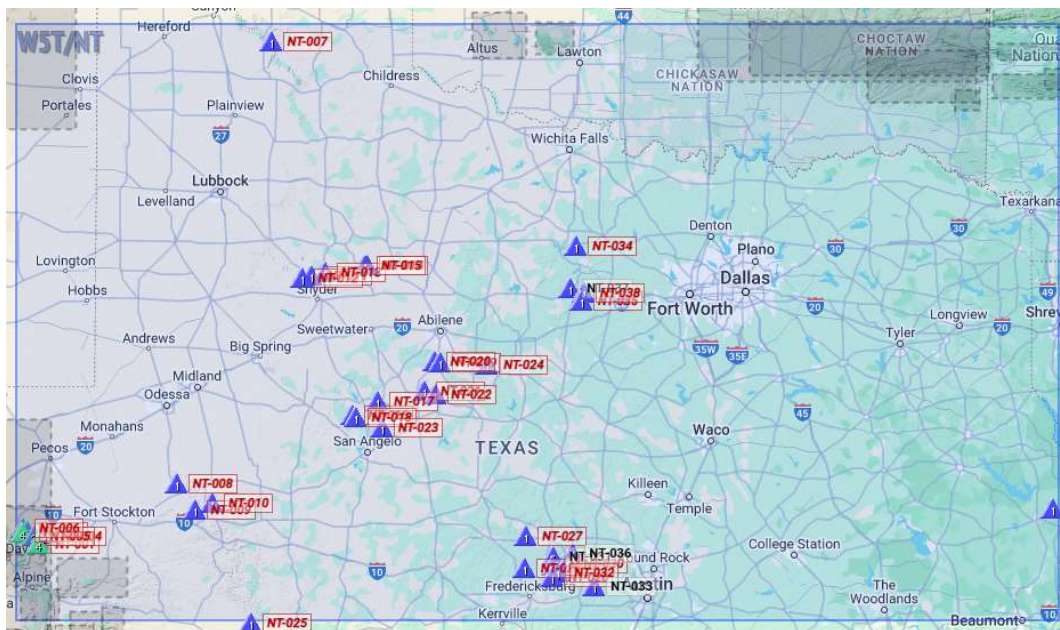
Notes of Interest

Dues for 2025 are now due.

POTA / SOTA Adventure in North Texas

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

In last month's article, I said that I thought I found a new goal for 2025, a SOTA activation - well I tried - here is the story. To review, there are multiple SOTA peaks west and south of Fort Worth (see map below). I set my sites on SOTA summit W5T/NT-037, known as Johnson Peak (see SOTA reference page below the map).



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](#)

[KML](#) [CalTopo \(NA\)](#) [Google Maps](#) [OpenStreetMap](#) [OpenTopoMap](#) [GaiaGPS](#) [SOTA Maps](#) [SOTLas](#) [aprs.fi](#)

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.

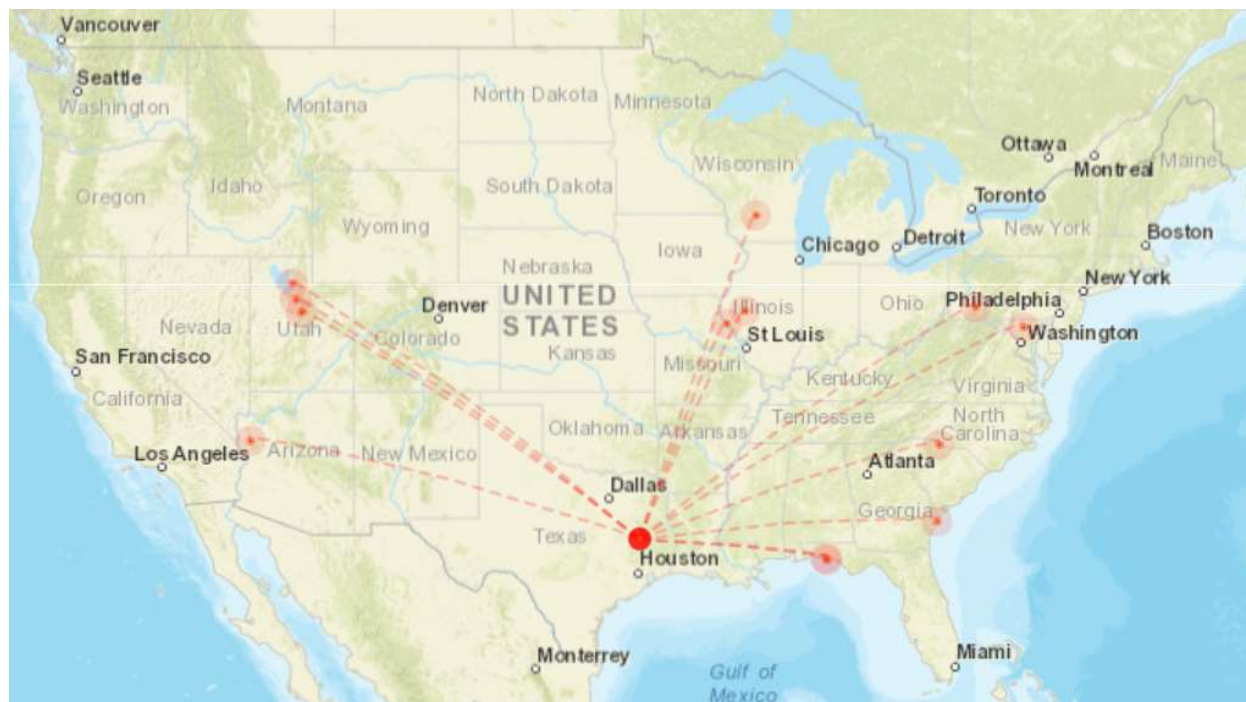
- 📄 [N4VV alias DL1MP](#) (submitted by DL1MP on Jul 15, 2024)
- 📄 [Bicycling and as good as it gets for DEW](#) (submitted by KG5AUU on Jan 9, 2021)
- 📄 [Pleasant Hike and SOTA Summit](#) (submitted by KONR on Apr 14, 2019)
- 🔗 [12/10 Activation](#) (submitted by KB1KXL on Dec 12, 2018)
- 🔗 [Parking 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)

In looking at potential bases of operation, I selected a B&B, The Magpie Inn, in Mineral Wells, TX. While the house (which was built in in 1907) could use some sprucing up, the bed and the breakfasts were awesome. Mineral Wells had a population of almost 15,000 in the 2020 census. It is famous for its "Crazy Water" and was a health destination in the early 1900's known for its several mineral water springs. The city is trying to renew their status as a health destination. The 14-story Baker Hotel in downtown is currently under renovation true to its historical design but with modern amenities. It is scheduled to re-open in 2028. Mineral Wells

also hosted several Major League Baseball spring training camps in the 1910's and 1920's including the infamous 1919 Chicago White Sox.

As a bonus there are two POTA parks nearby. The first, Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway (US-3029) is actually within the city limits. It is known for rappelling and rock-climbing in the section known as Penitentiary Hollow. This rock-outcropping has straight-walled fissures that are like miniature slot canyons - very cool! There are many trails and equestrian camping as well.

We got into town Wednesday afternoon, checked into the B&B and heading for Lake Mineral Wells State Park. This was Barbara's inaugural POTA activation! We setup the Wolf River coil and FT-891 to use SSB. As I typically do on an activation, we used PoLo (Portable Logger) on my phone to see POTA / SOTA spots and hunted P2P (Park-2-Park) and SOTA contacts. Conditions were not very good and in 30 minutes, we only got 4 contacts, so we decided to call CQ. We increased our QSO by almost 5 times by calling CQ and got 9 contacts in 14 minutes. It was getting late, so we packed up after our successful 13 QSO activations. All contacts were on 20M and fairly short distances in lower 48 as shown on the map below.

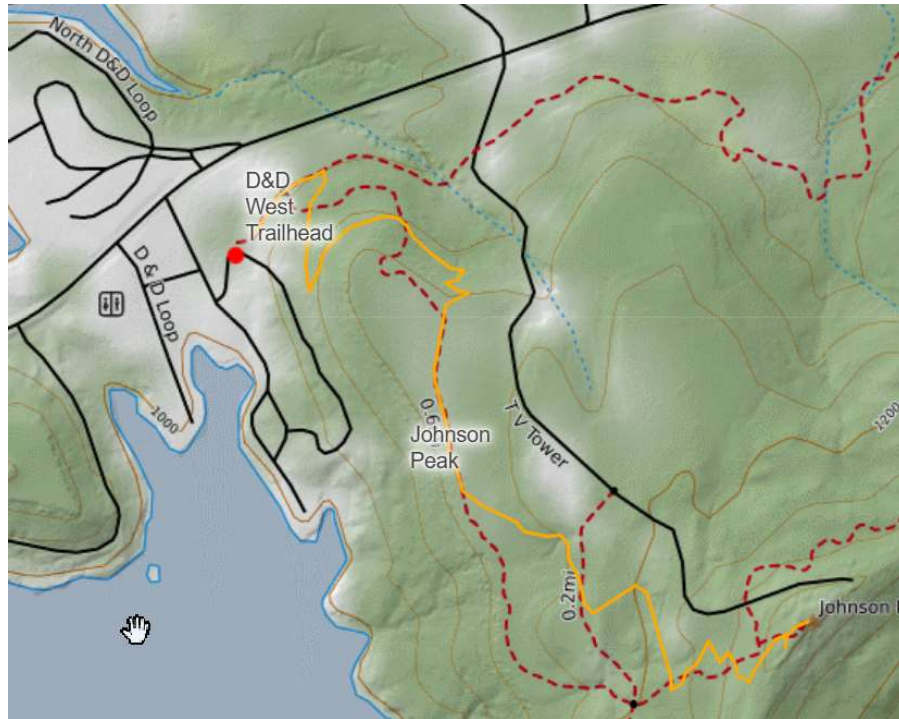


The next morning after a delicious breakfast, we headed to Possum Kingdom State Park (US-3049). This park is on the lake and about 40 miles west of Mineral Wells. We were not impressed with the condition of this park, probably one of the most rundown Texas state parks we have visited. The day use areas had virtually no trees

and the picnic sites were uncovered. Fortunately, it was cool and cloudy. We put the ATAS antenna on the Breedlove mount at the front of the pickup bed and used the mobile rig (IC-7100) to work SSB. We again started by hunting POTA and SOTA spots. This time conditions were better and we were able to complete the entire 13 QSO activation by hunting. We started on 10M and got a park in WA, then on 15M we contacted a park activator in Puerto Rico. The most interesting contact was a husband-and-wife 2-operator contact on a summit in GA. While propagation was better, contacts were slow and it took 54 minutes to complete the 13 QSOs.

Now for the sad SOTA story. We easily found the trailhead at the D&D South day use area, one of several amenities on the lake managed by the Brazos River Authority. This one is a very well-maintained boat ramp, picnic area and hike / bike trail system. My plan was to use FT-8 at the summit for the activation. Primary equipment included the 5W QMX transceiver by QRP Labs, the KM4ACK EFHW antenna (40M-20M-15M-10M), a 6A-hr LiFePO4 battery and an arborist throw weight and line. I also had a CW "paddle" made using pressure-sensitive touch pads ([VK3IL Paddle](#)) for hunting POTA or S2S (Summit-2-Summit) CW contacts.

The track of the hike is shown below using CALTOPO, a really good on-line (and on phone) mapping tool for outdoor activities. Details of the hike are shown in the CALTOPO profile screen below the track map. The 1-mile hike climbed ~330' and took about 27 minutes. There were some steep sections and tall step-ups, but not too bad even for a 70-year-old!



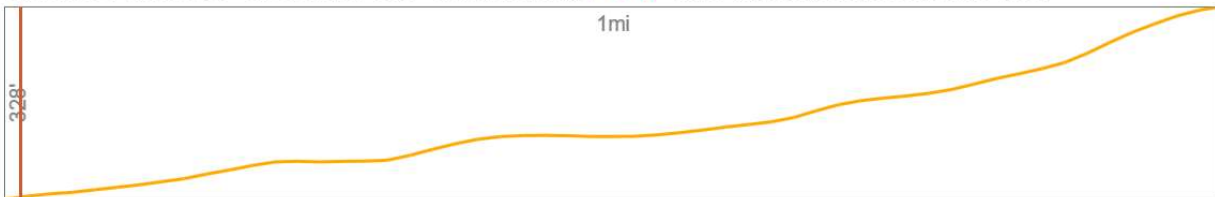
Johnson Peak



distance: 1.02mi range: 1024' to 1352' gross: +331'-3' time: 27m sample 97'w/ 2.6x vert. exag.



cursor: 1027' at 0.01 mi linear grade: 4.7% elevation change: +0' -0' time: 4/3/2025, 11:09:09 AM GMT-05:00





Made it to the top! The 360-degree view of the lake and surrounding hills / cliffs were awesome (see photo below)! I quickly got the antenna into a tree, stretched it out and got coax / PC connected to the radio. When I opened wsjt-x Improved, I needed to adjust some settings. I made the changes, but the "OK" button to save them was off the bottom of the screen. For the life of me, I could not get the window to re-size and move the button onto the screen. At home, I use wsjt-x on a dual monitor system and this is not a problem on the bigger screen. My second mistake was not bringing earbuds or headphones to hear CW! After a frustrating 30 minutes, I packed it up and hiked back down disappointed.

Lesson learned to be better prepared. Practice with the exact setup you will use on the summit before hiking up. SOTA is much different than POTA. For POTA, my truck full of gear is usually only a few feet away. Later that evening at the B&B, I figured out what I should have done to get the button on the screen. If you know the answer (I was using a Windows 10 PC), email it to me and I will let you know if you are correct. 😊