

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2025 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips -
KI5POH

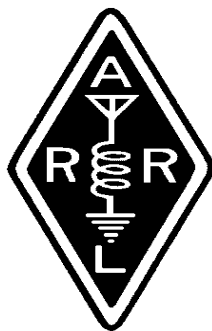
Vice Pres: Aaron Baker -
KI5FIQ

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.

JANUARY MINUTES

Mark, KI5POH, started the meeting off at 18:00. Introductions were made and minutes were approved. The treasury report was read.

Old Business - Need a Net Control Operator for 3rd Monday. Also need an EC for the club.

New Business - NWS Spotter Training Feb 5th at

6:00 PM. See Robert, KD5FEE.

Meeting was adjourned.

2026 ARE DUE NOW!

Dues are just \$20 a year and cover all licensed hams in a family. Please get your dues to Darrell, 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

I hope everyone survived the cold and ice we had the end of January. This type of weather reinforces our need to be prepared with our home, supplies, generators and our radios. Being prepared makes surviving this type of weather less miserable.

Speaking of weather, remember the NWS Skywarn Spotter training on Thursday, February 5 th at 6:00pm at the Lufkin Convention Center, 601 N Second St. A reminder that we need an Emergency Coordinator for our club and additional Net Control operators. If you are interested, please let us know.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3rd, door open at 6:30pm and meeting begins at 7:00. I hope to see you there!

Up coming Hamfests:

February 20 th & 21 st - Greater Houston HamFest, ARRL Texas State Convention, Rosenberg, Texas

February 27 th & 28 th - Orange Hamfest 2026, Orange and Jefferson County ARC

March 7 th - Irving Hamfest, Irving, Texas

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

Has everyone defrosted yet after this weekend? Still have some ice on the ground but this ice storm was definitely a good

reminder that it's not just the hurricanes and severe thunderstorms we have to be prepared for, but its also that occasional snow and ice storm as well. I lost power for about a day, but thankfully I had batteries and my camping gear (and a nice wood burning fireplace) to get me through. Hopefully this is the only winter weather we see this season, and hopefully those warmer temperatures come back and stick around for a while.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting next week. I think we have a nice program this month to make up for last month.

Aaron Baker KI5FIQ
baker.barisax@gmail.com

VE TESTING

Our January VE testing session did not have anyone show up to test.

Many thanks to our VE team: Dave NR5AT, Mike

W5NXX, and Rusty
KD5GEN.

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.

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/](https://w5nac.com/about/email-reflectors/)

NEXT MEETING

The next regular NARC
meeting will be TUESDAY
January 6th at the
Nacogdoches EOC. Doors
will open at 18:30 and
meeting will start promptly
at 19:00. We hope to see
you there. Aaron (KI5FIQ)
and Steve (WB5IDY) will
have us a wonderful
program setup.

FOX HUNT

The Fox Hunts will be on
hold for now. We currently
do not have enough
attendance to continue
currently. If you would like
to have another fox hunt,

please let Darrell KI5PYQ
or Mark KI5POH know that
you would like to
participate.

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.contestcalend
ar.com/contestcal.html](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/cont
est-calendar](https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

Club Meeting Dates

Feb 3rd 19:00

March 3rd 19:00

April 7th 19:00

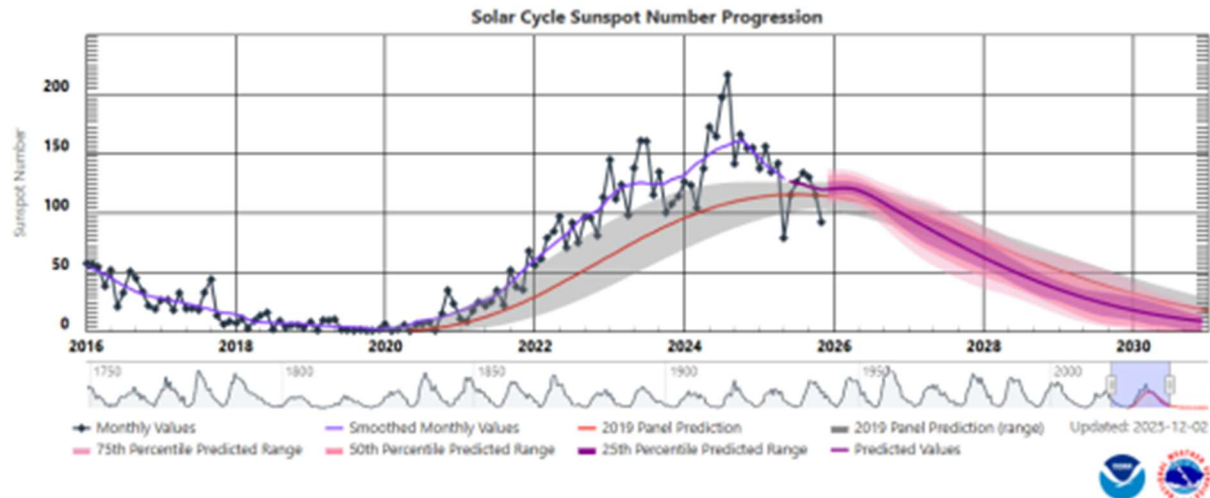
Make Hay While the Sun(spots) Shines(Shine)

Jim Edmondson, AE5JE

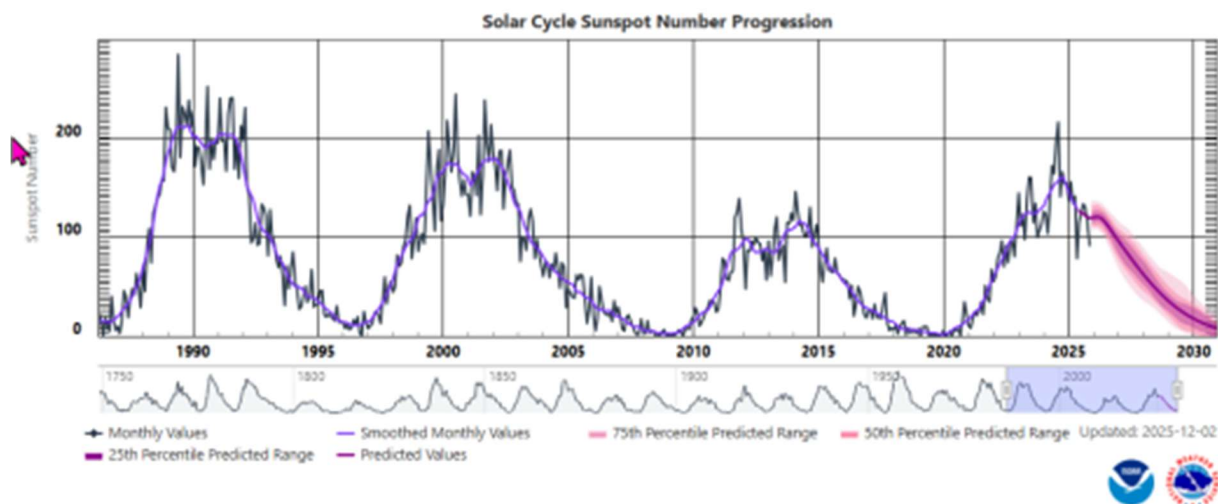
In case you have not been following the propagation "big picture", we have probably passed the peak of sun activity for Cycle 25. Solar Cycle 25 is the 25th numbered sunspot cycle recorded since systematic observations began in 1755. It officially started in December 2019, when the smoothed sun-spot number dropped to a minimum of ~1.8. Solar cycles typically last about 11 years, so Cycle 25 is expected to continue until 2030 - 2031.

I got on the air with my General license in July 2020. As stated above and shown in the Cycle 25 graph below, that was near the very beginning of Cycle 25. I can remember operating on 20M in the evening. Not long after dark, the band pretty much shutdown and I had to rely on the "low" bands (40M and 80M mostly).

So now is the time to get on the air especially on the higher HF bands, like 10M. Remember even Technician-class operators have voice privileges on 10M. So, you do not need to know Morse code or how to interface the radio to a computer to get on the air - just talk into the microphone! If you do not have a 10M radio, ask a friend to borrow one for a little while. A half-wave dipole or end-fed antenna for 10M is only about 16.5' long, so it is inexpensive and easy to fit in any size lot, hang off an apartment balcony, etc. There is some good DX available too - even with a modest antenna. For General or above operators, 15M, 17M and 12M also offer good DX opportunities during the day with the active sun conditions. Of course, atmospheric propagation conditions change often and quickly, so watching the current sun activity is also important. Just listen to the bands or call CQ and you will know pretty quickly if the band is "open".



The graph above is quite busy. So some explanation is in order. The jagged blue line shows the monthly average of daily actual sunspot numbers (SSN). The purple solid line is a smoothed representation of those data. The pink shaded band around the purple line shows the band of uncertainty for the predicted future sunspot activity. Finally, the orange solid line is the 2019 prediction by a panel of NOAA and NASA scientists. As you can see, the predicted monthly average sunspot activity (115 SSN maximum) is quite a bit lower than what has been measured (157 SSN maximum). This is true even considering the bands of uncertainty (gray shading around orange line). Also, the peak activity appears to have occurred sooner (July 2024) than predicted (July 2025 +/- 8 months). That may turn out to be not true as solar cycles sometimes exhibit a broad double humped maximum as shown in the graph below. The previous three cycles have shown such behavior.



Notice also, that Cycle 25 is much stronger than Cycle 24. Cycle 24 is the fourth in a series of weakening cycles. It is the weakest cycle in 100 years and the fourth weakest in recorded history (since 1755). NOAA predicted that

Cycle 25 would break the weakening trend but be similar in intensity to Cycle 24. While Cycle 25 exceeded the intensity of Cycle 24, it is still one of the weakest in the last 100 years. Having only been a ham in this solar cycle, I cannot imagine what band activity was in some of the most intense cycles. I have heard comments, however, of 10M being open well after dark at the peak of activity.

The higher sunspot activity associated with solar maximums leads to increased ionospheric disruption from higher solar winds, flares, coronal mass ejections, etc. So, the improved propagation is more frequently impaired or "blackened out" by these ionospheric disruptions. I think that is a small price to pay for the auroral displays and good DX opportunities