

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2026 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.

MARCH MINUTES

Aaron, KI5FIQ, started the meeting off at 18:00. Introductions were made and minutes were approved. The treasury report was read.

Old Business -Also need an EC for the club.

New Business - Lufkin POTA event 4/18/2026 at Livingston State Park. This is the Texas State Park

weekend and POTA weekend. Robert, KD5FEE, discussed Meshtastic and the merits. He we present Meshtastic at the April club meeting.

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

Our club has been contacted by the Nacogdoches ISD ROTC program for learning more Ham Radio. This is a great opportunity for our club to introduce our hobby to high school students. We will need the support of our entire club with resources, guidance and presenting Ham Radio to the ROTC. This is the opportunity we have been needing to bring the younger generation into Ham Radio. We will have more information within the next couple of months.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7th and doors open at 6:30pm and meeting begins at 7:00. I hope to see you there!

Upcoming Hamfests:
April 11th - Ham Expo, Belton, Texas

April 25th - Emory Tailgate 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

Can't believe it's already April, though the Weather says it's June. That said, before we know it, it will be June soon which means the start of Hurricane season. Never too early to start thinking about that hurricane prep. In fact did you know Texas has a tax free weekend in April for buying emergency preparation supplies? This year it happens from April

25th to the 27th. Some of the things include portable generators, ladders, hurricane shutters, batteries, first aid kits, and so much more. Take a look on the Texas Comptroller site about it (<https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-1017.php>)

June coming up also means that Field Day is coming up. Before long we'll start planning for it. Always can use the volunteers for it. Enjoy the month (Hopefully "April Showers bring May flowers" comes to fruition this month, we could definitely use the rain) and hope to see you on the air.

Aaron Baker KI5FIQ
baker.barisax@gmail.com

VE TESTING

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

Many thanks to our VE team: Dave NR5AT, Mike

W5NXX, and Mike AA5HH.

Remember that we provide VE testing sessions on 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/>

NEXT MEETING

The next regular NARC meeting will be **TUESDAY** April 7th at the Nacogdoches EOC. Doors will open at 18:30 and meeting will start promptly at 19:00. We hope to see you there. Robert (KD5FEE) will lead the program on Meshtastic and how to incorporate it with amateur radio.

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.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 7th 19:00

May 5th 19:00

June 2nd 19:00

And Now for Something Different

Jim Edmondson, AE5JE

Instead of technical topic, this month I wanted to share some newsworthy items that you may not have run across in your web browsing, magazine reading, etc.

Portable Operators Be Aware

This first item is the most important of the bunch. It is a little dated and tragic, but I missed this news when it happened. I bring it to your attention as a very important [safety reminder](#). N4NTO (Tripp Owens) was electrocuted apparently while taking down his vertical antenna after a POTA activation in NC.

While I have always heeded the warnings about antennas and power lines at my QTH, I never really thought of it when operating portable. But the caution is even more important when operating in an unfamiliar location. While we may think of parks as natural areas, they have infrastructure and improvements that require power lines. Running such lines underground would better maintain the natural look, but is very expensive. Therefore, most lines are above on typical wooden power poles and may run through picnic and camping areas. Make a note to scan the area for power lines before choosing your portable operating location - it may save your life.

By the way Thomas Witherspoon's (K4SWL) blog has a lot of great content on QRP, portable operating, POTA, shortwave listening, etc. and is worth following.

Amateur Radio Daily / Weekly

I find a lot of interesting news about ham radio topics from my email subscription to [Amateur Radio Weekly](#). Every Saturday morning, I receive an email summarizing the week's top articles from [Amateur Radio Daily](#). Having found the daily website, I added it to my RSS feeds because it has really good short content for ham operators.

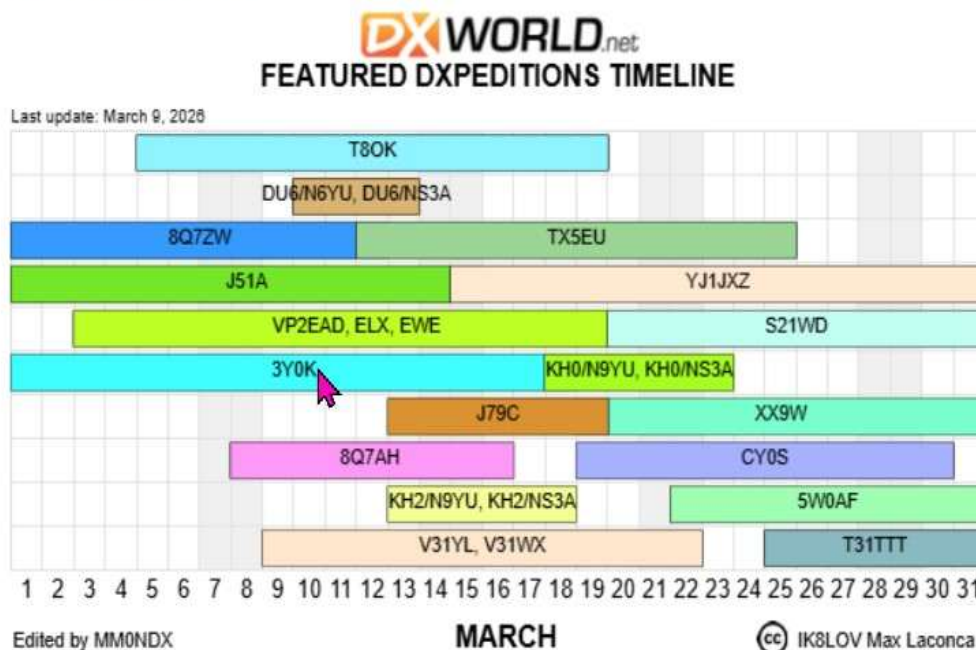
DX-World with a Detour to RSS

This is another [website](#) that can be accessed using RSS feeds if you want breaking news about DXPeditions. So, this is the second RSS feed mention in this article. In case you are wondering what RSS feeds are, check out [this site](#). The underlying terms for the abbreviation RSS have changed over the years, but I prefer "Really Simple Syndication" as most descriptive for the user and not the web developer geeks. Briefly, instead of visiting a website periodically to check for updates, an RSS feed reader will receive updates whenever a site has new content. In this way, you can check many websites for updates in one easy to read list.

RSS feeds have fallen out of favor in the past years due to the proliferation of sites that create timelines for you and show what they want to push to you (think Facebook, X, Instagram, etc.). RSS readers put you back in control of your timeline since you choose the sites to follow. Some feed readers charge a fee, but most have free versions that are limited in the number of feeds you can subscribe to. I follow about 50 sites this way for news, sports, PC hardware, PC software, maker topics, and ham radio. I use a "self-hosted" RSS reader called Fresh RSS running on as a Docker container on a Linux PC - all free, mostly open-source software.

In addition to the website, another cool feature is their weekly DX bulletin which is published every Thursday. This accumulates all of the recent DXPedition news into one document. First, is the DX News section with the most current updates. Next, there is the "DXCC timeline" (see below) which is great to copy and paste onto your desktop for easy reference. Next, is a very detailed "DXCC This week on air" section with all known activity listed by DXCC prefix including "Coming up soon". Other sections include IOTA, Announcements and Special Calls. Worth checking out if you want to catch some rare DX.

DXCC timeline



Heat

Yet another DX'er tool is the spotting site [DX Heat](#). The page consists of a list of filters down the left side of the spot list, which is the largest pane in the center. Down the right side of the spot list are a series of widgets which are movable (within the right pane). I like this site for many reasons, but the first is that it has many different filters. The primary filters are: band, mode, DX continent and spotter continent. When you select or deselect a filter, the spot list updates immediately to reflect the change.

Within the spot list, you can click on a DX callsign and select three options: open a web SDR tuned to the DX frequency and mode, see a page with the DX statistics or open their QRZ page. The statistics page opens in a new tab and shows general information like continent, CQ Zone, sunrise / sunset times, etc. plus links to QRZ, HamQTH and Clublog log search. Statistics for spots of the DX and spots by the DX are shown with a bar chart and pie chart for QSOs by band (per year) and continent. Finally, there is a one-line summary of spots of and by the DX. Back in the spot list, clicking on the DX flag opens a popup as shown below for TX5EU.

This feature requires you to be signed into a free account. All an account requires

is your callsign and a password. You can also use the sign-in with Google option if you prefer to do that.



Moving to the right-hand widgets pane, at the top right is a real-time UTC clock in large bold font. Next are widgets to search for a callsign and to submit a spot. Searching a DX callsign opens the statistics page referred to above in a new tab. You must be logged into your account to use these tools. Finally, there is a solar activity "propagation" widget and a heat map showing activity by band and continent from a continent that you choose (typically your continent).

Tongue in Cheek - Why Hams are Grumpy

I got a kick out of [this view](#) of all of the past efforts to grow the ranks of ham radio operators, enjoy. From the article page, there is a link to the blog's home page. When I checked it out in early February, it had some interesting short features and links to ham blogs that he found interesting or inspiring.

Future of the Ham Hobby

I found [this plug](#) for getting a ham radio technician license from an unexpected source. "How to Geek" is one of my daily RSS feed subscriptions that I use to keep current on various tech topics.