

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2026 CLUB OFFICERS

**Pres: Mark Phillips -
KI5POH**

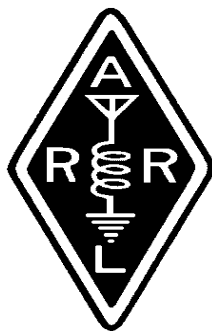
**Vice Pres: Aaron Baker -
KI5FIQ**

**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.

APRIL MINUTES

Mark, KI5POH, 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. Lufkin POTA event 4/18/2026 at Livingston State Park. This is the Texas State Park weekend and POTA weekend

New Business - Letter from Bob Knip, K5ME was read. If you would like to send him a letter, I imagine he would love to receive them. Let Darrell, KI5PYQ, know and he will forward Bob's address to you. Many subjects were brought up about the NETS. A NET committee was formed with Andy KE5EXX, Dave NR5AT, and Tim KE5PQL to make recommendations for making the NETS effective and engaging. Reminder about ARRL Field Day 2026 coming June 27th-28th.

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? How can you help the club and amateur radio by leading a project. Ask yourself, how can I participate and advance amateur radio in our community.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The ARRL Field Day on June 27th & 28th. Field Day is always a great time to visit with our fellow hams and get on the radio. 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 (5/5).

Upcoming Hamfests:

May 2nd - Panhandle Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

May 29th - 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

I feel like I say this every month where I can't believe it's already at the end of the month and about to start another. But here we are again about to be May, and we didn't quite get those April Showers that I'd hoped for in last month's column. But we are at the peak of severe weather season believe or not. We've lucked out these last few days of the storms not firing up in our area, but man we could use the rain. But with the peak of

severe weather season, here is your reminder to check your radio supplies. Are your batteries charged and functional? Do you have a way to get on the air in the event of a power outage? That's all I got for now. Hope to see you at the meeting or on the air.

Before long it'll be time to start planning for field day soon.

Aaron Baker KI5FIQ
baker.barisax@gmail.com

VE TESTING

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

Many thanks to our VE team: Dave NR5AT, Mike AA5HH and Donna, Robert KD5FEE, Rusty KD5GEN, Army AE5P, and Ralph N6RH.

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.

ARES/ RACES Mondays	146.84 (PL 141.3)
1 st	Jonathan W5WJC
2 nd	Robert KD5FEE

3 rd	Robert KD5FEE
4 th	Tom W5TV
5 th	Jonathan W5WJC

Skywarn Thursdays	147.32 (PL 141.3)
1 st	Wolfie KI%MHB
2 nd	Army AE5P
3 rd	Rusty KD5GEN
4 th	Aaron KI5FIQ
5 th	Army AE5P

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 5th 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 will give a presentation over WEFAX and how we can receive weather maps over the air.

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. We would be happy to create one.

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 [here](#). 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 5th 19:00
June 2nd 19:00

July 7th 19:00 (Ice Cream
Social)

May 2026

An Update to my March 2025 Article

Jim Edmondson, AE5JE

In March 2025, I wrote an article entitled "Some Interesting and Some Troubling Amateur Radio License Statistics". In that piece, I presented a somewhat pessimistic view of the outlook for ham radio. My concluding paragraph was:

"I hate to end an article on a down note, but these data paint a rather depressing picture for the future of our hobby. Hopefully this article will encourage us to think about what we can do to change that.

I recently ran across an [article by K4FMH](#) (Frank M. Howell) in which he concluded that the ham radio "market" is not dying, but it is changing. He examined ham radio participation to determine the future of the "commercial market for the amateur radio hobby" as a consultant for an unnamed entity. It is a rather lengthy article, so if the topic interests you, I encourage to read the original. I will highlight a few of Frank's comments in light of the points from my March 2025 article.

Frank's first point is that it is a common perception among hams that the hobby is "dying". Frank contends that this comes from a selective view of the hobby. Those who attend hamfests, participate in nets or read print journals about ham radio see mostly older hams and few younger hams. This is mainly because hamfests, nets and journals are usually run by older hams and cater to that audience. Younger hams are more involved in the hobby via less social venues and digital media, hence the large number of relatively new YouTube and Discord channels catering to that audience.

In most ways, my own observations support this, but I would make a further distinction: many newer hams despite their age tend more to digital media, portable operations, digital modes and other newer activities than long-term hams. This is because us newer hams do not have the history of association with

traditional ham activities that long-term hams have. For many longterm hams, DX'ing and contesting are the pinnacles of achievement. The ham radio community is undergoing a transition that breaks from the past rather an evolutionary changing of the guard where younger members simply replace older members in-place. This transition has profound implications on the future of the hobby's commercial market. A great read about some of those implications can be found [here](#).

Next, Frank presents a graph of the number of US ham licenses from 1997 to 2022. It looks like the same graph that I referenced in my article, but the data I used went from 1997 to 2024. Franks states that "annual FCC amateur radio license growth is generally 1-2% per year". He then compares that to average annual US population growth of about 0.5% per year and claims that this disproves the generally accepted belief that the hobby is dying. Further, Frank state that there are a lot of repeaters around that take a lot of money and time to setup and maintain as further evidence that the hobby is not dying. No information about the rate of growth of the number of repeaters is given, so I do not think that this proves his point. Some growth in the number of repeaters might be expected due to the newer digital FM modes, awareness brought on by recent natural disasters, etc.

Frank does not detail how he derived the 1 - 2% growth number for FCC amateur radio licenses.

When I calculated the average annual growth rate of ham radio licenses from 1997 to 2022, I get 0.53% almost exactly equal to the general US population growth per Frank's article. This shows that the hobby was at least keeping pace from 1997 to 2022 on average. However, as I showed in my article the ham license trend from 2021 to 2024 was -4.4% with entry-level Technician licenses declining by 6.9%! These numbers do not bode well for the hobby. An internet search did not yield a single definitive source for the number of repeaters in US over time. This is probably why Frank just stated that there are a lot of repeaters around and not trends or growth rates.

Much of the middle section of Franks' article details various social factors and turmoil in / problems with the ARRL as an organization. General social trends (not specific to ham radio operators) point to a steep decline in many social activities. While this data was quite old ([Bowling Alone](#) from surveys conducted between 1975 - 1997), it rings true today. However, similarly to how I described the changes in ham radio above, person-to-person social interactions are declining, but being replaced by other interactions such as social media (for better or worse).

The final points that I wanted to highlight concern how to recruit more hams to the hobby. The typical answer for a graying hobby like ham radio is to chase youngsters to join. Since many older, long-term hams started as teens or even younger, they think that attracting youth members will be effective. (While I was out of the hobby for many years, I started in my late teens with a Novice license.) This is being tried with only limited success as far as I can tell. For today's youth, there are other technical hobby avenues (PC's, networking, home labs, etc.) available with more relevance to their everyday experience than an "old technology" like radio. Perhaps this approach could be more effective if the "more modern" aspects of radio were emphasized: robotics, drones, radio control, ballooning, etc. This would require mentors to be willing to learn these activities, recruits youth with interest and pass on their knowledge.

The fastest growing segment of hams are those who Frank calls "late in life" hams. Almost one-fourth of hams licensed less than 10 years are 50+ years old. These potential hams are more likely to be interested in radio for traditional uses like social interaction (meetings, rag chewing), grid down concerns, EMCOMM, etc. From a commercial perspective, they have more time and disposable income than teenagers! From a hobby growth perspective, they may also have children and grandchildren that they can ~~recruit~~ influence. I got interested in radio as a youth due to my Dad's interest, so it can happen.

While I enjoyed reading Frank's wide-ranging analysis, it did not change my statement from the March 2025 article quoted above.