

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2025 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mark Phillips - KI5POH

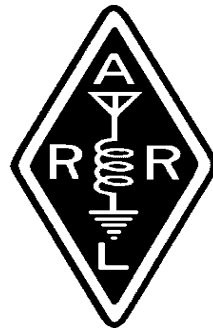
Vice Pres: Dave Emmerling - NR5AT

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.

FEBRUARY MINUTES

Mark, KI5POH, opened the meeting at 19:00. Previous months minutes were accepted as written. Treasurer report was announced. New business was voted on and passed to connect our SKYWARN repeater to the East Texas wide area network of repeaters. K5T contact number wasn't available to disclose. Darrell, KI5PYQ, asked members if they

were wanting to participate in the K5C special event in April. So far there haven't been enough response to do the special event. Mike, WD5EFY, announced the Neches River Rendezvous on May 31st. Mike was asking for volunteers for communications as well as the MS150 Houston to Austin bike race. Meeting was closed at 19:25.

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

March already? That is incredible. I am ready for some spring weather. If you were not at February's club meeting, we did vote to join the Lufkin's Ham Club Connected Repeater System. I look forward to getting our repeater connected to the system and feel like this will be beneficial for our club and other clubs that are connected. We will keep you updated on the progress of getting connected.

Our next club meeting will be on Tuesday, March 4th and I look forward to seeing you there.

Upcoming Hamfests:
 March 1st - Irving, TX, Hamfest
 March 7th - 8th - Greater Houston Hamfest, Rosenberg, 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

Hello Everyone!

Hope everyone has been staying warm and taking full advantage of the cold weather by using it as an excuse to stay inside and jump on the radio!

I have the uncanny ability of turning molehills into mountains. I recently bought a miter saw for the shop and then decided I didn't have room for the saw to be used in the manner I bought it for SO I started reorganizing my

shop. Reorganizing as it applies to me means "tear the entire shop apart", and once apart then and only then give some thought as to how to put it back together. This was the case this past Monday, here it is Friday and the contents of the shop are still in the middle of the floor. Sometimes I truly hate hanging out with myself!

We should have a great program for the March meeting, John Kelly will give a presentation on his new radio. In addition, Robert and Mike Miles were able to secure a presentation for us in April re. bleeding management...this should also be a great program.

Again, been a dull month (except for my motorhome....don't ask) so not a whole lot to write about! Hope everyone has a good month. See everyone at the March meeting!

73, NR5AT
 Dave Emmerling
Dke1955@duck.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

By the time this is published, I will have my license renewed and on longer in suspended status. I have to compliment the FCC IT Help Desk staff. They helped me navigate through the maze they have many.

My list was posted 24 hours later. Of course they got my money. All were very polite and knowledgeable about the process. Thanks.

The weather seems to be a regular topic here. Why Change? I started writing this the 19th. The forecast for the next few days: cold, cloudy, windy. Typical winter in East Texas. But, I saw something a bit unusual, a potential for frostbite. Cold and windy is not to be taken lightly. You can review the warning at the NWS-Shreveport web site and take a look at some of their products. Hope everyone was well prepared for the cold

Let's look over net operations for a bit. NARC

has 2 weekly nets ARES and Weather. It's a good time to practice being on a net running a net and just visit a little bit and validating that the equipment is working up to speed. Thanks to everyone who checks in and thank you to the net controllers who manage the nets. Some have been doing it for a number of years. Let's do a little roll call:

ARES Mondays

1st: W5WJC Jonathan

2nd: KD5FEE Robert

3rd: K5AGE RM

4th: W5TV Dr Tom

5th: W5WJC Jonathan

WEATHER: Thursdays

1st: KI5MHB Wolfie

2nd: AE5P Army

3rd: KD5GEN Rusty

4th: KI5FIQ Aaron

5th: AE5P Army

It's not terribly hard to be a net controller. The scripts for the nets are available on our web site, you need something to record check ins, take notes and drop me a line when you're done.

Thanks again, everybody

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

VE TESTING

Our February 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, Dave NR5AC, 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** March 4th at Nacogdoches EOC. Meeting begins at 19:00; Please plan to arrive early for socialization with the doors opening at 18:30.

John Kelly will give a presentation on his new radio.

Hope to see y'all there.

FOX HUNT

Next fox hunt will be March 8th 10:00 to 12:00. After the fox hunt, we will enjoy lunch at CC's Smokehouse. Be the first to find the fox and your lunch will be on the club. How long will it take you to find it?

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

March 4th 19:00
April 1st 19:00
May 6th 19:00

Notes of Interest

Dues for 2025 are now due.

Some Interesting and Some Troubling Amateur Radio License Statistics

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

I stumbled upon an interesting website with several tables and graphs of amateur radio license data for the United States ([US Amateur Data](#)). Most of the information was updated as of December 31, 2024. Where this is not the case, I will note the date for that data.

First, some of the interesting information. By far, the most common first prefix letter is "K" with just over 72% of amateur licenses. "W" and "N" are at ~14% and ~11%, respectively; while "A" is the first prefix letter for only 3.2% of amateur licenses. These numbers surprised me because I felt like I have made many more contacts with A, N and W prefixes than the above percentages. To check on this, I sorted my ALog file by callsign and exported all of the A, K, N and W contacts as adif files. I deleted the contacts that were not US states (mainly Puerto Rico) and "re-enumerated" the adif list to get the totals. I compare the web data to my contacts in the table below.

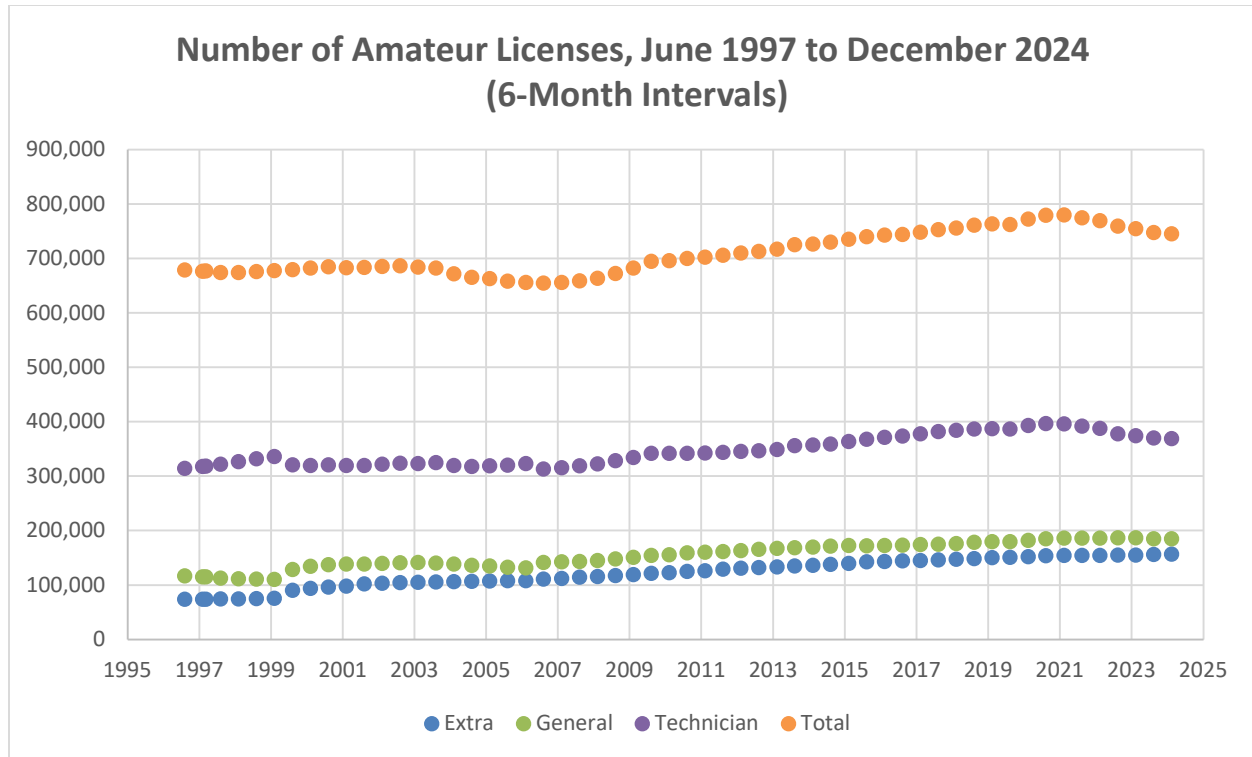
First Letter of Call	US Data	N5JGE Data
A	3.2%	8.2%
K	72.3%	47.3%
N	10.6%	18.8%
W	13.8%	25.8%

As I suspected, the A, N, and W prefix contacts in my log are much higher than they are in the US amateur license database. In trying to find the reason for this, I looked at the top 50 POTA activators. Of the top-50, 39 were US operators. The percentage of A, K, N and W prefixes among those POTA activators was added to the table and shown below. POTA activators have a much higher percentage of A and N prefixes and a slightly higher percentage of W prefixes than US amateurs in general. So, the fact that I do a lot of POTA hunting seems to explain some of the differences between my contacts compared to US licenses overall. Perhaps if looked at larger sample of POTA activators, the number of N and W prefixes would become closer to my contact data.

First Letter of Call	US Data	N5JGE Data	POTA Activators
A	3.2%	8.2%	10.2%
K	72.3%	47.3%	46.2%
N	10.6%	18.8%	28.2%
W	13.8%	25.8%	15.4%

Another statistic that was surprising to me is that only 21% of amateurs have vanity call signs, while 79% of amateurs kept their FCC-issued call signs. I thought the vanity call signs would be higher based hams that I know. One statistic that was not provided is the number of hams that have region numbers different than the region that they actually live in. This is one FCC change that I wish was not done because it would be nice to know from their call sign about where a ham was located. Of course, with modern logging software or online databases (like QRZ and POTA), you can instantly find that information and much more if you are online with your cellphone or PC while operating.

Now for some of the troubling data. The graph below shows the number of licensed amateurs from 1997 until the end of 2024. The overall trend is positive, but the rate of growth is very slow. The trendline over this time shows 4137 new licenses per year or a growth rate of only 0.56% / year. There was a dip in the number of licensees from 2003 to 2007, followed by a steady increase from 2007 through 2020. The rate of growth during that period was twice that of the overall period (1.1% or 8510 new licenses / year). The number of licenses has decreased every year since then at an average rate of 4.4% as detailed in the table below the graph. (For the graph and table, I am not showing the Novice and Advanced license classes. However, the data for those license classes are included in the total license numbers.)



Amateur Radio Operators by Class, December 2021 to December 2024

License Class	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	4-Yr. Change	% Change
Extra	154,347	154,442	155,126	156,532	2,185	1.42
General	185,997	186,324	186,742	185,273	-724	-0.39
Technician	396,232	387,548	374,440	368,992	-27,240	-6.87
Total	779,554	769,156	754,534	745,283	-34,271	-4.4

The final illustration (below) shows the change in amateur licenses by state. Blue-tinted states gained amateur licenses, white states about the same and red-tinted states lost amateur licenses. The largest percentage license losses were in CA and HI. However, you can see widespread license losses across most of the Northeast and Upper Midwest. I suspect that losses in CA and HI were mostly due to migration out of state and are probably a major reason for the increases in the mountain states. In the Northeast and Upper Midwest, much of the decline is likely due to demographics (older population on average). However, migration is also a likely factor as indicated by the increase of licenses in TN and the Carolinas. It is rather surprising that TX and FL with their rapid growth rates due to in-migration show little to no change in the number of licenses.

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.

