

December 2019

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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VE License Exam Info — Page 6

Lunch Break - North

Dec 18 Gianna's
Jan 08 Spring Creek BBQ
Jan 15 Panera Bread
Jan 22 Jason's Deli
Jan 29 Adriatic Café
Feb 05 Woodlands Sweet Tomatoes

Saturday Breakfast:

Saturdays at 7 am
Denny's 6504 FM 2920 @ TC Jester
(west of Kuykendahl)

Lunch Break - Medical Center

Dec 18 Niko Niko's Greek & American Café (BW-8 & I-10 West)
Jan 08 Pappas Barbecue
Jan 15 Antonio's Mexican Grill
Jan 22 Jason's Deli
Jan 29 Buffalo Grille

Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers lunch):

Mondays at 11 am; Goodson's in Tomball

Next Meeting: Friday, December 20th

K5ZTY "Show and Tell"

K5ZTY "Show and Tell" - bring your home brew projects and tell us all about them. Along with this meeting we will also have refreshments provided by volunteers so bring your home-made treats!

- Friday December 20th, 2019 at 7:30PM
- Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379.

NARS News is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS). Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Services Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, ARRL Club No. 2120. Please send all submissions to the newsletter editor before the end of the month prior to publication.

Meeting Location

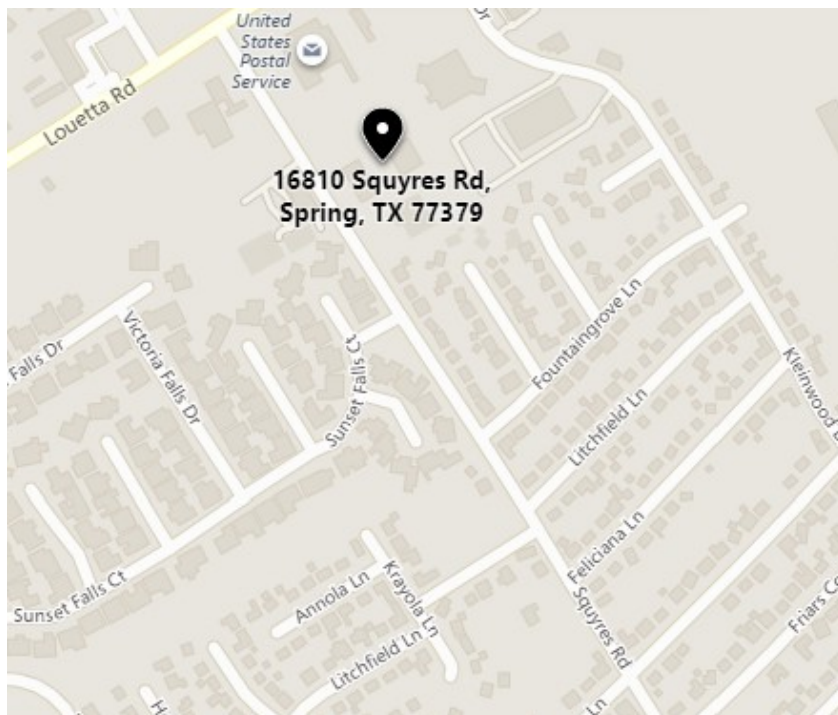
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



Picture from <http://kleinfiredept.com/services/stations/headquarters>

The Board wishes to thank the Klein Fire Department for the generous offer allowing NARS use of their facility.

LOCATION MAP — 16810 Squyres Rd.



Christmas message and greetings from NARS President

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to extend my heart felt wishes to all NARS members and their families for a very *Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!* 2019 has been a very exciting year of growth and technical achievement for our club. Membership is continuing to grow with approximately 135 registered members of which 31 are new members. Below is a recap of a few accomplishments this year but not limited to the following:

1. Repairs to the NARS Galleria Two-meter repeater including an internet link using Echo-Link & AllStar links. We have established another two-meter repeater in beta testing which will be deployed early next year expanding our overall area coverage.
2. New board members added bringing more talent to move our club forward.
3. The By-Laws have been updated to reflect more up to date functions and commitments.
4. Updated NARS website to automate membership application and dues processing along with setting up Officers unique email addresses.
5. We have held more than three DMR training classes and provided technical support to all those needing help in building Hotspots or Code Plugs for DMR Radio's.
6. Presentations on Satellite communications, Antenna structures, FT8 with WSJT-X and JS8Call, Emergency preparedness, AMSAT and HAMSATS, and much more.
7. Secured a new meeting facility that provides for larger meeting space, audio/video capabilities and parking.
8. ARRL Field Day 1st place class 2F STX.
9. Assisted the Fire Department in smoke alarm blitz. The blitz will help residents of the Pinewood Place subdivision have their smoke alarms inspected and replaced by firefighters.
10. Supported the annual WalMart Bell Ringers. About 14 members supported this event.
11. Balloon launches please visit K5WH site for more details.

All these accomplishments could not be achieved without the tremendous dedication of our NARS membership and hard work of the Board members. I believe that NARS has become the most active, diverse and committed club in Houston area in supporting Emergency Services and local special events. NARS is on the move to be the number one club in the Houston area as shown in membership growth. The work ethic and commitment to the NARS club is immense. I want to express my gratitude to everyone and their families for the sacrifices made in 2019. Of course, I suppose, there is no harm in adding that we hope you are just as enthusiastic in 2020!!

A very special thankyou to all our V.E.'s for the outstanding commitment to providing Amateur Radio Licensing testing to more than 56 Hams serviced; 80 Tests given and 36 NEW Hams during the year. We had a total of 18 VE's available with an average of 6 VE's in attendance each month. That shows commitment!

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President's Corner—Continued from Page 3

Remember our December meeting is “Show and Tell” month, so bring your home brew projects and tell us all about them. Along with this meeting we will also have refreshments provided by volunteers so bring your home-made treats!

Please reserve this date for our Annual Awards Banquet. Members/family and guests are invited to attend this event.

THE BACKYARD GRILL
9453 JONES RD, Houston, TX
@ 6pm on January 17, 2020

See you at our December meeting!

Ron Matusek, WA6TQH President, NARS

Opportunities to Serve

DECEMBER MEETING

Our December meeting is the annual K5ZTY “Show and Tell” meeting, so bring your home brew projects and tell us all about them. Along with this meeting we will also have refreshments provided by volunteers so bring your home-made treats!

Friday, December 20th at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379.

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Antennas and Coax presented by John Parmalee K5VGM. He published emails regarding an application he would like everyone to download. He used that application to demonstrate how to construct/tune antennas.

DMR Training

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Video of each Session please bring a USB stick (estimate 3GB per session) and we can make a copy available to you to download on your USB stick with a NARS donation of \$6.00 per session. You can sign up at the meeting. Many have requested this as a helpful tool to refer back to when programming radio's and other general information related to DMR. This video is NOT planned for wide public publication so take advantage of this opportunity.

VE Session Congratulations

- Ryan A Callison - KD5QAQ Upgrade to Extra
- Brandon, Rogers - New Technician
- Christopher, Perry - New Technician
- Robert, Heyt - New Technician
- Robert, Melloy II - New Technician
- Samuel, Barnes - New Technician
- Danny, Romeyn - New Technician
- Michael, Sewell - New Technician
- Eric, Beard - New Technician

Saturday, November 23rd
(Tomball Regional Hospital)

We had 9 candidates taking 12 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 8; passed 8
Element 3 tests given: 3; passed 0; Failed 3
Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1; Failed 0

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:
Martin Rogoff N5GPS; Stephen G. Protz
KA5AUD; Cindy Grant KM4YGG; Robert Ewers
K9HOU; Keith Dutson NM5G; Sam Labarbera
N6HB; Marty Fitzgerald W5MF.

And to Ron Matusek WA6TQH , NARS ARRL VE Liaison.

Special points of interest:

- Next VE Session December 28th, 2019; 8:15
at Tomball Regional Hospital - Green Confer-
ence Room.

NARS WEBSITE: W5NC.NET
E-Mail Reflector: mailman.qth.net.

NARS now has a new address!

Please update your address list!

Northwest Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 11483 Spring, TX 77391



Houston Transtar Building

Conference Center West Entrance

6922 Katy Road

Houston, TX 77024

V.E. Exams every 4th Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Mark Landress, WB5ANN@arrl.net for further info.

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS Info

NARS name tag

Any member can request a badge and should contact Cindy, KM4YGG, & Art, KM4YGH.

Board Meetings

The board meetings will be at 6:00 on the same date and at the same location as the general membership meeting, except for January due to the NARS award banquet.

General Membership Meetings

3rd. Friday each month at 7:30 pm. — EXCEPT January Banquet
Located at Klein Fire Station Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. Located behind Klein Fire Station 4.

Weekly 2m Net

Wednesdays at 8 pm.
Monitor Reflector for Current Repeater.
Coordinator: Neal Naumann N5EN.

Weekly DMR Net

Tuesdays at 7 pm.
Monitor Reflector for Current Repeater.
Coordinator: Ron Matusek WA6TQH
ronm1@att.net

NARS Resource List

Digital Modes (Including DMR)

Walter Holmes – K5WH

Marty Fitzgerald – W5MF

Ron Matusek – WA6TQH

NARS Officers & Other Contacts

President & Board Chairman

Ron Matusek WA6TQH
713-825-9606
officers@w5nc.net

Vice President

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281 251-4301
officers@w5nc.net

Treasurer

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
713 299-6994
officers@w5nc.net

Secretary

Martin Rogoff N5GPS
281 890-4538
officers@w5nc.net

Newsletter Editor

Martin Rogoff N5GPS
832-603-0036
officers@w5nc.net

Directors (term expires 12/31/2019)

Cindy Grant KM4YGG
352-318-7430
officers@w5nc.net

Mike Bowen WE5ET

281 954-0940
officers@w5nc.net

Directors (term expires 12/31/2020)

Richard Nelson KF5WRD
281 257-1279
officers@w5nc.net

Mike Pate K5MAP

281-376-1316
officers@w5nc.net

Texas QSO Party

Co-coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W
832 657-4832
no5w.chuck@gmail.com

Administrative & General Info.

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281 251-4301
officers@w5nc.net

Web site

URL: <http://www.w5nc.net>
Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
281 370-3510 webmaster@w5nc.net

NARS E-Mail Reflector

NARS@mailman.qth.net
Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
keith1@dutson.net

VE Session (ARRL) Manager

Ronald Matusek – WA6TQH
vec@w5nc.net

Texas QSO Party

Co-coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
281 516-1466
keith1@dutson.net

A Ham Radio Operator's Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through two meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.



The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HTs to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So, I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Re-soldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...

(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no goodbye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."