

November 2019

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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VE License Exam Info — Page 6

Lunch Break - North

Nov 13 Mi Rancho Grill & Bar
 Nov 20 Panera Bread
 Nov 27 Jason's Deli
 Dec 04 Adriatic Cafe
 Dec 11 Woodlands Sweet Tomatoes
 Dec 18 BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

Saturday Breakfast:

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

Lunch Break - Medical Center

Nov 13 Jason's Deli
 Nov 20 Buffalo Grille
 Nov 27 Vieng Thai Restaurant
 Dec 04 Southwell's Hamburger Grill
 Dec 11 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
 Dec 18 Niko Niko's Greek & American Café (BW-8 & I-10 West)

Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers lunch):

Mondays at 11 am; Goodson's in Tomball

Next Meeting: Friday, November 15th

Antennas and Coax

Our meeting this month will be about Antennas and Coax presented by John Parmalee, K5VGM. John would like everyone to download and install MMANA-GAL and bring it on their laptop to the November meeting so that we can run through the examples together. John will use the application to demonstrate how to construct/tune antennas.

- Friday November 15th, 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

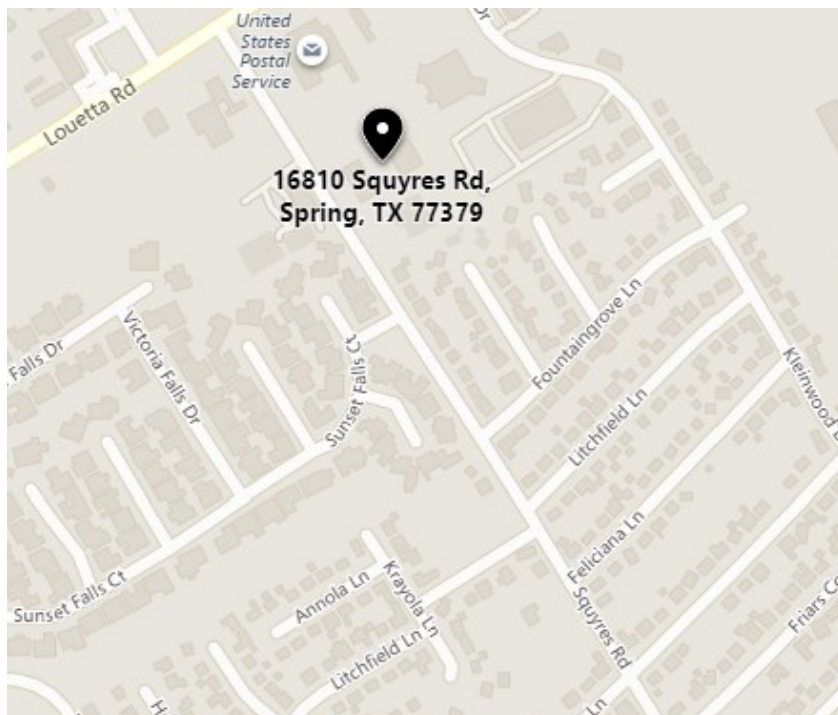
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



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.



President's Corner

NARS Board Elections!

We will hold elections for club officers at our November meeting. The four positions up for election are:

Secretary – 1-year term

Treasurer – 1-year term

Director-At-Large – 2-year term

Director-At-Large – 2-year term

NOW is the time to get involved and help set the direction for the NARS Club for year 2020. We are looking for proactive persons to take on responsibility for setting the agenda and taking the lead responsibility for our club. Please be sure to read the by-laws regarding officer responsibilities and commitment.

The new officer installations will take effect at our Awards Banquet in January.

General Meeting

Our meeting this month will be about Antennas and Coax presented by John Parmalee K5VGM. He has published emails regarding an application he would like everyone to download. He will use that application to demonstrate how to construct/tune antennas.

November Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving in 2019 is on Thursday, the **28th of November** (28/11/2019).

In the United States, Thanksgiving is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. The “**True**” Meaning of Thanksgiving. **People gather with their families to enjoy the day** and to enjoy the love and comfort of having them in their lives to give thanks on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is an important time in most everyone's life because it's a time of giving thanks to God, people, achievements and those things they could not achieve.

Let us also remember those NARS members who have passed away this year as those families need our continued prayer full support!

I want to wish everyone a very happy and safe Thanksgiving!

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President's Corner—Continued from Page 3

VE Exam Session

Our next exam session we be at our regular location Tomball Regional Hospital on Saturday November 23rd starting at 8:15AM. Walk-ins are welcome. Location will be in the Green Room just inside the main entrance.

Keep reading on through the Newsletter as NARS has a full calendar of exciting activities.

Come on out and get involved!

See you at our October meeting!

Ron Matusek, WA6TQH President, NARS

Opportunities to Serve

NOVEMBER MEETING

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

Friday, November 15th at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379.

OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

We had a DMR radio workshop and a tutorial and demonstration on the NanoVNA Network Analyzer. One of the tasks that the network analyzer can be used for is to graphically see the performance of VHF/UHF whip 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.

Congratulations

- Dan H. Carroll – KD5DAN Upgrade to Extra
- Richard A. McQuaide - KI5FUY – Upgrade to General
- Terri A. Miller - New Technician
- Ian R. Wilkie - New Technician
- Joshua D. Bennink - New Technician
- James R. Whiting - New Technician

Saturday, September 28th
(Tomball Regional Hospital)

We had 6 candidates taking 6 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 4; passed 4

Element 3 tests given: 1; passed 1; Failed 0

Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 1; Failed 1

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; Michael Wilson KC5MW.

And to Ron Matusek WA6TQH , NARS ARRL VE Liaison.

Special points of interest:

- Next VE Session November 23rd, 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
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Directors (term expires 12/31/2019)

Cindy Grant KM4YGG
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Mike Bowen WE5ET

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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

Amazon Fulfillment Center HOU2 – Friday, Nov 1, 2019, 0900

Tour Group:

Walter Holmes K5WH (organizer)

Mike Bee W5MAB

Lee Glassman KC3LEE

Ron Matussek WA6TQH

Charlie Keng K5ENG

Keith Dutson NM5G

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF

Rob Nixon KD5BXZ

John Parmalee K5VGM

Jeanne Parmalee K5VGM XYL

This group was formed after Walter offered to set it up. His daughter is employed by Amazon and provided the connection for the tour. Amazon allows 10 participants from a group, so the list was made quickly.

Tour Scenario:

Just about everyone orders items from Amazon. There must be millions of items available to order online. So, how do they ship these items so quickly? This tour revealed answers to most questions.

The HOU2 fulfillment center handles non-perishable items up to 30 pounds that will fit in standard containers, about the size of an archive box. Other items are routed to other centers.

Some interesting facts:

The HOU2 facility is housed in a building with four floors and 875000 square feet. There are about 1000 robots running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Transportation is handled by 18-wheeler trucks, both for stock coming in and orders going out. Further processing is handled by other facilities.

The Tour:



Step 1: Stocking in items to inventory.

This process is automated, as are virtually all steps. Stock-in is done on the second floor. A worker takes an item from the shipping box, scans it, and places it into a robot-controlled multi-partitioned box that holds about 100 various items. The automation shines a light on the partition where the item is to be held. When the box is full, the robot takes it to the large area where all boxes wait to be called for picking ordered items.

Step 2: Picking items for orders.

This process is also done on the second floor. The robots bring the items from inventory to the picking station where the automation again shines a light on the partition where the item is located. Each item is scanned to ensure it matches the picking order, and these items are placed in a yellow plastic box. When the pick process is complete, there may be multiple orders in the same yellow box. Automation instructs the picker to place the yellow box in a specific location that puts the box on a conveyor belt that goes to the third floor.



Step 3: Packaging

This process is done on the third floor. Small orders go to an envelope station while larger orders go to a box station.



The envelope station sizes the envelope according to each order using a heat sealer, and the worker scans and places the item (s) in the partially sealed envelope. The worker touches a screen to indicate the items have been placed, then the machine makes the final seal, prints the shipping label and places the envelope on another conveyor belt for delivery to shipping.

The box station is a bit more complex. The worker picks the items from the yellow box, scans them and prepares a box according to information on the order display. Tape used to prepare and seal the box is automatically dispensed with proper length. Bubble packs are also automatically prepared for dispensing as needed. Once the box is prepared, filled and sealed, the worker places it on a conveyor belt which routes it to a labeling station. If this station senses a problem, the problem box is diverted to another worker that tries to correct the error. Good boxes are sent on to shipping by the conveyor.

Step 4: Shipping.

This process is completely automated and involves taking packages from the third floor to a maze of conveyors running at more than 20 miles per hour that places boxes on ramps that lead to the proper shipping bay, each bay having an 18-wheeler truck, backed up to the shipping bay. Workers load each truck using pallets and forklift trucks. Packages destined for a bay that has a full truck are routed back for holding until an empty truck is ready.

There are several steps that have not been covered here, because they are too complicated to explain. It is therefore recommended that the reader take the tour if more information is desired.