

September 2019

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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Lunch Break - North

Sep 25 Panera Bread
 Oct 02 Jason's Deli
 Oct 09 Adriatic Café
 Oct 16 Woodlands Sweet Tomatoes
 Oct 23 BJ's Rest & Brewhouse
 Oct 30 Gianna's Restaurant
 Nov 06 Spring Creek BBQ

Saturday Breakfast:

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

Lunch Break - Medical Center

Sep 25 Buffalo Grille
 Oct 02 Vieng Thai Restaurant
 Oct 09 Southwell's Hamburger Grill
 Oct 16 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
 Oct 23 Niko Niko's Café
 Oct 30 Pappas Barbecue
 Nov 06 Antonio's Mexican Grill

Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers lunch):

Mondays at 11 am; Goodson's in Tomball

Next Meeting: Friday, September 20th

Our meeting this month will be a skype link with DX Engineering. The presentation will be on various antenna's. Come prepared to ask questions.

- Friday September 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

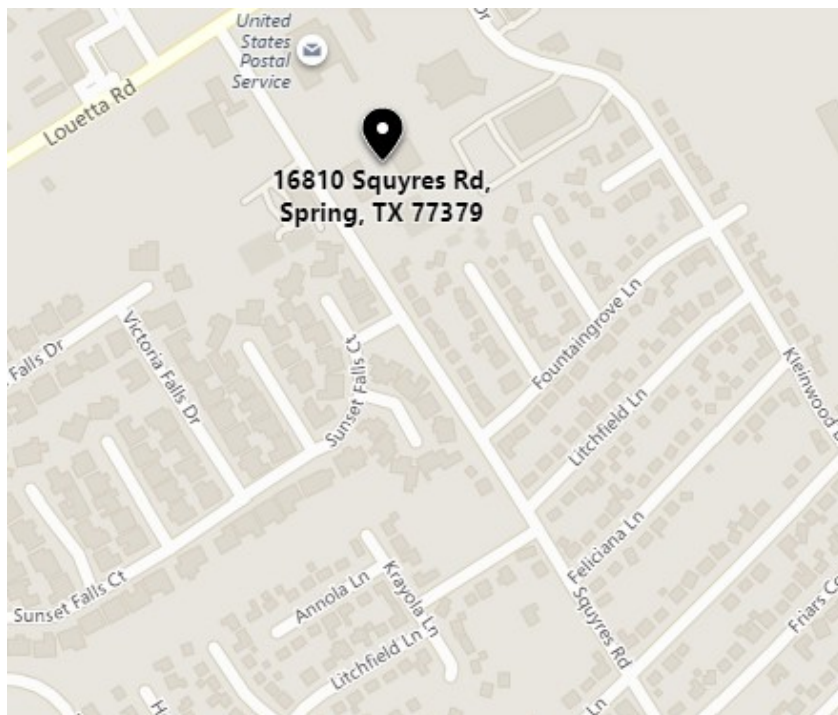
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



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.



President's Corner

As expected, September is proving to be a very pack filled month. Weather being at the top of the list, Hurricane Dorian is one of the biggest hurricanes to threaten the U.S. in many years. Rain and Storm surge have been the primary threats, with extensive flooding reported in coastal counties of Georgia and the Carolinas, coupled with high winds that downed trees and caused power outages. ARES organizations in Florida's three ARRL Sections held conference calls to continue coordination of preparedness activities for Amateur Radio emergency communications. The Hurricane season is NOT over yet! Be ready! Keep fuel for generators on hand, batteries charged, portable antenna's if needed and keep checking into the weekly nets for any updates.

General Meeting

Our meeting this month will be a skype link with DX Engineering. Presentation will be on Various Antenna's. Come prepared to ask questions.

NARS Member Passing

Nars has lost another longtime member. Bill Denton W5SB, avid contester, former NARS President/Vice-President/Director, and generally a great guy, unfortunately passed away on August 29, 2019. He was one of the founding fathers of NARS and will be missed. He is survived by his wife Marian and two daughters'. The family has requested any donation be made to the Alzheimer's Association in Bill's name.

VHF/DMR Repeater Updates

The **NARS repeater 146.66 is alive and well!** We have a new control operator for the NARS Wednesday night Rag Chew Net at 8pm. Neal Naumann N5EN has taken over for Jerry Whiting KB5VGD and is doing a great job. Please join us every Wednesday night at 8pm on 146.660 minus .600 offset and tone of 141.3. Note: you might notice that Neal's call sign is familiar; N5EN used be the call sign of Steve Niles (SK) former NARS member. On September 4, 2019 there were 14 check ins.

Improvement plans for the NARS 146.66 repeater continue. The repeater committee is aware of noise that comes and goes on the repeater. With all the RF flying around the current location it is impossible to determine where it is coming from or what can be done about. The location is over 300 feet up and is an ideal location and centrally located. With that thought in mind we have plans to add a repeater links. One link would have a receiver and linking system located in the general northwest Houston area with a reasonable high location. From an operator's perspective, everything would be the same, but on a different tone. Locations like water towers or tall building are under consideration. At this time, we have, two UHF Motorola radios have been purchased and we are looking at a VHF Motorola to complete the radio part.

Power supply, antenna, coax, and other accessories will be needed.

Estimated cost of this setup is about \$500. If this plan works out, we could add more links in other areas of town, depending on funding and access to a location.

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President's Corner—Continued from Page 3

The other link being considered is EcoLink/Allstar. With this link you would be able to link into the NARS repeater via an app on your cell phone or a program on your computer. Estimated cost for this is less than \$500. Currently there is just over \$650 in the repeater fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact any NARS officer.

On the **DMR** side. We now have a **NARS DMR TG: 3146211**. It is available on both the Klein and Cypress local repeaters and using Brandmeister Hotspot. Brandmeister NARS talk group (HOTSPOT) will be our primary method of checking into the DMR net (7:00 PM on Tuesday nights) and our secondary method will be on the NARS talk group on the Cypress and Klein repeaters (around 7:10 PM). Currently no plans to link Cypress and Klein repeaters to Brandmeister so be sure to check in using your hotspot. If you need any help updating your code plugs to send/receive on the NARS talk groups on the Cypress or Klein repeaters, or on your hotspot, please make contact with Walter K5WH, Marty W5MF, Ron WA6TQH or Sam N6HB and we will help you upgrade your radios.

We look forward to seeing you on the DMR Net next week.

FT8

The latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community has been luring away many of those already using the popular JT65 “weak-signal” mode. FT8 is included in a beta release of **WSJT-X**, version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The **notes** for the release say that FT8 offers “sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel.” Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.

“FT8 is an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop Es on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable,”

Many NARS members are currently using FT8 so give it a try and again if you need assistance our technical staff is ready to help.

VE Exam Session

Our next exam session we be at our regular location Tomball Regional Hospital on Saturday September 28th 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 September meeting!

Ron Matusek, WA6TQH President, NARS

Opportunities to Serve

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September Program will be a skype link with DX Engineering. Presentation will be on Various Antenna's. Come prepared to ask questions.

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

AUGUST MEETING RECAP

Andy MacAllister, W5ACM, discussed 50 Years of AMSAT and HAMSATS. He also discussed budget conscience ways to access satellites.

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

- Donald S. Bayer – New Technician
- Lawrence ED. Castillo Jr. – New Technician
- Paul F. Kent KI5FJS - Upgrade to Extra
- Michael A. Bee W5MAB – Upgrade to Extra

Saturday, August 24th (Tomball Regional Hospital)

We had 4 candidates taking 5 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 2; passed 2

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

Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 2; Failed 0

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS; Stephen G. Protz
KA5AUD; Cindy Grant KM4YGG; Keith Dutson
NM5G; Brett M. Hebert KG5IQU; Brian C. Derx,
N5BA; Sam Labarbera N6HB; Sheree Horton
KF5LMJ; Dan Carroll KD5DAN.

And to Ron Matusek WA6TQH , NARS ARRL VE Liaison.

Special points of interest:

- Next VE Session September 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

Bill Denton, W5SB, has become a silent key. Bill was a great guy, avid contester, and a NARS Life member since 1991. He will be missed.



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

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Mike Bowen N8ILU

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Directors (term expires 12/31/2020)

Richard Nelson KF5WRD
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Mike Pate K5MAP

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officers@w5nc.net

Texas QSO Party

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

Administrative & General Info.

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281 251-4301
officers@w5nc.net

Web site

URL: <http://www.w5nc.net>
Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
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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
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keith1@dutson.net