

August 2020

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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### Lunch Break - North

# Suspended

#### **Saturday Breakfast:**

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

#### **Lunch Break - Medical Center**

Aug 19 Pappas Barbecue  
Aug 26 Antonio's Mexican Grill  
Sep 02 Jason's Tavern  
Sep 09 Buffalo Grille  
Sep 16 Vieng Thai Restaurant  
Sep 23 Southwell's Hamburger Grill  
Sep 30 Niko Niko's (BW-8 & I-10 West)

#### **Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers**

**Lunch):**  
Mondays at 11 am; Goodson's in  
Tomball

**The following items have been changed for August:**

- 1. The August 21<sup>st</sup> general meeting will take place via ZOOM.**
- 2. The August 22<sup>nd</sup> VE session has been cancelled.**
- 3. Lunch Break Medical Center and North have been suspended until further notice.**

*Next Gathering: Friday, August 21st*

“Mobile operation and Contesting”.

- August 21st, 2020 at 7:00PM
- ZOOM.
- login: 2815436502 PC: 123456

**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—When social gatherings are allowed.

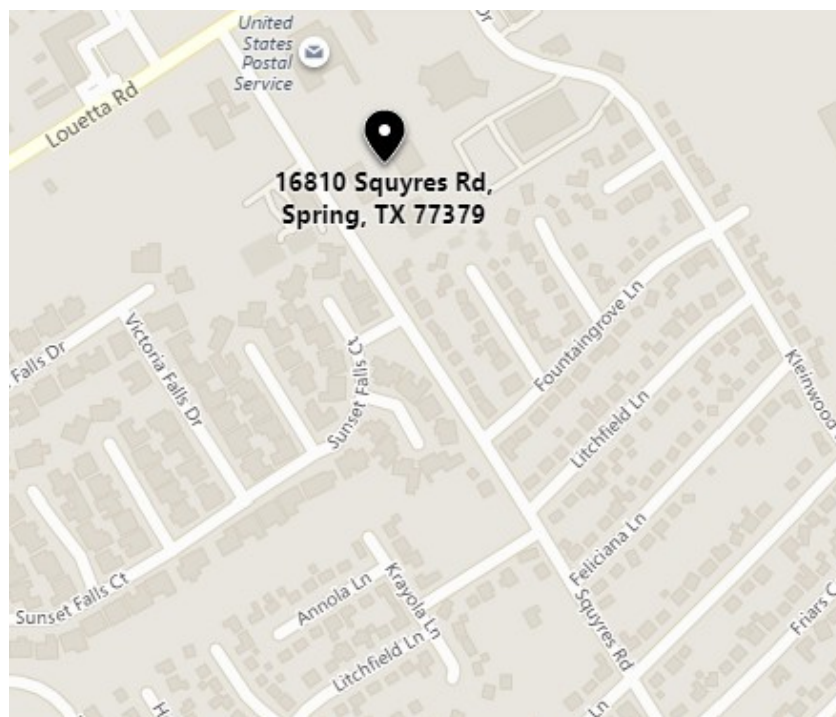
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



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.**



## **August 2020 message from NARS President**

As we continue with the mandate to stay home, many of us are staying in touch via remote communications like “ZOOM”. This affords us the opportunity to share various technical activities such as: Building 3D printers, comparing various modifications and capabilities along with sharing projects. Building transceiver kits like the FT8 Phaser which I built for use at field day. Small compact, portable easy to use. On-going discussions on Balloon projects with video and APRS tracking capabilities.

Here is the current plan we have in place:

Our VE test session for Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at our normal club meeting location Klein FD Administration building has been cancelled. The Tomball Hospital location remains closed to outside groups. September may show promise so keep reading our newsletter for up to date information.

Our Monthly General meetings will continue to be on-line using ZOOM. Details will be published on our website and sent out by Email.

### **Topic for up-coming NARS General meeting – August 21**

This promises to be an exceptional presentation by Andrea Slack, K2EZ. Read the details about this exceptional mobile “ROVER” communications set-up further in this newsletter.

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### **Amateur License Refresher**

It’s probably been awhile since you took your Amateur License exam. Here are a few sample questions from the current question pools just to keep those synapses firing. The questions in the Extra section below are from the new Extra Exam that took effect July 1, 2020.

#### **Extra Pool**

##### **E1B01**

Which of the following constitutes a spurious emission?

- A. An amateur station transmission made without the proper call sign identification
- B. A signal transmitted to prevent its detection by any station other than the intended recipient
- C. Any transmitted signal that unintentionally interferes with another licensed radio station
- D. An emission outside the signal’s necessary bandwidth that can be reduced or eliminated without affecting the information transmitted

**Continued on Page 4**

**President's Corner—Continued from Page 3**

**E1B02**

Which of the following is an acceptable bandwidth for Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) based voice or SSTV digital transmissions made on the HF amateur bands?

- A. 3 kHz
- B. 10 kHz
- C. 15 kHz
- D. 20 kHz

**General Pool**

**G3C01**

Which ionospheric layer is closest to the surface of Earth?

- A. The D layer
- B. The E layer
- C. The F1 layer
- D. The F2 layer

**G3C02**

Where on Earth do ionospheric layers reach their maximum height?

- A. Where the sun is overhead
- B. Where the sun is on the opposite side of Earth
- C. Where the sun is rising
- D. Where the sun has just set

Answers at end of Newsletter

License Refresher Answers:

E1B01 (D) [97.3]

E1B02 (A) [97.307(f)(2)]

G3C01 (A)

G3C02 (A)

**Continued on Page 5**

## **Fun Facts:**

### **Call Signs**

What is the deal with that funny combination of letters and numbers? Well, every licensed Amateur Radio operator is given a unique call sign. It consists of three parts, indicating the operator's country of origin and often even a specific region within the country. It looks something like "UA1LO". The suffix of the call sign identifies the license holder. A license is needed due to potential interference between radio equipment and other radio transmissions, so operators must understand it and be familiar with how it works. Can you guess whose call sign is "UA1LO"? It belonged to Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space!

**Are you a ham radio operator? Don't miss our latest product!**

### **Elmer's**

Imagine you want to learn something new. There is a high probability you wouldn't even know where to start. And now, imagine you get a mentor who guides you through your first steps. That happens when one wants to become Ham Radio operator. Many experienced operators volunteer to offer support and guidance for newbies. Elmer is the term for a **Radio Amateur** mentor.

### **73**

Although hams use many different modes of communication such as voice, digital and even television, the original mode was Morse code. In order to save time, many abbreviations were created by Morse users and 73 is used to sign off with a friendly good-bye. Of course, if you are talking with that special someone a different number is used, 88, which means "love and kisses".

### **ARISS**

ARISS stands for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. Yes, International Space Station. Amateur Radio. In space! ARISS is actually a program and it enables astronauts on the space station to communicate with groups on Mother Earth. Ham operators set up their equipment and people, for example students, can communicate with astronauts in space. Astronauts also need a valid radio amateur license to communicate, so most of the members of astronaut corps are licensed **amateur radio operators**.

Ron Matussek WA6TQH

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## Opportunities to Serve

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## AUGUST GATHERING

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Our August gathering will be held on ZOOM Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7PM.

ZOOM

- login: 2815436502
- PC: 123456

Topic: “Mobile operation and Contesting”

Andrea, K2EZ, will be our guest speaker. She has a Flex 6700 and 500 watt amp in the back seat. That's not all that's in this well equipped vehicle!

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## JULY MEETING RECAP

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The July gathering consisted of:

“Raspberry Pi overview” presented by Jeff Greer W5JEF.

### 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

Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> VE session  
was cancelled.

NARS WEBSITE: [W5NC.NET](http://W5NC.NET)  
E-Mail Reflector: [mailman.qth.net](mailto: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

Special points of interest:

- The Next VE Session that was scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 has been cancelled. Due to the increased Covid-19 risk the fire station is not available.
- Keep checking the reflector in case conditions change.



**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](mailto: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: Sam Labarbera, N6HB  
slabarb@outlook.com



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# NARS Resource List

## Digital Modes (Including DMR)

Walter Holmes – K5WH

Marty Fitzgerald – W5MF

Ron Matusek – WA6TQH

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## NARS Officers & Other Contacts

### President & Board Chairman

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

### Vice President

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF  
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### Secretary

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### Newsletter Editor

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

### Sam Labarbera N6HB

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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  
713-553-1827  
keith1@dutson.net

## NARS has a social media presence

NARS has a social media presence! Thanks to Sam Labarbera, N6HB, we have a Facebook page for those who would like to follow us there. Visit the [W5NC Facebook](#) page and join! It is open to ham radio operators, so there is a short quiz to qualify new members.

We also have a Twitter feed. Follow us on [https://twitter.com/nars\\_w5nc](https://twitter.com/nars_w5nc).

# August 21, 2020 NARS Meeting

Andrea Slack, K2EZ, is the NARS guest speaker this month. Andrea will talk about mobile operating and contesting. She is an accomplished contester, holding world records, and loves to be on the road making contacts. This is a presentation you do not want to miss. She operates mobile from 160 Meter through microwave.



She says she is active on the following amateur bands:

3cm, 10GHz, SSB/CW/FM

5cm, 5.7 GHz SSB/CW/FM

9cm, 3.4 GHz SSB/CW/FM

13cm, 2.4 GHz SSB/CW/FM

23cm, 1.2 GHz SSB/CW/FM

33cm, 902/3 MHz SSB/CW/FM

70cm, 432 MHz/440 MHz SSB/CW/FM

1.25M, 222 MHz SSB/CW/FM

2m, 144 MHz SSB/CW/FM/Digital

6m, 50 MHz SSB/CW/FM/Digital

10m, 28 MHz SSB/CW/FM/Digital

12m, 24.9 MHz SSB/CW/Digital

15m, 21 MHz SSB/CW/Digital

17m, 18.1 MHz SSB/CW/Digital

20m, 14 MHz SSB/CW/Digital

30m, 10.1 MHz CW/Digital

40m, 7.0 MHz SSB/CW/Digital

80m/75m 3.5 MHz SSB/CW/Digital

160m 1.8 MHz SSB/CW/Digital

If you want more information on Andrea's activities along with many more photographs look her up on [qrz.com](http://qrz.com).

## Radio Amateur Takes Part in Historic First Commercial Human Spaceflight to ISS



Bob Behnken, KE5GGX, was one of two NASA astronauts who made spaceflight history over the weekend. Behnken and Doug Hurley were the first astronauts since the 1970s to make a water landing, after their Crew Dragon capsule splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday. On May 30, the pair made history as the first live crew to be launched into space in a commercial vehicle, for a stay on the International Space Station (ISS), marking the return of human spaceflight to US soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle carried the crew into orbit from Cape Canaveral. The so-called “Demo-2” was the last major test for SpaceX’s human spaceflight system, to be certified by NASA for operational crew missions to and from the ISS. Four huge parachutes carried the Crew Dragon capsule to a safe splashdown near Pensacola, Florida, on Sunday, August 1.

“On behalf of the SpaceX and NASA teams, welcome back to planet Earth,” SpaceX Engineer Michael Heiman radioed to the crew after their landing. “And thanks for flying SpaceX.”

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine proclaimed that the US was entering a new era of human spaceflight, noting that NASA was no longer the only option for US space travel. “We are going to be a customer,” he said. NASA has contracted with two companies — SpaceX and Boeing — to ferry astronaut crews to and from the ISS.

While part of the space station crew for 2 months, Behnken and Astronaut Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR, the sole American on board when their *Endeavour* capsule docked, carried out four spacewalks to install new batteries on the ISS.

The SpaceX Crew Dragon vehicle was designed for short-term missions, and Behnken and Hurley’s mission had only been expected to last a week. As a result, Behnken did not receive Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) training on the radio gear in the Russian sector. NASA subsequently decided to monitor the mission and make a decision on how long the Crew Dragon would stay. Cassidy fielded all ARISS school contacts.

Source: [ARRL](#)