

December 2020

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

IN THIS ISSUE

Headlines & Calendar	1
Meeting Location	2
President's Corner	3-4
DMR Training	5
January Meeting	5
December Meeting Recap	5
Opportunities to Serve	5
Announcements	7
Club Information	8

VE License Exam Info — Page 6

Lunch Break - North

Jan 15 Panera Bread
Jan 22 Jason's Deli
Jan 29 Adriatic Café
Feb 05 Woodlands Sweet Tomatoes
Feb 12 BJ's Rest. & Brewhouse
Feb 19 Gianna's

Saturday Breakfast:

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

Lunch Break - Medical Center

Jan 15 Antonio's Mexican Grill
Jan 22 Jason's Deli
Jan 29 Buffalo Grille
Feb 05 Vieng Thai Restaurant
Feb 12 Southwell's Hamburger Grill
Feb 19 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet

Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers lunch):

Mondays at 11 am; Goodson's in Tomball

Next Gathering: Friday, January 17th

NARS Award Banquet

Awards for those who have served NARS during 2020.

Cash prize drawing.

NARS HAM of the Year Award.

Wear the name tag that Cindy Grant made for you.

Contact Marty at fitz6@swbell.net to sign up for your spot.

- January 17, 2020 at 6:00pm
- Back Yard Grill in the Texas Room, same location as last year.
- 9453 Jones Rd., Houston, TX, 77065

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

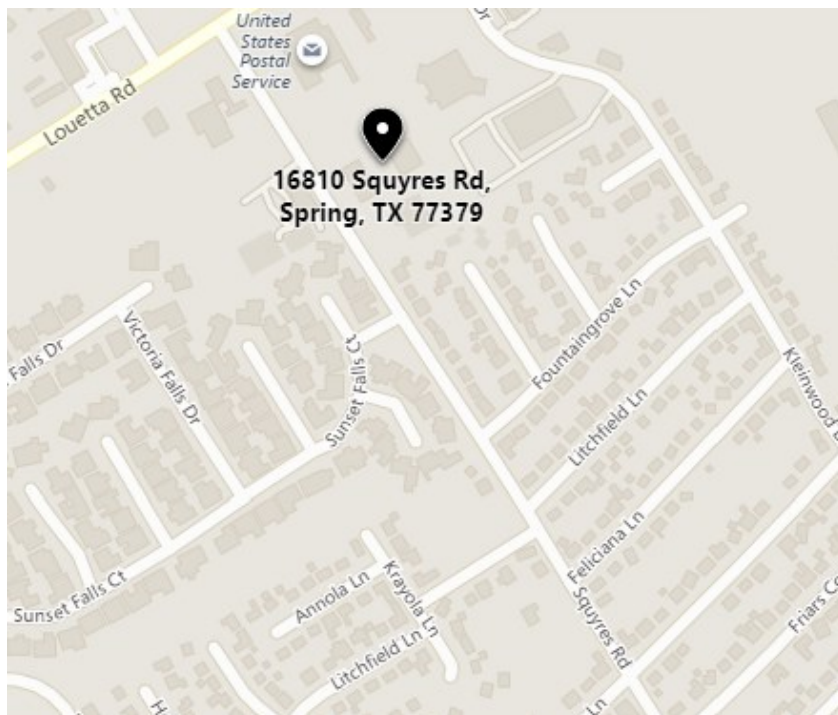
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



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.



January 2020 message and greetings from NARS President

Hello NARS Members,

The Christmas Holidays and New Years have come and gone for another year. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and festive holiday season.

Our February 21st program will be presented by Jason Johnson (KC5HWB) and subject: Addressing “what’s new in amateur radio”.

Along with Christmas and New Year’s, our annual NARS Awards Banquet held on January 17th had a larger attendance than the year before and all reports I have received; a good time was had by all. I will not attempt to name all the members who help make it a success, you know who you are. Please know that your help is Very Much appreciated!

The next monthly VE Test session will be held at 8:15AM Saturday, February 22nd at Tomball Regional Hospital - Main Entrance - The Founders Room – See W5NC web site for directions or ARRL web site. Anyone who wants to observe and/or participate in a session is always welcome. Just let me know if you want to learn more about becoming a volunteer examiner.

We are *always* looking for articles to publish in the newsletter. Topics should apply to Amateur Radio, or other closely related topics. Submissions may be edited for grammar, content, or length; however, that is usually pretty rare. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month; however, submissions received after the deadline will be considered. If a late entry doesn't make it in the current month, it may be used in the following month.

The following is something I came across on the Internet and thought it worth publishing here:

THE AMATEUR'S CODE by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE..... never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL..... offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE..... with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY..... with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED..... Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC..... with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Continued on Page 4

President's Corner—Continued from Page 3

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

Ron Matusek, WA6TQH President, NARS

Opportunities to Serve

JANUARY GATHERING

Our January gathering is the annual awards banquet.

January 17, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Back Yard Grill in the Texas Room,
same location as last year.

9453 Jones Rd., Houston, TX, 77065.

DECEMBER MEETING RECAP

Annual K5ZTY “Show and Tell”
meeting.

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

- Bobby G. Redmon KF5LJK – Upgrade to General
- John C. Rice - New Technician
- Travis D. Bishop - New Technician

Saturday, December 28th
(Tomball Regional Hospital)

We had 3 candidates taking 5 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 2; passed 2
Element 3 tests given: 2; passed 1; Failed 1
Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 0; Failed 1

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:
Martin Rogoff N5GPS; Stephen G. Protz
KA5AUD; Cindy Grant KM4YGG; Brian C. Derx
N5BA; Keith Dutson NM5G; Sam Labarbera
N6HB; Marvin J. Wilken KT4W.

And to Ron Matusek WA6TQH , NARS ARRL VE Liaison.

Special points of interest:

- Next VE Session: January 25th, 2020; 8:15 at Tomball Regional Hospital - Main Entrance - The Founders 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

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Directors (term expires 12/31/2020)

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Mike Pate K5MAP

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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

Tips and Tonics for Healthier Radio Clubs

By D. E. "Dee" Logan, W1HEO

Successful radio clubs are a joy to experience. Easy to spot, they are usually populated by enthusiastic, gung-ho members who are involved with a full agenda of interesting things. They are generally at the center of most Amateur Radio activities in town.

Healthy radio clubs are vitally important to the future of Amateur Radio. It is the club that often provides the motivation and support for such fundamental activities as recruiting new hams, sponsoring radio classes and doing volunteer testing.

Clubs are often the best organizers and financiers of expensive repeater systems, ham fests and emergency communication programs, as well. What makes a radio club successful? What secrets enable them to keep adding members, providing interesting activities and offering interesting programs? Many radio clubs have pondered these questions over the years. Here is a list of eight tips for a healthier radio club. Have Fun! Most of us enjoy Amateur Radio because it's fun. We use it to escape from work and stress, and as long as it fills that need, we return to it again and again. So, the first sign of great radio club is that it is a fun place for hams to go. If it is fun, they will come, but if club meetings are long, boring and serious, seldom creating a chuckle among the members, the future is dark. If, however, the business meetings are kept short and address real club related issues constructive progress can be made.

Active clubs are healthy clubs. In addition to building friendships and mentoring new hams, operating events are a good way to showcase Amateur Radio to the public and recruit new hams.

While clubs must conduct some business during meetings, most of the lengthy planning and detail work can be done by its board and officers. Give 'Em What They Want Good clubs have good programs. The most popular programs will meet the needs and interests of the members, so it pays to stay in touch with them. How? By listening. Survey them, talk with them and solicit feedback. Ask members to list their favorite program topics and invite ideas for guest speakers and activities. Ask what they do not want. Have them evaluate and rate programs and speakers. Check other clubs in the area for the names of good speakers. Find out who in your own club has a skill, talent or specialized knowledge that would make a good program. Publish a Good Newsletter The old saying, "Verbal orders don't go; write it," applies to club meetings. A radio club newsletter fills this need. It also allows a club to promote its next meeting program while reporting a variety of important club news such as plans for Field Day, fox hunts, committee meetings, nets, social events, ham fests and emergency drills. The club newsletter is also an informal history of the organization, and can include the minutes of meetings, as well as recognition of the volunteers who stepped up and made things happen. The newsletter is often the only tangible thing a member receives for their dues, so the club should strive to make it the best quality possible. Finding a good editor who will accept the major responsibility for writing and producing it on time is a top priority and can be difficult. Good editors make good newsletters, and good newsletters are found in good radio clubs. Even novice editors will find a wealth of help in popular software and reference books,

so putting a newsletter together are simple.

Tap the Talent Radio clubs are cooperatives. Since they lack employees or paid staff, everything must be done by the members. These volunteers are the brains and brawn behind every club activity and are extremely important. The ability of a club to tackle a wide variety of programs and projects depends upon having enough volunteers. If there is one sad theme heard again and again in most clubs, it is this: "We don't have enough volunteers. The same few people do all the work. Those who don't pitch in should be pitched out." Radio clubs must tap their talent pool. A skills inventory is helpful in identifying those with special talent or training such as electronic engineers, lawyers, writers, mechanics and so on. New member applications can ask for such information, and a periodic update of skills is helpful. Getting enough volunteers is not just a matter of shaming members into it. Many members will step forward when a need is announced, but others need to be asked. The club's volunteer corps will remain strong if it does a good job of recognizing them and making them stars of the organization. After all, no paycheck is given for their labors, but a classy thing to do is to hand out a sincere public "thank you" during a club meeting, followed by a written acknowledgment in the newsletter. This simple application of human motivation can work wonders. The flip side is that if a club takes its volunteers for granted and ignores recognition, this precious talent pool may soon dry up. A club can do a first-rate job of recognizing its volunteers by presenting awards and certificates at a special meeting or annual social function. How a club treats its volunteers influences the rest of members, and from those ranks can come even more honorees in the future. Stay Active Good clubs offer members a variety of activities. The club meeting is no substitute for fun things like Field Day, fox hunts, emergency drills, social nights, antenna parties and picnics. Active clubs give their members many opportunities to participate in interesting things. Operating events, for example, allow many members to participate. Field Day is a classic opportunity for fun and public service at the same time, and special event stations can create enjoyable fellowship while promoting Amateur Radio. Staying active is a good growth tonic. If the main action in your club is drinking coffee, its future is doomed.

Use your Radio Communications Having a club whose members possess personal radio communication capabilities is a great asset. Having an informal club net can promote fellowship among members while allowing discussion of club activities between regular meetings. Special features can be included, such as ARRL bulletins, a DX bulletin board, swap and shop, group troubleshooting of technical problems or details on new equipment. Promote Fellowship Radio clubs do a wonderful service by helping individual hams meet others and promote mutual help. The tradition of Elmer's helping newcomers is often the first opportunity that hams have to demonstrate fellowship. Together, radio club members can do much more than any individual is able to do. Erecting antennas, helping with license exams, troubleshooting, enjoying social events, sponsoring ham fests, providing emergency communications and many more activities are why radio clubs remain popular. Social events can include such things as an annual awards dinner, like Houston's Northwest Amateur Radio Association does, or informal gatherings such as the Indian Hills Radio Club of Wickliffe, Ohio, that holds a weekly informal "lunch bunch" gathering on Fridays at a local restaurant. Above all, healthy radio clubs are warm, inviting groups that make visitors and newcomers feel welcome. A greeting, handshake, a round of introductions and getting people involved as quickly as possible are sure signs of a club whose future is bright. Recruit New Members Clubs must recruit new members to insure their survival. Members leave for various reasons, and without a plan to replace them, clubs will stagnate. Promotion is important. Keeping the club name before the public and other hams

should be a continuing effort. Use news releases regularly to announce club meetings, Field Day, emergency drills, new officers and social events. Invite newly licensed hams to your club meetings. Have a membership drive to encourage your current members to recruit new ones. Mail your newsletter to area hams with a special invitation to a future meeting and put it on the Internet or send it via e-mail. Encourage members to bring guests. Opportunities to promote membership are limited only by a club's imagination and resources.

In summary, there are numerous factors that determine the success and longevity of radio clubs. So, use these tips for an examination.

Radio Club Program Ideas

- Have a guest speaker. Topics can include ARES, Skywarn, antennas, radio history etc.
- Show a video.
- Show a Power Point.
- Have an auction. Club members can bring items, with a portion of proceeds going to the club.
- Go on a field trip. Visit local radio or TV stations, electronics firms or police communications center.
- Radio trivia game. Ask questions relating to radio, with prizes for most correct answers.
- Show and Tell. Members bring items and describe them.
- Homebrew night. Members bring a radio construction project and describe it.
- QSL night. Cards are shown and stories told relating to the contacts.
- Technology updates. Details of new modes (digital, APRS) and circuits.
- Equipment reviews. Owners of new ham equipment describe and evaluate it.