

March 2020

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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Lunch Break - North

Mar 18 Jason's Deli
 Mar 25 Adriatic Café
 Apr 01 Woodlands Sweet Tomatoes
 Apr 08 Gianna's Restaurant
 Apr 15 Spring Creek BBQ
 Apr 22 Panera Bread
 Apr 29 Jason's Deli

Saturday Breakfast:

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

Lunch Break - Medical Center

Mar 18 Jason's Deli
 Mar 25 Buffalo Grille
 Apr 01 Vieng Thai Restaurant
 Apr 08 Southwell's Hamburger Grill
 Apr 15 Niko Niko's (BW-8 & I-10W)
 Apr 22 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
 Apr 29 Pappas Barbecue

Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers lunch):

Mondays at 11 am; Goodson's in Tomball

The following items have been cancelled for March:

- 1. March 20th general meeting**
- 2. March 28th VE session**

Next Gathering: Friday, April 17th

“Operating QRP.”

- April 17th, 2020 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

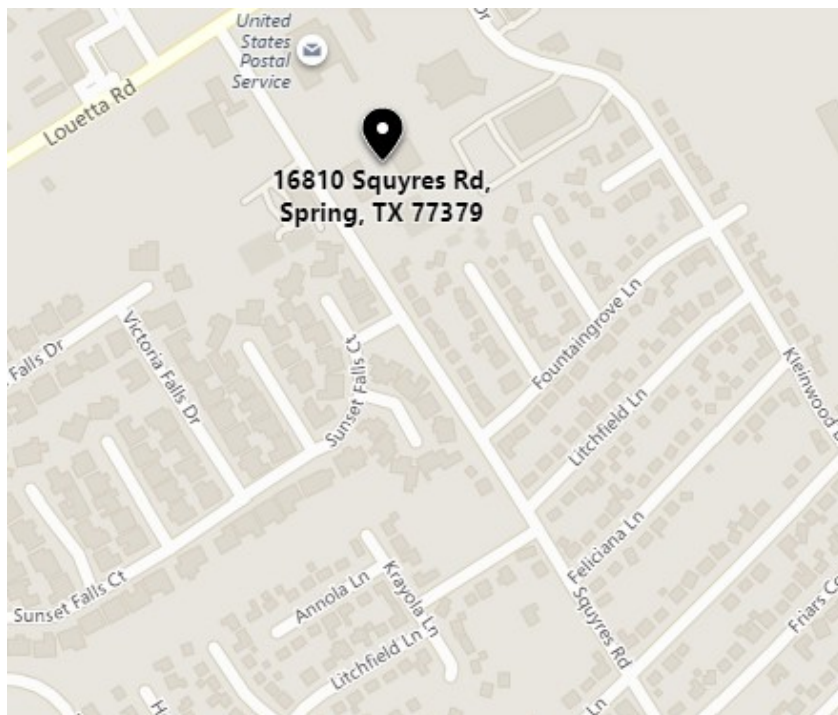
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



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.



March 2020 message from NARS President

Well, the Buffalo Bayou Regatta has come and gone. If you missed it then let me say it was a lot of fun for all that participated. You could not ask for better weather given this is an outdoor event and in Houston. I admit it was even a little cooler than I expected. I am told that approximately 450 boats registered for this event. NARS provided the radio communications tracking of the boats as they passed various check points along the 15-mile river course. We had an outstanding turn out of NARS volunteers. Some comments and pictures of the event have been posted on the NARS Facebook page so search for (Northwest Amateur Radio Society – NARS Houston) and check it out.

Topic's for up-coming NARS General meeting

History of NARS Field Day – We have a volunteer who can speak to period from the late 80's until the mid/late 90's, when scores rose every year and culminated with a first place 2A score and 4400+ contacts. Look further into the newsletter for more on this subject.

Buffalo Bayou Regatta – Feedback from participants.

Greater Houston Hamfest – Feedback from those in attendance- highlights.

Planning activity for June Field Day – Update on volunteer position needs.

Fun Facts:

The Changing Operating Classes

Over the past year the Technician class has increased at an average rate of 13/day.

The Novice class has decreased at an average rate of 2/day.

The General class has increased at an average rate of 3/day.

The Advanced class has decreased at an average rate of 8/day. The Extra class has increased at an average rate of 5/day.

Club Stations have increased at an average rate of <1/day.

In the United States what speed of Morse code must a prospective ham be able to accurately read in order to get their amateur radio license?

Ans: Zero, The Ability to Copy Morse Code Is Not Required

In 2007 the Federal Communications Commission dropped the Morse code requirement for hams. In order to receive an amateur radio license, you only must pass a written examination.

In amateur radio parlance, what does the two-letter phrase "DX" stand for?

Answer: **distance**

DX is often used to indicate a station in a country outside one's own, regardless of "distance".

What do the Amateur Radio Stations NA1SS and RS0ISS have in common?

They are both located on the International Space Station

When radio amateurs are trying to solicit a new contact, what two-letter phrase do they use?

CQ

CQ sounds like "Seek You" - get it?

See you all at the meeting!

Ron Matusek, WA6TQH President, NARS

Opportunities to Serve

MARCH GATHERING

Our March gathering has been cancelled due to concerns about the Corona virus.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

The February gathering was presented by Jason Johnson (KC5HWB) -“everything you wanted to know about DMR but were afraid to ask”.

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

- Rodney D. Sexton - New Technician
- Anthony Duke III - New Technician
- Jeffrey A. Mayer KJ5ALF - Upgrade to Extra
- Matthew J. Parker KI5HGA - Upgrade to Extra
- James J. Kelly Jr. KD5KHT - Upgrade to Extra

Saturday, February 22nd
(Tomball Regional Hospital)

We had 6 candidates taking 9 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 3; passed 2; Failed 1
Element 3 tests given: 3; passed 1; Failed 2
Element 4 tests given: 3; passed 3; Failed 0

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:
Martin Rogoff N5GPS; Stephen G. Protz
KA5AUD; Cindy Grant KM4YGG; Keith Dutson
NM5G; Sam Labarbera N6HB; Marvin J. Wilken
KT4W; Dan Carroll KD5DAN.

And to Ron Matusek WA6TQH , NARS ARRL VE Liaison.

Special points of interest:

- Next VE Session: April 25th, 2020; 8:15 at Tomball Regional Hospital - Main Entrance - The Founders Room.
- The March VE session has been canceled, and the location of the April session might change.
- See the April newsletter or the NARS reflector.

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: Sam Labarbera, N6HB
slabarb@outlook.com

NARS Resource List

Digital Modes (Including DMR)

Walter Holmes – K5WH

Marty Fitzgerald – W5MF

Ron Matusek – WA6TQH

NARS Officers & Other Contacts

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Mike Pate K5MAP

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Texas QSO Party

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

Administrative & General Info.

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officers@w5nc.net

Web site

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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

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.

What Does Ham Radio Mean For You?

I've been a licensed amateur radio operator for over seven years and what I've discovered is there's a heck of a lot more to Ham radio than what I thought. In the beginning, I thought to get started in Ham radio meant buying an inexpensive dual band walkie and bam, I'm a ham! I've since discovered that there's a much more to the ham radio hobby than getting on 2m or 440cm and rag chewing. So what else did I encounter over time? I'm talking about things such as UHF/VHF mobile units for your vehicles, stationary and mobile HF radios, QRP rigs, DMR, hotspots, digital modes such as WSPR and FT8, balloon launches and tracking, APRS, antennas, CW, voice over HF, satellite tracking, hamfests, foxhunts, contests, nets, Netlogger, LoTW, and just about anything else you can think of. I'm sure I've just scratched the surface. My point? You can make ham radio just about anything you want it to be and your interests in the hobby will grow over time.

My first radio was indeed a \$30 Baofeng UV-5R handy talkie and I had a lot of fun learning to program it and talking with other local hams on repeaters. I knew I wanted to go further with my hobby so I obtained my General license and bought an ICOM 718 HF radio. I had a borrowed 20 meter dipole antenna and mounted it on a balcony about twenty feet off the ground. On the air! As my interest grew, I got my Extra license and bought another HF radio – more filters, more stuff, more radios. Yeah! I wanted to work more than the 20 meter band so I bought a G5-RV multiband antenna and strung it up about 40 feet in a tree. Of course, along the way I bought a couple of UHF/VHF mobile rigs and more handy talkies like a couple of Yaesu FT-60s (hey my buddy was selling one so two FT-60s is better than one, right?), and a Kenwood walkie. You can never have enough radios. QSL?

I've since worked HF contests and worked digital modes such as FT4, FT8, and WSPR by adding an external Signalink sound card and the appropriate cables to my rig. As the club interest in digital mobile radio grew, I bought a couple of (yes more than one) DMR radios and a DMR hotspot so I could check out the digital radio world. I've also become a Volunteer Examiner and have participated in many testing sessions.

Okay mostly I've been talking about me but the title of this article is What Does Ham Radio Mean For You. My experience in ham radio may be similar or quite different from your experience but I hope my experience demonstrates that if you continue to explore options, you should find the amateur radio hobby one which is almost limitless in options and can give you many years of fun and comradery with other hams you meet in our club or through your QSOs locally and the world over.

A longtime friend who got me started in ham radio says the continual purchase of radios and accessories is a "disorder". Well, if this is a disorder, sign me up!

73

Sam Labarbera

N6HB

Pictures from the Buffalo Bayou Regatta held on March 7th, 2020.





