

September 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

Sep 16 Vieng Thai Restaurant
Sep 23 Southwell's Hamburger Grill
Sep 30 Nino's (N. Loop West)
Oct 07 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
Oct 14 Pappas Barbecue
Oct 21 Antonio's Mexican Grill
Oct 28 Jason's Deli

Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers

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

The following items have been changed for September:

- 1. The September 18th general meeting will take place via ZOOM.**
- 2. The September 26th VE session will take place at the KVFD administration building.**
- 3. Lunch Break Medical Center and North have been suspended until further notice.**

Next Gathering: Friday, September 18th

The topic is "stealth antennas for those in HOA restricted areas". John Portune, W6NBC, will be the guest speaker.

- September 18th, 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.

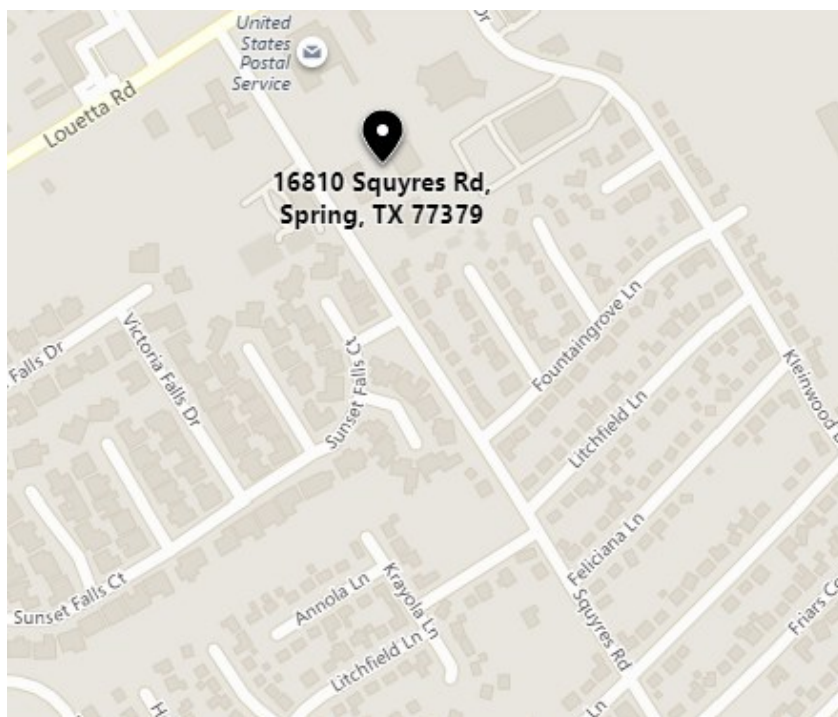
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



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.



September 2020 message from NARS President

As we continue working through the Health restrictions, many of us are staying in touch via remote communications like “ZOOM”. Keep in mind that restrictions of have been significantly relaxed to the point that our next general meeting in October will be held at the Klein FD Admin Building our normal meeting place.

Here is the current plan we have in place:

Our next VE test session is set for Saturday September 26th at our normal club meeting location Klein FD Administration building. All current CDC Health precautions remain in place. Please read the License section in our Newsletter for more information regarding requirements to attend this test session.

Our Monthly General meeting for September 18th will be on-line using ZOOM. Login information is posted on the www.W5NC website and will also be sent out by Email.

Topic for up-coming NARS General meeting – September 18

This month’s presentation will be on building Stealth Antennas for those in HOA restricted areas. Can a Dish antenna be modified for Amateur Radio use?

This promises to be an exceptional presentation by John Portune W6NBC. Read the details about this background on his website at <http://www.w6nbc.com/>

Annual Election of Officers

The annual election of officers is coming up in November. It is not too early to start thinking who you want to lead the club for the next two years. If you want to nominate yourself (volunteer?) or nominate someone else for consideration, please submit your choices by email to the officers. You can also submit your nominations to [Ron](#) or [Marty](#). Please go to www.w5nc.net home page to see those positions up for election.

Continued on Page 4

NARS Emergency Service

NARS Weekly Net Operations

We have two weekly nets i.e. DMR net which meets on Tuesday evenings at 7PM and the VHF net which meets on Wednesday at 8PM.

Cypress DMR Repeater information:

Rx = 444.47500

Tx = 449.47500

Color = 7

Slot = 2

TG = 3146211

Klein DMR Repeater Information:

Rx = 440.30000

Tx = 445.30000

Color = 3

Slot = 1

TG = 3146211

NARS Club repeater, W5NC on 146.660, -600 khz offset, PL 141.3 (Galleria areas) or PL100 (Cypress area). Occasionally we meet on the K5WH repeater on 146.76, -600 offset, PL 103.5. The net frequency is announced prior to the net on the NARS reflector on mail-man.qth.net.

Continued on Page 5

Emergency Situations

One of the most important functions of amateur radio is communication in times of distress. Hams are diverse, dispersed around the world, knowledgeable, and disciplined. In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, amateur radio can provide a means of communication when centralized systems are down (overloaded cell towers, downed telephone lines, power outages, etc.).

Hams take this responsibility seriously and can often be found assisting families and authorities. For example, the incident with the trapped Chilean miners made big news – but little was mentioned of the Radio Club de Chile and Radio Club Copiapo, who provided communication and equipment during the ordeal, going so far as to establish a radio communication system inside the mine itself. About 80 members installed and subsequently manned the equipment right from the start.

Emergency traffic always takes priority on the airwaves, and the likelihood of assistance is high if anyone listening can help. In some areas, operators can even be granted special license plates that qualify them as emergency vehicles.

Every year, hams around the world participate in an event designed to reinforce the ability to setup and operate an effective station using emergency power and temporary antennas, during a weekend long event called Field Day. Structured as both an exercise as well as a contest, it draws participation from hundreds of thousands of hams worldwide during the 4th full weekend of June.

NARS main mission is to provide effective communications during any disruption to our local City and Statewide communications systems. If you are serious about becoming a part of an Emergency Response Team, then consider joining us on our weekly nets.

Ron Matusek WA6TQH

Opportunities to Serve

SEPTEMBER GATHERING

Our September gathering will be held on ZOOM Friday September 18th at 7PM.

ZOOM

- login: 2815436502
- PC: 123456

The topic is “stealth antennas for those in HOA restricted areas”. John Portune, W6NBC, will be the guest speaker.

AUGUST MEETING RECAP

Andrea, K2EZ, presented information about VHF/UHF/microwave rover operation.

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

The Saturday, August 22nd VE session was cancelled.

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

Special points of interest:

- The Next VE Session is scheduled for September 26th, 2020 at the KVFD administration building. Special restrictions will be followed to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



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

President & Board Chairman

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Sam Labarbera N6HB

832-781-3145
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

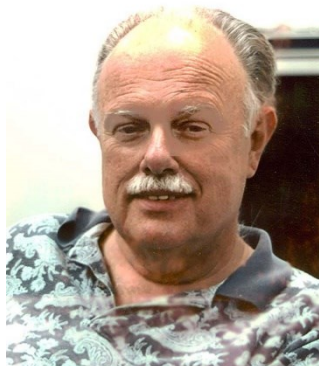
NARS has a social media presence

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.

September 18th, 2020 NARS Meeting

John Portune, W6NBC, is the NARS guest speaker this month.



Native of Los Angeles, CA.

Licensed 1965, Extra 1972.

10 yr. resident of UK. British license MØGCK.

Commercial Licenses: GROL, General Radio Telegraph.

Bachelor's degree in Physics, Oregon State University 1960.

Career (Retired) TV broadcast television engineer/instructor, KNBC Ch 4 Burbank, CA, Sony Broadcast, San Francisco.

Team Leader, radio license testing. "Ham License in One Day". VE Laurel VEC, ARRL, W5YI. Commercial CE.

Published magazine author: QST (25 articles to Oct. 2020), World Radio, 73 and others.

5 QST Cover Plaque Awards. First Place (VHF) 2017 QST Antenna Design Competition, QST Cover Oct. 2019

Active on HF, VHF, UHF – SSB, FM, digital modes, ham satellites.

Frequent speaker at ham radio clubs, webinars. Free remote teleconference club presentations.

Steam railroading, pipe organ and sushi enthusiast. Married. 3 children, 12 grandchildren +.

jportune@aol.com, w6nbc.com

A few months back I wrote a brief article discussing solar activity and the solar minimum. Recall although solar cycles average around 11 years, solar activity cycles do not always last exactly 11 years.

A new activity period will not be identified until it is already ongoing. As I noted before, we appear to be turning the corner on Cycle 24.

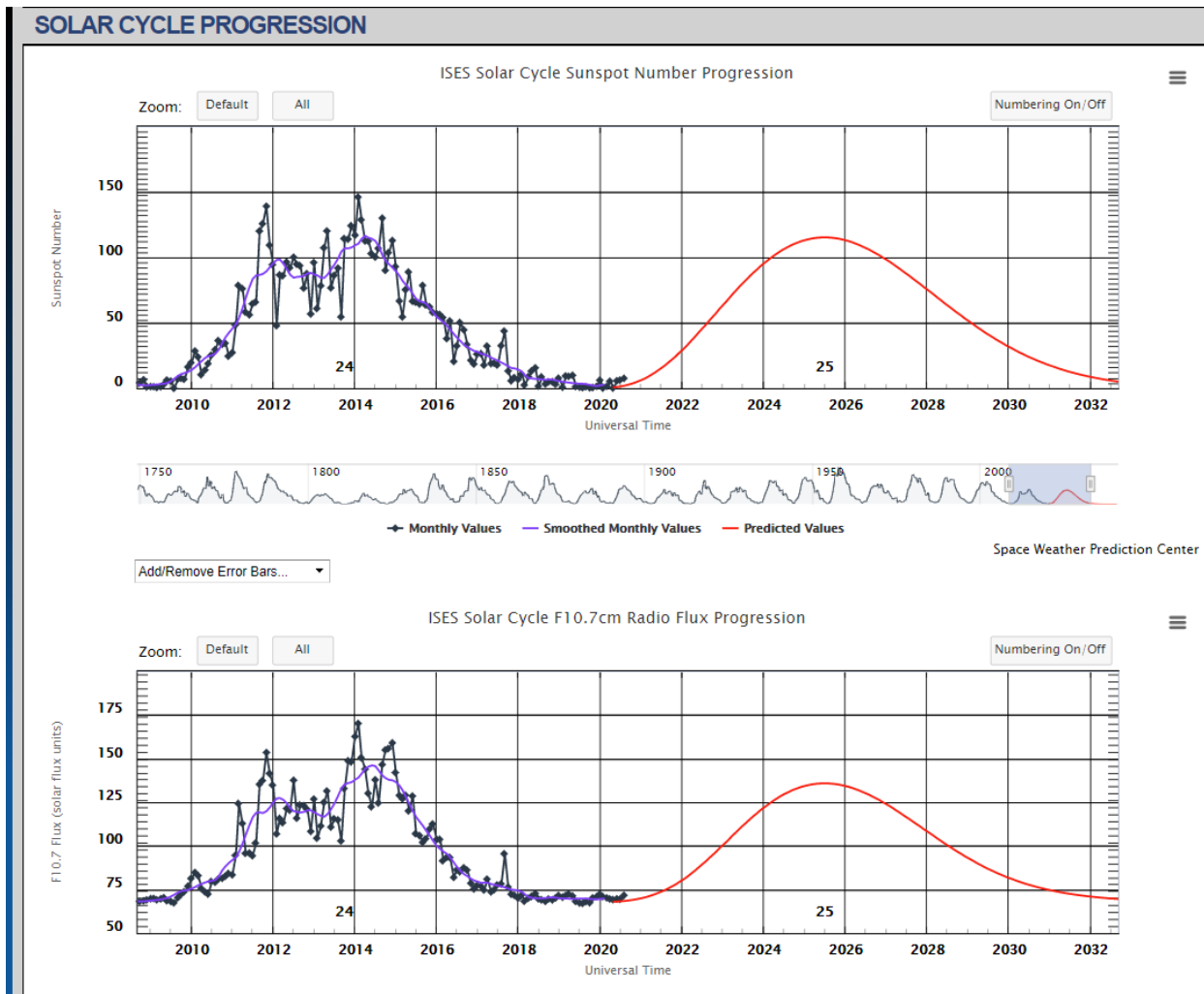


Figure 1 - Solar Cycle Obs. (NOAA SWPC)

During 2019, the sun produced no sunspots for 281 days or 77% of the entire year. But in since Maty there has been some flare and sunspot activity.

According to this Belgian group, <http://sidc.oma.be/silso/>, their sunspot data shows we hit minimum back in December 2019. In an article posted August 21, they announced:

In January 2020, the 13-month smoothed sunspot number rose for the first time since the maximum of cycle 24 (April 2014). Most probably, this indicates that **the minimum between cycles 24 and 25 was passed in December 2019**. However, for now, this latest smoothed value in January 2020 is the very first point indicating a rise of the activity. So, the date of the minimum still needs a full confirmation over the coming months. For now, preliminary smoothed values, limited to less than 13 months, hint at increasing values over coming months. If the rising trend indeed continues, this date will become fully definitive.

Another indication of the transition between the two cycles can be drawn from **counts of individual sunspot groups belonging to the old and new solar cycles**. While most sunspot groups belonged to the last solar cycle until September 2019, the dominance switched to groups of the new cycle in November 2019. ... Finally, since December 2019, solar cycle 25 produced a steady stream of small active regions, but the activity stagnated at a constant low level. However, **since July and even more in the course of August 2020, the activity seems to truly take off, with at least one sunspot group visible on almost all days**. Such a level of activity had not been reached since early 2019.

To be fair, it is still too soon to tell, but perhaps things are looking up.

A Ham Radio Cocktail: Three Dots and a Dash (• • • —)
Richard Nelson, KF5WRD

Those of you who are CW operators will recognize the Morse code sign for “V”. This cocktail dates from World War Two, when “V for Victory” was a common slogan. This cocktail was a tiki bar creation of one Ernest Raymond Beaumont Gantt, aka Don Beach of Don the Beachcomber’s restaurant.

CONSUME AT YOUR OWN RISK, Cheers!

- ½ oz. fresh lime juice
- ½ oz. fresh orange juice
- ½ oz. honey syrup
- ¼ oz. Falernum
- ¼ oz. Allspice Dram
- 1½ oz. rhum agricole
- ½ oz. blended aged rum
- 1 dash Angostura bitters

Mix in blender with 12 ounces of crushed ice, pour contents into tall glass.

Garnish: 3 maraschino cherries (dots) on a cocktail pick a pineapple wedge or frond (dash) – thus illustrating the name.

Some of the ingredients require a trip to the big liquor stores, others can be DIY...

Honey syrup -- 2 pts honey: 1 pt water heated to dissolve honey and cooled

Rhum Agricole – French Caribbean style of rum distilled from sugarcane juice instead of molasses; look for AOC Martinique Rhum agricole

Falernum – liqueur or syrup made from lime, sugar, cloves, ginger, nutmeg, and almonds; a common commercial variety is John D. Taylor’s Velvet Falernum, from Barbados

Allspice Dram – liqueur made by steeping allspice berries in rum