



NARS NEWS

MARCH 2022

Northwest Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 11483
Spring, TX 77391
w5nc.net



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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.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter by publishing an article, adding calendar events, or any other contribution, please send all submissions before the end of the month to the newsletter editor:

Brandon Rogers (K5BLR)
Newsletter Editor
k5blr@arrl.net

President's Message

BY RON MATUSEK, WA6TQH

A NEW BEGINNING FOR 2022!

We are off to a great start! The Awards Banquet was a huge success! It was a time of recognizing individuals and presenting certificates of appreciation to Officers and Members who made significant contributions to the club in the year 2021. A lot of hard-working members kept NARS in the forefront of service organizations in the Houston area. Added on to that were couple door prizes that caught everyone's attention. Those awards consisted of a 2022 calendar, a Power/Watt/SWR meter, and an ICOM 720 HF transceiver. All were given out based upon a drawing. Overall, everyone enjoyed the fellowship and, of course, the great food!

I would like to pay special tribute to our "Ham of the Year" for 2021 which was awarded to Sheree Horton! Congratulations!

We have been given permission to re-establish our in-person general monthly meetings at the Klein Station #3 Training Room beginning in March so plan on attending. We also have a number of events in the works that need volunteers so I encourage you to volunteer, if you can help. Some of the things we are working need team leadership. They are as follows:

Ham Day in the Park

This would take place prior to the June Field Day event in hopes of a larger turnout avoiding the heat of the day but enjoying a meal/ fellowship and of course portable Station Operations. A true test of operating on battery power.

Club Trailer Renovation

The club trailer needs to be register in the club's name. Get a W5NC plate along with some basic



maintenance like new tires. We are also looking at designing a wraparound logo that we could place on the sides of the trailer advertising NARS.

Club Equipment Inventory

Inventory the contents separating items into categories needed for field day and other proposed uses for the trailer and into groups that should be sold, given away, or trashed.

Volunteering

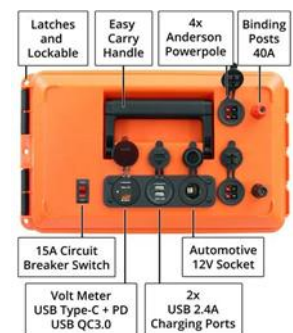
See the article on volunteering in this issue for more details on how to volunteer for each of these activities.

Personal Projects

Another project I am personally working on is building a portable Solar System power bank so I can truly be self-sustaining in a Field Day event. I like the air-conditioning as I sure everyone does but would like to see how much time I can actually achieve operating with standalone power without breaking the bank!

Here is some of the equipment I am assembling:

- Powerwerx MEGAbox Portable Power Box for 30-70Ah Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) Bioenno Batteries



- Bioenno 40AMP/HR battery



- Bioenno Power 120 Watt Foldable Solar Panel for Charging Power Packs (BSP-120)



I am using an ICOM-7300 along with my Dell Inspiron 7706 2n1 laptop and calculations show for Field Day moderate usage I should be able to run all day.

Let us know about some of the projects you are working on or would like to have the club do together.

See ya at the March meeting!

Ron Matusek
President NARS

The ARRL Letter

An excerpt from the weekly ARRL Letter

One new face will be among the Officers at the next ARRL Board of Directors meeting in July. The Board met in Windsor, Connecticut, January 21-22, 2022, and elected John R. Sager, WJ7S of Saratoga Springs, Utah to succeed Treasurer Rick Niswander, K7GM, on May 1.

Niswander had previously shared his decision to step down, having completed more than 10 years of distinguished service in the volunteer position. Niswander's most recent 2-year term as Treasurer expired in January. The Board re-elected him to continue to serve through April 30, 2022, allowing a transition between Niswander and Treasurer-elect Sager.

The remaining Officers were re-elected:

- President Rick Roderick, K5UR
- First Vice President: Michael N. Raisbeck, K1TWF
- Second Vice President: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
- International Affairs Vice President: Rod Stafford, W6ROD
- Chief Executive Officer: David A. Minster, NA2AA
- Chief Financial Officer: Diane Middleton, W2DLM

Two new members will fill two openings on the ARRL Board of Directors' Executive

Committee (EC), which acts in the Board's stead between scheduled Board meetings. Elected as new EC members are Dakota Division Director Bill Lippert, AC0W, and Pacific Division Director Kristen McIntyre, K6WX. The EC consists of the President, five Directors selected by the Board of Directors for 1-year terms, the First Vice President and CEO. With all positions now filled, the EC members are:

- President Rick Roderick, K5UR, who chairs the EC
- First Vice President Michael N. Raisbeck, K1TWF
- Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM
- Dakota Division Director Bill Lippert, AC0W
- Pacific Division Director Kristen McIntyre, K6WX
- West Gulf Division Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS
- Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK
- CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA

Minutes from the meeting have been posted to the ARRL website.

FCC: Amateur Service Licensees May Not Use Their Radios to Commit Criminal Acts

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has re-issued its earlier Enforcement Advisory that licensees in the Amateur Radio Service and licensees and operators

Did you know...

that the ARRL sends a weekly letter describing some of the current events, activities, and policies that are taking shape in the Amateur Radio world? The following is an excerpt from these letters in January.

View all the ARRL letters at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>



in the Personal Radio Services are prohibited from using radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts.

"The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted and socially beneficial purposes, including emergency communications and speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the US Constitution," the FCC said. "Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes."

As it did in advisories in 2021, the Enforcement Bureau is reminding amateur licensees that they may not transmit, "communications intended to facilitate a criminal act" or "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning."

"Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios "in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State, or local law.

"Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution.

"To report a crime, contact your local law enforcement office or the FBI, the FCC said."

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest episode of the On the Air podcast (Episode 26) features a conversation with two YouTube veterans -- Dave Casler, KE0OG, and Steve Goodgame, K5ATA.



YouTube is increasingly becoming the "go-to" resource for information on a variety of amateur radio topics.

The latest edition of the Eclectic Tech podcast



(Episode 54) features a chat with Barry Feerman, K3EUI, concerning the use of the VARA digital mode with handheld FM transceivers. Also, the end of Google's "Project Loon."

The On the Air and Eclectic Tech podcasts are sponsored by Icom. Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry -- [On the Air](#) | [Eclectic Tech](#).

Amateur Radio in the News

ARRL Public Information Officers, Coordinators, and many other member-volunteers help keep amateur radio and ARRL in the news.

["Finding MH-370"](#) / 60 Minutes Australia February 20, 2022

["When all else fails, ham radio works"](#) / Santa Cruz Sentinel (California) February 8, 2022

["Amateur radio operators make contacts in global winter training"](#) / NBC Montana (Montana) February 6, 2022

["Freeport ham radio operator gets thrill from being part of airwaves"](#) / Journal-Standard (Illinois) February 1, 2022

["Youlou Radio Movement hosts second 'Summit on the Air'"](#) / Searchlight (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) February 1, 2022

Arrl.org. 2022. ARRL Letter. [online] Available at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=current> [Accessed 28 February 2022].

NARS Banquet

February 18th, 2022 – Valley Ranch BBQ

The February Monthly Meeting found the club at Valley Ranch BBQ celebrating a year full of accomplishments! Club members gathered together to enjoy each other's company, some great barbeque, and to recognize many individuals from all parts of the club.





Ron opened the banquet thanking all of the amazing club members for a wonderful year and welcoming all to the 2022 NARS Club Banquet!

Officers and Directors for the NARS Club in 2021 include (left to right):

- Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, Treasurer
- Paul Kent, KI5FJS, Vice President
- John Parmalee, K5VGM, Public Information
- Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, Admin. Secretary
- Sam Labarbera, N6HB, Director
- Kirc Breden, N5XJB, Director
- Sheree Horton, WM5N, Director
- Rob Nixon, KD5BXZ, Director
- Bill Buoy, N5BIA, Webmaster
- Ron Matussek, WA6TQH, President



Our 2021 Field Day leaders were:

- Lee Glassman, WA5LEE, Field Day Coordinator
- Kirc Breden, N5XJB, Field Day Coordinator
- Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF, CW Captain
- Sam Labarbera, N6HB, Sideband Captain
- John Parmalee, K5VGM, Antenna Captain

Our VHF & DMR Weekly Net Coordinators were recognized:

- VHF – Neal Naumann, N5EN
- DMR – Sam Labarbera, N6HB



A huge thanks to our 2021 Repeater team! Thanks to these folks, the new repeater site was found, procured, and setup. Now we all enjoy Repeater coverage across Houston!

Our 2021 Repeater Team were (left to right):

- John Parmalee, K5VGM, Site Survey Engineer
- Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF, Team Lead
- Walter Holmes, K5WH, Repeater Engineer
- Paul Kent, K15FJS, Repeater Engineer
- Keith Dutson, NM5H, Repeater Engineer
- Paul Owen, N5NXS, VHF Repeater Trustee



Our 2022 Officers and Directors are (left to right):

- Rob Nixon, KD5BXZ, Director
- Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, Treasurer
- Kirc Breden, N5XJB, Director
- Neal Naumann, N5EN, Admin. Secretary
- Ron Matussek, WA6TQH, President
- Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, Secretary
- Bill Buoy, N5BIA, Webmaster
- Paul Kent, K15FJS, Vice President

A huge thanks to our Volunteer Examiners (from left to right):

- John Parmalee, K5VGM
- Brian Derx, N5BA
- Robert Ewers, K9HOU
- Keith Dutson, NM5H
- Ron Matussek, WA6TQH
- Sam Labarbera, N6HB
- Sheree Horton, WM5N
- Paul Owen, N5NXS



And a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Sheree Horton for the honor of 2021 Ham of the Year!



Pictured with previous Ham of the Year honorees (from left to right):

- Sheree Horton, 2021
- Marty Fitzgerald, 2020
- Walter Holmes, 2019
- Keith Dutson, 2018

Last but not least, congratulations to our door prize winners!



Next Club Meeting

The March club meeting will be in person at the Klein Fire Station #3 Training Room.

NARS General Club Meetings

NARS holds monthly club meetings where a variety of topics are presented from a number of guests. Come learn anything from antenna design, phasing, emergency response, and more!

Who: All club members, friends, or anyone interested in the Amateur Radio hobby

When: The Third Friday of the Month at 7:30pm

Where: Klein Fire Station #3, [9755 Landry Blvd, Spring, TX 77379](#)
Zoom Conference Call, Meeting ID: 2815436502, Passcode: 123456

Volunteering: We need YOU!

Ham radio has deep roots in volunteering, serving, and helping others. There are many opportunities across the nation to lend our skills to help others. There are also a number of volunteer opportunities within the NARS Club itself! Please review the opportunities below and reach out, if you can lend a hand.

Ham in the Park

“Ham in the Park” will be a social event for families and friends with an opportunity to operate radios using antennas in the trees. A tentative reservation for May 7th at Russ Poppe Family Park has been made and Kirc Breden, N5XJB, has agreed to bring his grill and cook for us, making custom omelets with all the fixings. However, we need volunteers to help make this happen! The team captain would need to follow up with Kirc and the park to get funds allocated from the Board of Directors for breakfast.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, at k5blr@arrl.net

NARS Club Trailer Renovation

We need volunteers to join our NARS Club Trailer Restoration project! The plan is to remove existing graphics and rebrand it with NARS logos, the repeaters, the website address, and other important information to help promote the club. We would also equip the trailer with a mobile rig including an installed antenna and one or more radios. Even features like a generator and air conditioning are possibilities! The team would need to formulate a design plan, a budget and present it to the board.

Note: As part of the initial plan, the costs of the project might be split with ARRL through a “Grant Program”, for which our club might qualify, which awards funding to organizations which support and promote amateur radio related projects.

Once the trailer was completed, we could show it off in parks, parades or on the corner to entice future radio operators, at least get the public to think more about radio communications.

We need a team captain to help coordinating/recruiting volunteers, to design the plans, develop a detailed budget and project plan, and support the execution of the work.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Paul Kent, KI5FJS, at officers@w5nc.net

NARS Equipment Inventory

We need a leader to help us to inventory the equipment in the trailer. The equipment should be sorted into groups of items that are needed for Field Day or other uses (like the NARS Club Trailer Renovation Project) and into other groups that need to be sold, given away, or thrown away.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Paul Kent, KI5FJS, at officers@w5nc.net

Amateur Radio Activities

The "Amateur Radio Activities" feature of NARS News highlights various activities related to ham radio. Each issue provides a quick overview for those who may be interested in the learning new aspects of the amateur radio hobby.

My Stacked Horizontal Dipole

BY ROBERT EWERS K9HOU

The idea for this project came to me when I watched a video presentation by Thomas H. Schiller (N6BT) on "QSO Today Virtual Event-2021". It's well worth watching.

(<https://nextgenerationantennas.com/presentations-1>)

I found a few pictures online, which I copied and enlarged to study them. I also ordered Tom's book "Array of Light", which is filled with so much knowledge.

After exchanging a few emails with me, Tom added to my knowledge about antennas.

In my experimentations with low parallels, I found they work well. They do not need tall towers to make contacts.

I stapled two parallel wires to my back fence. With 100 Watts and those 2 wires on 2019-09-09, I had fine contact, 59 both ways, with WA2NYC, World Trade Center 20 Anniversary. The test antenna was made of 2 wires, parallel, stapled to wood fence. The bottom wire was 10 inches from above ground. The upper wire was located 5 feet above the ground. One end of each leg was bent 90 degrees to the other and a coax connected half way between the two. I checked with an antenna analyzer and cut to 20 meter mid phone band. My fence runs 060 degrees and NYC is 061 degrees from my QTH. That was right off the ends of the wire.

With the pictures and some text about it, I decided that I could build one similar to what they had done.

My examination of the pictures of the original Force 12 ZR-3 showed the rings are only "end feed elements". One end is connected to the horizontal arm that is welded to the center post. There are smaller diameter arms opposite serving as nonconductive supports. They seem to have welded sockets at the center post and on the rings. The three different elements seemed at different levels. Force 12 had used hard tubing and welded pieces.

My Design Interpretation

I started computing my interpretation of the ZR-3. The bottom PVC would mount a 3/4 pipe adapter cemented in place to allow the antenna assembly to just screw onto the pipe support that is driven in the ground in my backyard.

I decided to put all three antenna elements in the same plane, top and bottom, like a fan dipole.

Materials For the Main Structure

- Two 26-inch vertical sections of 1-inch square aluminum tubing
- 1 ¼ inch PVC SCH 40 pipe acting as insulator and support
- Two 63-inch horizontal arms of 1 inch square aluminum tubing, each mounting 4 concentric radiators

Dimensions

- 72 inches tall
- 30 inches from bottom "coil" to ground;
- 42 from there to the top coil
- 4 to the top of the vertical center support
- Diameter of 104 inches of the 40 meters radiators is its widest part.

The top and bottom "coils" are identical to each other. All radiators are end feed and are wrapped the same direction and the other ends are supported in fiberglass rods.

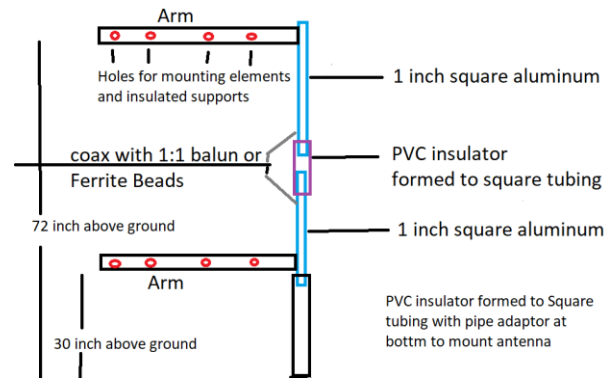
Building the Antenna

The Main Supporting Structure

The center vertical sections and main horizontal support arms are made of one-inch square aluminum tubing from a local Big Box Outlet Store.

One 8-inch long, 1-1/4 inch SCH 40 PVC pipe from the Big Box Outlet Store is used, as insulator and support, between the top and bottom vertical sections. The bottom base vertical section is 30 inches long with a ¾ pipe threaded adapter at the bottom end.

For a quick and easy mounting of an antenna, a 4-foot piece of 3/4 inch gas pipe (driven into the ground) supports the antenna. I used an elbow, 6-inch nipple and adapter to a lawn hose make a handle to help drive the pipe all the way to the ground. A lawn mower could pass over when the antenna was removed. The pipe has no electrical connection with the antenna.



I heated and reformed the PVC to accept the square tubing in the round PVC tubing.

I used 1x1/8 aluminum flat stock to mount the horizontal supports to the vertical post. They are held in place by pop rivets to the post and sheet metal screws to the arms. This way, I can remove the two ring elements from the center posts, if the need arises.

The Antenna System

Two horizontal arms, one-inch square tube, mounts and support for the circular elements.

A 5/16-inch hole is drilled through the arm for each element and enlarged to 1/2 inch on one side of the horizontal arm to mount each radiator. A small hole for a sheet metal screw is drilled on the bottom of the square support tube, below the 1/2-inch hole, to secure the element in place and ensure conductivity.

I used 3003-0 soft aluminum tubing with 1/2 outer diameter, that is 3/8-inch inner diameter, from Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co. They ship the tubing coiled. You can easily form the tubing by hand. I would add a couple of feet of 3/8-inch tubing to be used if you need to add a coil for tuning.

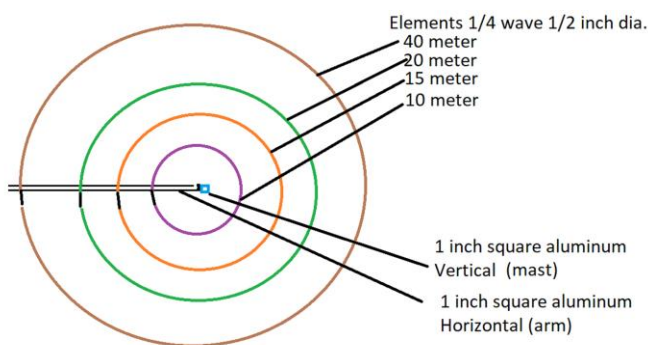
To add to the length, take a couple of inches of 3/8" to slide inside the end of radiator and add the 1/2-inch outer diameter tube section you need and secure with a couple screws.

The elements are also further supported by the non-conductive rods inserted into a 3/8 hole drilled in the opposite side of the square tubing arms from the 1/2-inch holes.

The other three horizontal supports for the elements sections of fiberglass rods cut from driveway markers that I bought from Big Box Outlet Store. That is all I needed for the 10-, 15-, and 20-meter radiators, but had to add 1-inch PVC for supports when I added the 40-meter radiator.

There is also a horizontal fiberglass rod to support the coax and balun near the center of the main vertical support structure (PVC).

I drilled a hole in the PVC center insulator for the fiberglass rod and glued it in place.



The hard part was figuring how big to make the elements. For each element, a 1/4 wavelength includes the element and the distance, from its attachment point on the horizontal arm, to the vertical support structure.

Note: The first time I had included the vertical support into the equations. Don't do that. It will come out with the elements too short by that amount!

I heat-formed the PVC center and base. I drilled each side and installed sheet metal screws. I drilled and pop-riveted a three-inch long 1/8" x 1" aluminum flat stock to each side of the vertical where arm is to attach. Those were drilled for sheet metal screws attachment.

The two verticals were assembled with the PVC and the lower one had a 3/4 inch pipe adapter cemented in place. The verticals were drilled through for fiberglass support rods to pass through across the arm installation side and a single hole opposite the arm for that support rod.

Arms were drilled one side for 1/2-inch hole that the elements would be inserted and a small hole for sheet metal screw into each element. A small 5/16-inch hole was made on the side for the support of the non-connected end with fiberglass rods. The arms were assembled with elements and carried to the backyard.

The lower radiator assembly was placed over the mount point and the top was then attached to the vertical. The top and vertical were screwed onto the pipe in the ground and then bottom radiator assembly was attached.

I cut PVC to length for the middle section and the base section. I cemented the 3/4-inch pipe threaded adapter to one end of the base PVC. I then heated the center PVC to reform the ends to except the 1-inch aluminum tubing about 3 inches into the post section vertical. I repeated the same procedure for the bottom section. I drilled all four sides of each end of PVC and secured with sheet metal screws. Finally, I drilled a hole through center section of PVC, near the center, for a fiberglass rod about 18 inch to support coax and balun and glued it in place.

Assembly

With each arm assembled with its 4 elements and the vertical mast assembly complete without arms/radiators:

- Place bottom arms/radiators on ground around over the antenna mount location.
- Assemble top arm/radiators to vertical mast assembly.
- Screw this assembly to pipe in ground mount. Raise and mount bottom arms/ring elements.
- Connect coax with 1:1 balun or ferrite beads to the upper and lower verticals. The coax shield is connected to the lower vertical support and center to the upper.
- Add 4 x 1-inch PVC as support for the 40 meter radiator in 4 locations and attached with tie wrap cable ties.
- The coaxial feed line should lead away from center of antenna horizontally as much as possible.
- Mount an impedance matching 'hairpin' coil (about 10 turns #14 solid wire formed on a tube approximately measuring approximately 2 inches) at the center insulator connecting to both top and bottom verticals. Adjust by compressing the coils tighter together or spreading them out. Then you can add or remove turns of the coil to match impedance.

Testing

Testing was conducted using an MFJ-249C Antenna analyzer, 20 feet back from antenna. I started with the lowest frequency, 40 Meters first, then next smaller radiator.

Problems

1. I found the resonant frequencies were way off. I had included the vertical in my calculations. You should only add the horizontal arm distance from center to where the radiator is mounted and the radiator element itself.
2. The elements were not going the same direction. They must go the same directions. All are attached to the same side of the top and bottom horizontal arms.
3. Final tuning: I measured antennas resonant frequency and the difference from desired frequency in antenna's length. I took the antenna apart and corrected.

Final Size of Elements

- 10 Meters, 97.2 inches

- 15 Meters, 131.0 inches
- 20 Meters, 163.75 inches
- 40 Meters, 333 inches

4. The antenna analyzer showed impedance was way off. Added impedance matching 'hairpin', a 2 inch, 8 turn coil, made with #14 wire, is connected across the coax connections.

Adjust by compressing the coils tighter together or spreading them out. Then you can add or remove turns of the coil to match impedance.

Results

I connected the radio to the antenna and compared with a fan dipole I had already up, using an antenna switch. I could swap from one to the other and compare receive audio. My homemade ZR-3 seemed to have a very slight improvement over my fan dipole. Because the fan dipole and the stacked dipole were close, they interacted with each other. I then removed the fan dipole. Any metal near the antenna becomes part of the antenna.

I have made many contacts from Houston Texas area with my homemade ZR-3 or 'Stacked Horizontal fan Dipole' antenna system from Maine to Washington State Islands and some Canada and Chile contacts. All with 100 watts phone.



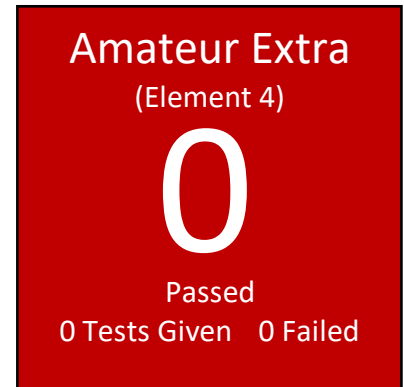
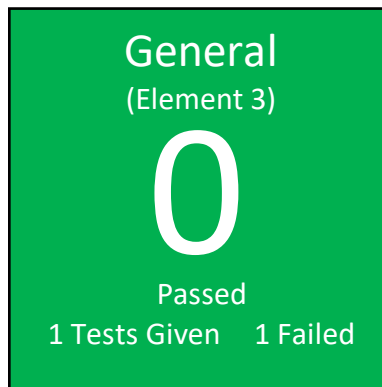
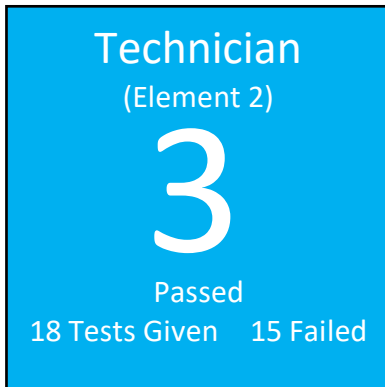
Credit to Tom THOMAS H SCHILLER, N6BT, Founder of Force 12 Antennas, and DR. KENNETH A HIRSCHBERG, K6HPX, for their design that inspired me to build an antenna like their antenna.

Thanks to Claude Jollet, VE2DPE, at Hamradiosecrets.com who helped putting this article together.

VE Sessions and Results

Attendees

On February 13th, a special session was held where 16 candidates took 19 tests.



Congratulations!

The NARS Club extends our sincerest congratulations to the following:

New Technician

- Walter D Coney
- Louis B Odums, Jr
- Detric R Evans

Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:

- Stephen G Protz, KA5AUD
- Marvin J Wilken, KT4W

VE Session Guidelines

If you have a temperature or feel ill – DO NOT attend.

- Tables and chairs will be arranged to meet social distancing. DO NOT MOVE THEM.
- Wear masks if you are not fully vaccinated or feel the need to wear them.

Please send an email to either of the following if you plan on attending the test session:

Sheree Horton - wm5n@arrl.net or vec@w5nc.net

Next Session

We will be holding VE testing sessions beginning in March at Klein Fire Station No. 3 in the main Meeting Room in the Main Building. Check-in will start at 8:30am with testing lasting from 9:00am - 11:30am. All testing activities will be completed by noon.

We will have testing sessions on the following dates:

- March 26
- April 23
- May 28
- June 25
- July 23
- August 27
- September 24
- October 22
- November 19
- December 17

Renewing Club Members

Thank you to all the members who renewed their NARS membership this past month:

Rick Braddy, W5FCX

Harry Mallery, W5BD

Kirc Breden, N5XJB

Mike Schreckenbach, N3XRP

Mike Hvasta, KF5IUM

Matthew White, KG5MTE

Sam Labarbera, N6HB

Ken Wilson, KE5DFR

Mike Lavender, AE5MZ

Training and Education

NARS

NARS Member Articles and Tutorials -

<http://w5nc.net/index.php/2014-03-31-00-54-20>

ARRL

ARRL Online Course Catalog - <http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>

ARRL Emergency Communications Training -

<http://www.arrl.org/emergency-communications-training>

ARRL Webinars - <http://www.arrl.org/ARRL-Learning-Network#schedule>

Other

Amateur Radio License Practice Tests - <https://hamexam.org/>



Of Interest to the Club

Houston Local Traffic Net

The Houston Local Traffic Net meets each Monday from 6:30-7:30pm on 146.940 / 167.9 and each Thursday from 6:30-7:00pm on 147.000 / 103.5. The purpose of the net is to pass National Traffic System (NTS) radiogram messages into and out of the Houston area. The Monday night net includes an instructional segment as well as handling radiogram traffic.

GHSN monthly Simplex Propagation Net

Beginning January 2022, the [Greater Houston Simplex Network](#) will return to its regular schedule of the 4th Thursday evening of the month, with 6:15pm for the Zoom meeting and 7:00pm for the beginning of the net. Simplex frequencies are 146.540 MHz.

I would also like to restart the relay nets for the 2nd week of each month, so I need volunteer(s) to help out as Net Control Operator. I am just swamped with developing our cool new propagation application. Please contact me if you can help with this. The script is fully developed, and can be found on [the website](#). Contact Mark - N5PRD@yahoo.com

From the Community...

The “From the Community...” feature of NARS News shares articles and information coming from the ham radio community, reprinted with permission.

Ham Radio Pop Culture References

Ham radio has been a part of our culture for many, many years. Enjoy these short video clips of featuring ham radio in pop culture! Just click on the picture to view the video! (Note: links have been provided where this newsletter might be printed).

The Munsters



<https://youtu.be/F-8RitOZE30>

Dilbert



<https://youtu.be/KaHm1ecBCgw>

The Twilight Zone



<https://youtu.be/O3dB1P3AZRU>

The Simpsons



<https://youtu.be/UMTkf7m4AkA>

Last Man Standing



<https://youtu.be/BcxqNEBmNno>



Calendar

Club Activities and Events

Club Activities are pending due to the state of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check the club website at <http://w5nc.net> or an updated calendar of activities

Social Events

Lunch Break – North

Take a break with fellow radio operators and enjoy a lunch together!

Locations are announced weekly on the NARS email reflector!

Lunch Break – Medical Center

Mar 09 Jason's Deli
Mar 16 Mia's Table
Mar 23 Buffalo Grille
Mar 30 Antonio's Mexican Grill

Watch the NARS email reflector for details!

Saturday Breakfast

Saturdays at 7 am Broken Yolk Café, 16803 Stuebner Airline Road, Spring, TX 77379

Monday Lunch (Taildraggers Lunch)

Mondays at 11 am; Aviator's Grill at Hooks Airport Terminal

Did you know...

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

Hamfests and Conventions

March 4-5, 2022 – Greater Houston HamFest, ~~Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Texas 36~~
~~Rosenberg TX 77471~~

CHANGE TO GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST!

Due to the rise of COVID infections and other issues, The Greater Houston HamFest will not be held in 2022. However, after careful consideration and detailed planning (read - a spur of the moment thought), there will be a replacement. This year will mark the beginning of the Greater Houston Tailgate or the GHT.

This will be an informal event held at Duhacsek Park in Southwest Houston. The date is April 16th and will held from 7 am to 3 pm. In addition to the tailgate, there will be license testing, exhibits, food sales, and equipment raffles. All tailgate sales will be held outdoors in the main parking lot of the facility with parking in the grass south of the parking lot.

Admission will be simple - \$5 per vehicle. Whether you are selling or buying, the entry fee will be \$5. People will be able to pay as they drive into the park and from there, they can either park to sell or park to buy.

The raffle will have two main prizes – an Icom IC-718 HF radio and an Anytone AT-D878UV11 DMR handheld radio. The raffle tickets will be sold at the tailgate and on-line.

More information for the GHT and the raffle tickets will soon be on the web site and weekly e-mail blast so stay tuned.

Hope to see everyone at the Greater Houston Tailgate on April 16th!

April 23, 2022 – Emory Hamfest, Emory, TX, Rains Amateur Radio Association

June 17-18, 2022 - Radio Fiesta, San Antonio Radio Club

Contests

<p>January 2023 1: <u>Straight Key Night</u> 7: <u>Kids Day</u> 7-8: <u>RTTY Roundup</u> 21-23: <u>January VHF</u> TBD: <u>Winter Field Day</u></p>	<p>February 2023 13-17: <u>School Club Roundup</u> 18-19: <u>International DX – CW</u></p>	<p>March 2022 6-7: <u>International DX– Phone</u></p>
<p>April 2022 18: <u>Rookie Roundup – Phone</u></p>	<p>May 2022</p>	<p>June 2022 12-14: <u>June VHF</u> 19: <u>Kids Day</u> 26-27: <u>Field Day</u></p>
<p>July 2022 10-11: <u>IARU HF World Champ</u></p>	<p>August 2022 7-8: <u>222 MHz and Up Distance</u> 21-22: <u>10 GHz & Up – Round 1</u> 22: <u>Rookie Roundup – RTTY</u></p>	<p>September 2022 11-13: <u>September VHF</u> 18-19: <u>10 GHz & Up - Rnd 2</u></p>
<p>October 2022 18-22: <u>School Club Roundup</u> 23-24: <u>EME - 2.3 GHz & Up</u></p>	<p>November 2022 6-8: <u>Nov. Sweepstakes – CW</u> 20-22: <u>Nov. Sweeps. – Phone</u> 20-21: <u>EME-50 to 1296 MHz</u></p>	<p>December 2022 3-5: <u>160 Meter</u> 11-12: <u>10 Meter</u> 19: <u>Rookie Roundup–CW</u> 18-19: <u>EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</u></p>

NARS Club Officers and Information

Board Officers with Voting Privileges

President: Ron Matussek, WA6TQH, 713-825-9606, officers@w5nc.net

Vice President: Paul Kent, KI5FJS, officers@w5nc.net

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, 281-370-2941, treasurer@w5nc.net

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, 713-294-6630, officers@w5nc.net

Director: Rob Nixon, KD5BXZ, officers@w5nc.net

Director: Kirc Breden, N5XJB, officers@w5nc.net

Board Non-Voting Associate Members

Administrative Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN

Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, N6HB

Newsletter Editor: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR

Public Information Liaison: John Parmalee, K5VGM

ARRL/VEC Liaison: Sheree Horton, WM5N

Repeater Team Lead: Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF

Webmaster: Bill Buoy, N5BIA, webmaster@w5nc.net

Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

Club Nets

[DMR Weekly Net](#) – Every Tuesday at 7pm. Tune in on Talkgroup 3146211 for information on configuring codeplugs, see the DMR pages on the Club website (<http://w5nc.net>) or contact a club Elmer. Sam Labarbera, N6HB, coordinates this Net.

[The Weekly Wednesday Evening Net](#) - Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm. Join us on one of the W5NC repeaters: 146.660 MHz, -600kHz offset, PL 100.0 - wide area centered on downtown Houston and/or 444.375, + 5 MHz offset, PL 100 best in the Spring / Klein area. You can also join from anywhere in the world by connecting to EchoLink node W5NC-R. Neal Naumann, N5EN, coordinates this Net.

Repeaters

For information on NARS-managed repeaters, please see the club website at <http://w5nc.net/index.php/club-info/repeaters>

Did you know...

that NARS has an email list service (sometimes known as an email reflector, Listserv, or email distribution list) that allows you to connect with a giant group of experts, club members, and resources. Register today at:

[http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/
listinfo/nars](http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/nars)