



W5NC

Houston, Texas
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Happy
Thanksgiving
... QSL?

ARS NEWS

NOVEMBER 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

ARRL Grant Update

The ARRL has long recognized that it is in the best interests of Amateur Radio to encourage and support amateur radio clubs. Clubs historically have recruited, licensed, and trained new radio amateurs and have provided the community setting for radio amateurs to continue their education and training. The ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program, funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), will make \$500,000 available to clubs, enabling them to provide and expand these important services more easily. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects.

Our Vice President Paul Kent KI5FJS has been working extremely hard behind the scenes to apply for the ARRL Grant for NARS. As many of you know a trailer was donated to NARS that is currently going through a renovation/refit process that will allow us to bring to the community a portable classroom demonstrating the power of Amateur Radio especially as it applies to Emergency Services. When the massive storm hits and the power grid goes dark, Amateur Radio becomes a very viable way to get the communications needed to bring aid to the community.

Our first ARRL Grant submittal appears that NARS did not receive any grant monies based on the ARRL newsletter. All clubs receiving funds were notified on Monday 29 August. There is another opportunity to apply.

Efforts are well underway led by Paul Kent with additional support from other members to move forward on another submission. During our November General meeting Paul will present information on the progress of the trailer renovation/refit progress along with an update on our next submittal for the ARRL Grant.

Upcoming Club Elections

We are coming up on that time again to select Officers for the NARS Club. The selection process will take place during our November meeting. Applicants interested in running for one of the upcoming positions should seriously consider the responsibility to the club as this involves the Financial and Legal responsibilities that go along with the positions not to mention hours of personal time to establish meeting presentation material, Field Day coordination, support of ongoing projects. Remember, we have a new repeater contract that must be maintained, and we have a bank account that must be managed Applicants should also be available to attend ALL board meetings and general meetings IN PERSON. Remember you would be the front-line interface to anyone wanting or searching for an Amateur Radio Club. The applicant must also NOT be an Officer in any other Amateur Radio Club, however, can be a member. It is also important that applicants read and understand the current club by-laws which are posted on the club website www.w5nc.net.

As of this letter, we have received a full complement of potential Officers ready to take on the leadership responsibilities. Be sure to make your voices heard at the election process in November.

Show & Tell

Remember our special meeting in December will be "Show & Tell" so bring your special projects you have been working on to the meeting and tell us all about them. If you have any other material of interest to Amateur Radio, then consider coming forward with a presentation at one of our General Meetings.

See you at the November General Meeting!

Ron Matusek
President NARS

Exam Practice

Are you new to the hobby and looking to pass your Technician exam? Are you preparing to level up your license by taking the next level exam? Check out the questions below to test your knowledge!

Technician (Element 2)

T3B10

What frequency range is referred to as HF?

- A. 3 to 30 MHz
- B. 30 to 300 MHz
- C. 300 to 3000 MHz
- D. 300 to 3000 kHz

General (Element 3)

G0B10

Which of the following is a danger from lead-tin solder?

- A. Tin in the solder can "cold flow," causing shorts in the circuit
- B. RF energy can convert the lead into a poisonous gas
- C. Lead can contaminate food if hands are not washed carefully after handling the solder
- D. High voltages can cause lead-tin solder to disintegrate suddenly

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E5C07

Where is the impedance of a pure resistance plotted on rectangular coordinates?

- A. On the vertical axis
- B. On a horizontal line, offset vertically above the horizontal axis
- C. On a line through the origin, slanted at 45 degrees
- D. On the horizontal axis

See the answers on Page 19.

The ARRL Letter

An excerpt from the weekly ARRL Letter

Amateur Radio Operators Invited to Participate in Scientific Experiments

The High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) will be conducting their largest experiment and research campaign from October 19 - 28, 2022. Amateur radio operators are invited to listen and participate.



The research will last for 10 days and include 13 experiments, with transmissions taking place between 1400 - 0600 UTC daily. The transmission experiments include moon bounce, Jupiter bounce, HF ocean scatter, and ionosphere satellite interactions. Amateur radio operators are being asked to monitor the times of the transmissions and



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>

signal quality. Reports can be filed electronically, and a special QSL card will be sent for participation.

This will be the most scientifically diverse campaign ever conducted at HAARP. Particularly notable experiments include a first-of-its-kind attempt to bounce a signal off of Jupiter, investigation into possible causes of the airglow phenomenon known as STEVE (Strong Thermal Emission Velocity Enhancement), and testing the feasibility of using radio transmissions to measure the interiors of near-Earth asteroids.

"The October research campaign is our largest and most diverse to date, with researchers and citizen scientists collaborating from across the globe," said HAARP Program Manager Jessica Matthews.

The number of experiments is the highest so far under the 5-year, \$9.3 million grant awarded last year by the National Science Foundation to establish the Subauroral Geophysical Observatory at HAARP. The observatory's purpose is to explore of Earth's upper atmosphere and geospace environment.

An overview of all of the experiments can be found at the [HAARP](#) website.

See the following [document](#) (PDF) for a more detailed listing of the experiments and technical data.

Participating amateur radio operators can request a QSL card and send reception reports to HAARP, P.O. Box 271, Gakona, AK 99586.

HAARP is a scientific endeavor aimed at studying the properties and behavior of the ionosphere. Operation of the research facility was transferred from the US Air Force to the University of Alaska Fairbanks on August 11, 2015, allowing HAARP to continue with exploration of ionospheric phenomenology via a land-use cooperative research and development agreement.

Amateur Radio Club Members Assist Law Enforcement

The [Wayne Amateur Radio Club](#) (WARC) manned a 30-foot-tall mobile observational Infrastructure Protection Unit, or SkyWatch tower, at Ohio's Wayne County Fair in September again this year.

Staffed by specially trained amateur radio volunteers, the tower provided 24-hour surveillance, monitoring, and a record of activity on the fairgrounds, including medical emergencies, lost



Captain Doug Hunter, KE8JNH, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, stands next to the SkyWatch tower at the Wayne County fair.

children, and other situations where help may have been needed.

Captain Doug Hunter, KE8JNH, of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, was impressed with its performance. "Last year, I put in a request for the tower from the Ohio Department of Homeland Security," Hunter said. "After seeing the benefit of having it, I immediately requested the unit for this year's fair."

Positioned near the grandstand, the tower gave volunteers a bird's-eye view of the midway that allows one person to see from the air what four or five people can see from the ground. The observation deck is equipped with state-of-the-art video equipment that provides situational awareness in places where there are large crowds in attendance.

With an array of pan, tilt, and zoom cameras, the unit provides a 360-degree view of the fair's most vulnerable areas. It is climate controlled and is capable of being self-powered to ensure continuous operation.

Eric Mast, W8ELM, a member of WARC, said that club members who have additional training, apart from their amateur radio licensing exams, take shifts monitoring the crowd. "Through our training, we understand how to communicate with law enforcement," said Mast. "We know what they need to hear. If we see a situation that needs their attention, our radio is connected directly to dispatch inside their command center on the fairgrounds. Once we report it, we are out of the loop and law enforcement manages everything from that point."

Captain Hunter added, "As long as this is available to us, we will take advantage of it. If we can utilize something that increases the safety of fairgoers, we will take advantage of that. WARC members donated more than 60 hours of their time, and we

are very thankful for them."

-- Thanks to Dan Starcher, Public Communications Specialist for the Wayne County Commissioners Office in Wooster, Ohio, for information contained in this story.

Student Radio Contact with the International Space Station Inspires Hurricane-hit Community

Students from Canterbury School in Fort Myers, Florida, were able to spend a few minutes on Monday, October 24, 2022, talking with Astronaut Josh Cassada, KI5CRH, onboard the International Space Station (ISS) using ham radio.

The radio contact, arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRL](#)) program, provided hope for a community devastated by Hurricane Ian. School officials estimated that 30% of the school's faculty, staff, and families were left homeless after the hurricane passed through their area.



NASA astronaut Josh Cassada, KI5CRH, completed a ham radio contact from the ISS with students from Canterbury School in Fort Myers, Florida. [NASA photo]

The contact was made just after 1:30 PM EDT, and students were able to ask Astronaut Cassada questions ranging from, "Is the sun brighter in outer space?" to "What's your favorite meal?" The contact lasted just over 10 minutes, when the ISS was over the Caribbean Sea.

Members of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service Club, supported the school by providing students with technical instruction and radio equipment. The club's call sign, W4LX, was used to operate the ground station that established and maintained the contact with the ISS. The school used a Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver for the event. Several students built a satellite tracking antenna system capable of locking onto and tracking a satellite while in range to receive the ISS signal.

An ARISS news release described that as the students were preparing for the big day, "they saw the first pictures of Hurricane Ian, as seen from the ISS, bearing down on the coast of Florida. Evacuations were ordered in advance of the catastrophic winds and storm surges, which eventually affected many of the homes of students, faculty, and staff. In the wake of this destruction, it was uncertain whether the ARISS contact could occur. However, if only for a moment of reprieve from their loss and destruction, the entire Canterbury school community, including the school's staff/faculty, amateur radio operators, students and students' families, decided to pull together to support the ARISS contact and thereby renew their sense of hope and inspiration in human space exploration."

The [Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club](#) website has a link to a video of their entire contact with the ISS.

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](#)[®] is an ARISS sponsor.

Activity and Awards Increase at 222 and 1296 MHz

Interest in ARRL VHF and above [Worked All States](#) Awards (WAS) continues its flurry of activity, now on the 1296 MHz band.

As we reported in ARRL News in [January](#), there have been several new-generation additions to the Worked All States Awards, now at 222 MHz (1.25 Meters) and at 1296 MHz (23 cm).

The original rush to 1.25 Meters WAS began in the early '80s with the first 10 WAS Awards. More recently, the [1.25 Meters WAS ranks](#) have grown to 16, with recent achievers including: #13 John Swiniarski, K1OR, of Pelham, NH; #14 David Kerl, N9HF, Ormond Beach, FL; #15 Ray Rector, Jr., WA4NJP, Gillsville, GA; and #16 Charles Betz, NOAKC, Eau Claire, WI.



Frank Potts, NC1I, of Southwick, Massachusetts, visited ARRL headquarters in September, receiving his #4 1296 MHz WAS Award certificate.

An energized pool of rovers activating rare states at both 222 and 1296 MHz have recently contributed to the chase - with the addition of four new 1296 MHz WAS Award recipients: in early September,

1296 MHz WAS Award #4 was awarded to Frank Potts, NC1I, of Southwick, MA; in late September, WAS Award #5 was awarded to Vlada Masek, OK1KIR, of the Czech Republic; and also in late September, WAS Award #6 was issued to HB9Q (DX Group HB9CRQ) in Switzerland. In late October, Zdeneck Samek, OK1DFC (also in the Czech Republic) was awarded WAS Award #7.

Recent award efforts accentuated a 14-year history of increased activity on the band, starting in the summer of 2007, when 1296 MHz WAS Award #1 was achieved by Al Ward, W5LUA, followed by Jay Liebmann, K5JL, who achieved 1296 MHz WAS Award #2. In August 2021, Al Katz, K2UYH, earned WAS Award #3 (Katz is known worldwide for supporting the EME -- Earth-Moon-Earth -- community with his [432 and Above EME Newsletter](#) from 1995 to present, as well as earning the first 432 MHz Worked All Continents [WAC] Award in 1976).

Many 23-centimeter operators have benefitted from the flurry of portable and rare state activations during the past 2 decades, by Gary Perryman, WA5WCP, and Pete Van Horne, KA6U (activating rare States Nationwide); Gene Shea, KB7Q, and Gary Lauterbach, K6MG (activating Western States); and the NC1I team (activating States throughout New England).

"These rover operations substantially benefitted DX Stations, including the likes of OK1KIR, HB9Q (known for many things VHF+, including their [EME scheduling/logger page](#)); and OK1DFC (well known for his Septum Parabolic Dish Feeds and other Microwave-Band support hardware, detailed on [QRZ](#))," said ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "It is important to realize that these DX-location 1296 MHz WAS Award winners had to contact all 50 states via Moonbounce."

"The new class of 222 and 1296 MHz WAS Award

recipients sought these awards often during efforts of several decades, and as such they deserve recognition. Congratulations to all of the newest 222 and 1296 MHz WAS Award recipients on their extraordinary accomplishments," said Jahnke. "Heartfelt thanks to those rovers and support groups who continue to help make these EME and beyond-line-of-sight contacts happen!"

For more information on the Worked All States Awards, visit www.arrl.org/was.

Thanks to ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ for information included in this story.

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest episode of the ARRL [On the Air](#) podcast (Episode 28) features a discussion of digital multimeters with practical usage examples and shopping tips.



The latest edition (Episode 58) of the ARRL [Eclectic Tech](#) podcast features a discussion with author Nick Tusa, K5EF, about his new book Wes Schum - Amateur Radio's Unsung Hero.

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.

["A trusty 'last resort' of emergency communications | North State Voices"](#) / Enterprise - Record (California), October 20, 2022. -- Ron Angle, K6KYJ, is an ARRL member.

["Young amateur radio operator selected for expedition to Antarctica"](#) / Telangana Today (India), October 25, 2022. -- Sarabjeet Singh Chhabra, VU2CUW, received his amateur radio license in 2015.

["If China declares war, these ham radio enthusiasts could be crucial"](#) / Los Angeles Times (California), October 27, 2022. -- Thanks to the Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League [CTARL].

["Some mountain middle school students talk with International Space Station crew"](#) / WLOS (North Carolina), October 12, 2022.

["Amateur Radio Operators receive much-deserved recognition."](#) / The Tomahawk (Tennessee), October 18, 2022 -- The Johnson County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Project 425 Hosts Amateur Radio Operators."](#) / The Town-Crier (Florida), October 7, 2022. -- Thanks to ARRL member Mike Bald, K4MIA, of Loxahatchee, Florida, for sharing his call sign in support of National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

["Amateur Radio Club returns, helps members obtain FCC licenses."](#) / The Baylor Lariat (Texas), October 4, 2022.

Arrl.org. 2022. ARRL Letter. [online] Available at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=current> [Accessed 1 September 2022].

Silent Key

It is with much sadness that NARS grieves at the passing of our members. This month, we remember the lives of a great individuals that touched many of us.

Brian Derx, N5BA

With great sadness, we note that Brian Derx, dedicated husband, father of three and friend of many passed away on September 17, 2022 at the age of 75 in Houston.

Brian had a passion for ham radio and got his radio license when he was fifteen years old. Growing up, Brian's parents let him string an antenna in their attic at his house. Later, Brian would make his HAM radio dreams come true and erect an 80-foot antenna in his Houston backyard, the envy of many HAM radio operators. Brian enjoyed talking to other HAMS across the world and would master the Morse code and became an avid HAM radio keyer.

Brian's legacy has been remembered across the amateur radio community:

"Brian lived just a few blocks from me and was always a good friend and great ham He will be greatly missed."

"He was truly an avid ham and good friend and person. I will miss his sarcastic humor!!"

"Always enjoyed talking to Brian. He will be missed for sure."



NARS Monthly Club Meeting

October's Monthly Meeting

During October's monthly meeting, the club heard from Walter Holmes, K5WH, and Ron Matusek, WA6TQH. Walter shared details about VarAC, an HF digital chat mode built off of the VARA protocol. Walter explained how to download, configure, and use the VarAC application, which can be downloaded from <https://www.varac-hamradio.com/>.

Ron spoke about several options to using digital modes i.e., Fusion, All-star, EchoLink and DMR, by using low-cost analog radios along with preprogrammed hotspots. No Code plugs for radios and no special hotspot programming.



Next Club Meeting

Our next club meeting will be November 18th at the Klein Fire Station #3 Training Facility. This month we will be finalizing selections / candidates for the club Board positions.

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](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9755+Landry+Blvd,+Spring,+TX+77379)

Zoom Conference Call, Meeting ID: 2815436502, Passcode: 123456

Club Procedures: Using the Repeater / Club Callsign

Over the past several months, the NARS club has finalized and ratified new, formalized procedures for requests to use the repeater for Nets, volunteer activities or other reasons. Additionally, a new procedure that describes how to request the usage of the club call sign has been adopted.

Requesting Use of the W5NC Repeater

The following items must be addressed when requesting the use of W5NC repeaters to provide communications support for a public service event or a net other than the NARS club weekly nets published in the club newsletter, NARS News.

§97.101 General standards.

(c) At all times and on all frequencies, each control operator must give priority to stations providing emergency communications, except to stations transmitting communications for training drills and tests in RACES.

Communications for training drills can be run at times other than scheduled weekly NARS nets on the W5NC repeater system. See latest the NARS Newsletter for net times.

Since it is in the FCC rules that an emergency communications need outweighs any scheduled weekly net, the emergency communications will be given priority. If there is a weather event or similar emergency in the Houston area, quickly send an email to the club trustee, Paul Owen N5NXS, and he will notify NARS Board members of the use of the repeaters for an emergency communications event. The trustee will be the point of contact for any updates during the emergency.

To request to operate on W5NC repeaters:

1. Any licensed operator may request the use of the repeater for a public service event or start a weekly net other than on a day and time that a NARS weekly net is already scheduled.
2. Submit the request to the President of the NARS Board. The board members will decide if the net can be on the club repeater.
3. The request should be submitted to the NARS President at least 2 weeks before the next meeting of the NARS Board.
4. The request must state the purpose, the proposed day, the start time and the end time of the event or weekly net. For weekly nets, it should also have a current NARS member(s) that will be a part of this new net. NARS membership participation is not required for public service events.
5. The Board members and the Trustee will discuss the request. If the request is approved then the member is notified that the net can proceed for an interim period stated by the board.
6. The interim period is for any net that is running on the repeater other than the NARS weekly scheduled nets. These requested nets can be stopped at any time that the board members decide to revoke the time slot for the net. The board may request that the operator in charge of the net come to a board meeting to discuss the net and/or the revocation.

Steps to request to use the club callsign, W5NC

The following items will need to be addressed when requesting the use of W5NC for a club activity.

Non-Field Day Activities

Club members may request the use of W5NC, the NARS club callsign for activities other than Field Day. In order to request the use of the club callsign, for a club activity other than Field Day, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Submit the request in writing to the Club President. The Board will decide if the activity is or is not a club activity for which they should approve the use of the callsign.
2. Send the request to the Club President at least two weeks before the proposed event.
3. The request must identify the NARS member that will serve as control operator for the event. The control operator should be an Extra Class license holder. The board may approve a General class license at their discretion, but limit operation to the General Class portions of the bands.
4. A title for the event is necessary. This title must be determined prior to the start of the event.
5. The request will be discussed between the board members and the callsign Trustee. If the Board and the Trustee approve, the requesting member will be notified that the event may proceed as a club planned activity.
6. The control operator is responsible for keeping a log for the event. A logging program is recommended, preferably one that can manage the QSL cards. The control operator is also responsible for ensuring that QSL information is communicated during the event. If time permits, the QSL information for the event will be added to the QRZ page by the QRZ page manager.

ARRL Field Day Activities

Use of the club callsign for ARRL Field Day in June will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The W5NC callsign will be used at the club designated field day location.
2. The Field Day Chairman will be the Control Operator for the entire duration. The FD Chairman should hold an Extra Class license. If not, then the Club will designate a Co-Chairman who will have the Extra Class license. The Co-Chairman may leave the site but must announce to the group the name of the person who is in charge at the FD site.
3. If the operator(s) at the radio have an Extra Class license but the current Control Operator holds a General Class license then they must stay within the frequency assignments for a General Class license unless, that Extra Class Licensee accepts the responsibility of being the control operator for the site and that fact is noted for the time period on the sign-in form as the Control Operator.

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.

Holiday Gift Guide

BY BRANDON ROGERS, K5BLR

The holidays are coming and that often comes with a desire to get a friend, colleague or loved one the perfect gift. However, it can be hard to shop for a ham radio operator if you don’t actively participate in the hobby. To help with this, below you will find several amateur radio gift guides that might be interested to look through yourself or send to a loved one or friend to help them get in the holiday-ham spirit. And we’ve included some recommendations from club members as well!

Recommendations from Club Members

ClearNode - A pre-configured Raspberry Pi-4 based AllStar, EchoLink & Digital Modes simplex node with an integrated low power UHF (or VHF) FM radio transceiver. Digital modes now include DMR, P25, YSF, FCS and NXDN.



DVMega DVStick – This USB stick facilitates the use of a PC to communicate on Dstar, FUSION and DMR. Just install BlueDV (or other compatible software), and use the PC-microphone and PC-speakers to communicate to reflectors/talkgroups. Ideal solution to use on a laptop whilst traveling.



G5RV Antenna - Multi-band, center-fed dipole antennas capable of 1,500 watts. Designed as 3/2 wavelength antennas for 14 MHz, they provide reasonable performance on many other bands. They cover all bands from 160-10 meters with a wide range antenna tuner. They are 102 ft. long and are designed to be used as an inverted vee or sloper to be more compact. They may be used on 160 meters as Marconis (with a tuner) and a ground. These antennas handle full

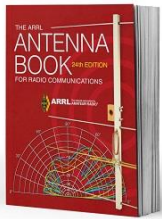


legal limit power. Just add a coax feedline and get on the air!

NanoVNA - A handheld Vector Network Analyzer (VNA) with small outline, originally designed by edy555. It is a low cost yet high performance (at its price point) vector network analyzer (VNA), with LCD display, and can be powered from a 3.7V Li-ion battery.



60-piece Ferrite Bead Kit - 60 Pieces Clip-on Ni-Zn Ferrite Ring Core RFI EMI Noise Suppressor Cable Clip for 3mm/ 5mm/ 7mm/ 9mm/ 13mm Diameter/Video Cable Power Cord



ARRL Antenna Book 24th Edition - A single resource covering antenna theory, design and construction, and practical treatments and projects. This book contains everything you need to understand how radio signals propagate, how antennas work, and how to construct your own antenna system.

End-fed Half-wave Antenna Kit - ARRL has partnered with HF Kits to bring you this easy-to-build 4-band antenna kit: an end-fed half-wave (EFHW) antenna. We built it in the ARRL Lab, set it up outside, trimmed the wire for the lowest SWR, and got it on the air. Now it's your turn!



Online Shopping Lists

<https://www.amazon.com/Ham-Radio-Gifts/s?k=Ham+Radio+Gifts> – Here's an Amazon list with collectibles, clothing, and equipment that might be interesting to any ham radio operator.

<https://nerdytechy.com/gifts-for-ham-radio-operators/> - A gift guide from NerdyTechy.com that covers beginners, intermediate and expert operators.

More Gift Ideas to Share?

Post to the [NARS Groups.io](https://www.narsgroups.io) and let the club know!

DitDit.FM Podcast with Mark Tyler, K5GQ

One of our NARS members, Mark Tyler, K5GQ, was recently featured on the DitDit.FM podcast. Listen in here: <https://www.ditdit.fm/shows/episode-35-mark-tyler-k5gq>

Bruce Pea, N9WKE, the host of the podcast introduces the podcast with Mark with the following:

“There are a lot of great advisors and instructors who teach Morse Code and CW.

Mark Tyler, K5GQ, is one of the greatest CW teachers there has ever been!

Mark was my advisor when I took the 8-week intermediate CW Academy course. I barely had the CW skills required to get into the course and my level of confidence at the time tended to be on the low end of the scale. I was both excited and concerned about Mark’s class. I was excited to learn new things and develop new skills that would help me become a better CW operator. But I was concerned that I would put in the effort to make the progress that was expected of me, but would somehow let myself and the class down. Despite my serious lack of confidence and mediocre skills, I made a commitment to jump in 100%, do the best I could, and have fun... and I’m glad I did!

Mark has been advising and teaching Morse code and CW for a long, long time. (With CWA since 2013). He developed a very efficient method of teaching that is highly effective if the method works for you. Mark designed custom files for RufZ and increasing length callsign databases for Morse Runner. These computer programs provide measurable data to see one’s progress. To be honest, I didn’t enjoy using these programs the first couple of weeks. But as I stuck with Mark’s method, I noticed my frustration turning into enjoyment, and my skills improving measurably faster than I had thought possible.

Taking Mark’s class was like strapping a CW rocket to my back and lighting the fuse! His class was challenging, sometimes frustrating, exciting, a big confidence builder, and a ton of fun. Mark has taught so many students for so long he has seen virtually every mental block, plateau, and wall someone might struggle with while learning. And he can tell you exactly what you need to do to break through whatever issue your struggling with and continue making progress. I could never imagine that in eight weeks I would develop the skills and speed needed to participate in weekly CWOps CWT contests and be nominated to join CWOps. This all happened because I had the good fortune to have Mark Tyler as a teacher.

If you ever get the opportunity to take Mark’s class, don’t pass it up! You will become a much better CW operator and the joy you will get from your CW will be compounded beyond your wildest dreams.

Join me for a very interesting conversation with Mark Tyler, K5GQ!”

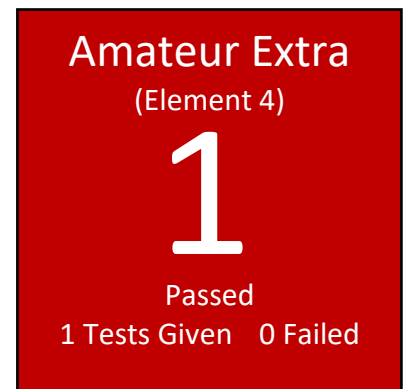
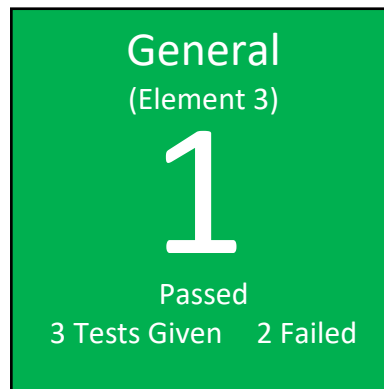
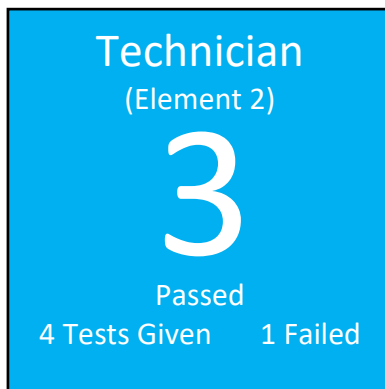
Be sure to support Mark and the DitDit.FM podcast by listening in!

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

Attendees

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, a VE Test Session was held at Klein Fire Station #3 in Spring, Texas. During the testing session 6 candidates took 8 tests.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams¹:

- Ralph L Baillio – Technician
- August J Canik – Technician
- David W Peirce – Technician

Congratulations to the following for passing their upgrade exams:

- Michael J Manley KI5YFP – Upgrade to General
- Laszlo E Popeszku KI5WVX – Upgrade to Extra

Pre-registration for Testing Sessions

To pre-register for an upcoming testing session, you can use one of the following links:

HamStudy.org page link: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrrl/77070/inperson>

Test-specific Links

November 19, 2022 <https://ham.study/sessions/632ca76cf96a236028b67c72/1>

December 17, 2022 <https://ham.study/sessions/632ca7fce5133e31a52e01aa/1>

¹ Successful candidates will only receive their **NEW** licenses if they pay the \$35 fee to the FCC within 10 days of receipt of their notification emails. They will have to request the ARRL VEC to resubmit their paperwork if they miss the 10-day deadline. They do **NOT** have to retest.

Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:

- Marvin J Wilken KT4W
- Michael S Robinson KI0DE
- Edward H Messman KT5EM

Thanks to Brandy Land, WE9L, for assisting with Registration!

Next Session

Our next VE Test Session will be on November 19, 2022 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. Please visit www.w5nc.net for the announcement.

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.

Renewing Club Members

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

- Art Grant, KM4YGH
- Cindy Grant, KM4YGG
- David Holden, WJ9O
- Bob Judd, WN5G
- Nell Judd, N5KTA
- Michael Livingston, AG5ZG
- Michael Lizzio, WA2TOP
- Edward Messman, KT5EM
- David Peirce, KI5YPL

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

Did you know...

NARS now has the ability to run computer-aided tests through [Ham.Study](https://www.hamstudy.com). Computer-aided tests provides many benefits, including the ability to make the tests easier to administer, quicker to get results, easier for many test-takers, and many more!

Thanks to Brandon Rogers, K5BLR for helping to set up the laptops to enable the club to provide this computer-aided test option!

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>

Exam Review for Ham Radio - <http://www.arrl.org/examreview>

Find an Amateur Radio License Class -
<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class>

Free Study Guides

A [study guide](#) for Technician license preparation, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A [study guide](#) for Technician license preparation on the Inland Empire VHF Radio Club website, Jack Tiley, AD7FO (Click on "Training Links" and go to the Technician training link)



Online Video/Audio Courses

[Online Technician license exam self-study course](#), Fred Benson, NC4FB - The purpose of the resources developed for this course is to provide candidates in geographical areas that do not provide classes and candidates who cannot attend a class with the means to prepare for the Technician license exam. The materials cover all questions in the question pool with explanations, sub element tests, and sample license exams. Help is available upon request via email.

Benson also offers a ["kid friendly" self-study course](#) and a self-study program especially designed for [emergency services personnel](#).

"The Ham Whisperer" [Video Course](#), Andy Vallenga, KE4GKP – This course is based on the FCC question pool sequence to assist with Technician license preparation.

[A Self-Study Video Course](#), Dave Casler, KE0OG – This course provides a guided self-study [video course](#) based on ARRL's Ham Radio License Manual curriculum.

[Online Technician License Preparation Course](#) – Chris Johnson, N1IR

Study Tools

[HamStudy.org: Cutting edge amateur radio study tools](#) - Free ham radio flash cards, practice tests, and question pools as well as introduction to ham radio and explanations for questions.

[HamTestOnline](#) – Study Tips for the Ham Radio License Exams

[HamExam.org](#) - Free Amateur Radio Practice Tests with Flash Cards

[eHam.net Ham Radio Practice Exams](#)

Paid Resources

[W5YI Group](#) - Your Resource for Ham Radio and Commercial Radio Licensing

[HamRadioPrep](#) - Enroll in Ham Radio Prep, the industry's #1 online test prep and training program, and pass your FCC Amateur Radio License exam on the first try - or your money back.

[HamTestOnline](#) - Study for your Ham Radio License Exam!

Of Interest to the Club

Houston Local Traffic Net

The Houston Local Traffic Net meets each Monday night at from 6:30 – 7:30pm on the 146.940 repeater with a PL tone of 167.9 Hz. The backup repeater for Monday night is the NARS repeater 146.660/100.0. The Thursday night edition of the Houston Local Traffic Net meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm on the 146.660 repeater with a PL tone of 100.0 Hz. This repeater is linked to the 70cm repeater on 444.375 also with a PL tone of 100 Hz. You can access the two linked repeaters via EchoLink node W5NC-R. The Thursday night backup repeater is 147.000 with a PL tone of 103.5 Hz. The purpose of both nets is to pass National Traffic System (NTS) radiogram messages into and out of the Houston area. The Monday edition of the Net also provides traffic handling instruction/training.

Anyone with questions about the Houston Local Traffic Nets, radiograms and or message handling can call or email Sheree Horton WM5N for more information.

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

Calendar

Club Activities and Events

VE Test Session – November 19, 2022 – [Klein Fire Station #3](#) - Check-in will start at 8:30am with testing lasting from 9:00am - 11:30am. All testing activities will be completed by noon.

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

Near the Medical Center and want to take a break with fellow radio operators and enjoy a lunch together?

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

ARRL Contests & Activities

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>January 2023 1: Straight Key Night 7: Kids Day 7-8: RTTY Roundup 21-23: January VHF TBD: Winter Field Day</p> | <p>February 2023 13-17: School Club Roundup 18-19: International DX – CW</p> | <p>March 2023 4-5: International DX– Phone</p> |
| <p>April 2023 16: Rookie Roundup – Phone</p> | <p>May 2023</p> | <p>June 2023 3-4: International Digital Contest 10-12: June VHF 17: Kids Day 24-25: Field Day</p> |
| <p>July 2023 8-9: IARU HF World Champ</p> | <p>August 2023 5-6: 222 MHz and Up Distance 19-20: 10 GHz & Up – Round 1 20: Rookie Roundup – RTTY 12-13: EME - 2.3 GHz & Up #1</p> | <p>September 2023 9-11: September VHF 16-17: 10 GHz & Up - Round 2 9-10: EME - 2.3 GHz & Up #2</p> |
| <p>October 2023 16-20: School Club Roundup 28-29: EME - 2.3 GHz & Up #3</p> | <p>November 2023 4-6: Nov. Sweepstakes – CW 18-20: Nov. Sweeps. – Phone 25-26: EME-50 to 1296 MHz #4</p> | <p>December 2022 2-4: 160 Meter 10-11: 10 Meter 18: Rookie Roundup–CW</p> |

Hamfests and Conventions

November 12 - [Montgomery ARC Hamfest](#), ARRL Alabama State Convention, Montgomery, Alabama

November 12 - [Rock Hill Hamfest](#), ARRL South Carolina Section Convention, Rock Hill, South Carolina

December 9 - 10 - [Tampa Bay Hamfest](#), ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention, Plant City, Florida

Exam Practice Answers

Technician: T3B10 – A, 3 – 30 MHz

General: G0B10 – C, Lead can contaminate food if hands are not washed carefully after handling the solder

Amateur Extra: E5C07 – D, On the horizontal axis

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: Sheree Horton, WM5N

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 messaging service, called groups.io, that allows you to connect with a giant group of experts, club members, and resources. Get more information on our club website at <http://w5nc.net/index.php/club-info/email-reflector-groups>