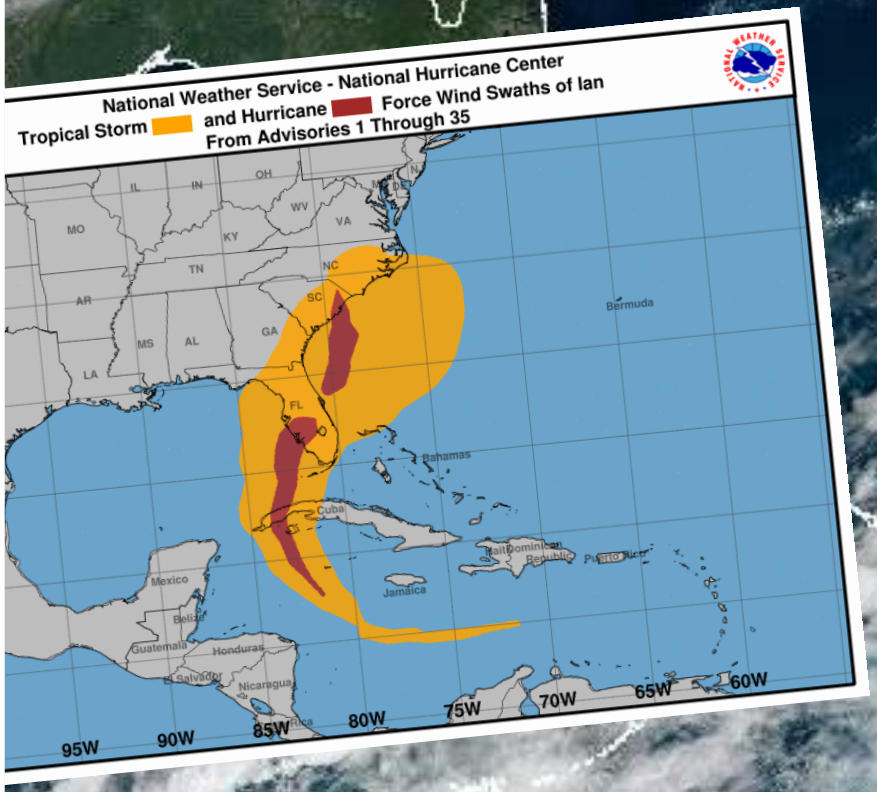
W5NC
Houston, Texas
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

ARS NEWS



OCTOBER 2022

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

Contents

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

Digital Communications Options

I have heard some interest in revisiting Hotspot's specifically addressing Digital communications. Our currently weekly DMR net seems to be impacted because many still do not have a DMR radio or compatible Hotspots. If you remember we had DMR/Hotspots training classes couple years ago and several purchased DMR radios and constructed Hotspot's. The whole Digital spectrum has gone through some significant changes so, at our upcoming General meeting we will be exploring how you can take advantage of Digital communications without investing in special radio's. i.e., your current analog UHF/VHF radio can now be used to access AllStar, EchoLink, DMR, P25, YSF, FCS and NXDN. So, dust off those Analog radios and consider the options we will be presenting. We would like to see the weekly DMR net double in participation over the next couple of months.

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.

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 October General Meeting!

Ron Matusek
President NARS

The ARRL Letter

An excerpt from the weekly ARRL Letter

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

ARRL Foundation Grants $270,000 to Amateur Radio Clubs

The new ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program, funded by a generous grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), has awarded $270,000 to radio clubs that participated in the first round of applications.

The Club Grant Program, introduced earlier this year, includes $500,000 to be awarded to radio clubs with projects that will have the most impact on amateur radio, the community, and the future of radio technology. The grants will fund transformative projects that encourage the growth of active amateur radio operators and training opportunities, education programs for student groups and schools, and club revitalization. A second round of applications to award the program's remaining funding will open on September 7, 2022.

Twenty-four clubs were notified on Monday, August 29, that they are receiving grants. The ARRL Foundation received 128 applications in the first round, with requests totaling $1.74 million. The selection committee noted that it was difficult work deciding between many high-quality grant proposals considering the finite available funds. Radio clubs that did not receive grants in the first round may revise and resubmit applications in the second round.

An informational webinar will serve as an orientation to the program, providing information on how to apply. The webinar will take place on September 7 at 7 PM Eastern Time. Please register in advance to attend. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar:

Webinar: **ARRL Club Grant Program: Round Two Kickoff**
When: **September 7, 2022, at 7 PM Eastern Time**
Register: **tinyurl.com/ARRL-Webinar-September-2022**

The ARRL Foundation, established in 1973 by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®, administers the Club Grant Program. ARRL has long recognized that it is in the best interests of amateur radio to encourage and support amateur radio clubs. Historically, clubs have recruited, licensed, and trained new radio amateurs and have provided the community setting for them to continue their education and training.

The new Club Grant Program will help clubs more easily provide and expand their important services. More information about the program can be found on the ARRL Foundation website at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program.

Amateur Radio Makes the Connection to Save Lives in Wisconsin and Idaho

The following two rescue stories are great examples of why amateur radio is important. The first story occurred in Wisconsin and is told by ARRL member Scott Strecker, KG9IV. In his own words, Strecker shares how he was able to help a ham in distress. Thanks to the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club in Wisconsin, an ARRL Affiliated Club, for this information.

"It was Friday, September 2, 2022, which meant I worked from my home office. I have the VHF radios on low to monitor them in the background. Recently, I got into the Allstar node with a hotspot. I use it to monitor the FM38 systems (Allstar 2495) in the southern [part] of Wisconsin.

At about 7:45 AM, I heard the Allstar node come up. An individual in distress was asking for assistance to get an ambulance to him. It was a ham in Brown Deer, Wisconsin. He had slipped on his bathroom floor and went down so hard he could not get up, but he happened to have his handheld with him (don't we all). He did not have access [to the] phone, and he lived alone.

[I called the] Brown Deer police call center. The dispatcher got the fire department rolling and then started asking me for more details. I had the dispatcher on speaker phone, and he could hear the hams' responses to the questions. Being on a handheld and [lying] prone, the signal was, at times, noisy. At that time, both the other ham and I used ITU phonetics to get the exact info out. All those times practicing on the ARES® nets made it second nature. The dispatcher was also able to understand the info without my having to repeat it.

It felt good to help out. I also realized it was due to my monitoring that I was able to hear his call. If you are not participating in the weekly local ARES net, I would encourage you to do so when you can."

In addition to Strecker's story, newly licensed amateur radio operators Shannon Vore, KK7GVG, and CJ Bouchard, KK7GNG, also shared a rescue story. On September 3, 2022, in the Rocky Mountains in northwest Idaho, they were out for a weekend of four-wheeling in their Jeep. The area is an extremely mountainous region with no towns, very few people, no facilities, and no cell phone coverage. The nearest airfield is Horse Haven Trail, an unimproved dirt strip that's severely eroded and covered with rocks and debris.

At about 4:30 PM, Vore and Bouchard were taking a break when an approaching truck notified them of an ATV accident involving two teenage girls. The accident scene was just a few miles away, and when they arrived it was clear the teenagers were critically injured. Bouchard was unable to contact several local repeaters, but was finally able to make contact using a simplex frequency (146.420 MHz) that's popular with the hams in Coeur d'Alene, 20 miles from the accident site.

Shannon Vore, KK7GVG, and CJ Bouchard, KK7GNG, used ham radio to respond to an accident in a remote area of Idaho. Bouchard used a simplex frequency on the 2-meter band to get help.

While Bouchard and an off-duty Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) were administrating medical aid to the teenagers, Vore took over radio operations. The call for emergency assistance was picked up by local amateur radio operator John Tappero, K7JNT, who immediately called 911 and asked that 146.420 MHz be used only for emergency traffic. For nearly 2 hours, Vore and Tappero provided relay between the 911 dispatcher, advising the condition of the injured and the approaching weather. Life Flight Network was unable to respond because of a severe thunderstorm immediately over the rescue site.

Two teams of EMT's were dispatched, but due to the mountains and the storm, they couldn't communicate with dispatch. Tappero continued to provide relay information for all parties until 6:00 PM, when the EMT's arrived. The teenagers were in stable condition and immediately transported to the nearest hospital. Today, they're in good condition and recovering.

"It took us about 2 days to wind down from the experience," said Vore. "We are both glad we had our amateur radio licenses and were able to help."

Bouchard said that they had been using radios on the General Mobile Radio System (GMRS), but have since upgraded their licenses for more operating privileges. "Because the area signals were not good, it was difficult to communicate," he continued. "So, we studied, took our exams, and are now looking forward to much more amateur radio opportunities."

Both Vore and Bouchard are now looking to join a local amateur radio club and become involved in the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Services® (ARES®).

--Thanks to ARRL Idaho Section Manager Dan Marler, K7REX, and Idaho Assistant Section Manager Ed Stuckey, AI7H, for their help with the Idaho rescue story.

AMSAT Outlines Tracking for Artemis I Moon Mission using "Welcome" Beacons

When NASA's Artemis I rocket launches for its mission to the moon this month, you'll be able to track it using 70-centimeter beacons known as Outstanding MOon exploration TEchnologies demonstrated by NAno Semi-Hard Impactors (OMOTENASHIs).

Omotenashi is Japanese for welcome or hospitality, and it describes the 70-centimeter beacons as small spacecraft and semi-hard landers of the 6U CubeSat format which will demonstrate low-cost technology to land and explore the lunar surface. OMOTENASHI will be one of 10 CubeSats to be carried with the Artemis I mission.

Brian Wilkins, KO4AQF, says that with the Artemis Real-time Orbit Website (AROW), anyone with internet access can pinpoint where Orion is and track its distance from the Earth, its distance from the moon, the mission duration, and more. AROW is available on NASA's website and Twitter account. AROW visualizes data collected by sensors on Orion that are sent to the Johnson Space Center's Mission Control Center in Houston during its flight. It will provide periodic real-time data beginning about 1 minute after liftoff through the separation of the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket's Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage, approximately 2 hours into flight.

Once Orion is flying on its own, AROW will provide constant real-time information. On the web, users can follow AROW to see where Orion is in relation to the Earth and the moon, and follow Orion's path during the mission. Users can view key mission milestones and characteristics on the moon, including information about landing sites from the

Apollo program. Also available for download will be an ephemeris, which provides trajectory data from the flight.

AROW will also provide a set of Orion's state vectors -- data that describes precisely where Orion is in space and how it moves -- for inclusion in these tweets once Orion is flying on its own. These vectors can be used for data lovers, artists, and creatives to make their own tracking app, data visualization, or anything else they envision. For more information, read https://www.nasa.gov/feature/track-nasa-s-artemis-i-mission-in-real-time/.

AMSAT member Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P, adds a second online tool, called Horizons. The JPL Horizons online solar system data and computation service provides access to key solar system data and flexible production of highly accurate locations for solar system objects such as asteroids, planetary satellites, planets, the Sun, and select spacecraft. Horizons is provided by the Solar System Dynamics Group of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Fitzgerald says to use "OMOTENASHI" as the Target Body. You can find information and the online app at https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/horizons.

-- Thanks to Brian Wilkins, KO4AQF; Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P; NASA; JPL Horizons, and AMSAT.

104-Year-Old Ham is On the Air

ARRL member Oscar Norris, W4OXH, of Gastonia, North Carolina, will turn 105 on September 25, 2022, and he is still on the air.

Norris lost his sight when he was 24 in 1942, and it was his blindness that led him to amateur radio. He earned his license in 1949, and has been on the air for 73 years.

Tony Jones, N4ATJ, has known Norris since he was 14 and remembers the first time he met Norris. It was at a bicycle shop and Norris, blind, was still able

Oscar Norris, W4OXH, with his guide dog, Neil, circa late 1940's.

to tear down a wheel, replace the spokes, and spin the wheel until it was balanced. Several years later, Norris gave Jones a book on how to earn an amateur radio license.

"Over the years, the book got misplaced," said Jones. "I would give anything to find that book today." Jones continued, "Oscar has the personality of one of the kindest people you would ever want to meet, and he never has an unkind word for anyone."

Norris communicates mostly using digital mobile radio (DMR) on a handheld radio, and he has been a member of the Gaston County Amateur Radio Society (GCARS), an ARRL Affiliated Club, since 1979.

In honor of his 105th birthday, GCARS members will be operating the special event station N1O from 00:01 UTC on September 20 through 20:00 UTC on October 1. Operations will be on the HF bands, 2 meters, 1.25 meters, and 70 centimeters. Modes used will be CW, SSB, FT4, FT8, DMR, and D-STAR.

For additional information, contact Jones at n4atj@twc.com.

Amateur Radio Helps Disabled Sailboat to Port

On September 7, 2022, Jeanne (Jan) Socrates, VE0JS/MM / KC2IOV, and her sailboat, the SV Nereida, set sail from Cape Flattery, the northwesternmost point of the contiguous US. She was on her way to visit friends in San Francisco, California, but 2 days of 35 knot winds and storms left her sailboat disabled and her onboard radio equipment marginally operational. Amateur operators in New Mexico, California, and Canada, and members of Group 7.155 heard her requests for assistance.

Jeanne (Jan) Socrates, VE0JS/MM/ KC2IOV, and her sailboat, the Nereida.

Gil Gray, N2GG, was able to contact Socrates on 40 meters. "Her power was extremely low, and she was unable to communicate on 14.300 MHz to notify the monitoring group on that frequency," said Gray. "She needed help with wind and sea conditions, and tidal data for San Francisco Bay," he added.

Low-power output on the HF radio made it very difficult to get Q5 copy, which would typically be Q2 or Q3. With the help of several software-defined radio (SDR) operators in Utah, California, and Maui, Hawaii, they were able to glean enough copy to understand her situation and answer questions for her navigation.

Gray; Jonathan Ayers, AI6NA, and Edwin E. Jenkins, K6EXY, are all experienced sailors. They were able to make periodic contact with Socrates and give her updated wind reports. Their last contact was on Monday, September 12, at 11:00 AM (MSDT). By this time, Socrates was sailing with only the forward sail on her 38-foot sloop. Fortunately, a "following wind" kept her moving without a mainsail. As she approached the Golden Gate Bridge, Socrates was able to use the tidal information passed on by amateur radio operators to make it safely to Berkeley Marina in San Francisco Bay.

"I wouldn't call it a rescue," said Socrates, "just good amateur radio assistance -- and I'm grateful for their help."

Socrates is 81 years old and the oldest person to have ever sailed around the world unassisted. Once her sailboat is repaired, she will sail again, not for records, but for the enjoyment of sailing the high seas.

Her situation is one of three events in early September in which amateur radio was able to provide emergency assistance.

More information about Socrates is available on her Facebook page.

Amateur Radio Operators Track Hurricane Fiona

The National Hurricane Center (NHC), the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN), the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Hurricane Net, and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) all have been engaged in tracking Hurricane Fiona.

Amateur radio operators have been reporting weather conditions since Monday, September 19, 2022, and have received positive feedback on their assistance. The VoIP Hurricane Net was active for 14 continuous hours on Sunday, September 18, for

Hurricane Fiona, as it pummeled the southern and southwestern portions of Puerto Rico with catastrophic rainfall and flooding with hurricane-force conditions.

In the ARRL Puerto Rico Section, Public Information Coordinator (PIC) Angel L. Santana-Diaz, WP3GW, who lives in Trujillo Alto, reported a widespread blackout as the hurricane made landfall on the island. Still, he explained, there were ham radio repeaters that remained on the air with amateurs sharing reports of damage, including downed trees and power poles, and roofs ripped from homes. ARRL Member Pedro S. Labayen, KP4DKE, of Utuado, was mentioned in a Miami Herald article for reporting the significant damage to his rural and mountainous region of the island.

The NHC has issued advisories for Hurricane Fiona and Tropical Storm Gaston. Marine warnings are also in effect for the Caribbean and the Southwest Atlantic. As of 2:00 PM EDT (1800 UTC) on Thursday, September 22, the NHC reported that Hurricane Fiona is forecast to pass just west of Bermuda by late Thursday evening, approach Nova Scotia on Friday, and move across Nova Scotia and into the Gulf of St. Lawrence on Saturday. Fiona is a category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 130 mph (215 km/h) with higher gusts.

In advance of the hurricane, the Radio Society of Bermuda activated their Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) on Wednesday, September 21, at 1:43 PM ET and plans to have 14 active amateurs monitoring the hurricane network. Plans are to use local repeaters, unless there's a power loss, then they'll switch to simplex. They're currently monitoring 14.283 MHz and will continue to monitor that frequency.

The HWN will be activated on Thursday, September 22, at 5:00 PM EDT/AST (2100 UTC) on the primary frequency of 14.325 MHz. Activation for the 40-meter net on 7.268 MHz will be at 7:00 PM EDT/AST (2300 UTC). The net will be on 20 meters for as long as propagation will allow and will remain active on 40 meters until it's no longer required, or propagation goes away.

However, should Hurricane Fiona make direct landfall, operations will resume on Friday, September 23, at 9:00 AM EDT/AST (1300 UTC) to assist with post-storm reports and any outgoing health and welfare traffic, which would be directed toward SATERN.

HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, offered some suggestions for amateur radio operators contacting the net.

"We look for reporting stations that can provide us with any measured or estimated weather information that we can relay directly to the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Such weather information we look for is maximum sustained winds, wind gusts, wind direction, barometric pressure, and rainfall amount -- how much over x-amount of time, storm surge, and damage," Graves said. "Also, should you have any outgoing health and welfare traffic before, during, or after this event, we are happy to assist as we work closely with the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network."

Graves also said, as a reminder, the HWN is available to provide backup communications to official agencies, such as Emergency Operations Centers, American Red Cross officials, and storm shelters in the affected area. They also collect and forward significant damage assessment data to government and non-government officials.

Amateur radio operators who want to monitor or participate in the hurricane nets should visit these two useful and informative links:

- The Hurricane Watch Net - Useful Links
- VoIP Hurricane Net

Special thanks to HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, and ARRL PIC Angel L. Santana-Diaz, WP3GW for information in this article.

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.

"HAMs to unveil new communication trailer this week." / The Star (Indiana), August 27, 2022. -- Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"NCFL residents get training on HAM radios in case of a major disaster." / WCJB - TV (Florida), August 28, 2022. -- Thanks to Alachua County ARES®/RACES and the North Florida Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"Hams complete amateur radio Emergency Communication course" / The Coastal Point (Delaware), August 30, 2022. -- Thanks to the radio amateurs of Kent and Sussex County and the ARRL Delaware Section.

"New Daleville Area Amateur Radio Service gets grant" / Dothan Eagle (Alabama) September 5, 2022. -- The Daleville Area Amateur Radio Service is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"Amateur radio informs and protects county residents" / Times Bulletin (Ohio), September 7, 2022. -- Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"HAM RADIO OPERATOR KEEPS LIFELINES, PEOPLE AND EVENTS CONNECTED WHERE CELLPHONE TECHNOLOGY CANNOT" / Lebanon Local (Oregon), September 22, 2022 -- Lebanon Amateur Radio Emergency Services®.

"Big E to host chat with International Space Station for local students" / WGGB Western Mass News (Massachusetts), September 26, 2022 -- Thanks to the ARRL New England Division.

"Students to chat with International Space Station at Big E Tuesday" / WWLP (Massachusetts), September 26, 2022

"Ham radio is ready if cell phones go down" / SNN News (Florida), September 27, 2022 -- The Sarasota Emergency Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"Ham operators hosting Simulated Emergency Test Oct. 8" / The Monroe News (Michigan), September 28, 2002 -- Thanks to the Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps and Monroe County Radio Communications Association, an ARRL Affiliated Club.

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

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

September's Monthly Meeting

During September's monthly meeting, the club met together and brainstormed ideas for meeting topics, club activities, and projects. Requests for more information on digital radio, ARDF (foxhunting), electronics projects, antenna builds, and many other topics were brought up. As a result, the club has many ideas on future presentation topics! The Board also invites anyone that would like to present or organize an activity to let the Board know… we'd love to hear from you!

Next Club Meeting

Our next club meeting will be on October 21st at the Klein Fire Station #3 Training Facility. This month we will be learning more about digital radio options and Walter Holmes, K5WH, will be presenting on VarAC!

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

Hurricane Ian and Amateur Radio

In the days leading up to and following Hurricane Ian, many amateur radio operators jumped into action to help with communication, emergency response, and other activities. These are a few of the stories of fellow radio operators in action.

Amateur Radio Operators Continue Response to Hurricane Ian

As Hurricane Ian made its way across Florida, and now heads toward South Carolina, amateur radio operators have continued to provide communications support for weather updates and requests for assistance.

The hurricane made landfall at 3:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, just south of Tampa, Florida, as a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 150 miles per hour. Millions of residents are without power, and damage was reported as extensive along the storm's initial path. As of 5 PM ET on Thursday, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) reported that Ian is "taking aim at the Carolinas and Georgia with life-threatening flooding, storm surge, and strong winds."

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, has been in regular contact with ARRL Section Managers and Section Emergency Coordinators in Florida and throughout the southeastern US. Johnston said ARRL is also in touch with national-level partners, including FEMA and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), should any requests for direct emergency communications via amateur radio be needed.

Johnston said many ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers and their groups are involved across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. "Many ARES groups throughout Florida have been in a state of readiness since before the weekend," said Johnston. "These amateur radio volunteers are well-connected with their state and local emergency management partners in government and non-government organizations." Johnston also said that there are ARES members, at the request of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, serving in the state Emergency Operations Center. Many ARES groups are also operating in several shelter locations.

An ARES activation setup at Palm Harbor University High School, one of some 25 shelters in Pinellas County, Florida, providing communications in case of infrastructure failure. Radios communicate directly to the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center. [ARRL member Stephen Foy, N4FOY, photo]

ARRL has previously deployed Ham Aid kits in the region. The kits include amateur radio equipment for disaster response when communications equipment is unavailable.

W1AW, the Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL's headquarters in Connecticut, has activated its Winlink station to handle PACTOR III and IV messages and traffic, as well as its SHARES station, NCS310.

"In our [ARRL's] experience, amateur radio's response will continue to play out, sometimes even more significantly, after the storm passes and communities enter a period of recovery," said Johnston. "As needs are assessed, such as disruptions to power and communications, our ARRL Section leaders and ARES groups may receive additional requests for more activations and deployments."

Orange County (Florida) ARES at the Orange County Emergency Operations Center, providing backup communications. Pictured is Emergency Coordinator John Knott, N4JTK [Assistant Emergency Coordinator Michael Cauley, W4ORL, photo]

Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Net Manager for the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN), said the net is now transitioning from receiving weather data to gathering post-storm reports (read "Hurricane Watch Net Update for Ian," ARRL News, 9/29/2022).

"These reports include damage and areas that are flooded," said Graves. "This gives the forecasters additional information they need. Also, since FEMA has an office in the National Hurricane Center, they look over these reports to get a bigger picture of what has happened, which in turn helps them to get help and humanitarian assistance where it is needed."

Graves added that the HWN will be assisting with emergency, priority, and any Health and Welfare Traffic. The net may continue operations for days. The HWN will issue an after-action report to detail the number of amateur radio operators who participated on the net.

Assistant HWN Net Manager Stan Broadway, N8BHL, said they have been filing reports since September 26, 2022, and over 125 specific reports have been filed to the NHC from stations in the area. "We have handled other reports, not included in the database, for damage and other storm-related situations," said Broadway. "One such call involved a relayed report of a woman trapped in her home with a collapsed wall in the Ft. Meyer area. That report was relayed to Lee County Emergency Communications to dispatch a rescue team."

The VoIP Hurricane Net has been active as well. Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net and ARRL Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, said the net will remain active potentially through 11:00 PM EDT on Thursday evening, supporting WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. WX4NHC will be active through this period for as long as needed.

Use these additional links for more information:

The Hurricane Watch Net - Useful Links
VoIP Hurricane Net

FCC Grants an ARRL Emergency Request to Permit Higher Data Rate Transmissions for Hurricane Relief Communications

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted an ARRL emergency request for a 60-day temporary waiver intended to facilitate amateur radio emergency communications for hurricane relief. The waiver was adopted on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, and immediately permitted amateur radio operators supporting amateur data transmission for Hurricane Ian traffic to employ a higher symbol rate for data transmissions than the current limit of 300 baud.

In its Order (DA 22-1011), the FCC concluded "that granting the requested waiver is in the public interest. Puerto Rico was recently hit by Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian is predicted to cause significant damage, including disruption to electricity and communications services. Thus, to accommodate amateur radio operators assisting in the recovery efforts, we grant the ARRL's waiver request for the period of 60 days from the date of this Order to operate in any parts of the United States and its territories impacted by hurricanes. The waiver is limited to amateur radio operators in the United States and its territories using publicly documented data protocols that are compatible with FCC rules, with the exception of the data rate limit waived here, for those directly involved with HF hurricane relief communications."

ARRL's request stated that trained amateur radio operators are working with emergency management officials and relief organizations to assist with disaster relief communications in anticipation of Hurricane Ian. ARRL sought the waiver for Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers, and other amateur radio support groups working with federal, state, and local emergency management officials to assist with disaster relief.

Pursuant to ARRL's request and similar to written waivers granted by the FCC in earlier years, three conditions must be met to qualify. A protocol or mode exceeding the 300 baud symbol rate limit must be publicly documented, use no more bandwidth than the currently permissible slower protocols (generally accepted to be the bandwidth of an SSB signal, or 2.8 kHz), and be used solely for communications related to hurricane relief.

ARRL also explained that radio amateurs using higher-speed emissions for hurricane-related messages in the US and its territories must be able to communicate with similar stations in the US. They may also need the ability to communicate with Caribbean-based stations directly involved with hurricane relief efforts. Additionally, amateurs must be able to communicate with federal stations on the five channels in the 5 MHz band involved with the SHARES network and other interoperability partners on those frequencies.

ARRL also pointed out that the past FCC temporary waivers have allowed such protocols in similar events, including hurricanes Maria, Dorian, Laura, and Ida, typhoon relief communications in Hawaii, and wildfires in the western areas of the US.

In 2016, in response to an ARRL petition for rulemaking, the FCC proposed to remove the symbol rate limitations. It concluded that such limitations had become unnecessary due to advances in modulation techniques, and they no longer served a useful purpose. That proceeding, WT Docket 16-239, is still pending.

Other Articles in the News

Hurricane Ian hero: Maryland firefighter uses his ham radio to send rescuers to Florida's Sanibel Island
Firefighter and ham radio hobbyist helped rescue a group stranded by Hurricane Ian

Local ham radio operators providing help as Hurricane Ian sweeps across Florida
As Hurricane Ian rumbled onshore in Florida, Allen Sudduth and the Captain's Final Prayers Amateur Radio Operators stood vigilant at the Tupelo Veterans Museum in the Oren Dunn Museum at Ballard Park.

Amateur Radio Operators Help Prepare for Ian
The ARRL said trained hams are working with emergency management and relief organizations.

When Power Goes Down, Volunteer Amateur Radio Operators Step Up
Amateur radio operators will provide vital communications if power is lost during Hurricane Ian.

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.

Amateur Radio Life Hacks

BY BRANDON ROGERS, K5BLR

In the September/October 2022 edition of ARRL's *On the Air* magazine, the "Hints & Hacks" feature demonstrates some simple "life hacks" for ham radio operators. From a banana keeper headphone stand to homemade antenna supports, these simple ideas can give a jumpstart to your operating, building, and learning.

Many operators across the world have ideas on how to transform simple things to useful tools. Below are a list of links and videos that show some of these "life hacks".

10 POTA Life Hacks - KB9VBR Antennas (jpole-antenna.com)
KB9VBR shares 10 Parks on the Air (POTA) Life Hacks for any operator. Hint: they work great for remote operating anywhere!

Ham Radio Hacking: Thinking Inside The Box
Perhaps this cardboard box trick will help you to hear your contacts a little bit better!

Ham Radio Tips and Tricks - Ham Radio for Non-Techies
Some simple best practices for operating and making contacts.

10 Ham Radio Station Equipment Tips
Some great tips when you are building (or rebuilding) your ham shack.

TIPS AND TRICKS - 3rd Planet Solar / KC9ON
Do you enjoy building new devices or engineering tools for radio? KC9ON shares a few tips for making projects a little easier.

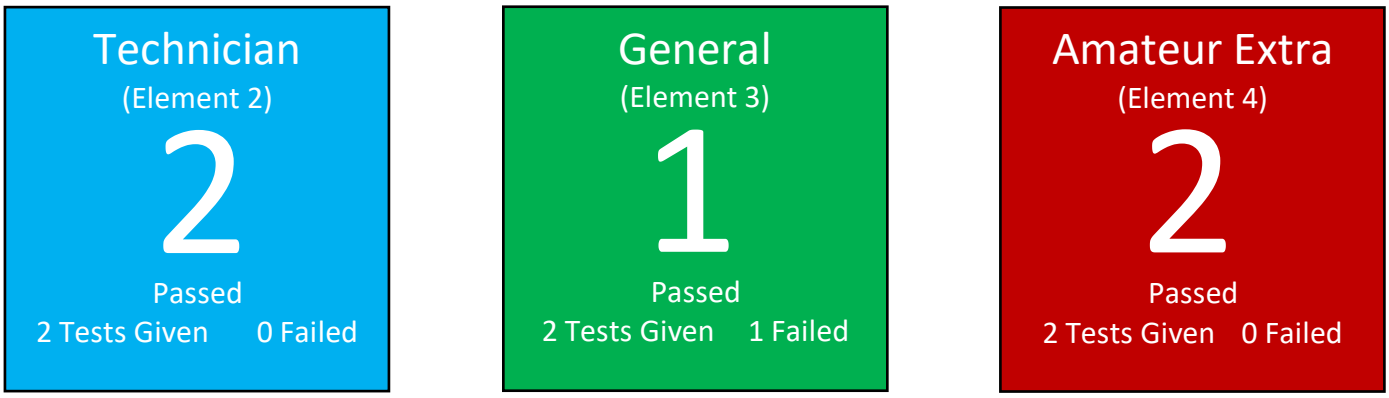
Do you have any tips or tricks to share? Post them on the club Groups.io by using the information here: W5NC Email Reflector.

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

Attendees

On Saturday, September 24th, 2022, a VE Test Session was held at Klein Fire Station #3 in Spring, Texas. During the testing session 5 candidates took 6 tests.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams[1]:

- Craig Clements – Technician
- Darrell W Paul – Technician

Congratulations to the following for passing their upgrade exams:

- Laszlo E Popeszku KI5WVX – Upgrade to General
- Scott P Kolodziej KI5WVK – Upgrade to Extra
- Vern L Wanzong N5VLW – 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/arrl/77070/inperson

Test-specific Links

October 22, 2022 https://ham.study/sessions/632ca723d48da55d085a01d6/1
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:

- Paul R Owen, N5NXS
- Vicki Owen, AC5EW
- Marvin J Wilken, KT4W
- Bob Ewers, K9HOU
- Michael Robinson, KI0DE
- Michael Meschler, W5SIU
- Ed Messman, KT5EM

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

Our next VE Test Session will be on October 22, 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:

- Thomas Bladecki, N5PLO
- Ron Brooks, K5TDF
- Darwin Gilmore, Jr., AG5KR
- Paul Kent, KI5FJS

Did you know...

NARS now has the ability to run computer-aided tests through Ham.Study. 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 – August 27, 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

January 2023 1: Straight Key Night 7: Kids Day 7-8: RTTY Roundup 21-23: January VHF TBD: Winter Field Day	February 2023 13-17: School Club Roundup 18-19: International DX – CW	March 2023 4-5: International DX– Phone
April 2023 16: Rookie Roundup – Phone	May 2023	June 2023 3-4: International Digital Contest 10-12: June VHF 17: Kids Day **24-25: Field Day**
July 2023 8-9: IARU HF World Champ	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	September 2023 9-11: September VHF 16-17: 10 GHz & Up - Round 2 9-10: EME - 2.3 GHz & Up #2
October 2022 15-16: EME - 2.3 GHz & Up #3 17-21: School Club Roundup	November 2022 5-7: Nov. Sweepstakes – CW 12-13: EME-50 to 1296 MHz #4 19-21: Nov. Sweeps. – Phone	December 2022 2-4: 160 Meter 10-11: 10 Meter 18: Rookie Roundup–CW

Hamfests and Conventions

October 7-9, 2022 - ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, Cheyenne, Wyoming

October 14-16, 2022, Pacificon hosting the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, California

NARS Club Officers and Information

Board Officers with Voting Privileges

President: Ron Matusek, 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

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

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