



NARS NEWS

JUNE 2023

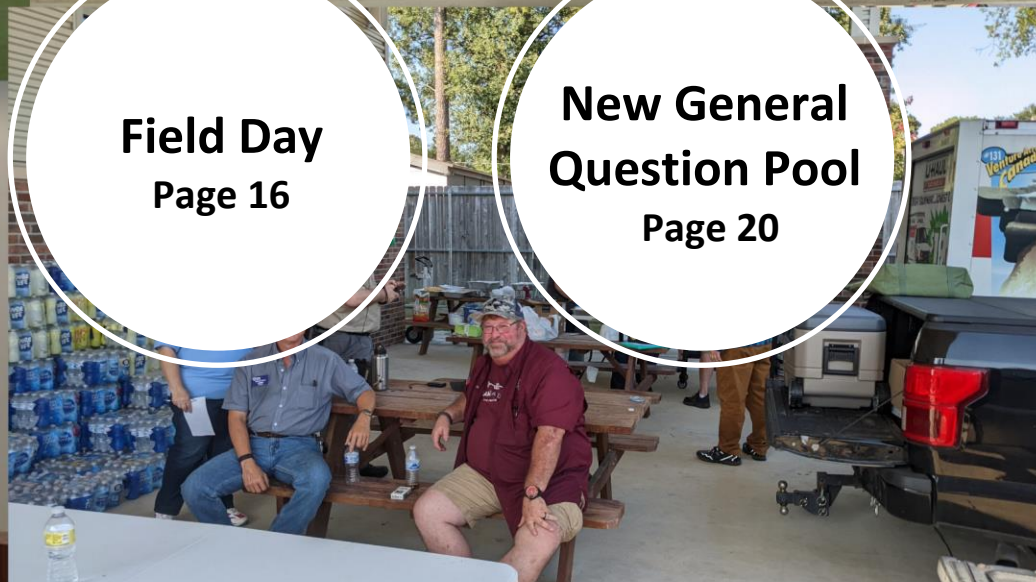
Northwest Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 11483
Spring, TX 77391
w5nc.net



**President's
Message**
Page 3

Field Day
Page 16

**New General
Question Pool**
Page 20



Contents

President’s Message	3
Exam Practice.....	4
The ARRL Letter	5
NARS Monthly Club Meeting	15
Get Ready for Field Day 2023	16
VE Sessions and Results	18
NARS Membership – Due Dates and More	19
Renewing Club Members.....	20
New General Question Pool Released for Ham Radio Licensing Effective July 1, 2023.....	20
Training and Education	21
Upcoming Skywarn Spotter Training for 2023	22
Of Interest to the Club	23
Calendar	24
Club Activities and Events.....	24
Social Events	24
Hamfests and Conventions.....	25
Contests and Radiosport.....	25
NARS Club Officers and Information	26
Board Officers with Voting Privileges	26
Board Non-Voting Associate Members	26
Club Nets.....	26
Repeaters.....	26

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

June NARS Field Day New Location

FIELD DAY 2023 – The fourth weekend in June 24-25 – so save the date!

Where? Klein Fire Department Administration Building located at **HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline 77379.**



Robert Ewers K9HOU will be our “Field Day Coordinator”. ALL guidelines for Field Day are outlined by ARRL RULES and are expected to be followed.

Please utilize parking in front of the building. Do not go through the locked gate. There is ample parking available. Enter the building **ONLY** through the main front entrance.

Note that V.E. testing will be held on Saturday morning at this location so look for a separate email on the details.

Ham Radio Field Day is an annual event held by amateur radio enthusiasts across the globe. The main objective of this event is to test and improve emergency communication capabilities in times of crisis or natural disasters. Field Day encourages ham radio operators to set up temporary stations in remote locations using only portable power sources such as solar panels, generators, or batteries.

During the event, participants get on the air and make contacts with other hams throughout North America for 24 hours straight. They also participate in various competitions that test their operating skills and technical proficiency. **Ham Radio Field Day offers a great opportunity for people who are interested in amateur radio to learn more about this fascinating hobby and connect with like-minded individuals.**

One of the most significant benefits of participating in a Ham Radio Field Day is building skills. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, you can always learn something new from other participants. You get to develop your communication and technical skills as you work with others to set up antennas, tune radios, and make contacts. There is always someone willing to share their knowledge and experience.

Come out and enjoy the event and some great **FOOD!**

Additional information will be provided via groups.io later next week.

See you on Field Day!

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)

T1B11

What is the maximum peak envelope power output for Technician class operators in their HF band segments?

- A. 100 watts
- B. 50 watts
- C. 10 watts
- D. 200 watts

General (Element 3)

G4B12

What effect can strong signals from nearby transmitters have on an antenna analyzer?

- A. Desensitization which can cause intermodulation products which interfere with impedance readings
- B. All these choices are correct
- C. Received power that interferes with SWR readings
- D. Generation of harmonics which interfere with frequency readings

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E2B10

What aspect of an analog slow-scan television signal encodes the brightness of the picture?

- A. Tone frequency
- B. Sync frequency
- C. Sync amplitude
- D. Tone amplitude

See the answers on [Page 25](#).

The ARRL Letter

An excerpt from the weekly ARRL Letter

ARRL and FEMA Sign Agreement: Ham Radio is as Relevant as Ever

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has entered into an updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



FEMA

The agreement will enhance cooperation between ARRL's emergency communications program, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), and FEMA in providing disaster communications. The agreement emphasizes the importance of skilled Amateur Radio Operators in times of crisis and the role of ARES leadership within the emergency communications space.

ARES (see the ARES fact sheet at www.arrl.org/ares) is a network of trained Amateur Radio Service licensees organized across the country to provide communications and other support to served agencies, such as local governments, hospitals, and disaster response charities. More than 20,000 ARES volunteers actively participate in the ARRL program. In 2022, they provided more than 420,000 labor



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>

hours of service saving local officials \$13.4 million in personnel costs.

Each member of ARES has specialized training in emergency communications. Many have also completed training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in order to integrate with local officials during an emergency response.

In March 2023, FEMA released the final version of the NIMS Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Functional Guidance, which includes radio amateurs in the response ecosystem and national emergency preparedness.

"The agreement is representative of the continued commitment and cooperation between FEMA and ARRL," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Serving our country during emergencies is an important service provided by ARES volunteers and a principal purpose of our Amateur Radio Service. Our well-equipped volunteers bring their training, use of innovative technologies, and community partnerships together to serve before and during disasters."



FEMA announced the new agreement on Twitter stating, "We recently signed a new MOA with @arrl -- establishing our partnership with licensed, voluntary amateur radio operators to support response [and] recovery efforts. We're honored to work side-by-side to meet the needs of millions in the wake of disasters."

Read the full story on the ARRL [website](#).

Gomez Nominated for Vacant FCC Seat, Two Commissioners Renominated

President Joe Biden announced three nominees for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on May 22, 2023. The President will nominate Anna M. Gomez for a vacant FCC seat. Two sitting Commissioners, Geoffrey Starks and Brendan Carr, will be nominated for new terms at the same time.



Gomez is an attorney with decades of experience in domestic and international communications law and policy. Gomez currently serves as a Senior Advisor for International Information and Communications Policy in the State Department's Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, where she has been leading US preparations for the monthlong WRC-23 conference that will commence on November 20 in Dubai. [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](#)® has represented the interests of US radio amateurs in preparation for the conference, and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, has been appointed to the US delegation to WRC-23. ARRL also actively supports the work of the [International Amateur Radio Union](#) (IARU), which, as a member of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, participates in conference preparatory work and whose representatives will also attend WRC-23 by invitation as observers in an advisory capacity.

Earlier in her career, Gomez served for 12 years in various positions at the FCC, including Deputy Chief of the International Bureau and Senior Legal Advisor to then-Chairman William E. Kennard. From 2009 to 2013, she served as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Deputy Administrator. Gomez also briefly served as Counsel on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Communications, as well as Deputy Chief of Staff of the National Economic Council during the Clinton Administration. Prior to joining the State Department in 2023, Gomez was a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm Wiley LLP. Gomez also was Vice President for Federal and State Government Affairs at Sprint Nextel and an Associate at the Arnold & Porter law firm.



Anna M. Gomez, a veteran government attorney, has been nominated by President Biden to fill a vacant seat as an FCC Commissioner.

Senate hearings on all three nominees are expected to be held in June.

Dayton Hamvention® 2023 Wrap Up

Dayton Hamvention® 2023 was held May 19 - 21 in Xenia, Ohio -- and all indications point to a successful event.

ARRL greeted attendees in its large exhibit area in the "Tesla" building. Traffic to the exhibit was brisk. Members and prospective members enjoyed meeting with dozens of ARRL program representatives and volunteers. The event hosted the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention.



ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, greets ARRL Life Member David Gusman, KC7UI, in the ARRL Exhibit. QST Product Review Editor Pascal Villeneuve, VA2PV, looks on.

While the final count is still a few days away from being completed, Hamvention spokesperson Michael Kalter, W8CI, said this was a great year, a great event, and it all started with a great team.

"[We] had great [weather, tremendous] efforts by the 700 plus volunteers, [and] outstanding community support, including [from] the Greene County Sheriff's Office, the Xenia Police Department, and Xenia officials," said Kalter. "A big thank you to everyone, especially ARRL, for its work co-developing the Event App, and, of course, all of the amateur radio operators and everyone who attended the event."

Kalter said ticket sales were up this year and he expects attendance to surpass last year's count of 31,367. The good weather helped draw crowds, and other than some rain in the early morning hours of Saturday, blue skies and fair temperatures prevailed.



The ARRL Exhibit at Dayton Hamvention 2023.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, said the Education and Learning

booth was packed with people for the duration of the event. "We shared information with attendees about the [ARRL Learning Center](#), the [Teachers Institute](#), and using ham radio for STEM education and youth outreach," said Goodgame.

"We also partnered with YouTube content creator Carlos Ortiz, KD9OLN, whose channel is LifeAtTerminalVelocity, and facilitated a youth-only parachute-mobile event. Carlos jumped from an airplane at 10,500 feet and made contacts with 13 youth, then their parents, for a total of roughly 25 contacts before landing. It was an amazing opportunity to engage youth in amateur radio with something that is different than the norm," Goodgame added.



Jaylen Stoneburner, 14, makes a contact with Carlos Ortiz, KD9OLN, parachute mobile at Hamvention. Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, serves as control operator.

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, moderated a Saturday afternoon ARRL membership forum, which included short presentations from ARRL Treasurer John R. Sager, WJ7S; Director of Operations Bob Naumann, W5OV; CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA, and President Rick Roderick, K5UR.

Sager highlighted the work of ARRL's Investment Management Committee (IMC) and CAPTRUST, an outside investment firm that was selected to actively manage ARRL's investment portfolio for the benefit of its members. Naumann provided an update on [The ARRL Logbook of The World](#) (LoTW) that included recent improvements that have significantly reduced, and sometimes nearly



Seen at Hamvention: ARRL member Doc Smith, Jr, KW8C, of Huron, Ohio.

eliminated, log processing queues. Minster highlighted a handful of ARRL initiatives including the yearlong theme, Year of the Volunteers, and its complementary operating event, [Volunteers On the Air](#) (VOTA). He encouraged members to "reach one rung higher" in their contributions to ARRL volunteerism and support. He also introduced the new ARRL [Estate Planning Workbook](#), which is intended to help members develop a plan for their equipment and amateur radio legacy, which will ultimately benefit spouses and other family members following an amateur's lifetime. Roderick charged members with concentrating on their efforts to make an impact on amateur radio, encouraging newcomers and youth, and ensuring their legacy for amateur radio.

The ARISS booth drew in attendees to learn more about [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station](#) and opportunities to participate and volunteer. Among the program representatives were ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and ARISS USA Delegate Rosalie White, K1STO, representing ARRL. ARISS is celebrating 40 years of amateur radio on human spaceflight vehicles.

In the ARRL exhibit area, a banner emblazoned with "ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program" hung above a booth adorned with university pennants that was swarmed with young adults. Student hams from colleges and universities around the country volunteered to help ARRL promote the collegiate program and the participation of their respective



L to R, Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, ARISS USA Delegate Rosalie White, K1STO, and Rocky Mountain Division Director Jeff Ryan, KORM

radio clubs and schools. These young hams greeted attendees with stories of how amateur radio is furthering their interest in wireless communications and other areas of STEM education. Their experiences are also leading to advanced careers in radio technology and related fields. The bright spotlight on young hams contributed a welcome message to all who passed by: "The next generation of radio amateurs is already here, and they're already active." ARRL's [YouTube channel](#) includes a short video with some of the student participants.

The Hamvention flea market was active again this year, and even picked up a nickname -- The Big Island -- a nod to its oval shape near the grandstand.

Kalter summed up the event as a great experience for everyone and noted that work has already started on the [Hamvention](#), May 17 - 19, 2024. The event is planning to host the 2024 ARRL National Convention.

Read a complete recap of each day's events, written by ARRL Acquisitions Editor Mark H. Derks, KC1RVQ, using the links below.

[Countdown to Dayton Hamvention](#)

[Day 1: Friday, May 19, 2023](#)

[Day 2: Saturday, May 20, 2023](#)

[Day 3: Sunday, May 21, 2023](#)

See ARRL's photo album of Dayton Hamvention 2023 at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-at-2023-Hamvention>.

[Memorial Day Special Event Station On Board the USS Slater](#)

In observance of Memorial Day, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association (EGARA) will operate special event station WW2DEM on board the USS Slater on Sunday, May 28, 2023. WW2DEM is also the ship's official call sign.

The USS Slater, a museum ship docked in Albany, New York, is the last destroyer escort still afloat and has been restored to its original wartime configuration.

During the event, EGARA members will use voice modes and Morse code to make contacts and employ the ship's vintage World War II-era shipboard transmitter.

The station will operate from 8 AM to 4 PM EDT, and additional frequencies expected to be used will be on or near:

- 3885 kHz AM/SSB
- 7062 kHz CW/SSB
- 7262 kHz SSB
- 14062 kHz CW/SSB
- 14262 kHz SSB

"Our amateur radio club is pleased to be able to partner with the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum to honor our veterans, as well as the Slater itself," said EGARA President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "We hope our special event station will bring attention to the ship and the service the destroyer escorts provided [during World War II] to protect convoys from enemy submarines as they helped to safely transport critically needed troops and supplies across the Atlantic and the Pacific."

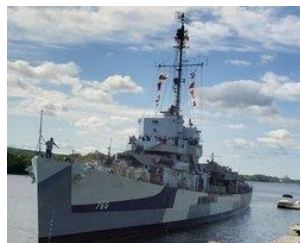


Photo courtesy of USS Slater/Destroyer Escort Historical Museum.

Confirmed contacts may request a special event QSL card by sending a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to EGARA, 983 Sterling Ridge Drive, Rensselaer, New York 12144.

For more information about the USS Slater, visit [USS Slater](#).

The [East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association \(EGARA\)](#) is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Graduation Cap Decorated with Call Sign

It's graduation season for high schools across the country.

This rite of passage is often accompanied by the chance for graduates to decorate their caps for the festivities, and one teenage ham in Oklahoma chose to decorate hers with her call sign.

Cassie Whetstone, KI5DBQ, is a graduate in the Mangum High School class of 2023. She was also a part of the school's Tiger Radio Club, KF5CRF, through which she earned her license. Her graduation cap was decorated with monarch butterflies and a bright floral design on each corner. Sparkly rhinestones lined the cap's edges, and "73's KI5DBQ CLEAR!" was printed down the center.



Cassie Whetstone, KI5DBQ, poses with her cap and diploma from Mangum High School. Photo courtesy of Cassie Whetstone, KI5DBQ.

See a bigger photo of the cap and leave your well wishes for Cassie on the [ARRL Facebook page](#).

NASA Astronaut to Contact Two Schools from the International Space Station

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has received schedule confirmation from NASA for two radio contacts from Astronaut Warren

Hoburg, KB3HTZ, aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Both contacts will take place on Friday, May 19, 2023.

The first contact will be with students at Webb Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta, Georgia, at 18:20:31 UTC. A livestream will be available at www.ariotti.com 15 minutes before the contact begins.



*NASA Astronaut Warren
Hoburg, KB3HTZ*

Webb Bridge Middle School is a public school with a total enrollment of 1,188 students in grades 6 through 8.

Alpharetta is a northern suburb of Atlanta. The primary audience for the ARISS contact will be their 6th-grade students, ages 11 and 12, who study geology and space sciences during the year.

The second contact will be at 18:58:08 UTC with Fairview Elementary School in Olathe, Kansas. A livestream will be available for the contact at <https://youtube.com/live/7eSFpxe0Fro?feature=share>.

Fairview Elementary School is a Title 1 public elementary school with a total enrollment of 250 students in grades Pre-K through 5. Olathe is just outside Kansas City and has a population of 140,000.

ARISS conducts 60 - 80 of these special amateur radio contacts each year between students around the globe and crew members with ham radio licenses aboard the ISS.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN),

the ISS National Laboratory's Space Station Explorers program, [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](http://www.arra.org)[®], and AMSAT.

National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Station Annual Test

The amateur radio station of the National Hurricane Center, [WX4NHC](http://www.wx4nhc.org) (NHC), located on the campus of Florida International University in Miami, will conduct their on-the-air Annual Communications Test on Saturday, May 27, 2023, from 9 AM - 5 PM EDT (1300z- 2100z).

This is the NHC's 43rd year of public service. NHC Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R/WX4NHC, reports that the purpose of this event is



to test amateur radio equipment and antennas at the NHC as well as operators' home equipment, antennas, and computers prior to this year's hurricane season. The 2023 hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through November 30.

This event is good practice for amateur radio operators worldwide to practice amateur radio communications during times of severe weather.

Ripoll said WX4NHC will be on HF, VHF, UHF, 2- and 30-meter APRS, and Winlink. To contact the NHC's amateur radio station send an email to wx4nhc@winlink.org. The subject of the email must contain //WL2K.

WX4NHC will try to stay on the Hurricane Watch Net frequency, 14.325 MHz, for most of the time, as well as 7.268 MHz depending on propagation. They may also change frequencies due to potential QRM.

You may be able to find WX4NHC on HF by using one of the DX spotting networks, such as the DX Summit website at <http://www.dxsummit.fi>.

The VoIP Hurricane Net will also be active from 4 PM - 5 PM EDT (2000-2100z), RLP node 9219/EchoLink WX-TALK Conference node 7203. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

WX4NHC will also make a few contacts on local VHF and UHF repeaters, as well as the Florida Statewide Amateur Radio Network (SARnet) system to test station equipment.

QSL cards are available via [WD4R](#) with a self-addressed stamped envelope. More information about the NHC is available at their website.

Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club Receives Commendation

The Virginia General Assembly recently issued a resolution commending the Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club, W4UG (VBARC).

House Joint Resolution 681 was carried in the Virginia General Assembly by Virginia Beach Delegate Karen S. Greenhalgh. The resolution was co-patroned in the Virginia Senate by the 8th District Senator Bill DeSteph and the 14th District Senator John Cosgrove.



The commendation honored the VBARC for their many community contributions, stating, "the VBARC, an American Radio Relay League Special Service Club, has greatly served the Virginia Beach community for many years by volunteering its time and equipment for emergency and public services, and by providing exceptional aid to both local amateur radio enthusiasts and the community at large through training classes, technical projects, and other activities."

The complete resolution can be read here:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?231+ful+HJ681ER>

Five members of the VBARC were invited to the House Gallery of the Virginia General Assembly by Delegate Greenhalgh, where the resolution was read on the House Floor before the Virginia House of Delegates.

Delegate Greenhalgh presented the framed resolution to the VBARC at their April 2023 meeting. It was accepted by VBARC Club President Doug Duggan, N4IRK.

Ohio's Rooster Net Has Good Company

Last week's Ohio Rooster Net [story](#) in the May 4, 2023, issue of The ARRL Letter brought in two immediate responses regarding some of the longest-running nets.

First, Larry Wheeler, W9QR, reminded us that the Indiana Section Level Traffic Net, formally the Indiana Phone Net, has been active every day with a morning and evening session on the 80-meter band since January 19, 1947.

The ITN started out as an AM net that switched to SSB in the 1960s. The sessions now begin at 0830 AM EST on 3912 kHz and on 3910 kHz for the evening sessions at 2030 PM EST. A typical session may have five to ten pieces of formal traffic, after which a roll call of about 50 stations is called.

Wheeler said all of this is accomplished in about 18 minutes, and then the net is closed. Operators who hear the net for the first time are amazed at its efficiency. Before the days of long-distance telephone service, it was commonplace for the net to handle more than 1,000 messages each month.

Then, Harold Lines, W7DPS, checked in to alert us that on the evening of December 20, 1948, the [Oregon Emergency Net](#) (OEN) held its very first official session. "By my calculations, that makes 27,163 daily sessions,



including the one we just held tonight. Session number 28,000 should happen on August 18, 2025," said Lines.

The OEN got its start in May 1948, when a combination of melting snow and heavy rains caused unprecedented flooding in the Pacific Northwest. Along with damage throughout the area, the community of Vanport, in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area was completely destroyed. The incident left about 18,000 people homeless. As a result of the massive amount of health and welfare traffic generated by the flooding, Oregon amateurs decided to form an "organized statewide amateur emergency communications network," according to the OEN's history provided on their website.

Chief Rooster Roy Hook, W8REH, congratulated the OEN in advance for its 75th anniversary coming up in December 2023, and thanked both clubs for their accomplishments. Hook concluded that, "celebrating traditions is key to longevity."

ARRL Helps Radio Amateurs Comply with New RF Exposure Evaluation Rules

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® provides free, comprehensive resources to help radio amateurs ensure they are compliant with the new RF exposure rules.

On May 3, 2021, [new FCC rules governing RF exposure](#) evaluations went into effect. While the exposure limits were not changed, the requirement to conduct an evaluation was made more broadly applicable to amateur licensees. A 2-year transition period was implemented to allow existing amateur licensees to conduct evaluations and make any changes necessary to ensure that their station complies with the exposure rules. On May 3, 2023, the transition period ended. All licensees must now



conduct evaluations of their current station and reassess compliance when making changes to their stations that would affect exposure going forward.

As detailed in a [May 2023 QST article by Greg Lapin, N9GL](#), the rules now require amateur radio operators to perform station evaluations. The Amateur Radio Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the RF exposure rules, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

The ARRL website features an [RF Exposure landing page](#) with resources, such as an RF exposure calculator, the entire RF Safety section from the 100th Edition of the ARRL The Handbook, a video explaining the topic, FAQs about the subject, and more. These tools and resources are available to the public without an ARRL membership or website account.

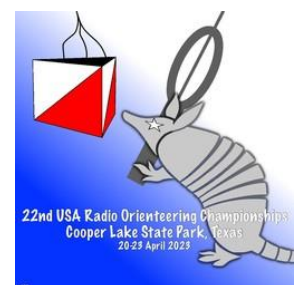
For further assistance with technical matters, ARRL members enjoy the additional resources of the [ARRL Technical Information Service](#), and access to the experts within the ARRL Lab.

USA ARDF 2023 Championships Results

The results from the 22nd USA Radio Orienteering Championships (ARDF) have been posted.

This year's event took place April 19 - 23, at Cooper Lake State Park near Dallas, Texas.

The event saw participation from 34 individuals representing nine US states and Ontario, Canada. April 19 was dedicated to radio direction finding training and practice. The competitions began April 20 and helped determine the members of Team USA, who will



participate in the ARDF World Championships scheduled for August 27 - September 2, 2023, in Liberec, Czech Republic.

Here are direct links to all of the results for the 4 days of competition:

[Sprint competition](#), Thursday, April 20

[Foxoring competition](#), Friday, April 21

[Classic competition, First Day](#), Saturday, April 22

[Classic competition, Second Day](#), Sunday, April 23

Maps were provided by the North Texas Orienteering Association. The New Mexico Orienteers of Albuquerque, New Mexico, organized and sponsored the event across state lines to bring a challenging new venue to the championships. Professional communications and logistics support was provided by the [White Rock Lake Amateur Radio Club, WA5WRL](#).

The Event Director Gerald Boyd, WB8WFK, said, "The terrain at this championship was the most challenging of any championship in memory. The relative flatness of the course was more than compensated for by the challenges posed [by] the thorny vegetation."

Plans are underway for the 2024 USA Championships to take place in Michigan.

The name Radio Orienteering has been around for a long time and has been frequently applied to the ARDF sport, but it hasn't been recognized in any official sense. The ARRL ARDF committee has decided to officially favor the use of the term Radio Orienteering because it is more descriptive of the sport (especially to the orienteering community), and Amateur Radio Direction Finding is often confused with other radio direction-finding activities (like mobile t-hunting).

For more information on radio orienteering, visit [Amateur Radio Direction Finding \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org).

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.

["Ham radio operators air a grievance: Leave our hobby alone"](#) / The Maine Monitor (Maine), April 29, 2023 -- Phil Duggan, N1EP, is the Section Manager of the ARRL Maine Section.

["Out-of-this-world: Local high school students speak with astronauts"](#) (KYW- TV) Pennsylvania, May 2, 2023 -- Council Rock High School Amateur Radio Club.

["Artemis 2 astronauts flying to the moon could phone home with ham radio"](#) / Space.com (New York), May 2, 2023 -- Elizabeth Howell, Staff Writer, Spaceflight.

["Amateur Radio Operators Help Communications During Emergencies"](#) / The Orinda News (California), April 28, 2023 -- The Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (LARIG) is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Mohawk Amateur Radio Club to transmit worldwide for worthy fundraising cause"](#) / The Gardner News (Massachusetts), May 2, 2023 --The Mohawk Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["The history behind the Amateur Radio Museum"](#) / The Daily Jeffersonian (Ohio), May 4, 2023 - The Cambridge Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated club.

["Red River Valley Amateur Radio Club celebrates 50th Anniversary"](#) / eExtra News (Texas), May 10, 2023 -- The Red River Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Knights statewide share mission via ham radios"](#) / Catholic Star Herald (New Jersey), May 15, 2023 -
- The New Jersey Knights of Columbus, KOC, Special Event Station.

["Heavy traffic expected in Greene County this weekend due to Hamvention"](#) / WHIO TV (Ohio), May 17, 2023 -- Hamvention, the world's largest amateur radio show.

["Amateur radio operators help during Colorado storms"](#) / FOX31, KDVR, (Colorado), May 18, 2023 -- Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) Colorado.

["Pine State Amateur Radio Club to cover Bangor Memorial Day parade communications"](#) / Bangor Daily News, (Maine), May 21, 2023 -- The Pine State Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Maury County Amateur Radio Club to Participate in Field Day"](#) / WLX & WDXE Radio, (Tennessee), May 23, 2023 -- The Maury County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Arrl.org. 2023. ARRL Letter. [online] Available at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=current> [Accessed 5 May 2023]

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

Our website holds resources and information from many past meetings. Take a look at past presentations by viewing the club website at <http://www.w5nc.club/nars/index.php/club-info/technical-presentations>.

Next Club Meeting

Our next club meeting will be June 16th at HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We'll be making final preparations for Field Day! We look forward to seeing you there!

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: HCESD 16 Admin, [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379](#)
Zoom Conference Call, Meeting ID: 2815436502, Passcode: 123456

Get Ready for Field Day 2023

Field Day will be held June 24-25, 2023 all across the world! Are you ready?

For new hams, “Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.” (ARRL, <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>, Accessed June 1, 2023) For ARRL resources and rules, click here:

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day#rules>.



As part of Field Day, NARS will be actively participating and will be setting up at the HCESD 16 Admin building at [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379](https://www.google.com/maps/place/18606+Stuebner+Airline+Rd,+Spring,+TX+77379). The facilities here are amazing and we're fortunate to have the partnership of the Fire Department for this event. We be operating indoors, so hot weather is not likely to be a factor. We have an entire bay to operate from, with easy access to antennas and plenty of power. We also have access to a very nice kitchen and an onsite chef.

Parking is in the parking area in front of the main entrance. Please be considerate, this facility is an operating administrative headquarters and we do not want to inconvenience our gracious hosts. This is also a secure facility and we have only limited access to the main hallway and the two meeting rooms on the left side of the hallway, the restroom facilities on the right, and to the vehicle bay where we will set up tables and equipment. Under no circumstances are we to enter any other rooms, if they are locked or not.

The facility has a couple of towers where antennas will be placed for operations. Like past years, we will have a number of stations set up for participants and will have plenty of *great food*.



Here's a few of the resources we'll have available:

Antennas

- G5RV
- Octopus
- VHF/UHF
- JTV680
- Dipole

Stations

- CW, Keith Dutson NM5G
- GOTA,
- SAFETY, Ron Matusek WA6TQH
- SSB & Digital, Mike Lizzio, WA2TOP
- Radio Grams, Sheree Hornton, WM5N

For more information, contact Bob Ewers, K9HOU, at FieldDay@W5NC.groups.io or main@W5NC.groups.io.

Field Day Exam Session

The Exam session scheduled for Saturday morning (June 24) will also be offered at the **HCESD 16 Admin** building. Turn right off of Stuebner Airline, then turn right into the parking area in front of the main building. Enter the building through the main entrance and proceed down the hall to the conference rooms on the left.

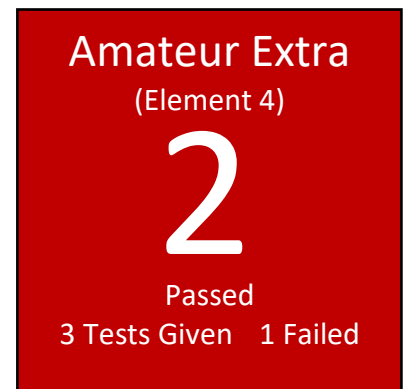
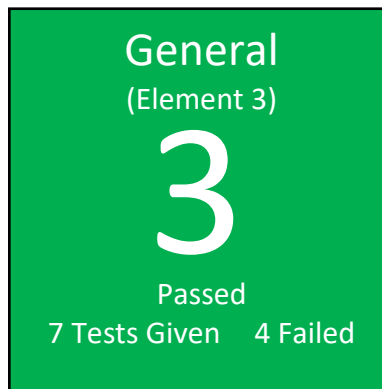
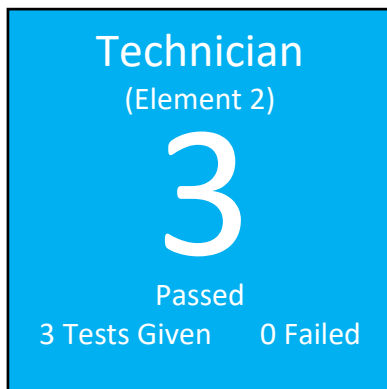
Reminder: This is a secure facility. We have limited access and are allowed only in the main hallway, the two meeting rooms on the left side of the hallway, and the restroom facilities on the right. Under no circumstances are we to enter any other rooms, rather they are locked or not. Please visit the [exam information](#) on this website for additional information regarding the exam. All information posted is correct except for the location, which is **HCESD 16 Admin Building, 18606 Stuebner Airline 77379**.

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

Attendees

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, a VE Test Session was held at Klein Fire Station #3 in Spring, Texas. During the testing session, 8 candidates took 13 tests.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams¹:

- Edgar W Biddle – Technician
- Richard D Bottos – Technician
- Gregory S Headly - Technician

Congratulations to the following for passing their upgrade exams:

- Michael L Fink KJ5AZG – Upgrade to General
- Ryan D Hewlett KI5TTH – Upgrade to General
- John M Garcia KC5CSP – Upgrade to Extra
- Mary R Needham KJ5BAR – Upgrade to Extra (passed both G & E in same sitting)

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.

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/arri/77070/inperson>

The next session will be June 24, 2023. Please visit www.w5nc.net for the announcement.

Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:

- Michael Robinson, KI0DE – Assistant Session Manager
- Bob Ewers, K9HOU
- Brett Hebert, KG5IQU
- Paul Owen, N5NXS
- Brandy Lang, WE9L
- Vicki Owen, AC5EW
- August J Canik, KI5YPD

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@arri.net or vec@w5nc.net

Volunteering and Becoming a Volunteer Examiner

Anyone who wants to observe and/or participate in a session is always welcome. Please let Sheree Horton know if you want to learn more about becoming a volunteer examiner.

Did you know...

NARS now has the ability to run computer-aided tests through [Ham.Study](https://hamstudy.org). 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!

NARS Membership – Due Dates and More

DID YOU
KNOW



Did you know that you can find your membership expiration date on the club website? Simply click the “Membership Reports” link on the home page or visit this link: <http://www.w5nc.club/nars/index.php/2014-03-30-18-23-31>. Find your name in the list and look at the “Expires” column of the table!

Renewing Club Members

New Club Members

Welcome to the following new members of NARS!

- Gerald Dillard, WB5MAP
- Geoffrey Hall, KJ5AHG

Renewing Club Members

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

- Jim Berry, KD5BN
- David Consford, K5DSJ
- Gerald Dillard, WB5MAP
- John Green, KI5QMY
- Geoffrey Hall, KJ5AHG
- Brandy Lang, WE9L
- Joe Lasater, KG5ZOZ
- Diane Simmons, KI5ULB

New General Question Pool Released for Ham Radio Licensing Effective July 1, 2023

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting July 1, 2023," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who is a member of the NCVEC Question Pool Committee. "New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June."

General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of The General Class License Manual, and/or the 6th edition of ARRL's General Q & A are encouraged to test by, or before, June 30, 2023. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after, July 1, 2023.

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!

Upcoming Skywarn Spotter Training for 2023

Training is free and open to the public. More dates to be added soon. For more details, please see [SKYWARN - Schedule \(weather.gov\)](#).

Date/Time	Location	Point of Contact
Advanced October 17 th – 5:30pm – 7:30pm	Walker County Storm Shelter Huntsville, TX	

Exam Practice Answers

Technician: T7B04 - D. Ferrite choke

General: G5B09 - C. 12 volts

Amateur Extra: E2B10 - A. Tone frequency

Of Interest to the Club

Houston Local Traffic Net

The Houston Local Traffic Net (HLTN) was formed July 14, 2020 in preparation for ARRL Field Day 2020. Originally called the Fort Bend County Traffic Net, the HLTN has been in continuous operation since then.

The nets ran on Monday nights for one hour with training sessions during the net. Because of the volume and interest in the Traffic Net, on April 15, 2021 an additional session was added on Thursday nights for 30 minutes and in 2020 the time was increased for up to an hour to also accommodate training.

The Houston Local Traffic Net currently meets from 6:30pm – 7:30pm twice a week handling National Traffic System (NTS) traffic (Radiograms) into and around the Houston Metro area and also includes, time permitted, traffic handling/training.

Monday's net: 146.940 (-) PL 167.9

Thursday's Net: 147.000 (+) PL 103.5

Backup repeater for both:

- 146.660 (-) PL 100.0,
- 444.375 (+) PL 100.0
- Echolink Node W5NC-R (all linked)

A complete schedule of Area Traffic Nets is located on the HLTN.org 'Nets' web tab with the times and frequencies. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to check-in to listen and learn this important Amateur Radio skill.

Direct any questions, via phone or email, about the Houston Local Traffic Net, Radiograms, and Traffic handling to: Sheree Horton WM5N, ARRL South Texas Section Traffic Manager

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

Monthly Club Meeting – June 16, 2023 - HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379

VE Test Session – June 24, 2023 – [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.

The full NARS calendar can be viewed at: <https://w5nc.groups.io/g/main/calendar>

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

Hamfests and Conventions

June 23 - 25 | [HAM RADIO](#), Friedrichshafen, Germany

August 25 - 27 | [Northeast HamXposition](#), ARRL New England Division Convention, Marlborough, Massachusetts

September 9 - 10, 2023 | [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) (online)

September 23 | [Red River Radio Amateurs' Hamfest](#), ARRL Dakota Division Convention, West Fargo, North Dakota

October 20 | [Pacificon](#), ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, California

November 18- 19 | [Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo](#), ARRL Central Division Convention, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

June 2023 - <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2023/June%202023%20Corral.pdf>

July 2023 - <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2023/July%202023%20Corral.pdf>

For details on ARRL contests, please see <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>.

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: Rich Jones, W5VEK, officers@w5nc.net

Director: Sam Labarbera, N6HB, 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. Kirc Breden, N5XJB, 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 a 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>