



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization
An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

MARCH 2024

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

w5nc.club

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NARS News is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS). Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Services Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, ARRL Club No. 2120.

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

Brandon Rogers (K5BLR), Newsletter Editor

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President's Message

BY RON MATUSEK, WA6TQH

TECC Dispatch Center Tour

Several Club members have made inquiries about touring the TECC dispatch center (dispatches for the area fire departments).

At the February 16th meeting, Mike Pate K5MAP presented the setup/operations of the Texas Emergency Communications Center (also known as TECC) which dispatches five (5) of the area fire departments (Champions, Cy-Creek, Klein, Ponderosa and Spring). The presentation covered the systems and equipment used by TECC to perform their duties.

Mike Pate conducted a poll requesting those interested to respond with the date and time slot preferred. The plan is to conduct two (2) tours before lunch on March 9th (at 9am & 10am) as well as one (1) tour after lunch (at 1pm). The address of the TECC dispatch center is 16810 Squyres Rd, Spring, TX 77379 (behind Klein FD St. #4).

Mike will send out a confirmation email to those who responded providing additional details of the tour.

Greater Houston Hamfest in Rosenberg 3/1 and 3/2

Attendance was a bit lighter than in previous years, however an enjoyable time was experienced by all who attended. The South Texas Balloon Launch Team made several launches and tracking information was sent out to those wanting to track progress. Congratulations Bob K9HOU on winning the grand prize a Yaesu DX 10.

Bob Heil K9EID Silent Key

Bob Heil has died, according to the company he founded.

"Bob fought a valiant, year-long battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family," Heil Sound posted on Facebook.

"Driven by a lifelong passion for sound, Bob's pioneering work revolutionized how concertgoers experienced live sound."

Bob will be missed by everyone in the Ham Community!

Board Positions Open

We have two positions open so if you are interested and have the time, please contact a board member.

1. Opening – "Public Information Officer" effective January 2024
 - a. See [By-Laws](#) for position description.
2. Opening – "Director" effective January 2024
 - a. See [By-Laws](#) for position description.

See you at the March 15th General Meeting!

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)

T0A12

Which of the following precautions should be taken when measuring high voltages with a voltmeter?

- A. Ensure that the voltmeter and leads are rated for use at the voltages to be measured
- B. Ensure that the voltmeter has very low impedance
- C. Ensure that the circuit is grounded through the voltmeter
- D. Ensure that the voltmeter is set to the correct frequency

General (Element 3)

G5A07

What is the term for the inverse of impedance?

- A. Reluctance
- B. Admittance
- C. Conductance
- D. Susceptance

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E9D02

How can linearly polarized Yagi antennas be used to produce circular polarization?

- A. Stack two Yagis fed 90 degrees out of phase to form an array with the respective elements in parallel planes
- B. Stack two Yagis fed in phase to form an array with the respective elements in parallel planes
- C. Arrange two Yagis collinear to each other with the driven elements fed 180 degrees out of phase
- D. Arrange two Yagis perpendicular to each other with the driven elements at the same point on the boom fed 90 degrees out of phase

See the answers on [Page 27](#).

The ARRL Letter

An excerpt from the weekly ARRL Letter

Preparation Underway for Severe Spring Weather

The severe weather season (March through May) is fast approaching, and [National Weather Service](#) (NWS) offices across the country are getting ready.

Warning Coordination

Meteorologist Brandon Peloquin at the Wilmington, Ohio, NWS office said many of the NWS offices across the country meet with partner organizations in the spring to make plans for the weather ahead.



"Amateur radio operators and weather spotters are extremely important, and we could not do what we do without them," he said. "In fact, many of the watches and warnings issued are made because weather spotters provided critical information."

Peloquin said that Doppler radar is a great tool for tracking storms, but weather spotters have a different vantage point and can see things that radar can't.

Severe Weather Awareness Weeks are scheduled by each state and usually occur during March to remind and educate communities about severe



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>

weather seasonal threats and how to avoid them. The NWS [SKYWARN](#)® Storm Spotter Program is a volunteer program with almost 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. Spotter training is available at the state level and is offered several times each year, and classes can be found [at this link](#). Every December, NWS and ARRL hold [SKYWARN Recognition Day](#) to honor all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions during severe weather.

Amateur radio is a strong tool for community resilience during times of severe weather and other emergencies and is useful for public service throughout the year. Those interested in using their license privileges to serve others are encouraged to participate in their local Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) groups. Find out how at www.arrl.org/ares.

YLRL Celebrates International Women's Day with Special Event

The [Young Ladies Radio League](#) (YLRL) is hosting an International Women's Day YL Parks on the Air® (POTA) Party from 0000Z - 2359Z on March 8.

[International Women's Day](#) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year's theme is Inspire Inclusion.

To celebrate the day, the goal of this special event is to activate any POTA park during the 24-hour event window using any mode and frequency within your license class. Contacts can be submitted to the POTA database. YLRL



Jherica Goodgame, K15HTA, operates a POTA activation.

encourages participants to wear pink, decorate their station, and to share experiences and photos on social media using the hashtag #YL_POTA_Party.

The YLRL was founded in 1939 by Ethel Smith, K4LMB (SK), who was the group's first president, and it continues to use her call sign today. She served as the Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Virginia Section from 1966 - 1969, and later as ARRL Assistant Director for four different Roanoke Division Directors. In 1972, she received the ARRL Roanoke Division Service Award.

The YLRL will [celebrate its 85th year](#) in July 2024.

Amateur Radio Operators Needed for Help with Solar Eclipse Project

The [Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU](#), the club station at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is asking for amateur radio operators to help with a research project centered around the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

W8EDU club member Adam Goodman, W7OKE, said the project centers around studying the effects of the eclipse on propagation to better understand the recombination time of the ionosphere.



"To do this, we are recruiting North American amateur stations interested in recording the Canadian time standard station CHU (Canada's WWV) for two weeks surrounding the eclipse,"

added Goodman. "Anyone with a [KiwiSDR](#) or a rig that can interface with analysis/recording software such as [Fldigi](#) is encouraged to reach out to us to participate."

W8EDU club member and project software manager Maris Usis, KE8TXG, said that while the software is simple to use, there is some detailed work involved. "We can help make it easier and there are good online instructions as well," said Usis.

All of the participation details are on the club's website at <https://w8edu.wordpress.com/chu-eclipse-data-collection/>.

W8EDU club faculty advisor David Kazdan, AD8Y, said the research project has received positive attention from the [ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program](#) community, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation ([HamSCI](#)) community, and Case Western Reserve University's engineering deans. "It is already a truly international effort, and we are collaborating with more than 20 stations across the continent, from collegiate and high school stations, to a representative from the Radio Amateurs of Canada, to a station in Mexico," said Kazdan.

The [2024 solar eclipse](#) will over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. ARRL is a partner with HamSCI to help promote this opportunity for radio amateurs to participate in an active science experiment, through the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

Winter Season Section Manager Election Results

On Tuesday, February 20, at ARRL Headquarters, ballots were counted for two Section Manager elections that were conducted this winter.

ARRL members in Louisiana elected Houston Polson, N5YS, of Winnfield, to become the next Section Manager of the ARRL Louisiana Section starting on April 1, 2024. Polson received 200 votes, and

incumbent Section Manager Matt Anderson, KD5KNZ, received 169 votes.

Polson was first licensed in 1984, and he has been a member of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club in Omaha, Nebraska, ever since. He is also a Volunteer Examiner and an active member of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club.

Anderson, of Covington, has served as the Section Manager for the ARRL Louisiana Section since August 31, 2023, when he was appointed to fulfill the remainder of the term after John Mark Robertson, K5JMR, stepped down.

In the ARRL Pacific Section, Alan Maenchen, AD6E, was re-elected in a close race by receiving 113 votes. Kevin Bogan, AH6QO, of Honolulu, received 100 votes. Maenchen, of Wailuku, Hawaii, was appointed as Section Manager of the Pacific Section on November 1, 2023, to fulfill the term of office after Joe Speroni, AH0A, stepped down.

The ARRL Georgia Section has a new Section Manager as of January 1, 2024. Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ, of Dalton, Georgia, was the only nominee to run for the re-solicited, 18-month new term of office that is to begin on April 1.

David Benoist, AG4ZR, who continued serving as Section Manager of the Georgia Section beyond the conclusion of his term on September 30, 2023, decided to step down at the end of 2023 to allow Blackwood to officially begin his term of office early. Benoist, of Senoia, was Section Manager from December 2021 through December 2023, and he previously led the Georgia Section's field organization from November 2016 to September 2021.

The following incumbent Section Managers were unopposed after the fall nomination deadline, and they will begin new, two-year terms of office starting on April 1, 2024: John Fritze, K2QY (Eastern

New York); Bob Wilson, W3BIG (Eastern Pennsylvania); Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC (North Carolina); Dave Kaltenborn, N8KBC (San Diego); Chris Stallkamp, KI0D (South Dakota), and Jack Smith, KE4LWT (Virginia).

Former Vice Director of the ARRL Hudson Division, Bill Hudzik, W2UDT, Silent Key

Former Vice Director of the ARRL Hudson Division and ARRL Maxim Society Member William "Bill" Hudzik, W2UDT, has passed away at the age of 77.

Hudzik served as Vice Director from 2011 to 2022, and he had previously been Section Manager of the ARRL Northern New Jersey Section.

Hudzik was first licensed in 1961 as WV2UDT, and he was active in VHF contesting at the time.

He quickly gained a reputation as someone willing and able to help. "He was probably one of the most capable people I have ever known. It didn't matter what you were doing, he knew how to deal with it," said ARRL Director of Operations Bob Naumann, W5OV. Naumann had known Hudzik for 45 years. "Bill set a very high bar for how to treat people," he said.

Hudzik served in the military and used his radio skills to help his fellow servicepeople. He spent the holiday season of 1966 - 1967 running phone



*Bill Hudzik, W2UDT | 1947 - 2024
[Ria Jairam, N2RJ, photo]*



Bill Hudzik, W2UDT. | 1947 - 2024

patches from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, as KR6SP.

Hudzik called himself a "contest junkie" and enjoyed operating in contests from V26B in Antigua and Barbuda. He was part of several high-scoring team activations from the station. He also operated from St. Croix and wrote about the trip for ARRL (see [Vacation, Contesting and Friends - Perfect Together](#)).

Hudzik served as Section Manager from 2001 to 2008. He was active in government affairs to advance amateur radio in the Garden State. In 2011, he was appointed to serve as Vice Director of the ARRL Hudson Division. He served in that capacity until an illness forced his retirement in 2022.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, praised the impact Hudzik had on amateur radio. "Bill served ARRL and its members for many years. It was evident from the beginning that he was someone special. He was highly respected, friendly with all, and showed great insight and patience. Bill left a legacy that will be remembered. It was a privilege to have known him," he said.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Nomar Vizcarrondo, NP4H, says Hudzik's guidance was invaluable to him as he started in the role. "I am deeply saddened by Bill's passing. Shortly after he resigned as Vice Director for the Division because of his health and I was appointed to continue his term, Bill reached out and offered me his support and guidance. It was a pleasure and honor to have known him. Board Members at ARRL along with our Hudson Division family are saddened by his passing and acknowledge the great human being and Amateur Radio Operator he was. He will be truly missed. Godspeed W2UDT," wrote Vizcarrondo.

A celebration of life will be planned in the future.

Senators Roger Wicker and Richard Blumenthal Introduce S.3690 to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced [S.3690](#), the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, [introduced last June](#). Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by [ARRL](#) to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

Amateur Radio Operators repeatedly are relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."

In a similar announcement, Senator Blumenthal stated: "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications."

In the face of emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allow listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."



US Senators Richard Blumenthal (CT) [left] and Roger Wicker (MS) [right]

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

Amateur Radio as Educational Tool Represented to Policymakers in Washington DC

ARRL and Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) represented Amateur Radio at a symposium in Washington on February 1 at which the top domestic spectrum policymakers from across the federal government considered implementation of the [National Spectrum Strategy](#) (NSS) [PDF].

ARRL ensures that Amateur Radio is represented at sessions such as this so that decisionmakers understand amateur radio's roles when spectrum decisions are made, including its substantial contributions to student interest and education in STEM subjects at schools throughout the country and its role during emergencies and natural disasters.



Phil Karn, KA9Q, right, represented amateur radio in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration spectrum symposium. [BOC Engineering - YouTube, photo]

In the NSS, released by the White House in November, national policymakers identified some 2,790 megahertz of spectrum to be considered for future commercial needs. No new amateur spectrum was included, with only the ongoing reallocation studies related to 3.1 - 3.45 GHz being addressed.

The NSS was prepared for the President by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). NTIA considered input from Federal Executive Branch agencies that use spectrum as well as from other spectrum users, including amateur radio operators. As the NSS was being formulated during 2023, ARRL's Washington Counsel presented information on amateur radio to the policymakers at an NTIA listening session. This was followed with [a written submission about amateur radio spectrum concerns](#), and later with a one-on-one meeting with NTIA's Senior Spectrum Advisor in overall charge of formulating the NSS.

The February symposium followed release of the NSS in November and was in support of finalizing implementation plans for the strategy that are

expected to be announced by the White House in mid-March.

For the symposium, ARRL Life Member Phil Karn KA9Q, a director and past-president of ARDC, participated as a panelist and reinforced amateur radio's important national role in workforce development with personal testimony based on his own career.

Karn's recruitment by Qualcomm in its early days was due directly to his pioneering amateur radio accomplishments with digital wireless projects that included many firsts. Karn retired from Qualcomm as Vice President for Technology in 2011. He shared with policymakers the value of amateur radio to interest and recruit youth into STEM areas and into wireless specifically. Karn's life experience lent special weight to his remarks about amateur radio's role in attracting youth to STEM projects.



Phil Karn, KA9Q, relayed how amateur radio resulted in his successful professional career. [ARDC, photo]

"I see [amateur radio] - having been involved in it for 52 years now - as fundamental as an educational system... It is a type of hands-on intuitive learning that is almost impossible to get any other way," said Karn. [Watch a video of the panel on YouTube.](#)

Highlights from 2024 Orlando HamCation

Warm weather greeted the crowds of radio amateurs who attended the 2024 Orlando HamCation® from February 9 - 11. The convention hosted the ARRL Florida State Convention, but drew attendees from across the country, and some from even farther, renewing HamCation's place as the second largest US ham radio convention.



[HamCation](#) is sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC). The convention was sprawled out across the Central Florida Fairgrounds, including a huge outdoor tailgate and buildings filled with exhibitors and swap tables. The convention enjoys significant participation from amateur radio manufacturers, dealers, clubs, and organizations. In the months leading up to this year's convention, HamCation International Relations Co-Chairs, Lidy Meijers, KJ4LMM, and Peter Meijers, AI4KM, traveled to ham radio conventions across Europe to cast a spotlight on the convention. Their work paid off, garnering an attendance of amateurs from many other countries, and even attracting other international societies to exhibit, including the Radio Society of Great Britain, and the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (Germany).

"It was very successful and very busy," said OARC President John Knott, N4JTK. "The vendors reported traffic at their booths was high and both the trunk fest and the flea market were busy." Knott also said that reservations filled 200 RV spaces.

The East-West Hall included a row of booths organized by ARRL.

In addition to supporting renewing members and those who joined ARRL for the first time, attendees also had the opportunity to meet ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB. Baker also moderated the ARRL membership forum on Saturday afternoon. Together, Baker, Roderick, and Minster covered several key areas of membership interest. Roderick, who asked attendees to consider what they've done for amateur radio lately urged members to find opportunities to support new licensees and strengthen radio clubs.

Minster spoke about a new, free ARRL membership offering for students 21 and younger that will be introduced soon. He also described ways that ARRL is increasing amateur radio's role in education through teachers, students, and schools. "ARRL knows that amateur radio is an effective tool in developing student experiences in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines," said Minster. "Our efforts to increase our outreach in education and other areas is playing a prominent role with the development of the new ARRL strategic plan."



ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, presented an update on the organization's happenings at the membership forum held at 2024 Orlando HamCation. Among the topics he covered was a new, free ARRL membership offer that will soon be introduced for students 21 and younger.

Also participating at HamCation was ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. Goodgame presented a forum covering recent efforts and success stories to develop pathways for more teachers and students to use amateur radio in their classrooms. His wife and member-volunteer Cyndi Goodgame, K5CYN, who is also an educator, engaged dozens of young and prospective hams by collecting their experiences and interests for ARRL's ongoing work to increase outreach to students.

A familiar face to many was ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA. In January, ARRL announced that it had become Gordon West's new publisher of his popular license preparation books. "There was a steady stream of visitors that included recent licensees and instructors who enjoyed an eyeball with Gordo," said Goodgame. HamCation attendees were also drawn to the ARRL booths to meet West. He was introduced as ARRL National Instructor at the membership forum. On Saturday night, HamCation recognized Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, and his wife Anita, AB1QB, awarding them with the [2024 Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award](#).

The ARRL team also included Great Lakes Division Vice Director Roy Hook, W8REH; Northern Florida Section Manager Scott Roberts, KK4ECR and Section Emergency Coordinator Arc J. Thames, W4CPD; West Central Florida Section Manager Mike



ARRL member Chris Brault, KD8YVJ (center), a student at Saint Louis University's School of Science and Engineering, helped represent Youth on the Air (YOTA) at HamCation. He is an active participant in the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP). Brault is seen here with ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR (right), and Maxim Society Member Holly Roderick (left).

Douglas, W4MDD; Collegiate Amateur Radio Program Advisor Andy Milluzzi, KK4LWR; Maxim Society Member Holly Roderick; Honorary Vice President Frank Butler, W4RH; Assistant Member Services Manager Kim McNeill, KM1IPA; Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, and many DXCC card checkers, including: N2MFT, K3GO, K4SV, AG4W, KS4WA, KX4TT, K6ND, WA6POZ, W8BLA. ARRL also recognized member-volunteers Sloan Davis, N3UPS, and Tom Gaines, KB5FHK, for their help organizing satellite operating demonstrations.

Visit the [ARRL Facebook page](#) to see a photo album from the convention.

Veteran DXpedition Leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, SK

Prolific DXpedition leader, ARRL Maxim Society member, and former Chair of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee, Robert C. "Bob" Allphin, Jr., K4UEE, has become a Silent Key.

Allphin passed on February 10 at the age of 79. His early life as the son of a United States Air Force (USAF) officer sent him to many corners of the globe. That set the tenor for a life in amateur radio spent operating from far-flung places.

Allphin was first licensed at the age of 14 and graduated high school in Okinawa, Japan. He served a career in the USAF, serving as an instructor in electronic warfare during the Vietnam conflict. After an honorable discharge with the rank of captain, Allphin entered the financial services world, retiring after 28 years to focus on his passion of DXpeditions.



Bob Allphin, K4UEE, listens carefully to CW calls while operating as K1N from Navassa Island in 2015.

Allphin was a natural leader. "Bob was always optimistic and hopeful in DXpedition planning. He encouraged and coaxed his fellow team members to bring out the best in everyone.

If there were disappointments, he turned them into humor and diplomatically mitigated conflicts. He excelled in DXpedition PR and financing," said Ralph Fedor, KOIR, who frequently co-led DXpeditions with Allphin.

"Bob was very good at organizing and motivating people to participate," said Dr. Glenn Johnson, WOGJ, who co-led several DXpeditions with Allphin.

Allphin always found a way to make the best out of challenging operating conditions. "He was always thinking outside the box. His concern was to put on the 'best show' possible and work the hard-to-reach areas," said Johnson.

In early 2000, Johnson was preparing to travel to a medical assignment in Bhutan, which was #2 on the DXCC Most Wanted List at the time. He had applied to operate while in the country but was initially denied a license. Then, in April, Johnson got a call from the Bhutan Ministry of Information and Communication asking if he can bring a team on the first of May. Immediately, he involved Allphin. "I called Bob, and within 2 weeks we had a team assembled and equipment shipped over. A52A was a very successful DXpedition and still holds records," said Johnson.

Iconic activations were Allphin's specialty. According to [his QRZ page](#), Allphin participated in, led, or co-led numerous DXpeditions including: Baker and



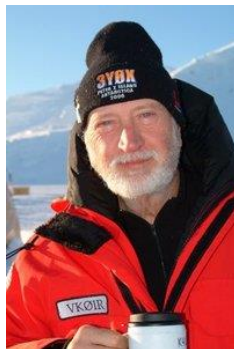
Bob Allphin, K4UEE (left) shakes hands with long time friend Ralph Fedor, KOIR (right) on King George Island in 2006 on the way to Peter I Island for the 3Y0X DXpedition. [Photo courtesy of Ralph Fedor, KOIR]

Howland islands, Heard Island, Bhutan, South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia Island, Peter I Island, Lakshadweep, Desecheo Island, Saba/Sint Eustatius, Amsterdam Island, and Navassa Island. In all, he participated in 38 contest DXpeditions.

"From the mid-80s through the early 2000s, Bob set five single operator/single band world records and was a competitor in two World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) events in 1996 and 2000. Bob is a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, Board of Directors of [The International DX Association] INDEXA, current President of The KP1-5 Project. He is a member of the Voodoo Contest Group, FOC (First Class Operator Club), A-1 Operators Club, [and] the Southeastern DX Club Hall of Fame. He has visited 131 DXCC entities and been QRV from 85," according to his QRZ page.

In addition to planning and leading trips, Allphin also excelled at videography to tell their stories. [A documentary filmed by Allphin about the 2015 K1N Navassa DXpedition](#) is available on YouTube.

Allphin was a dedicated amateur radio mentor who wanted to help others succeed. Craig Thompson, K9CT, was one of many Allphin helped along the way. "As an aspiring DXpeditioner, Bob was so approachable and helpful. We had many common friends, and because of those relationships, it was an honor to be asked to join any of his DXpeditions. At Amsterdam Island, he was my roommate, and I enjoyed his sincere joy of leading our team. He loved 160 and CW but mostly the challenge of doing something really hard, like going where they said he couldn't go. That is why he was on so many top-ten DXpeditions! What an honor to know him," said Thompson.



Beyond his prowess as an operator, Allphin leaves a legacy of kindness among those who knew him well. "He was a gentleman's gentleman, always cordial, friendly, and jovial," said Johnson.

Allphin was a generous donor to ARRL through the years, being honored as part of the President Class of the Maxim Society and was a member of the Diamond Club. He was a major gift donor to the 2014 ARRL Second Century Campaign. "Bob leaves amateur radio with a legacy of accomplishments. Above all, he strove to do things well, do things right, and do things fairly," said Fedor.

Information about memorial services, as well as more details about Allphin's many non-radio accomplishments, may be found in [his online obituary](#). A [photo memorial has been assembled](#) by photographer Tom Roscoe, K8CX, at www.hamgallery.com.

[Read more about Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on ARRL News](#)

Amateur Radio Goes to High School in New York City

Staten Island Technical High School is the first New York City school to receive a grant from ARRL.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, said ARRL is working with the school in several ways.



"We are working with them to build and equip an amateur radio station, to test and license students, and to put [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)] kits in the classroom thanks to a grant from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](#) (ARDC)."

Goodgame visited the school several weeks ago to help administer amateur radio license tests, and with the help of the school's engineering and technology teacher, Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, there are now 32 juniors and seniors who are newly

licensed amateur radio operators. Henriques attended the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) last year, and he intends to return to the program in 2024 for additional preparation and training.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology.

The First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."



A rendering of the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the lunar surface. [Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, image]

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with [Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog](#) introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar

night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.

ARRL Midwest Division Convention, Winterfest

Newly licensed ham Charlie Hartley, KF0OOP, 18, is one of ARRL's newest members. He's majoring in sound engineering at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, and is an accomplished musician, playing both bass guitar and the upright string bass. Ham radio, live sound, and music run in his blood; he's the grandson of Bob Heil, K9EID.



Charlie Hartley, KF0OOP, applies to be an ARRL member while his grandfather, Bob Heil, K9EID, smiles. [ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director Dave Propper, K2DP, photo]

Charlie had been secretly studying for his license. After passing his test, he revealed his new Technician-class privileges and call sign to his famous-ham grandpa as a birthday surprise. The

pair joined many others at the ARRL Midwest Division Convention/Winterfest, which is organized and sponsored by the St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club.

ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director Dave Propper, K2DP, personally took Charlie's membership application at the event. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, was a keynote speaker for the DX/ARRL Banquet at the event.

He said it was a good gathering to connect with hams in the division. "Ham radio is alive and well in the heartland of America, and it was encouraging to meet with so many members who were clearly passionate about serving their community through amateur radio," Johnston said.



The ARRL table at Winterfest. (L to R) ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director Dave Propper, K2DP; Section Manager of the ARRL Illinois Section Thomas Beebe, W9RY; and ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV.

Several major manufacturers exhibited at the event, which was held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois, on January 27. The hamfest hosted the 2024 ARRL Midwest Division Convention.

Heil Sound Donates Equipment to W1AW

The [Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW](#), at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, has received a generous donation of equipment from the [Heil Ham Radio division](#) of [Heil Sound](#).

The company's founder, Bob Heil, K9EID, is a pioneering audio engineer and avid radio amateur. At his direction, the company donated four Heil Pro

Set Elite HC-6 headsets, three Heil Pro Set 3 stereo headphones, two Heil FS-3 press-to-talk foot switches, one Heil iCM microphone, one Heil PR 30 microphone, and various adapters. The equipment has been placed into service at the station for use by [visiting operators](#), and for the [voice bulletins](#) transmitted each weekday evening by W1AW.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says the gear is going to be of great use. "We are fortunate to host many visiting operators each year, but all that use takes a toll on the gear," he said. "The generosity of Heil Ham Radio to help us keep the equipment fresh is greatly appreciated."



The donated gear on the operating console of W1AW. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

Winter Field Day a Success for Ohio Club

The [Delaware Amateur Radio Association \(DELARA\)](#) in Delaware, Ohio, was one of many clubs who participated in this year's Winter Field Day (WFD).

This was the second year DELARA worked WFD. Club member Joe Papworth, K8MP, and three event station captains -- Ed Brady, AE8Q; Guy Merrill, KD8KWH, and Tom Foy, N4HAI -- provided support and helped set up for the event.



Shelter house wrapped and ready for DELARA's WFD activities. [Photo courtesy of Joe Papworth, K8MP]

"We had 16 participants this year and over 1,100 contacts," said Papworth. "At least 200 more contacts than last year, and operators were on most modes and bands."

DELARA members wrapped a shelter house at Delaware State Park with plastic sheets to protect them from the winter weather, and the Elm Valley Joint Fire District loaned them a generator to provide power for the transceivers, as well as a few portable heaters. Three antennas and stations were set up inside.

"WFD is a great experience and a chance to get on the air," added Papworth. "We're planning on participating next year and looking forward to [the] [2024 ARRL Field Day on June 22 - 23](#)"

[Winter Field Day \(WFD\)](#), sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association, is open to participants worldwide. It's held on the last full weekend in January and is a communications exercise designed to help preparedness for disasters.



Guy Merrill, KD8KWH, makes contacts from inside the wrapped shelter house for the DELARA Winter Field Day event. [Photo courtesy of Joe Papworth, K8MP]

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The Joys of Being a General - The January/February 2024 issue of On the Air featured a story from Brian McSpadden Gardener, KE8JVX, about "The First-Year Experiences of a General-Class Ham," in which Brian detailed how he got his feet wet as a General, and how he put together his first station for HF. Brian joins this episode of the podcast to tell us a little more about his first year as a General, as well as what he's done since then.

ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.



The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts - [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).

Amateur Radio in the News

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

["Lilburn Elementary School students speak with Astronauts on the International Space Station"](#) / WANF (Atlanta) February 11, 2024 --The North Fulton Amateur Radio League is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Unveiling the Mysteries of Solar Eclipses Through 'Eclipse Radio' Projects"](#) / The United Business Journal (Pennsylvania) February 21, 2024 --The University of Scranton Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Exploring the world of ham radio: An educational event by Pine State Amateur Radio Club"](#) / Bangor

Daily News (Maine) February 23, 2024 -- The Pine State Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Free amateur radio instruction offered in Stillwater"](#) / Twin Cities Pioneer Press (Minnesota) February 15, 2024 -- The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Special Service Club.

["Amateur radio is still on the airwaves in Utica, across New York and the U.S."](#) / Utica Observer-Dispatch (New York) February 16, 2024 -- The Utica Amateur Radio Club.

["The Athens County Amateur Radio Association finds that young people are still drawn to old-school communication"](#) / WOUB (Ohio) February 16, 2024 -- The Athens County Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["A different world:' Ham radio points East Elementary students to STEM concepts"](#) / The Herald Bulletin (Indiana) February 16, 2024 -- The Madison County Amateur Radio Club.

["Amateur radio club starts up in Upshur County"](#) / WBOY (West Virginia) February 21, 2024

["Amateur radio club members are pros at broadcasting"](#) / Patriot News (Pennsylvania) February 10, 2024 -- Perry County Amateur Radio Club.

["FBCS dials in for radio competition"](#) / Bonner County Daily Bee (Idaho) February 13, 2024 -- Bonner County Amateur Radio Club and Amateur Radio Emergency Services® of Bonner County. The Bonner County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["ASCTE hosts radio conversation with astronaut on the International Space Station"](#) / WAFF (Alabama) February 1, 2024

["Capital City HamFest 2024"](#) / WLBT (Mississippi) February 2, 2024 -- The Jackson Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["New amateur radio group established in Upshur County"](#) / My BUCKHANNON (West Virginia) February 5, 2024

["Amateur radio club hosts annual field day"](#) / The Kerrville Daily Times (Texas), January 26, 2024 -- Hill Country Amateur Radio Club.

["Go 'off grid' with the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association this weekend"](#) / KGET (California), January 27, 2024 -- The Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Ham radio 'Field Day' signals importance of emergency preparedness"](#) / WTAP -TV (West Virginia), January 28, 2024 -- The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club takes part in Winter Field Day"](#) / WALA (Alabama), January 28, 2024 -- The Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Ham Radio Winter Field Day in Lackawanna County"](#) / WNEP (Pennsylvania), January 29, 2024 -- The Windmill Amateur Radio Group is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

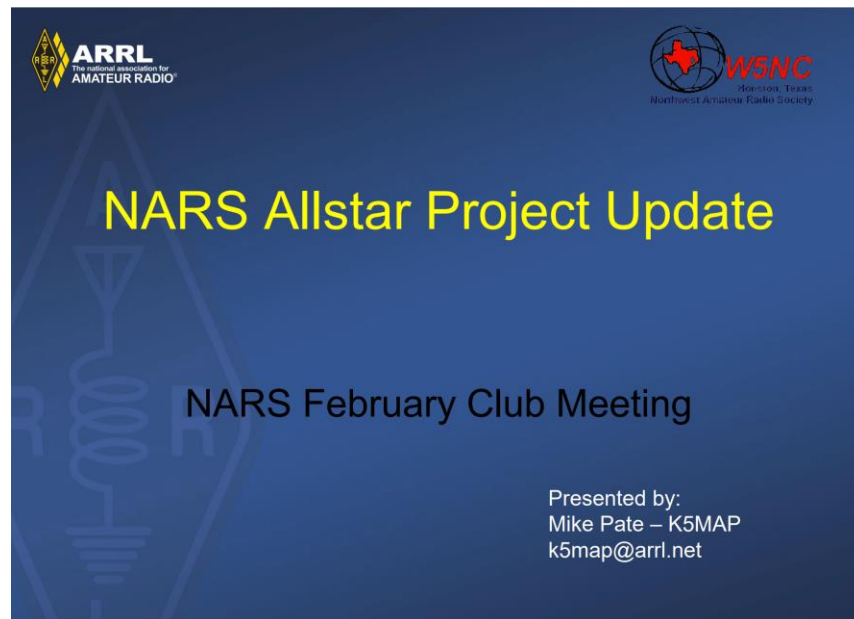
["If the grid goes down, amateur \(ham\) radio works when all else fails"](#) / The Citizen (Georgia), January 29, 2024 -- The Fayette County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Arrl.org. 2024. ARRL Letter. [online] Available at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=current> [Accessed 04 Mar 2024]

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

February General Meeting

In the February General Meeting, Mike Pate, K5MAP, led a discussion about the club repeater system and the upgrades and plans for the system. The presentation provided information on the many different ways to connect to the repeater, include Allstar and EchoLink. The presentation can be viewed on the NARS website or by [clicking here](#). Thanks to Mike for sharing such a great topic!



Next Club Meeting

Our next club meeting will be on March 15th at HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379.

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, Klein, TX 77379](#)
Zoom Conference Call, Meeting ID: 2815436502, Passcode: 123456

NARS Name Badges: Get Yours Today!

Cindy (KM4YGG) and Art (KM4YGH) Grant are offering the club a deal for the NARS club on getting membership name badges. Each badge costs \$10 and can be delivered at the next NARS meeting (if ordered two weeks or more before the next meeting).



To order, go to <https://badgesunlimitedllc.com/#!/4-2-NARS-CLUB-MEMBERS-ONLY/p/104217140/category=13635038> and pay the fees using the checkout capability on the website.

NARS Announces a Dues Increase

NARS has made the difficult decision to increase its annual membership dues for the first time in its history. While this was a difficult choice for the Board, it has become necessary to sustain the provision of our numerous services to the community. Over the years, prices on goods and services have risen, and we have faced these increases while maintaining our membership fees, despite enhancing our repeater system and other services to our members.

Effective January 2024, the dues will increase by \$5.00 across the board. The new dues structure will be as follows:

- Individual Membership \$25.00
- Family Membership \$30.00
- Student Membership \$17.50

We will continue to offer new licensees a \$5.00 discount upon their initial sign-up.

Members who need to renew their membership before January 1 will pay the current dues, while those renewing after January 1 will see the increase. Membership terms run for one year from the day of joining, so many members will not experience the increase until sometime next year.

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.

Unlocking the Power of PSKReporter

In the dynamic world of ham radio communication, staying connected and informed is essential. One invaluable tool that has gained popularity among operators is [PSKReporter](#). This online platform provides real-time propagation and reception reports, enabling users to optimize their radio communication experience. In this article, we will explore the key features of PSKReporter and guide you through the steps to harness its potential.

Understanding PSKReporter

PSKReporter is a web-based tool designed to help amateur radio operators monitor and analyze radio signal propagation. It focuses on digital modes such as PSK31, FT8, and JT65, providing a comprehensive database of reception reports from around the world.

PSKReporter data is self-reported and is often embedded into existing ham radio software packages. WSJT-X, for example, [can be configured to automatically report the stations you hear to PSKReporter](#). This helps others to understand propagation patterns and signal strength requirements.

Key Features

Propagation Maps - PSKReporter generates real-time maps that display the current state of radio signal propagation. These maps are invaluable for understanding which bands are open and the potential reach of your signals.

Station Spotting - The platform allows users to spot their own stations and monitor the activity of other operators. This feature facilitates communication, helping operators discover new contacts and establish connections with fellow hams.

Signal Reporting - PSKReporter provides detailed reports on signal reception, including information about the frequency, time, and signal strength. Users can analyze these reports to assess their station's performance and make adjustments for optimal communication.

How to Use PSKReporter

Access the Website - Open your web browser and navigate to <https://pskreporter.info>.

Select Your Call Sign - In the upper-right corner of the page, enter your call sign in the designated field. Press the "Go" button to access personalized information about your station's reports.

View Propagation Maps - Explore the interactive maps to visualize current propagation conditions. Different colors represent varying signal strengths, allowing you to identify active bands and potential communication opportunities.

Check Reception Reports - Scroll down to review detailed reception reports for your station, including information on bands, modes, and signal reports from other hams. This data is valuable for assessing your station's reach and performance.

Spotting Your Station - To make your station visible to others, click on the "Active Stations" tab and locate your call sign. This feature helps you connect with other operators interested in your region or operating frequency.

PSKReporter is a powerful tool that enhances the ham radio experience by providing real-time insights into signal propagation. By understanding the platform's features and incorporating it into your operating routine, you can optimize your communication strategies and discover new contacts.

A Low-Cost, High-Performance Beam Antenna for 2 Meters

Do you want to amplify your amateur radio experience! In this month's *On The Air magazine*, from the ARRL, John Portune, W6NBC, shares how to construct a simple 2 meter beam antenna!



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/membership-reports/club-roster>. Find your name in the list and look at the "Expires" column of the table!

High School Ham Radio in the News

Join the remarkable students of Harbor Creek High School in Harborcreek, Pennsylvania who recently contacted the International Space Station on December 11, 2023. The students are part of the Advanced Technologies Group, KC3SGV, an after-school club at Harbor Creek. Fifteen of the students are licensed radio amateurs. Their faculty advisor, Assistant Principal Drew Mortensen, AC3DS, is a graduate of the [Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#), a professional development program led by ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio.



Click here to view the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2s_C4o7dfk

New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released Effective July 1, 2024

The (NCVEC) [Question Pool Committee](#) (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new [Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028](#).

The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, and member of the NCVEC QPC, said, "The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version. We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevancy to today's amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, 82 new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction [of] the number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced."

Somma advised that "the newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. New test designs will be available to [ARRL Volunteer Examiners](#) (VEs) on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new Extra-class [exam booklet designs](#) around mid-June."

Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of [The ARRL Extra Class License Manual](#) or the 5th edition of [ARRL's Extra Q & A](#) are encouraged to test on or before June 30, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024.

Notice provided by the ARRL at <https://www.arrl.org/news/new-amateur-extra-class-question-pool-released-effective-july-1-2024>, Accessed on January 1, 2024

NARS Club Documents and Minutes

DID YOU
KNOW



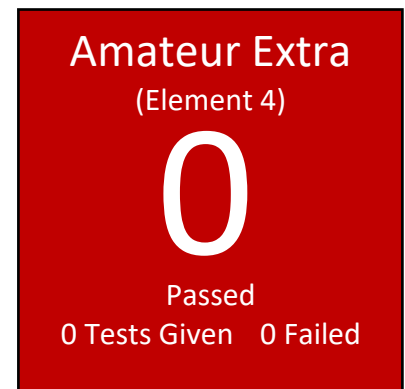
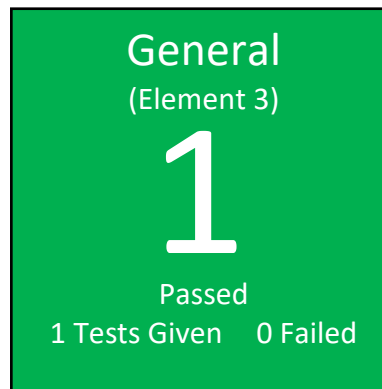
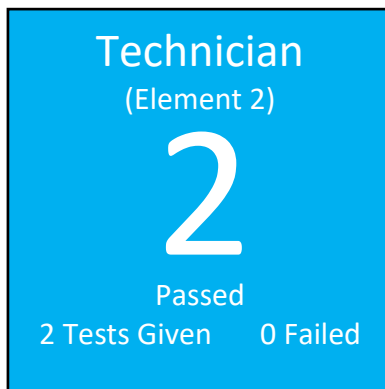
Did you know that you can find all of the club's public documents, including board meeting minutes, financial statements, and newsletters on the [club website](#) at http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/?

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

Attendees

On Saturday February 10, 2024, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. During the testing session, 3 candidates took 3 tests.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams¹:

- William C Sain – Technician
- Jose C Bouche – Technician

Congratulations to the following for passing their upgrade exams:

- Morris W Cox KJ5ECE – upgrade to General

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>

The next session will be March 9, 2024 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Please visit www.w5nc.club for the announcement.

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:

- Michael Robinson KI0DE – Acting Session Manager
- Vicki Owen AC5EW
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Brett Hebert KG5IQU
- Robert Ewers K9HOU

VE Session Guidelines

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

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

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.

New & Renewing Club Members

New Club Members

Welcome to the following new members of NARS!

- Darwin Bible, KJ5EGT
- Morris Cox, KJ5ECE

Renewing Club Members

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

- Jim Berry, KD5BN
- Mike Hvasta, KF5IUM
- Richard Nelson, KF5WRD
- Mike Pate, K5MAP
- Larry Simko, WA8EXE

Training and Education

NARS

NARS Meeting Presentations - <http://w5nc.club/nars/index.php/club-info/technical-presentations>

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!

Exam Practice Answers

Technician: T0A12 - A. Ensure that the voltmeter and leads are rated for use at the voltages to be measured

General: G5A07 - B. Admittance

Amateur Extra: E9D02 - D. Arrange two Yagis perpendicular to each other with the driven elements at the same point on the boom fed 90 degrees out of phase

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 – March 15th - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](https://www.google.com/maps/place/18606+Stuebner+Airline+Rd,+Klein,+TX+77379)

VE Test Session – March 9, 2024 – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](https://www.google.com/maps/place/18606+Stuebner+Airline+Rd,+Klein,+TX+77379) - 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.

Hamfests and Conventions

April 6 | [Raleigh Hamfest](#), ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, Raleigh, North Carolina

May 17 - 19 | [Dayton Hamvention](#), ARRL National Convention, Xenia, Ohio

May 31 - June 2 | [SEA-PAC](#), ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, Oregon

June 15 | [Knoxville Hamfest](#), ARRL Delta Division Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee

June 28 - 30 | [HAM RADIO](#), Friedrichshafen, Germany

July 12 - 13 | [HamCon: Zion](#), ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, St. George, Utah

August 17 - 18 | [Huntsville Hamfest](#), ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Huntsville, Alabama

August 22 - 25 | [Northeast HamXposition](#), ARRL New England Division Convention, Marlborough, Massachusetts

September 28 | [Red Rivers Radio Amateurs Hamfest](#), ARRL Dakota Division Convention, West Fargo, North Dakota

October 18 - 20 | [Pacificon](#), ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, California

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

March 2024 - <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2024/March%202024%20Corral.pdf>

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

For resources and results for all ARRL contests, please see <https://contests.arrl.org>.

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, 713-828-8630, treasurer@w5nc.net

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

Director: Rich Jones, W5VEK, officers@w5nc.net

Director: TBN

Board Non-Voting Associate Members

Administrative Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN

Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, N6HB

Newsletter Editor: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR

Public Information Liaison: TBN

ARRL/VEC Liaison: Sheree Horton, WM5N

Repeater Team Lead: Mike Pate, K5MAP

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.clubs>) 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 or via Allstar (node #59847). Kirc Breden, N5XJB, coordinates this Net.

Repeaters

For information on NARS-managed repeaters, please see the club website at <http://w5nc.club/nars/index.php/repeaters/nars-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.club/nars/index.php/social-media/email-reflector-groups>