



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

MARCH 2025

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

w5nc.club

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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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:

Vicki & Paul Owen (AC5EW/N5NXS), Newsletter Editors

President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

Winter Field Day and HamCation

I hope everyone will pass the word about how much they enjoyed the 2025 Winter Field Day. Everyone had a good time and got a lot of questions answered. Dale, KN5DS, learned a new digital mode that he never worked before. Glen, K5GLN, and Mitchell, KJ5GZR, were at the mike and both made many contacts. I think this was Mitchell's first contest and using the N3FJP logging program. Both did a great job! My thanks to our veteran CW operators Keith, NM5G, and Bob, KC5T, for doing a bang-up job getting a few CW contacts for us. I worked as Bob's logger using a double paddle key tapping out CQ's on Sunday. I showed him the memory keyer mode on my IC-7300. He really liked that and was very impressed with the radio.

Like last year, I went to the 2025 HamCation held in Orlando, Florida. I enjoyed a great trip visiting with hams from all over the world. There were hams from Germany and France along with hams from all over the USA. All the big radio manufacturers were there like Icom America, Elecraft, Yaesu USA and a lot of the name brand vendors we all buy from.

I went to a few of the forums on Friday and Saturday. I liked the "How to Ramp Up Club Member Participation!", "Building a Next Generation Logbook" and of course the ARRL Membership Forum. In the Ramp Up Club I found out we're doing most of the suggestions presented, but I did see that we should advertise our events more on the Facebook page. The Next Generation Logbook was interesting because of the new way each contact is displayed and the information about the contact. You can go to worldradioleague.com to see what it is about. The founder is James Cribbs, NOWRL, who started it in 2023. He describes it as the way to bring the logbook into the 21st-century using technology. He is trying to bridge the gap between new hams and experienced operator contestants. It has a great interface to the POTA website if you are doing Parks on the Air. If anyone thinks it might be a good club meeting topic then I will contact James to see if he would like to do a presentation at our meeting.

Repeater Status and Weekly Net Operations

The NARS Repeater Team has a lot on the menu going forward, to get the latest Repeater Status check out W5NC.club.

Repeater update from Rich Jones, Jan 2025

LBT Repeater (Downtown). After the last visit the repeater output was deemed inadequate, so it was put into standby mode.

Galleria Repeater – UHF machine is operational as a standalone machine. The VHF machine is operational as a standalone machine.

Klein Repeater – Fully operational

W5NC HUB (Node 5987) – Allstar and Echo links are operational. DMR repeater (K5MAP) is connected, however it is experiencing some intermittent losses.

Short Term Projects – The repeater team committee is developing a repeater radio link via UHF, connecting W5NC Node 5987 to the UHF repeater in the Galleria. The radio link would utilize resources located at the HC ESD 16 HAM radio station.

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

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)

T1B07

Which of the following VHF/UHF band segments are limited to CW only?

- A. 50.0 MHz to 50.1 MHz and 144.0 MHz to 144.1 MHz
- B. All these choices are correct
- C. 219 MHz to 220 MHz and 420.0 MHz to 420.1 MHz
- D. 902.0 MHz to 902.1 MHz

General (Element 3)

G9B01

What is a characteristic of a random-wire HF antenna connected directly to the transmitter?

- A. It is more effective on the lower HF bands than on the higher bands
- B. It produces only vertically polarized radiation
- C. Station equipment may carry significant RF current
- D. It must be longer than 1 wavelength

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E7B09

What is characteristic of an emitter follower (or common collector) amplifier?

- A. Differential inputs and single output
- B. Acts as an OR circuit if one input is grounded
- C. Input and output signals in-phase
- D. Low input impedance and phase inversion from input to output

See the answers on [Page 18](#).

NARS Membership – Due Dates and More



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](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!

Amateur Radio News

An excerpt from the ARRL News

Hurricane Watch Net Turns 60

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) was founded on Labor Day weekend 1965. Known for relaying surface observations into the National Hurricane Center, the net is currently seeking volunteers to serve as net control operators.

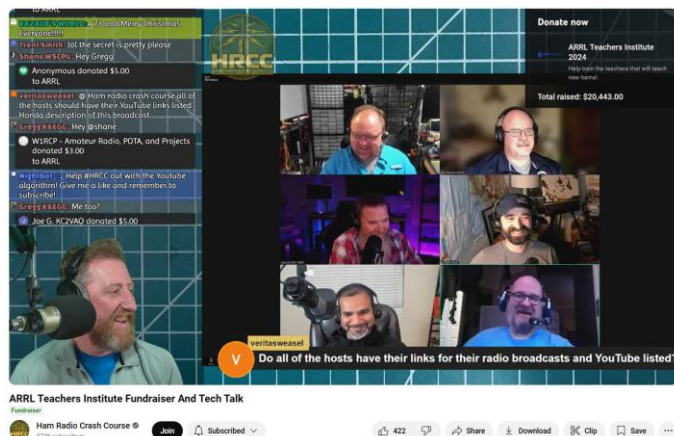
Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, reports that HWN is preparing for what could be, yet again, an above-active hurricane season and that the net needs more amateur radio operators to help. “We are starting early this year in preparations and looking to add more net control stations to our roster,” said Graves. While being bilingual is not a requirement, being fluent in Spanish and English, or French/Creole and English, is a plus. If you’re interested in training to become a net control operator for the Hurricane Watch Net, please visit the net control information page, [The Hurricane Watch Net - \(Net Control Information\)](http://www.arrl.org/hurricane-watch-net).

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>

Get Ready for “Ham Radio Open House”

ARRL is inviting radio clubs and schools to organize a Ham Radio Open House in April, built around World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18. The focus will be on scientific advancement and demonstrating cutting-edge technology. ARRL has teamed up with HamSCI – Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation – and the science community organization SciStarter to invite the public to participate in One Million Acts of Science during April, which is Citizen Science Month. Clubs are encouraged to showcase the latest weak-signal modes, such as FT8 using WSJT-X, or other digital modes. Look for resources to help organize and promote the event soon. Find details at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day.



ARRL Launches Dream Station Sweepstakes

ARRL has introduced a sweepstakes that gives members a chance to win an Icom Dream Station, which includes a limited edition IC-7760 HF/50 MHz transceiver, an IC-PW2 amplifier, and a microphone, all donated by Icom America.

The sweepstakes is running from January 3 to December 31, 2025 and is part of a year-long campaign to encourage new membership (and a fun way for current members to extend their support for ARRL). The winner will also receive a limited edition Seiko watch celebrating Icom's 60th anniversary.

Participation is open to full ARRL members in the US. Members will automatically earn sweepstakes entries when they 1) join or renew membership (earn 1 entry), 2) set up auto-renewal (earn 2 entries), 3) donate to the ARRL Diamond Club (1 entry earned for every \$50 donated). Members can earn up to six entries during the year-long campaign. For more information about the ARRL Sweepstakes and the official rules, visit www.arrl.org/dreamstation.



Between January 3 and December 31, 2025, full ARRL members in the US have a chance to win an Icom Dream Station.

Grant Will Help Young Hams Become Contesters

A \$10,000 grant to the University of Scranton, from the Frankford Radio Club (FRC) in Pennsylvania, will support the development of a contest dashboard that will leverage the popularity of amateur radio operator contests to benefit science, technology, students and Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) community members. Through the grant, a team of university students, faculty and FRC members, along with HamSCI community members, will collaborate to develop a real-time Contesting/DXing Dashboard for the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station (a modular ground-based system that measures space weather impacts on the Earth's ionosphere). The grant will fund first-year computer engineering major Owen Ruzanski, KD3ALD, to help develop the contest dashboard and is expected to conclude in the spring semester of 2026.

University of Scranton physics professor Nathaniel Frissell, PhD, W2NAF, said that, through the project, he hopes the University's W3USR Amateur Radio Club members, present and future, will become active radio contesters.

RigExpert's Office Destroyed by Russian Missile Attack

On February 12, 2025 RigExpert's administrative office in Kyiv, Ukraine was destroyed by a Russian ballistic missile. All employees are reported to be safe.

RigExpert is a leading manufacturer of antenna and cable analyzers, and officials said they are committed to restoring operations as soon as possible.

While their office is in ruins, “our top priority is the safety of our team and the continuity of our operations,” said Ashot Andeev, CEO. The company is working to minimize delays and fulfill its commitments while maintaining customer support operations.

ARES in Puerto Rico Renews with Red Cross

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in the Puerto Rico Section of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio has signed a renewal Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross Puerto Rico Region. It establishes a framework of cooperation and a close working relationship with ARRL ARES volunteers.

“The renewal of the existing MOU with the American Red Cross of Puerto Rico is a testament to the relationship and commitment we have at the local section level with the legendary organization, “ said ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager Carmen N. Greene, KP4QVQ.

She added that as a new Section Manager, it feels great to have this experience with an important organization, as well as having great contact with all the hams around the island.

ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every week. 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 thru podcast host Blubrry.com, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts -- [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).



Two area clubs currently air the ARRL Audio News on their repeaters, Clear Lake ARC airs it on Wednesday at 8:00 pm on 146.860 and 442.750. The Emergency Amateur Communicators Club Net in Kingwood airs it on Sunday at 8:00 pm on 145.430.

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

February POTA Presentation

The feature program at the February meeting was presented by Daniel Romanchik, KB6NU and covered a little history of this program as well as how it works. Originally formed as National Parks on the Air, it was formed to promote the National Park Service's Centennial. It encouraged participants to operate from National Parks, plus have fun. It only ran from January 1 – December 31, 2016. In 2017 some hams reformed a very similar program, called POTA, or Parks – on the Air. This expanded the original program to include not only national parks, but state parks.

Romanchik explained that the activity is made up of 'activators' and 'hunters'. The activator sets up in one of almost 12,000 designated parks listed on the POTA website in the US (this program is also worldwide), and starts broadcasting "CQ POTA" to make contacts. The hunter is typically someone at their home base who is listening for these calls. Typical contacts are short, with a call sign, signal report and state. He said it's more like contacting a special event station.



By signing up (free) for the POTA program on their website, both the activator and hunter can receive points for these completed contacts. Hunting for contacts is made easier because the activator can schedule a time they will be in a park and on what frequency/mode. The hunter can see this on the website also. As points are accumulated and logs are uploaded to POTA you can earn a variety of certificates. Being an activator can be fun because it gets you out of the house, and it would also make a good NARS club event! For more information on POTA, visit their

website at [Parks on the Air | POTA | Parks program for amateur radio.](#)

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on March 21, 2025, at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We hope to see everyone there!

New Radio for New Hams: Jumpstart Program



QRZ, RT Systems and GigaParts have teamed up to offer a sustainable program that is available, while supplies last, to amateur radio operators licensed in the USA for 6 months or less. The program offers a coupon code to the new ham that gives them a QRZ-1 radio, programming cable, RT Systems programming software, New Ham Welcome Kit, and a QRZ membership for only **\$21.99 (+tax & + S&H)**.

What's Included:

- Explorer QRZ-1 Handheld Radio
- Programming cable
- RT Systems Programming Software
- Premium QRZ Subscription

How it Works:

1. Apply at <https://www.qrz.com/jumpstart>
2. Receive your unique discount code from QRZ via email
3. Add a QRZ-1 to your cart.
4. Add any accessories you may want to purchase.
5. At checkout, enter your unique discount code

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.

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.



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 learning new aspects of the amateur radio hobby. This article is taken from the July 2024 issue of QST.

Creating Off-the-Grid Power for Emergency Use by Chuck Dennis, W5CTD



The 12 V 100 W solar panel.

This story begins in February 2021 when Texas was hit by a massive winter blast that will likely go down in history for its severity, duration and impact on residents. The temperatures started to dive well below freezing almost a week before the power outages struck. The cold arrived with ice, snow, high winds, and all-around bad weather. During this time, snow fell for days and did not melt.

Fortunately, about 2 weeks before it hit, word came out about what was in store. We took that opportunity to get supplies like bottled water, food, and medications. At the time, I had three 12V batteries: 18, 15, and 5A. I also had two handhelds that used batteries. I was able to charge all of these in the days before the power outages.

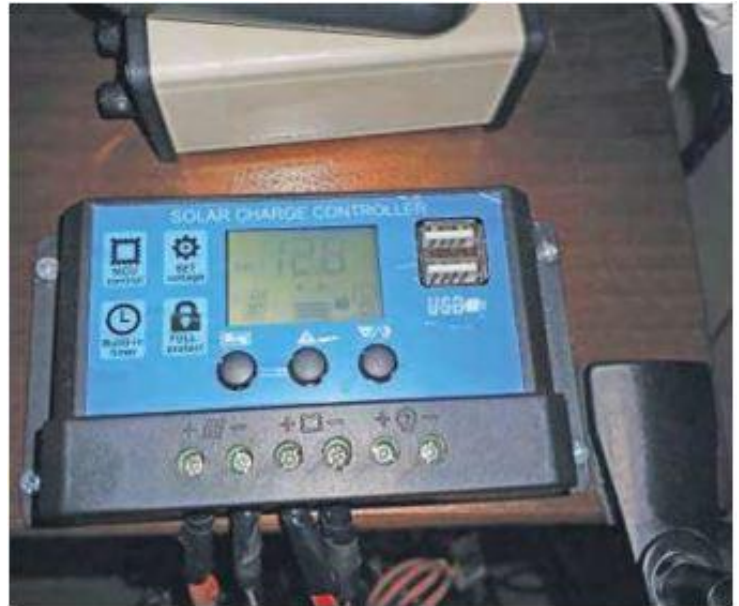
I started getting text messages from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas that warned of a severe incident with the Texas electrical grid for the day before the power shutdowns. The first power outage occurred around midnight on Sunday, February 14, 2021. That shutdown lasted until Monday morning, and the power came back on for around half an hour, then went off again. This started the 3-day period of no power. The power flashed on intermittently but was off for most of the time. In the few, short, times we did have power, I was able to recharge some of my batteries and, in some cases, do some cooking. Entire areas of town were shut down. Nearly all businesses, including restaurants, gas stations, and grocery stores, were closed.

Taking Precautions for the Future

After witnessing this event, my wife and I found it necessary to have some way to get power, even if only to charge batteries and run radio equipment. I started pricing solar panels and solar charging systems and found a 12V 100W solar panel at a good price. I purchased the solar panel, connecting cables, a PWM solar charge controller, and a mounting kit for the solar panel.

After I unboxed the equipment, I realized I needed more than the limited instructions included with the solar panel and the solar charge controller. I searched the internet to learn more about how to wire and use them. There are a number of valuable resources for how to connect, use, and maintain solar power systems for any installation. There are also many YouTube videos on how to wire and use solar power systems, including the solar charge controllers, than can help a lot.

Some sources say you can use a solar panel without a charge controller for a short period of time, though I would strongly advise against it. Using a solar panel in that way can cause damage to the panels, charge controller, battery, or electronic equipment. For a maximum power point tracker (MPPT) charge controller system, you should always connect the positive (red) and negative (black) wires to your battery first. Then connect the solar panel leads to the solar panel.



The charge controller reflecting the solar panel charges the battery and runs the radio equipment. In this photo, the solar charge controller shows the battery has been charged to 12.8 V.

A quick word on safety. During this process, if there is any light in the area of the solar panel, there may be a risk of shock. If you are touching, moving, or working with the solar panel, you should always wear rubber-coated gloves to avoid shock. Double-check all the connections to ensure polarity and proper component placement. You do not want to connect the solar panel to the leads for the battery because you could easily damage something expensive. Also, do not ever connect a positive lead to a negative lead.

Tests and Adjustments

When I first connected the system, the charging worked great. Provided I had no clouds and full sun, I charged all the batteries I had in one afternoon. I also charged any USB devices like cell phones, tablets and iPads.



Once I was ready to try running my equipment on it, I connected the radio equipment as a parallel connection to the battery because that's how it was done on one of the solar panel instructions. The radio worked fine, except there was a bad popcorn sound any time I tried transmitting on VHF with the solar panel connected. Several members of my local club recommended I make some RF chokes for the circuit. I interjected several ferrite beads into the power connection

wiring, and as an additional step, I wound a number of coils with four to five turns of wire. I did this for each lead into and out of the charge controller and several times on the wire leading to the solar panel. After this, there was no more popcorn noise when I transmitted on VHF FM while running the battery with the solar panel.

The solar panel is on a mounting bracket on the concrete floor of our back porch, and although the location is not ideal, it does get good sun for about 7 hours. Maintenance for the solar panel is relatively easy. Ensure that it is properly connected to the system. Occasionally, the top surface needs to be cleaned with a clean cloth, to help the panel work more efficiently. Keep in mind if there are clouds, the performance of the solar panel drastically diminishes, to the point where it may be difficult to charge or run anything on it.

To see what you need to power your radio with the sun - [Essentials of a Solar Powered Station](#)

All photos by the author. Chuck Dennis, W5CTD. Chuck can be reached at charles.t.dennis@outlook.com.

2025 Orlando HamCation

NARS Members Attend Event!

For anyone going to this for the first time, it was quite a big event. Each morning there was a long line to get in when they opened the entry gate at 9AM. There were almost 90 exhibitors, including HRO, DX Engineering, ICOM, Yaesu, as well as a number of antenna and electronics businesses, several ham clubs, ARRL, a Scouting Troop and other vendors. The Swap area was housed in a large building inside as well as outside under tents and next to RVs.

There were 3 forums running simultaneously all day Friday and Saturday, and SkyWarn Spotter training was held on Sunday. The forums covered a variety of subjects, including APRS, Amateur Radio in Space, Flex Radio, ARISS, Soaring with Pico Balloons, Youth on the Air, AMSAT, SkyWarn, and Logging programs. Of special interest was a forum on how to generate more participation in ham clubs, and the ARRL had a membership forum discussing HOAs and antennas.



The ARRL had an app for HamCation which included maps of where everything was, a list of the forums, a list of attendees, as well as a list of the vendors and where each was located. The app allowed you to select the forums you were interested in so that you could just go to MyEvent for a quick look at where you needed to go next. The app also included a list of the winners of the hourly prize drawings and the daily grand prizes, which included an MMX Nomad HF station (Friday), Yaesu FT DX10 (Saturday) and an ICOM IC-905 with antennas and transverter (Sunday). Approximately 10 NARS members attended the HamCation.

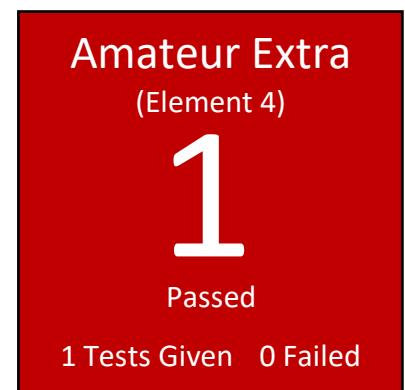
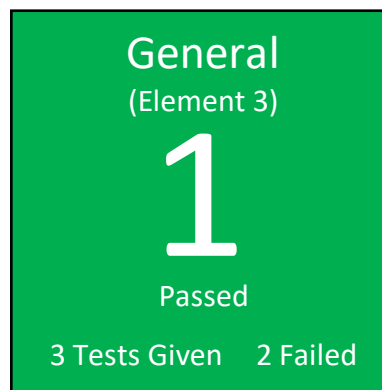
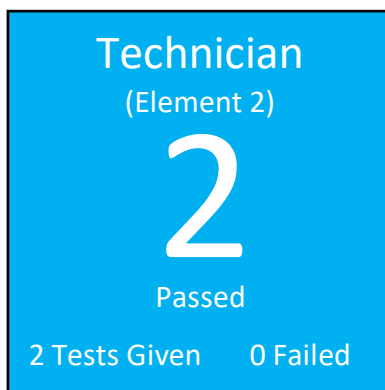


VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, February 15, 2025, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. During the testing session, 4 candidates took 6 tests.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams¹:

- Curtis 'Greg' Pendley – new Technician
- Timothy Walsh – new Technician

Congratulations to the following for their successful upgrade:

- James Miller KJ5JYR – upgrade to General
- Cecil Powers W6AAN – upgrade to Extra

Pre-registration for Testing Sessions

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

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

The next session will be March 22, 2025 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:

- Brett Hebert KG5IQU – session manager
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Bob Ewers K9HOU
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- August Canik KI5YPD
- Keith Dutson NM5G
- Logan Hebert KG5LLM

VE Session Guidelines

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

Wear a mask 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 Brett or Synomen Hebert 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!

- Ronald Geedman KJ5JME

Renewing Club Members

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

- Thomas Stokes, KD5MER
- Jay Close, K0GEO
- David Harnish, AD6ME
- David Meine, KI5MUD
- Robert White, K0RCW
- Michael Ballesteros, WI5FI
- Ryan Callison, KA5K
- Gary Greer, N5EXP
- Raul Pavon, AK5KK
- Scott Blanchette, K5RSB
- Mike Hvasta, KF5IUM

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!

NARS Club Documents and Minutes

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](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/) at http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/?

Exam Practice Answers

Technician: T1B07 - A. 50.0 MHz to 50.1 MHz and 144.0 MHz to 144.1 MHz

General: G9B01 – C. Station equipment may carry significant RF current

Amateur Extra: E7B09 – C. Input and output signals in-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: 147.190 PL 123.0

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

NARS General Meeting – March 21, 2025 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session – March 22, 2025 – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#) - Check-in will start at 8:30am with testing lasting from 9:00am - 11:00am. All testing activities will be completed by noon.

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

Buffalo Bayou Regatta – March 22, 2025

[Woodlands Event Comms - Ironman Texas](#) – April 26, 2025

[Texas MS 150 Hams – "Keeping Everyone Connected"](#) – April 26-27, 2025

[Woodlands Event Comms - The Woodlands Triathlon](#) – May 10, 2025

Social Events

Wed 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

Hamfests and Conventions

March 7-8 | Greater Houston Hamfest at Ft Bend County Fairgrounds

June 6-7 | DFW Ham Expo at Vista Mall Events Center, Lewisville, TX

August 16-17 | Huntsville Hamfest 2025 at Von Braun Center South, Huntsville, AL

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

March 2025 - <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2025/March%202025%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>.

For a list of Special Event Stations, please see <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

Did you know...

NARS has a social media presence! Thanks to Sam Labarbera, K5FM, 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.

NARS Club Officers and Information

Board Officers with Voting Privileges

President: Paul Owen, N5NXS, officers@w5nc.net

Vice President: Robert Ewers, K9HOU, officers@w5nc.net

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, treasurer@w5nc.net

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, officers@w5nc.net

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

Director: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J, officers@w5nc.net

Committee Team Members

Administrative Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN

Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, K5FM

Newsletter Editors: Vicki & Paul Owen, AC5EW /N5NXS

Public Information Liaison: TBD

ARRL/VEC Liaison: Brett Hebert, KG5IQU

Repeater Team Lead: Rich Jones, W5VEK

Lead Net Control Operator: Mike Lizzio, WA2TOP

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

Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

Club Nets

The Weekly Tuesday Evening Net - Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Join us on one of the W5NC DMR access points:

- Hotspot: Brandmeister NARS Talk Group 3146211 CC 1 Slot 2
- Klein: 440.3000 DMR Repeater CC3 Slot 1
- Droidstar/Dudestar Apps: CC1 Slot 2

The Weekly Wednesday Evening Net - Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm. Join us on one of the W5NC Analog access points:

- NARS Analog Access
- Klein: UHF Analog Repeater 444.3750 Tone 100
- Access points:
 - ALLSTAR: 59847
 - Echolink: W5NC-R

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>