



# NARS Board Meeting Minutes August 16, 2024

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

## Board Attendance

✓ - In Attendance, X – Absent

Board Voting Privileged Officers		Board Non-Voting Associate Members	
✓	President: Ron Matusek, WA6TQH	X	Admin. Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN
✓	Vice President: Paul Kent, KI5FJS	X	Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, N6HB
✓	Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU		Public Information Liaison: TBD
✓	Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR	✓	Webmaster: Bill Buoy, N5BIA
✓	Director: Rich Jones, W5VEK		Repeater Team Lead: TBD
	Director: TBN	✓	ARRL/VEC Liaison: Sheree Horton, WM5N
		X	Repeater Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

## Meeting Logistics

Meeting was held at Harris County ESD 16 located at 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring Texas and started at 6:00 pm on August 16, 2024.

## Minutes

- I. President's Opening Comments
  - a. Ron Matusek, WA6TQH, welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order.
  - b. Several Board Positions are still open:
    - i. "Director" Position still open, effective January 2024 (a) See By-Laws for position description
    - ii. Public Information Officer position still open, effective January 2024 (a) See ByLaws for position description
  - c. General Meeting Presentation – "Alternative Emergency Power" by Ron Matusek, WA6TQH/Paul Kent, KI5FJS
- II. Public Comments
  - a. Individuals who are **non-voting** board members will be allocated three minutes to share material you would like the Board to consider or items you would like to present to the Board. **Please make arrangement prior to the board meeting to be included in the agenda.**
- III. Secretary's Report – Brandon Rogers, K5BLR
  - a. A short board meeting was held on July 1, 2024 to review critical items. Minutes to this meeting can be found here:  
[http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/meeting\\_minutes/2024/BoardMeeting\\_20240701.pdf](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2024/BoardMeeting_20240701.pdf)

- b. Meeting minutes for the meeting that occurred on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were not recorded.
- c. Tom Hoherd is assigned to organized the General Meeting presentation in September

Month	Coordinating Position	Coordinator
January	Club Banquet	
February	Secretary	Brandon Rogers
March	Director	Rich Jones
April	President	Ron Matusek
May	Repeater Trustee	Paul Owen
June	Field Day Planning	
July	Director	TBD
August	Vice President	Paul Kent
September	Treasurer	Tom Hoherd
October	Administrative Secretary	Neal Naumann
November	President	Ron Matusek
December	Show & Tell	

- d. Brandon will not be present for the September meeting due to business travel. Paul Kent will take notes as a backup during the September Board Meeting.
- e. All minutes are posted so that all members can access them on the Club Document Repository at [http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/meeting\\_minutes/](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/)

IV. Treasurer's Report – Tom Hoherd, KK5YU

- a. The following financial reports were presented to the board:  
[http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/financial/TreasurerReport\\_July2024.pdf](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/financial/TreasurerReport_July2024.pdf)
- b. Sheree Horton requested a way to send a donation to the club online, via electronic payment.
  - i. **ACTION:** Bill Buoy will make an assessment on adding a Donation Only link/button to the website.
- c. Approval
  - i. Brandon Rogers, K5BLR motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report
  - ii. Paul Kent, K15FJS offered a second to the motion
  - iii. The motion passed

V. Administrative Secretary Report

NARS Membership Statistics

**Total Membership: 152**

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
ARRL	104	68%
Non-ARRL	48	32%

New member since last month:

KJ5HAW Charles Hall  
KB5BS Bill Skipper  
KB5GMW Lesa Skipper  
KJ5GZN Bradley Bernard  
KK7UNG Kristen Emler

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Repeater Committee Report – Rich Jones, W5VEK
  - i. Repeater Visits
    1. On last visit, we diagnosed a connection problem with Allstar
      - a. Allstar decouples with the receiver.
      - b. Rich can reset the Allstar node when this occurs
      - c. Some fixes identified to address this issue and it will be worked during the next visit to the repeater site.
    2. Downtown Repeater
      - a. Waiting for climbers to be available to address the antenna
      - b. Plan is to do testing on this receiver once the antenna is fixed
    3. Put up a new antenna for the VHF repeater
      - a. VHF repeater is now operational, but there is a serious noise problem. Front-end of the receiver is overloaded and can't hear anything.
  - ii. Target ONE weekly Net
    1. Ron – Weekly Nets come under jurisdiction under the Repeater Committee and we would like to see the activity of the Nets to be decided by the Repeater Committee
      - a. After Repeater Committee has fixed the issues identified above, a decision on net schedule will be on the agenda of the committee to discuss
    2. The weekly nets and the functionality that is available to host the nets depend on the services available that night.
    3. Currently, 2 weekly nets are okay for now, despite the challenges in available services.
- b. ARRL/VEC Liaison – Sheree Horton, WM5N – VE Session Results
  - i. [http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/meeting\\_minutes/2024/VE%20Session%20Reports/VE%20Session%20Report\\_20240720.pdf](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2024/VE%20Session%20Reports/VE%20Session%20Report_20240720.pdf)
  - ii. 4 applicants have registered for the testing session
- c. Update on Social sites – Sam N6HB

- i. No Report
- d. Update on ARRL website – NARS Information – Sam N6HB
  - i. No Report

## VII. Old Business

- a. Next steps in upgrading our NARS mobile trailer. Currently on hold, pending Repeater work – Paul Kent, KI5FJS
  - i. Internal trailer workspace configuration – Designs suggestions received, but on hold
    - 1. Internal design – Bob has provided details on air conditioning options.
  - ii. Wait until the climbers are paid to make sure that we have funds for the trailer
- b. Plans to sell off donated equipment – Paul Kent, KI5FJS – Ongoing
  - i. Considering sale in the next couple of months at Admin ESD #16 or another location
    - 1. **ACTION:** Station #3 or #7 (TC Jester) might be a good place. Rich Jones to ask if there is availability

## VIII. New Business

- a. Begin planning for Awards Banquet
  - i. Paul will check with Rob Nixon to see if he might be willing to organize
  - ii. Also recommended to ask in the General Meeting.
- b. Officer elections in November
  - i. Submit names to President – ALL board positions are OPEN
  - ii. Each individual can run for a single board position
- c. Insurance
  - i. A question came up to ask if the insurance will help to pay for some of the damage from the storms. We found out that our insurance will not do so.
  - ii. Fire station will not pay for damages to the beam antenna and our insurance will need to include the antenna if we want it to be replaced.
  - iii. Tom Hoherd mentioned that we currently do not have any insurance that covers equipment
  - iv. Suggestion that we add equipment coverage to our policy
  - v. Bob Ewers, K6HOU, suggests that we look into ARRL insurance to cover our equipment.
  - vi. Tom Hoherd read the equipment insurance coverage information and costs for what we might be able to get.
  - vii. Ron Matusek asked about who is responsible for the radios at the Fire Station
    - 1. Radios are owned by the club
    - 2. But being on premise at the Fire Department, does the FD hold any liability?
    - 3. Club does not have access to the room
    - 4. Agreement and Insurance decision to be reviewed by the Board

## IX. Meeting Closed at 6:46pm

- a. Motion to close the meeting by Paul Kent, KI5FJS
- b. Second by Brandon Rogers, K5BLR
- c. Motion to close the meeting passed