



NARS Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2025

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

Board Attendance

✓ - In Attendance, X – Absent

Voting Board Members		Non-Voting Committee Members	
✓	President: Paul Owen, N5NXS	✓	Admin. Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN
✓	Vice President: Bob Ewers, K9HOU	X	Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, N6HB
✓	Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU	X	Public Information Liaison: TBD
✓	Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR	✓	Webmaster: Bill Buoy, N5BIA
✓	Director: Rich Jones, W5VEK	✓	Repeater Team Lead: Rich Jones, W5VEK
✓	Director: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J	✓	VEC Liaison: Brett Hebert lead, Assistant Synomen
		✓	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 6:02pm on February 21, 2025.

Minutes

- I. Paul Owen, President, N5NXS called the meeting to order @ 6:00PM
- II. President's Opening Statements
 - a. Official welcome – Recognition of visiting members.
 - b. Opening – “Public Information Liaison” effective January 2024
 - i. See By-Laws for position description.
 - ii. Paul recommends reviewing the By-Laws for the proper naming of this position.
 1. By-Laws state: “Public Information Liaison – Communicates with the public on behalf of the Club. Issues press releases, answers queries from the media, and promotes a positive image of the Club and Club activities.”
 - c. March General Meeting – Presentation with geologist talking about how minerals are turned into electronics and radio equipment.
 - d. April General Meeting – Jeff Walter will be presenting on ARES.
- III. **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.
- IV. Secretary's Report
 - a. Two board meetings require approval of the meeting minutes: one from January 8, 2025 and one from February 21, 2025.

- b. January 8, 2025
 - i. Meeting Minutes can be found at:
http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2025/BoardMeeting_2025_0108.pdf
 - ii. Paul Owen recommended adding details about adding Ron Matusek as a lifetime member, which vote was taken by the membership at the Club Banquet on January 17th, 2025.
 - 1. Comments will be added to meeting minutes and minutes will be re-presented at the April Board Meeting for approval.
- c. February 21, 2025
 - i. Meeting Minutes can be found at
http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2025/BoardMeeting_2025_0221.pdf
 - ii. No changes suggested by the board
 - iii. Motion brought forward to endorse the minutes from February 21, 2025 by Bob Ewers
 - 1. Second made by Rich Jones
 - 2. Board approved minutes from February 21, 2025.
- d. 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/

V. Treasurer's Report

- a. Financial reports were presented to the board:
http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/financial/TreasurerReport_Mar2025.pdf
- b. A few changes have been made to the renewal process on the website.
 - i. Verbiage on the website reminds applicants that "You aren't a member until you pay".
 - ii. PayPal and Stripe are now available on the website for payment of dues. In fact, 4 different payment options are available.
 - 1. A suggestion came from Jorge Gutierrez to send 501(c)(3) information from club to PayPal to get a reduction in payment processing fees.
 - 2. Bill indicated that we do not have a business account with PayPal, but rather an individual account. Transitioning to a business account may be more work than is worth it
 - 3. Jorge was invited by Paul to work with Bill, if interested in the change.
- c. LBT Climber expense status, \$1500 check has not been cashed yet. Tom to check with the bank on time limitation on check from the bank.
- d. Tom and the board are working to get the signature card changed with the bank for the new Board.
- e. Motion to approve Treasury Report by Bob Ewers
 - i. Second by Rich Jones
 - ii. Board approved the Treasurer Report

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Administrative Secretary Report

ARRL members = 108

Non-members = 44

Total membership = 152

71 % of NARS members are also ARRL members

- i. Paul asked to check if those whose membership lapsed were being contacted. Neal indicated that we was reaching out, where possible, and doing data cleanliness checks (did someone move, become SK, etc.) on the roster.
- ii. Question came from Paul Owen how we should consider members who are re-activating their membership.
 1. Are they new members?
 2. Are they renewing or returning members?
- iii. Question about how By Laws represent someone who has not paid dues.
 1. The By Laws state: "A member whose good standing has lapsed may be reinstated to good standing by payment of the dues for the current year. The reinstatement date will be the expiration date for the previous membership year."
- iv. Decision made to consider returning members as renewing or "returning" members.
- v. Work with continue ongoing to understand why dues are not renewed each year.

b. Repeater Committee report – Rich, W5VEK (Repeater Team lead)

- i. Rich provided the following report from the many activities of the repeater team lead
 1. Repeater Issues 2023 / 2024
 - a. Galleria
 - i. Noise on VHF repeater exists (146.66) in the evening
 - ii. No reliable internet connection for UHF repeater (443.075)
 - iii. Currently in service, but becomes unavailable at nightfall
 - b. Downtown (LBT)
 - i. Attempted to crossband repeat to connect to VHF, not reliable
 - ii. VHF antenna was damaged in storm
 1. Building management required antenna removal
 2. Removed antenna, installed new VHF antenna (has high SWR)
 - iii. Currently, LBT repeater is in standby due to antenna issues
 - iv. Interested in using abandoned antenna from Saltgrass has 1:1 SWR, cannot determine owner.

1. Plans include determine owner, get permission, get LBT permission to connect to it
 2. Evaluate performance and noise
- c. DMR Repeater
 - i. Owned by K5MAP (Mike Pate)
 - ii. Intermittent connectivity issues
 1. 2025 – Changed cable and ethernet switch connected to that repeater
 2. Issues appear to be resolved
 - d. Note: W5VOM repeated does not seem to be working (03/21/2025)
2. Future Objectives and Considerations
 - a. Evaluate future of VHF repeaters
 - i. Option 1: Abandon VHF altogether
 1. Remove VHF repeater and antenna from LBT
 2. Remove VHF repeater and antenna from Galleria
 3. Sell, Auction, or donate VHF repeaters and antennas
 - ii. Option 2: Locate new repeater site for a VHF repeater
 1. Station 37
 2. HCESD16 new 300' tower
 3. Search for other building and tower locations in NW Harris County
 - b. Expand the RF footprint of the NARS repeater system
 - i. Option 1: Conenct the 443.075 repeater using an RF link
 1. Install UHF Yagi antenna on the tower at HCESD16 Administration
 2. Setup AllStar on a RPI, connect it to Yaesu FT8000 mobile radio
 3. The Yaesu radio and AllStar node will be at HCESD16 radio room
 - ii. Option 2: Add internet to the 443.07 repeater
 1. Install a StarLink device at the Galleria
 2. Would require a \$50/month commitment for service fees
 3. Have some folks interesting in helping achieve this
 - c. Increase security on Allstar platform
 - i. Build and configure new ASL3 images for RPI devices
 1. Replace 59847 hub with ASL3 software
 2. Replace 504030 node with ASL3 software
 3. Replace 504031 node with ASL3 software
 4. Replace 504032 node with ASL3 software
- c. ARRL VE Team Report - Brett & Synomen Hebert
 - i. During the February Testing session we had the following results:
 1. We had 4 candidates taking 6 tests

2. 2 tests given: 2; passed 2, Failed 0
 - a. Element 3 tests given: 3; passed 1, Failed 2
 - b. Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1, Failed 0
3. New or Upgrade Licenses: Technician 2, General 1, Extra 1
- ii. Brett indicated that some of the laptops have been disconnecting from WIFI and had some problems during the testing sessions. Permission was requested to replace the laptops at a certain rate to ensure we have computers available for the testing sessions
 1. Paul requested that Brandon and Brett look at the existing machines to see if anything can be done to the laptops to improve connectivity
 2. Brandon and Brett will report.
- iii. Some of the testing dates are not the 3rd weekend of the month, due to conflicts, and have been moved:
 1. Field Day
 2. July
 3. August
 4. Dates on website are correct
- d. Net Control Manager – Mike Lizzo, WA2TOP
 - i. Due to the work completed by the repeater / technical committee, Weekly Nets have been doing much better
 - ii. Checkins are shown in the table below:

Weekly Tuesday/Wednesday (DMR / Repeater / All mode) Net Report:

	Date	Time	Net Control Station	Name	Backup NC	# of Check-Ins
15	February 25, 2025	0700 PM	WJ90	David	KN5DS	15
16	February 26, 2025	0800 PM	WJ90	David	KN5DS	14
17	March 4, 2025	0700 PM	WA2TOP	Mike	KI5VPF	19
18	March 5, 2025	0800 PM	WA2TOP	Mike	KI5VPF	15
19	March 11, 2025	0700 PM	KN5DS	Dale	KF5IUM	18
20	March 12, 2025	0800 PM	KN5DS	Dale	KF5IUM	15
21	March 18, 2025	0700 PM	KI5VPF	Phil	WJ90	19
22	March 19, 2025	0800 PM	KI5VPF	Phil	WJ90	15
 - iii. Suggestion: Check-ins: officers first, then go by mode. Separate V/UHF checkins and DMR checkins
 1. Mike agrees that this is a problem. Will try to request check-ins by mode. If this doesn't work, we may ask to separate the DMR net from the analog side to improve management.
- e. Social Media Coordinator – Sam K5FM
 - i. Sam is not here. Board will continue to work on posting meaningful content to the Facebook page.
- f. Webmaster Team – Bill Buoy, N5BIA
 - i. Everything seems to be working on the site well
 - ii. No comments from Bill

VII. Old Business

- a. Paul Owen has assigned the following items to Bob Ewers:
 - i. Next steps in upgrading our NARS trailer. Bob to reach out to Paul to understand what his desired involvement in these projects will be
 1. Designs suggestions received. Please share what is on the plans.

- 2. Misc Equipment. Donated vs Purchase. Let's see a list of things.
 - ii. All surplus items that were stored previously have been disposed of by Paul Kent KI5FJS.
 - iii. Bob to request keys to the Trailer from Paul Kent
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Change to By-Laws
 - i. Paul Owen has assigned the VP and our 2 Directors to review the following and present recommendations around the following changes to the Board at our next meeting:
 - 1. In Article II. All membership dues are required on or before 15 January each year.
 - 2. In Article III, Treasurer All distributions must be preapproved by the Board.
 - 3. In Article IV. The committee lead person cannot be a voting board member.
 - 4. In Article IV. The title of the VE Team needs to be changed from "ARRL Liaison and Volunteer Examiners Coordinator (VEC)" to "VE Team Manager".
 - 5. In Article IV. The title of "Public Information Liaison" to "Public Information Officer".
 - 6. In Article IV. The title of "Network Control Team" to "Net Control Coordinator".
 - 7. In Article VII a – Special Meetings. The title of "Special Meetings" to "General Membership Meetings". And in the text remove "Board meetings or". These Special Board meetings are covered by Article VIII a – Special Board Meetings.
 - b. A list of 8 names has been accepted by HCESD 16 for access to the building. The badges and access cards will be issued to:
 - i. Paul Owen, N5NXS
 - ii. Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J
 - iii. David Holden, WJ9O
 - iv. Brett Hebert, KG5IQU
 - v. Bob Ewers, K9HOU
 - vi. Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF
 - vii. Craig Veteto, W5CEV
 - viii. Synomen Hebert, KG5IRS
 - c. Field Day Planning – Talk about in the General Meeting
 - i. Name a Field Day Chairman – Any volunteers?
 - ii. Media Advisory to be submitted by who?
 - d. Bob has several things to announce for the General Board Meeting
- IX. MOVE TO CLOSE & DISMISS
 - a. The Board meeting was closed at 7:00pm .
 - b. Motion to Close meeting
 - i. Rich Jones seconded by Tom Hoherd.