



**W5NC**

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

# NARS NEWS

**AUGUST 2024**

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

[w5nc.club](http://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

[k5blr@arrl.net](mailto:k5blr@arrl.net)

# President's Message

BY RON MATUSEK, WA6TQH

## Hurricane Beryl Clean Up

Houston's cleanup of Hurricane Beryl debris is estimated to cost \$100 million, Solid Waste Management says.

Some of you are still waiting for your Hurricane Beryl debris to be hauled away. The City of Houston said it is trying to get the storm debris picked up as we head into the peak of hurricane season. So far, more than 1.1 million cubic yards of vegetation have been piled, chopped up, and turned to mulch.

Amateur radio has been active since the early formation of the hurricane. The Hurricane Watch Net concluded operations for Tropical Cyclone Beryl on Monday July 8, 2024, at 12:00 PM EDT (1600 UTC). Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, said, "Solar activity was not kind to us over the past few days. Propagation on both 20 and 40 meters was horrible and uncertain at times. But our resolute team of operators banded closely together to get the job done.

Remember that amateur radio plays a crucial role in emergency communication during natural disasters, and resolute operators work tirelessly to provide vital information.

Some of us were fortunate to have full house generators which kept us alive on most amateur radio emergency frequencies and kept our refrigerator operational. I know several NARS members reported losing antenna's along with property damage. I want to thank NARS members who participated in emergency communications.

## 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.

## 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!

## Weekly Net Operations

On August 3, the repeater team visited the Galleria repeater and accessed the UHF repeater to determine why it had gone off the air. The team believes it is a Raspberry- PI issue but again this is only a guess. It is now on the air! More work to be done.

NARS has a lot on the menu going forward. Stay up to date with our weekly VHF and DMR nets (info at w5nc.club) and be sure to attend our monthly NARS General meetings. The DMR net meets every week on Tuesdays at 7PM and the VHF net meets on Wednesdays at 8PM. Information is published prior to each weekly net regarding frequencies and various links into the nets.

Please be patient while the necessary repairs are made.

See you at our August 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)***

#### **T1A01**

Which of the following is part of the Basis and Purpose of the Amateur Radio Service? =

- A. Providing personal radio communications for as many citizens as possible
- B. Providing communications for international non-profit organizations
- C. All these choices are correct
- D. Advancing skills in the technical and communication phases of the radio art

### ***General (Element 3)***

#### **G2D04**

Which of the following describes an azimuthal projection map?

- A. A map that shows accurate land masses
- B. A map that shows true bearings and distances from a specific location
- C. A map that shows the number of degrees longitude that an amateur satellite appears to move westward at the equator with each orbit
- D. A map that shows the angle at which an amateur satellite crosses the equator

### ***Amateur Extra (Element 4)***

#### **E9A02**

What is the effective radiated power (ERP) of a repeater station with 150 watts transmitter power output, 2 dB feed line loss, 2.2 dB duplexer loss, and 7 dBd antenna gain?

- A. 286 watts
- B. 78.7 watts
- C. 469 watts
- D. 420 watts

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



# Amateur Radio News

An excerpt from the ARRL News

## Paris Olympics Special Event Active Through August 11

Special event station TM67JO is active to celebrate the Paris 2024 Olympic Games which began on Friday 26 July. The operators include F1LFL on SSB, F5PZT using FT8 and FT4, and F5TFW on CW. QSL to F1LFL via the Bureau or directly. For more information about the special event station, which will be operating until the 11 August, visit QRZ.com.

## Hurricane Beryl Aftermath and Update

Remnants of Hurricane Beryl, now a post-tropical cyclone, were moving northeast as of early Thursday morning with heavy rain and 35 mph winds. The storm is forecast to continue its current direction as it moves through Pennsylvania, upstate New York, northern New England and Canada, moving ENE at 20 mph. Beryl was the fastest and earliest storm of the hurricane season and during its 8-day run that left behind severe damage to the Windward Islands and Mexico before making landfall in Texas.

Over 7,000 residents in New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New England are without power. Houston is in recovery mode after the core of Hurricane Beryl passed very close to the downtown area on Wednesday, with wind gusts over 80 mph



## 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>

that caused massive power outages. 1.3 million customers in Texas are still facing power outages.

Amateur radio has been active since the early formation of the hurricane. The [Hurricane Watch Net](#) concluded operations for Tropical Cyclone Beryl on Monday July 8, 2024, at 12:00 PM EDT (1600 UTC). Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, said, "Solar activity was not kind to us over the past few days. Propagation on both 20 and 40 meters was horrible and iffy at times. But our dedicated team of operators banded closely together to get the job done.

"I've said this for many years, and it remains true to this day. We greatly appreciate the daily users and various nets who use 14.325.00 MHz and 7.268.00 MHz for allowing us a clear frequency. It certainly makes our job easier, and I know those in the affected area appreciate it as well," added Graves.

The [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) also secured operation on Monday July 8, at 1100 AM EDT as Beryl weakened to a tropical storm. The VoIP net fielded dozens of reports from online weather stations reporting wind gusts between 50 and 98 MPH, with winds above 74 MPH being hurricane force wind gust criteria.

Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net, reported, "We wish to extend a special thank you to the [South Coast Reflector](#) and amateur radio operator N6KNE (hopefully, we got that call sign correct) for allowing a connection into our net where close to ten amateur radio operators checked in and provided storm reports that were sent to WX4NHC," adding, "We would love to see

more of this cooperation in the future with other parts of coastal areas threatened by hurricanes.” WX4NHC is the amateur station at the National Hurricane Center.

The VoIP Hurricane Net also relayed reports of storm damage via social media and public safety radio feeds during the nine-hour net activation from 2 - 11 AM EDT.

Forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [Climate Prediction Center](#) predict above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA’s outlook for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to November 30, predicts an 85% chance of an above-normal season, a 10% chance of a near-normal season and a 5% chance of a below-normal season.

## ARRL on The Weather Channel

ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® joined The Weather Channel on Thursday, July 11, 2024, for a live chat about the value of amateur radio during hurricane season and beyond. ARRL’s Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, talked about how radio helps inform the warning process through surface observations relayed through the [Hurricane Watch Net](#) and other nets to [WX4NHC, the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center](#).

Viewers were told how local ARRL volunteers serve their local agencies through the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) and how they could get licensed through ARRL materials and become a part of it.

[Check it out](#)

## Randall Carlson, WB0JJX, Former Delaware Section Manager, Silent Key

Randall Carlson, WB0JJX, has become a Silent Key. He passed away June 7, 2024. Carlson was the Section Manager of the ARRL Delaware Section from

December 1992 until 2005. He was originally licensed in the 1970s, [according to his obituary](#). Carlson was 66 years old.

## ARRL Announces Leadership Changes in the Hudson Division

ARRL Director Nomar Vizcarrondo, NP4H, who has represented the Hudson Division since [March 2023](#), has stepped down, effective July 12, 2024, at 5 PM Eastern.

Vice Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD, accedes to the Director’s chair to complete the remainder of a 3-year term ending December 31, 2024. Wilson has [served as Vice Director](#) since June 2023. He has held ARRL Field Organization appointments as an Emergency Coordinator and Public Information Officer. Wilson is also an accredited Volunteer Examiner.

Vizcarrondo says he still plans to be active in the ham radio community. “I have a great deal of respect for ARRL, and anything I can do keep amateur radio thriving I’ll keep doing! It’s not goodbye, it’s ‘see you later,’” he said.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, will announce a successor to Wilson to fill the vacant Vice Director’s seat. The ARRL Hudson Division is comprised of the ARRL Sections of Eastern New York, New York City – Long Island, and Northern New Jersey.

## Voices from the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology

The [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) continues to bring educators from around the country to ARRL Headquarters in Newton, Connecticut, to learn how to engage students with amateur radio and radio technology. The program helps tie wireless technology into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

### *In their own words:*

This week, TI1, or the initial course of three, is being held. We're hearing from teachers in their own words about the experience:

Jackie Blumer, KC9LEH, is the Earth/Space Science teacher at Greenville Jr. High in Illinois. She's very active in aerospace and STEM teacher development. She wrote this about her experience:

Here's what I'm up to:

- Creating circuits with breadboards: Delving into the fundamentals of electronics by building circuits from scratch. This hands-on experience is perfect for understanding how different components interact and work together to create functioning devices.
- Becoming more proficient with soldering: Honing my soldering skills to ensure precise and reliable connections. Soldering is an essential technique for any budding engineer or electronics enthusiast, and I can't wait to master it!
- Working on getting my General license: Advancing my knowledge and capabilities in ham radio by aiming for my General license. This will not only enhance my personal expertise but also enable me to bring more advanced concepts to my students.
- I'm excited to bring this hands-on knowledge and experience back to my students. Integrating these skills into my curriculum will provide them with a deeper understanding of electronics and inspire them to pursue their own STEM passions.

Read more from the teachers in this album on the [ARRL Facebook page](#).

### **HamCon: Zion 2024**

[HamCon: Zion 2024](#), hosting the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, the Young Ladies Radio League 85th Convention, and the RV Radio

Network's 2024 Western Rally, was a success. The inaugural event, held in St. George, Utah, was well attended and many reported the facility and events were first rate.

ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, was in the ARRL booth greeting visitors and gave a presentation. ARRL Treasurer John Sager, WJ7S, hosted the ARRL forum at the event. "The vibe was definitely positive, and I think ARRL was very well represented. Gordo was a rockstar! He had a crowd around him everywhere he went," said Sager.

The [HamCon:Zion Facebook page](#) has several video updates from Ryan Seegmiller, W7RGS, shot during the event. A brief power outage affecting much of the area caused the gathering to wind down a few minutes prematurely. The event was organized by the Dixie Amateur Radio Club (DARC) in St. George, an ARRL Affiliated Club. It was the group's first large convention, but plans are already in the works for the next one.

### **Amateur Radio Participates in World's Largest Naval Exercise**

"Partners: Integrated and Prepared" is the theme for [Rim of the Pacific \(RIMPAC\) 2024](#), the world's largest international military maritime exercise, which began June 27, and will come to a close on August 1. Conducted from Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii, the exercise encompasses many islands in the Hawaiian chain.

The event included 29 nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land forces, over 150 aircraft, and more than 25,000 personnel, including amateur radio operators working with health care facilities.

The amateur radio portion of the exercise has been completed. ARRL Assistant Section Manager and State Government Liaison Michael Miller, KH6ML, said 36 amateur radio operators from Hawaii

volunteered to demonstrate the value of amateur radio in emergency preparedness and response.

“It turned out very good,” said Miller. “Some of hospitals, staff and administrators involved had their first experience with amateur radio. The operators were able to blend their skills using public service radios, satellite phones, as well as amateur radio.”

Miller pointed out that hospitals on the smaller islands don’t usually have a fulltime communications officer so working with amateur radio gives them experience for future emergencies. The amateurs worked with [Health Comm Hawaii](#) which provides amateur radio communications to health care associations in Hawaii during emergencies and disasters.

“Health Comm Hawaii really needs 100 more operators for backup and to build skill sets through monthly exercises,” Miller added.

Vice Adm. John Wade, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet and RIMPAC 2024 Combined Task Force (CTF) commander, said the Rim of the Pacific exercise has grown over the years to be the world’s largest and premier joint combined maritime training opportunity. “The exercise’s purpose is to build relationships, to enhance interoperability and proficiency and, ultimately, contribute to the peace and stability in the vitally-important Indo-Pacific region.”

Many of the volunteers participating in RIMPAC 2024 are also members of other vital emergency communication groups, such as Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

## **ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Jeff Beals, WA4AW, SK**

The Vice Director of the ARRL Southeastern Division, Jeffrey J. “Jeff” Beals, WA4AW, has become a Silent Key. He died on July 20, 2024. Beals, who was born in 1951, devoted a lifetime of service to amateur radio, having served in many local clubs, the ARRL Field Organization, and on the ARRL Board of Directors. He was also elected Vice President of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) in 2023.

Beals was first licensed at the age of 12 in the early 1960s in his native Long Beach, New York. He was active with the local 5 Towns Radio Club and Nassau County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® and RACES. He even had a 2-meter radio on his bicycle. He held Amateur Extra Class and First-Class Radiotelephone licenses from the FCC.

His service with amateur radio emergency communications included serving as Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Southern Florida Section, Assistant SEC, District Emergency Coordinator for the Gold Coast District, Emergency Coordinator and County RACES Officer for Lee and Palm Beach Counties. He was also a member of the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee. He was certified at all levels of ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses, public relations training, and advanced FEMA training.

Beals received State of Florida commendations for service with Hurricanes Andrew and Katrina. He was also deployed to Hurricanes Frances, Jean, Wilma, Matthew & Irma.

ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB, recalls that Beals’ passion for service involved getting others active in service as well. “Jeff was a connector – his ‘superpower’ was finding volunteers and organizing events so that others would see the value of their service. ‘We’ll see you



next time!’ And you knew he would call. He ‘volunteered’ many of us to charitable runs and bike rides, the South Florida Fair and many other events that promoted amateur radio, and hamfests. He volunteered entire clubs then challenged us to show,” wrote Baker of his long-time friend.

Beals was also active with the QCWA which he most recently served as national Vice President. He was Secretary/Treasurer of the Palm Beach Chapter 111 since 1999 and a member of the national board of directors and Historian. He was also a member of the Highlands, Edison, Everglades & Citrus Chapters of QCWA.

He was a life member of ARRL, QCWA, OOTC, and AWA and a Fellow of the Radio Club of America. Beals was also Past President of the Fort Myers and West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Clubs and a member of the Wellington Radio Club, Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association, Florida Contest Group, Florida East Coast DX Club and life member of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Club, Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association and Martin County Amateur Radio Association. Section Manager of the ARRL Southern Florida Section Barry Porter, KB1PA, worked closely with Beals. “Jeff knew the lay of the land and how to get things done. He showed me the ropes so I could be an effective section manager.”

Beals held membership in the ARRL A-1 Operators Club, Old Timers Club & Royal Order of the Wouff Hong. He also was named “Ham of the Year” by the West Palm Beach ARC. He was an ARRL Certified Examiner and Volunteer Examiner with ARRL and a Volunteer Examiner with W5YI and Laurel VECs.

Baker said the boardroom will not be the same. “I will miss Jeff at ARRL Board meetings – he would lean over and give me insight into ongoing (live) issues, and we always discussed difficult issues. Jeff has long-time friends, some from high school, on the ARRL Board,” said Baker.

Beals is survived by his wife, Myra Kitchen, K3PGH. Donations in memory of Jeff Beals may be made to the [ARRL Diamond Club](#), a fund which supports ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. A memorial service will be held Friday, July 26, at 11:00 AM at The Beth Israel Memorial Chapel, 11115 Jog Road, Boynton Beach, Florida 33437.

*With thanks to Section Manager of the ARRL Southern Florida Section, Barry Porter, KB1PA, for assembling information for this memorial.*

## **Ted Rappaport, N9NB, Elected to IEEE Vehicular Technology Society Hall of Fame**

Professor Theodore “Ted” S. Rappaport, Ph.D., N9NB, has been elected to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Vehicular Technology Society’s (VTS) Hall of Fame. The IEEE VTS Hall of Fame recognizes individuals whose truly outstanding leadership and contributions have had a significant impact on the technologies represented by the fields of interest of the IEEE VTS. The VTS is one of the oldest societies in IEEE.

Dr. Rappaport is a tenured professor in the New York University (NYU) Electrical Engineering Department in the Tandon School of Engineering, Courant School of Mathematics and the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He has co-authored over 300 papers and 20 books, including the most-cited books on wireless communications, adaptive antennas, wireless simulation, and millimeter-wave communications, which have been translated into eight languages.

Dr. Rappaport was first licensed in 1975 and joined ARRL that same year. He now holds an Amateur Extra class license. He has been an ARRL Life Member since 1983 and received an ARRL scholarship to help complete his doctorate at Purdue University.

“Amateur radio has been more influential in my life than I could have imagined,” said Rappaport. “At age 14, I was able to teach adults about amateur radio and electronics principles, to help them become licensed operators. I believe that led to my career in academia and teaching.”

Dr. Rappaport said that amateur radio literally saved his life when he was younger. “While in the hospital with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a form of blood cancer, I asked for more time. I’m still on the air today and a blessed individual,” added Rappaport.

The IEEE asked Dr. Rappaport to write the history of amateur radio, and he agreed on the condition it would be available to amateur radio operators and the public at no charge. The Crucible of Communications, Part 1 and Part 2, are complete and can be read online. He is currently working on Part 3 and hopes have it completed in the near future.

Induction ceremonies to the VTS Hall of Fame for Dr. Rappaport will be in Washington, DC, on October 9, 2024.

## Ham Radio During Hurricane Season

by Sierra Harrop, W5DX

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) encourages all amateur stations to prepare for what the [National Hurricane Center](#) (NHC) has predicted will be a [busy hurricane season](#). In addition to readying equipment to function during and after a storm’s impact, local [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) nets are encouraged to participate in hurricane reporting and relief nets.

Stations do not need to be in a coastal zone to participate –propagation often shifts well inland, meaning ham radio operators throughout the continent can serve in times of need. “Monitoring and relaying traffic is a way to help with the nets and get real time information to the NHC, where it

can be shared with NWS, FEMA, and other emergency response organizations to aid in a more rapid response and recovery,” said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV.

Amateur radio plays a critical role in the warning and recovery process of hurricanes. From providing surface observations which give forecasters at the National Hurricane Center ground truth, to providing communications when infrastructure is damaged, ham radio is as vital as ever.

### *The Nets*

There is a robust ecosystem of communications networks that all work in tandem to provide coverage anytime a named storm is within a few hundred miles of land. These separate, but partner, volunteer organizations serve much of the Western Hemisphere on many different bands and modes.

Much of the focus is to get information to and from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. Hurricane specialists rely on having an [amateur radio station at the center, WX4NHC](#). Julio Ripoll, WD4R, is the Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator for the station. “These surface reports can be weather data or eyewitness reports (or heard on local VHF/UHF) are very valuable to the hurricane specialists at NHC, as they fill in gaps of data that they may not have from other means, such as government weather stations, satellites, Hurricane Hunter aircraft, etc.,” explained Ripoll.

The NHC would like more hams to provide information if they are in an affected area. There are many ways to do it. The simplest is over high frequency (HF) amateur radio bands. There, you’ll find a dedicated team running the [Hurricane Watch Net](#). The net, which uses 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, is usually active any time a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass, or at the request of NHC.

“We are strategically dispersed across North America, throughout the Caribbean Islands, Central America, and the northern coast of South America, so that we can provide a continuous path of communications from storm-affected areas,” said Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Hurricane Watch Net Manager. The net has members who speak many of the languages in the hurricane zones, including English and Spanish.

### *Information to and From*

The HWN is a two-way street of information, while the reports coming in are critical to forecasters – information from the NHC is even more important to people in the path of the storm. Weather information is relayed in real time from the NHC throughout the network, as well.

In addition to the weather information and reporting, the HWN assists the Salvation Army’s SATERN Net with outgoing health and welfare traffic from the affected areas – messages sent via ham radio from those being impacted by the storm.

WX4NHC also receives reports via Winlink email over amateur radio via the address [wx4nhc@winlink.org](mailto:wx4nhc@winlink.org). The email subject line must start with //WL2K. There is a webform on the WX4NHC web site to provide information as well.

### *Voice over Internet Protocol and Digital Voice Modes*

For those without HF capabilities, or who may have their antennas unavailable during the storms, the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) provides a parallel capability using modern digital technologies. VoIP Hurricane Net manager Rob Macedo, KD1CY, says the scope of this net gives a big picture look at what’s happening. “Our net gathers reports from amateur radio nets and amateur radio operators at the local, state and regional level that connect directly or liaison to our net on \*WX\_TALK\* Echolink conference node: 7203/IRLP 9219 reflector. The connections to our net can include other VoIP

modes such as Fusion, All-Star, Hamshack Hotline, certain types of DMR among other VoIP modes via the KC5FM, AUXCOMM and Sunflower systems,” he said. The VoIP Hurricane Net also provides observations from social media monitoring.

### *More Participation Needed*

With the robust systems in place to handle traffic, organizers encourage radio amateurs in the path of these storms participate in the nets. “We encourage all who are in the path of a landfalling hurricane to join us and share your local observed weather information. No matter how insignificant you may feel your data may be, it is very important to the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center,” said Graves.

“Sometimes, ham radio reports are the only reports received from the islands or sparsely populated areas,” said Ripoll. Michael Brennan, Director of the National Hurricane Center, added, “The NHC ham radio network has played a crucial role for more than 40 years in providing real-time information during tropical storms and hurricanes. The information provided by ham radio is incredibly helpful to NHC’s hurricane specialists as it provides on-the-ground data during an event and offers a valuable option to maintain communications in situations where traditional communication methods can fail or become unavailable.”

## **The Rich History of Ham Radio Culture**

Drawing on a wealth of personal accounts found in magazines, newsletters, and trade journals, historian Kristen Haring provides an inside look at ham radio culture and its impact on hobbyists' lives.

**Ham Radio Culture:** Ham radio operators, known as “hams,” have been engaging in long-distance communication since the 1910s<sup>1</sup>. They form a community with specific membership conditions, rules, and a specialized vocabulary<sup>2</sup>.

**Learning and Conduct:** New hobbyists learn both technical skills and behavioral expectations from publications<sup>3</sup>. The “Amateur’s Code” by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) outlines traits like being gentlemanly, loyal, and progressive<sup>4</sup>.

**Licensing and Regulation:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires hams to pass exams and adhere to regulations. Licensing serves as a membership card, signaling inclusion in a technically elite club<sup>5</sup>.

Communication Styles: Hams use Morse code and voice operations, with Morse code being highly valued for its technicality and privacy. They also use jargon and abbreviations to streamline communication and signify membership.

For the full article, [click here](#).

## Are Hackers The Future Of Amateur Radio?

Hackers are becoming increasingly involved in amateur radio, thanks to initiatives like Ham Radio Village. This group received a grant to promote amateur radio within the hacker, STEM/STEAM, and maker communities. They aim to educate these communities about the benefits of amateur radio and streamline the process of obtaining a license.

For more information and links about this topic, [click here](#).

## ARRL Podcasts Schedule

New Emergency Communication Courses from ARRL

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, joins the podcast to share details about ARRL's updated Emergency Communication courses, which have been broken into three successive levels – Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. The courses are available free of charge at the ARRL Learning Center..

## ARRL Audio News

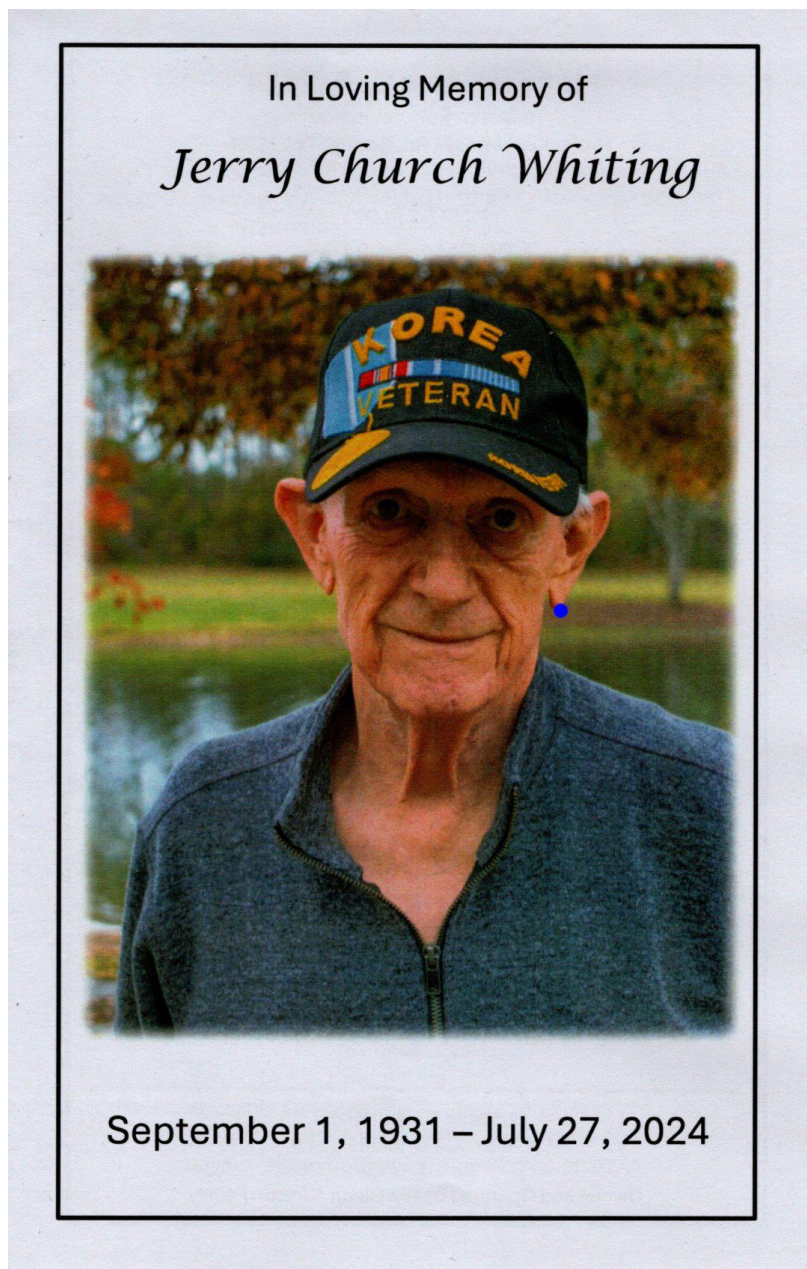
Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.



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



## Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD, SK



It is with great sorrow that we recognize the passing of Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD. Jerry served on the NARS board of directors and was elected NARS President. He secured the location for the board meetings from the Ponderosa Fire Department.

Secured The Field Day site, acquired donations for food/drink from HEB. He had the Salvation Army come out to the Field Day site to cook hot dogs for lunch. Repaid the Salvation Army by organizing hams to do bell ringing at Walmart for the Salvation Army. Net control for the 146.66 Wednesday night NARS Rag Chew Net at 8pm.

# NARS Monthly Club Meeting

## July General Meeting

The Northwest Amateur Radio Club (NARS) met for the July General Meeting at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Paul Owen gave us a lessons-learned presentation on our Field Day operations and activities. In addition, David Holden, WJ9O, will provided a presentation on the recently-held Fox Hunt.

## Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on August 16, 2024 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We hope to see everyone there!

### NARS General Club Meetings

NARS holds monthly club meetings where a variety of topics are presented from a number of guests. Come learn anything from antenna design, phasing, emergency response, and more!

**Who:** All club members, friends, or anyone interested in the Amateur Radio hobby

**When:** The Third Friday of the Month at 7:30pm

**Where:** HCESD 16 Admin, [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, 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.



## 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.

### Mastering CW: A Guide for Amateur Radio Enthusiasts

Morse code, the rhythmic language of dots and dashes, remains a cherished skill among amateur radio operators. Whether you’re a seasoned ham or a newcomer, learning Morse code can enhance your communication capabilities and deepen your connection to the rich history of radio. Here are some effective methods to help you master this timeless skill.

#### *Koch Method*

The Koch method is a popular approach that focuses on learning Morse code at full speed from the beginning. Instead of starting slow, you learn two characters at a time at a high speed (usually 20 words per minute). Once you master those, you add more characters gradually. This method helps you get accustomed to the rhythm and pace of real-world Morse code communication.



#### *Farnsworth Method*

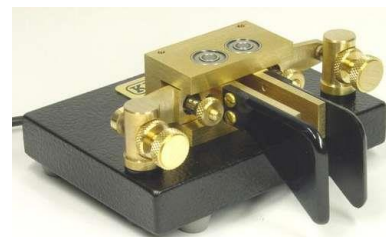
The Farnsworth method is another effective technique where you learn Morse code at a slower speed but with longer spaces between characters. This allows you to get used to the sound of each character without feeling rushed. As you become more comfortable, you gradually decrease the spacing until you can recognize characters at full speed.

#### *Audio Lessons and Apps*

There are numerous audio lessons and mobile apps designed to teach Morse code. Apps like Morse Mania and websites like LCWO.net offer structured lessons and practice sessions. These tools often include features like adjustable speeds, random character generation, and progress tracking to help you improve steadily.

#### *Practice with QSOs*

One of the best ways to learn Morse code is by listening to real QSOs (conversations) on the HF bands. Tuning into Morse code transmissions allows you to hear how experienced operators communicate. You can start by copying down what you hear and gradually try to decode entire messages.



If you are nervous about a first contact on CW, call up on a club Net and schedule a time for a CW contact. There are several CW masters in NARS that would be willing to help you through a first conversation.

### Use Mnemonics and Visual Aids

Mnemonics and visual aids can be helpful for memorizing Morse code characters. For example, associating the sound of a character with a familiar word or image can make it easier to recall. Some learners find it useful to visualize the dots and dashes as they hear them.

### Consistent Practice

Consistency is key when learning Morse code. Set aside regular practice time each day, even if it's just for a few minutes. Repetition helps reinforce your memory and improves your ability to recognize characters quickly.

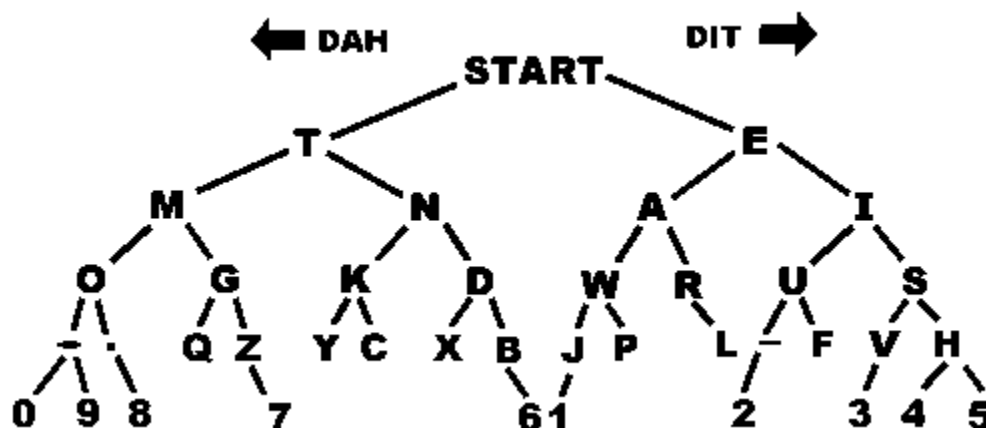
### Conclusion

Learning Morse code is a rewarding journey that enhances your skills as an amateur radio operator. By exploring different methods and finding what works best for you, you can master this timeless mode of communication. Whether you prefer structured lessons, real-world practice, or community support, there's a path to proficiency that suits your style.

If you have any additional tips or hints to learning to communicate in CW, please send them in and we'd love to include your tips in a future edition of the newsletter!

**MORSE CODE**  
(CODE ORDER)

E •	T —
I ••	M — —
S •••	O — — —
H ••••	N — •
A • —	G — — •
U •• —	Z — •••
V ••• —	Q — — — —
W • — —	D — •••
J • — — —	B — ••••
R • — •	K — • —
L — •••	C — — ••
F ••••	Y — • — —
P • — — •	X — •• —
1 • — — — —	6 — •••••
2 •• — — —	7 — — ••••
3 ••• — —	8 — — — •••
4 •••• —	9 — — — — •
5 •••••	0 — — — — —



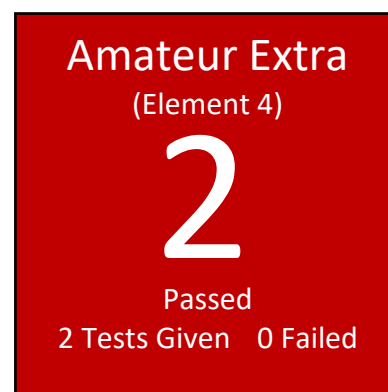
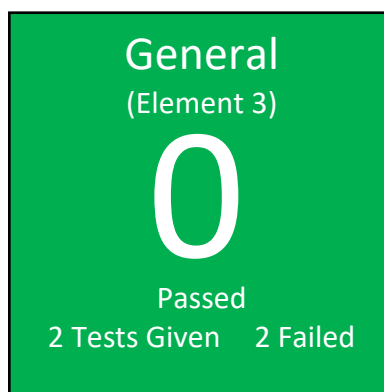
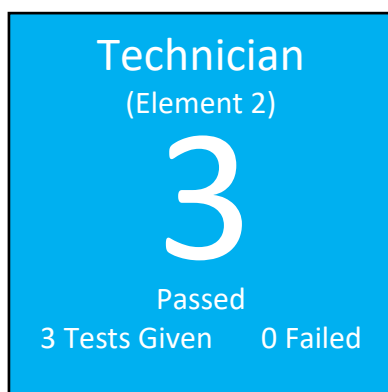


## VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

### Attendees

On Saturday July 20, 2024 , a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. During the testing session, 5 candidates took 12 tests.



### Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams<sup>1</sup>:

- Paul Brownell – new Technician
- August J Kovalcik Jr – new Technician
- Kendall Phillips - new Technician

Congratulations to the following for passing their upgrade exams:

- Gregory Altimas K5LTI – upgrade to Extra
- Krystian G Altimas KI5ZNS - upgrade to Extra (youth)

### 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/arrrl/77070/inperson>

The next session will be August 17, 2024 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Please visit [www.w5nc.club](http://www.w5nc.club) for the announcement.

<sup>1</sup> 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 – assistant session manager
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Brynn Hebert KG5KRV
- Vicki Owen AC5EW
- Paul Owen N5NXS

Extra thanks to Logan Hebert KG5LLM for helping with the laptops and handouts.

## 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@arri.net](mailto:wm5n@arri.net) or  
[vec@w5nc.net](mailto: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!

- Gregory Altimas, K5LTI
- Krystian Altimas, KI5ZNS
- Bradley Bernard, KJ5GZN

## Renewing Club Members

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

- Rick McCauley, NB3V
- David Revere, WB5AYU
- Diane Simmons, KI5ULB
- Bill Skipper, KB5BS
- Lesa Skipper, KB5GMW
- Jason Springs, KR1BBT
- Peter Wang, KF5ND

## 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](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/) at [http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/)?

# 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:** T1A01 – D. Advancing skills in the technical and communication phases of the radio art

**General:** G2D04 – B. A map that shows true bearings and distances from a specific location

**Amateur Extra:** E9A02 – A. 286 watts



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:N5PRD@yahoo.com)

# Calendar

## Club Activities and Events

NARS General Meeting – August 16, 2024 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session – August 17, 2024 – [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>

## 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

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*

August 2024 - <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2024/August%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](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Vice President: Paul Kent, KI5FJS, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, 713-828-8630, [treasurer@w5nc.net](mailto:treasurer@w5nc.net)

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, 713-294-6630, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Director: Rich Jones, W5VEK, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto: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: Rich Jones, W5VEK

Webmaster: Bill Buoy, N5BIA, [webmaster@w5nc.net](mailto:webmaster@w5nc.net)

Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

### 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>

## 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.

**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).

## Repeaters

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