



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

w5nc.club

Northwest Amateur Radio Society
W5NC

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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

President's Message

BY PAUL KENT, KI5FJS

Election Results

Congratulations to our new Board members:

President; Paul Owen, N5NXS

Vice President: OPEN

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU

Director One: Rich Jones, W5VEK

Director Two: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J

Let me be the first to thank you for your continued support to NARS!

Note: our official transition date will be at the January meeting.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the past Board members for their service to NARS and the hard work each has contributed to the organization.

Special thanks to:

President; Ron Matusek WA6TQH

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU

Director One: Rich Jones, W5VEK

Annual Banquet Plans

Rob Nixon has taken on the responsibility for locating a venue for our January awards banquet and Rob and I have selected Spring Creek BBQ based on food quality and location. Thanks, Rob, for all your reviews.

Spring Creek BBQ – The Party Room
21746 Tomball Parkway (location referred to as “Rogers Rd.”)
Houston 77070

You will make your dinner selection via the standard serving line and then head for the Party Room.

December General Meeting – “Annual Show and Tell”

Presentations at the general meeting will be our “Annual Show and Tell”, the projects you have completed, the projects you are working on with hardware or examples, with or without presentations by our general membership. Please let me know if you want to make a presentation to the group.

By-the-way, we are always looking for new or updated subject matter for our general meetings, if anyone is interested in making a presentation. Please let members of the Board know. Let’s get some new presenters and new subject content.

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, 3 Dec 2024

LBT Repeater (Downtown) – Operational with limited range. Needs servicing to reprogram the repeater control and output power. This visit requires an appointment which is in process with the building management team.

Galleria Repeater – Operational as a standalone machine. The VHF repeater is in standby mode while the LBT VHF repeater is evaluated.

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.



Happy Holidays to you from NARS

Thank you for your friendship, membership,
expertise, and for all you do!

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)

T1E07

When the control operator is not the station licensee, who is responsible for the proper operation of the station?

- A. Only the station licensee
- B. Only the control operator
- C. The control operator and the station licensee
- D. All licensed amateurs who are present at the operation

General (Element 3)

G4E03

Which of the following direct, fused power connections would be the best for a 100-watt HF mobile installation?

- A. To the alternator or generator using heavy-gauge wire
- B. To the alternator or generator using insulated heavy duty balanced transmission line
- C. To the battery using insulated heavy duty balanced transmission line
- D. To the battery using heavy-gauge wire

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

G4E03

Which of the following direct, fused power connections would be the best for a 100-watt HF mobile installation?

- A. To the alternator or generator using heavy-gauge wire
- B. To the alternator or generator using insulated heavy duty balanced transmission line
- C. To the battery using insulated heavy duty balanced transmission line
- D. To the battery using heavy-gauge wire

See the answers on [Page 19](#).

NARS Membership – Due Dates and More

**DID YOU
KNOW**

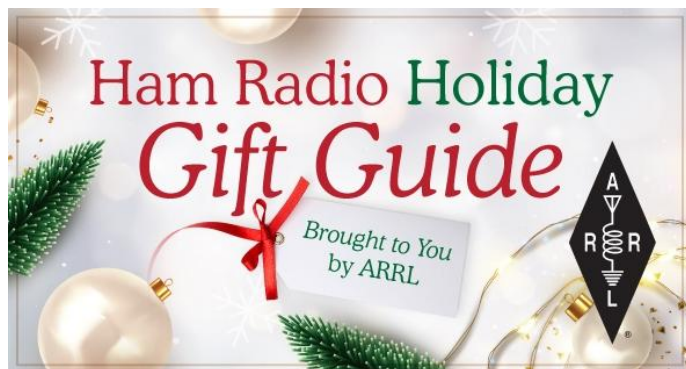


Did you know that you can find your membership expiration date on the club website? Simply click the “Membership Reports” link on the home page or visit [this link: http://www.w5nc.club/nars/index.php/2014-03-30-18-23-31/membership-reports/club-roster](http://www.w5nc.club/nars/index.php/2014-03-30-18-23-31/membership-reports/club-roster). Find your name in the list and look at the “Expires” column of the table!

Amateur Radio News

An excerpt from the ARRL News

ARRL Ham Radio Holiday Gift Guide



The ARRL has released the annual Ham Radio Holiday Gift Guide and can be access here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mmywk85m>

Check out the suggestions here for the operator on your shopping list!

\$41,000+ Raised by Donors, YouTubers, for ARRL Teachers Institute

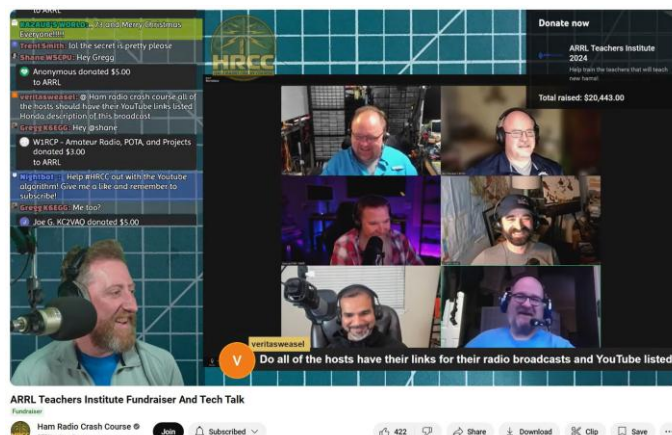
A YouTube telethon to raise money for the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology was a resounding success. More than \$21,000 was contributed during the livestream, which unlocked another \$20,000 that donors had set out as a challenge gift. ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, says that upped the ante. "It's quite clear that even with the generosity of the donors in



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>

attendance, the challenge gift really pushed everyone until the end to meet that goal." There were over 430 gifts made and the most frequent was \$20.



The event, hosted by YouTuber Josh Nass, KI6NAZ, on his popular Ham Radio Crash Course channel, drew thousands of views. On the stream, several teachers and students who have benefited from the TI shared their stories of success. "We were glad that teachers Everton Henriques and Drew Mortenson joined us on the stream. Two of Everton's students attended and were inspirational and impressive. They're the whole reason why we're doing this," said Beal.

A face familiar to longtime ARRL members also paid a visit via video. Former ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, shared her memories of the origins of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, which she pioneered. "People have stepped up in just the most wonderful ways over the years. Large donations, small donations — whatever people are

able to do — have made it possible to continue this program,” she told Beal in a video call.

Craigie attributed the program’s success to its flexibility and how it can evolve to meet the changing needs of educators. ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, hopes to pivot the program again for 2025. “We’re taking it on the road. Historically, we’ve flown teachers into ARRL Headquarters (in Newington, Connecticut), but we want to go meet some of them where they are,” said Goodgame.

The program has lofty goals for expansion next year. In 2024, there were 7 cohorts – next year will have 16. “We’re grateful to everyone who participated in the livestream, whether they watched it, shared it, or donated to it,” said Goodgame. “They are enabling us to continue this growth.”

A replay of the live telethon can be seen [at this link](#). If you’d like to contribute to the future of ARRL Teachers Institutes on Wireless Technology, visit www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM.

2025 Youth on the Air Camp Application Period Open

Applications are now being accepted for campers interested in attending the 2025 Youth on the

Air Camp. Licensed amateur radio operators, ages 15 through 25, who want to attend are encouraged to apply online at YouthOnTheAir.org. The camp is scheduled to take place June 15 - 20, 2025, in Thornton (Denver), Colorado and the [Denver Radio Club](#), an ARRL Affiliated Club, is the local host.

The current application period is for the fifth camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America. For the best chance at being selected, applications should be submitted by

2359Z on January 15, 2025. Campers will be selected by the working group and notified by February 1.

To encourage attendance from across the Americas, allocations for campers are being held open for various areas of North, Central, and South America. If countries do not use their allocation or should someone within an allocation decline acceptance, those positions will be filled from the remaining pool of applicants. As this will be an ongoing process, everyone will not receive notification of acceptance at the same time. Preference will be given to first-time attendees.

Applications will continue to be accepted through May 1 and up to 50 campers will be accepted. The application process is free, but a \$100 USD deposit is required upon acceptance. Should a potential camper be unable to pay the \$100 deposit, they may apply for a scholarship or waiver. Campers are also responsible for their own arrival and departure transportation to the camp location. Travel assistance may also be available, especially for those traveling from outside of the USA and Canada. Travel during camp events is provided.

For details about the camp, visit the camp web page at YouthOnTheAir.org or email Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, at director@youthontheair.org.

Get on the Air in December with ARRL 160- and 10-Meter Contests

December brings two ARRL-sponsored single-band contests. The ARRL 160-Meter Contest begins Friday, December 6 at 2200 UTC and concludes on Sunday, December 8 at 1559 UTC. Stations in the US (including Alaska, Hawaii, and US possessions) and Canada can contact any station; stations located overseas can only contact US and Canadian stations. Contacts may be made using the CW mode only. See the contest rules at www.arrl.org/160-meter for more information.



Youth on the Air

Next weekend, the ARRL 10-Meter Contest begins on Saturday, December 14 at 0000 UTC (Friday evening in North America), and concludes on Sunday, December 15 at 2359 UTC. Stations may contact any other station, regardless of location, using CW and phone. All stations send a signal report. Stations located in the US and Canada (including Alaska and Hawaii) send their state or province; Mexican stations send their state; DX stations send a serial number. Contest rules are available at contests.arrl.org/10m/.

Grimes County ARES Seeks Donations for Communication Trailer

The Grimes County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is calling on the community to help fund a new trailer for their emergency communication equipment. ARES members, who are licensed and trained radio communicators, play a crucial role in maintaining communication during disasters when traditional systems fail.

Currently, the group operates under tents during field exercises, which is not sustainable for extended emergencies. The new trailer will provide a more reliable and weather-resistant solution for their operations.

ARES is applying for federal grants and seeking local contributions to make this purchase possible. They also plan to train community members to assist in emergency communication efforts.

For more information or to contribute, visit the Grimes County ARES [Facebook page](#) or [website](#).

NARS is also working to build a communication trailer in a similar manner. If you are interested in contributing to the NARS trailer project, please contact the NARS on groups.io at main@W5NC.groups.io.

Joplin Amateur Radio Club Connects Kids with Santa

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club is bringing holiday cheer to children by connecting them with Santa Claus through ham radio. Using the "Santa Net," kids can speak directly with Santa and share their wish lists. The event will be held on three separate dates: tomorrow evening, December 9, and December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the club's station. Each night, 10 slots are available, and participation is free. To schedule an appointment, visit the [club's website](#).

For more details, check out the full article [here](#).

Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club Offers Free Ham Radio Classes

The Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club is offering a free Entry Level Amateur Radio course starting January 11. This 10-week course will prepare participants for the FCC Amateur Radio Technician Class license test. Classes will be held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hoffman Estates Branch of Schaumburg Township District Library.

Participants will use the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Fifth Edition) as a study guide. The club also offers FCC License testing on the first Saturday of each month at the Schaumburg Park District Community Recreation Center.

For more information or to register, visit the [Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club's website](#).

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

December YOTA Month

December is Youth on the Air Month, also known as YOTA Month, and there are plans to celebrate young operators all month long. Blake Pearson, KN4VKY, one of the Americas YOTA Month Participation Coordinators, joins the podcast to explain how young hams can apply to use one of the official YOTA Month call signs, and how you can take part in the YOTA Month operating events no matter what age you are.

[Click here](#) to access the podcast episode.

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](#).

Technician & General Ham Radio License Classes

FREE & taught via Zoom - 12/26/2024 - 12/29/2024

Attend one, or the other, or both

- Registration is required & class is open to all ages.
- Learn skills, serve your community, have fun, earn radio-based scholarships, and more.
- *I do not "teach the exams."* I teach radio theory and practice. The question pool is our guide.
- The General exam is more difficult than the Tech exam because the material is more technical.
- When we get to the General class, you should have a **solid** grasp of the Technician class material.
- Even if you have a Technician license, if your grasp of the material is not particularly strong, please consider doing the Technician class as well.

TECHNICIAN CLASS

Thursday 12/26 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Friday 12/27 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

GENERAL CLASS

Saturday 12/28 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sunday 12/29 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

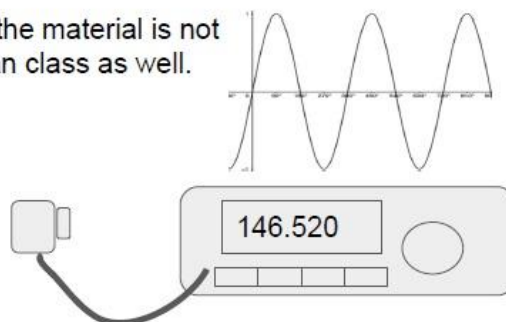
All times PST, taught via Zoom

Free book for Technician class

General class book is very affordable

Contact:

- Send name, email, phone, and desired class(es) to ars.n7ji@gmail.com
- Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, ARRL Registered Instructor



NARS Monthly Club Meeting

November General Meeting

The Northwest Amateur Radio Club (NARS) met for the November General Meeting at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. As part of the meeting, voting was conducted for the officers of the club starting in 2025. Results of the elections are as follows:

- President; Paul Owen, N5NXS
- Vice President: OPEN
- Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR
- Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU
- Director One: Rich Jones, W5VEK
- Director Two: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J

Voting for the Ham of the Year was also conducted as part of this meeting. The winner will be announced during the annual banquet in January.

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on December 20, 2024 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We will be having our annual Show and Tell meeting. If you have any projects that you would like to share with the club, please reach out to Paul Kent. 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

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 the learning new aspects of the amateur radio hobby.

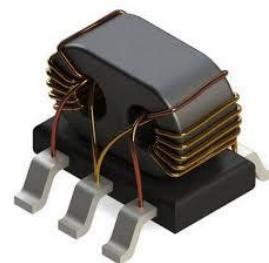
Understanding Baluns: A Key Component in Amateur Radio

A balun, short for "balanced to unbalanced," is an essential device in the world of amateur radio. It serves as a bridge between balanced and unbalanced transmission lines, ensuring efficient signal transfer and minimizing interference. In simple terms, a balun converts a balanced signal, which has two conductors carrying equal but opposite signals, into an unbalanced signal, where one conductor carries the signal and the other serves as a reference point. This conversion is crucial for connecting antennas to radios, as it helps maintain signal integrity and reduces noise.

There are several types of baluns, each suited for different applications. The LC balun uses inductors and capacitors to introduce a phase shift and is often used at the output of push-pull amplifiers. The transformer balun is commonly used in television



antennas for impedance matching. The folded balun allows direct connection of a coax line to a dipole antenna. The coaxial balun is designed using a quarter-length of transmission line or coax cable and is used in systems requiring 1:1 or 1:4 impedance transformations. Lastly, the microstrip balun is realized on PCB or microstrip dielectric substrates and is used for wide bandwidth applications.



Building a balun can be a rewarding DIY project for amateur radio enthusiasts. One common type is the 4:1 current balun which may be useful with a G5RV antenna or where ladder-line meets coaxial cable. 4:1 current baluns can be constructed using a few basic components. You'll need a ferrite core, enamel-coated copper wire, and a suitable enclosure. The process involves winding the wire around the ferrite core to create the necessary inductance and then connecting the windings to the appropriate terminals. Detailed instructions and step-by-step guides are available online, making it accessible even for beginners. One such example can be found at: <https://www.m0pzt.com/blog/4to1-current-balun/>



For those looking to build their own balun, several resources can provide valuable guidance. Websites like [Instructables](#) offer comprehensive tutorials on making different types of baluns, including 1:1 and 4:1 configurations. Additionally, YouTube channels dedicated to amateur radio often feature videos

demonstrating the construction process, complete with tips and tricks to ensure success. These resources not only explain the theory behind baluns but also provide practical advice on materials and techniques.

Understanding the importance of a balun in your antenna system can significantly enhance your radio experience. By ensuring a proper match between your antenna and radio, a balun helps optimize signal transmission and reception. This leads to clearer communication and better overall performance. Whether you're a seasoned ham radio operator or just starting, incorporating a well-built balun into your setup is a step towards achieving optimal results.

In conclusion, a balun is a vital component for any amateur radio enthusiast. Building one yourself can be a fulfilling project, and numerous resources are available to guide you through the process. By leveraging these tools and understanding the role of a balun, you can enhance your radio setup and enjoy improved signal quality. Happy building and clear signals!

Hunting the Fox

NARS Members Work their Direction-Finding Skills

Recently NARS Members were able to participate in a foxhunting activity to develop their direction-finding skills and have a little fun.

Foxhunting, or more formally, Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is a radio sport where participants use radio bearings to navigate through wooded areas and locate hidden transmitters, essentially combining radio skills with orienteering techniques using a map and compass. The NARS team used custom-built antennas and handheld radios to find 2 targets, or foxes, hidden in a park.

[Click here for a video fox in action.](#)

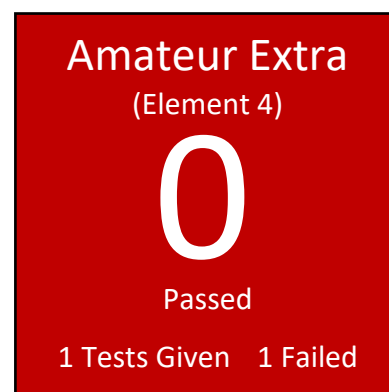
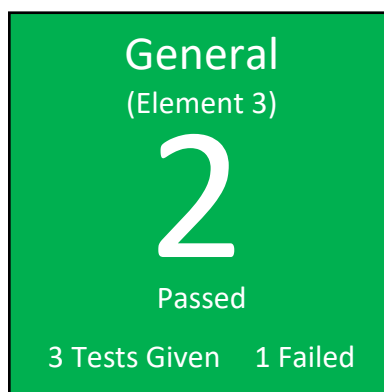
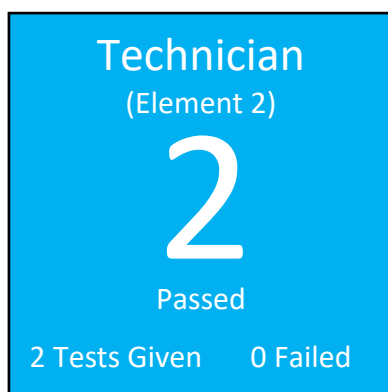


VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

Attendees

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, 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:

- James W Branyan – new Technician
- Glen H Freeland – new Technician

Congratulations to the following for their successful upgrade:

- Albert B Chambers KJ5IRB – upgrade to General
- Dexter Mars KJ5IGQ - upgrade to General

Pre-registration for Testing Sessions

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

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

The next session will be December 21, 2024 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Please visit www.w5nc.club for the announcement.

¹ Successful candidates will only receive their **NEW** licenses if they pay the \$35 fee to the FCC within 10 days of receipt of their notification emails. They will have to request the ARRL VEC to resubmit their paperwork if they miss the 10-day deadline. They do **NOT** have to retest.

Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:

- Brett Hebert KG5IQU – assistant session manager
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- Benjamin (Jason) Springs KR1BBT (1st time serving as VE)
- Dale Schmirler KN5DS

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 or
vec@w5nc.net

Volunteering and Becoming a Volunteer Examiner

Anyone who wants to observe and/or participate in a session is always welcome. Please let Sheree Horton know if you want to learn more about becoming a volunteer examiner.

New & Renewing Club Members

New Club Members

Welcome to the following new members of NARS!

- Albert Chambers, KJ5IRB
- Milan Marinkovich, KJ5IDO
- Craig Veteto, KJ5IWQ

Renewing Club Members

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| • Robert Bernardini, KJ5DKB | • Paul Kent, KI5FJS |
| • Jesse Brookover, W5KY | • Sam Labarbera, N6HB |
| • Luke Bugler, K0LTB | • Neal Naumann, N5EN |
| • Keith Dutson, NM5G | • Phil Pappano, KI5VPF |
| • John Jackson, N3AG | • Tom Smith, N5AMA |

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/?

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: T1E07 - C. The control operator and the station licensee

General: G4E03 – D. To the battery using heavy-gauge wire

Amateur Extra: E8B08 – C. A digital modulation technique using subcarriers at frequencies chosen to avoid intersymbol interference

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 – December 20, 2024 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session – December 21, 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

January 17-18 | Cowtown Hamfest in Fort Worth

February 7 - 9, 2025 | Orlando HamCation, ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Orlando, Florida

March 7-8 | Greater Houston Hamfest

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

December 2024 - <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2024/December%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 (interim): Paul Kent, KI5FJS, 713-724-4398, officers@w5nc.net

Vice President: Paul Kent, KI5FJS, 713-724-4398, officers@w5nc.net

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, 713-828-8630, treasurer@w5nc.net

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

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

Director: TBN

Committee Team 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

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>

