

Amateur Radio Testing Session



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2024

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

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

President's Message

BY PAUL KENT, KI5FJS

Elections at the November Meeting

If you are interested in running for a board position in our upcoming elections to be held in November please submit your name; call sign; and Board position of interest to The Board ASAP. Current Board Members include:

Paul Kent, PaulFKent@cs.com

Brandon Rogers, w5vek@arrl.net

Tom Hoherd, tom70@sbcglobal.net

Rich Jones, w5vek@arrl.net

Please copy all four of the Board members to maintain continuity.

Remember you can ONLY run for ONE POSITION!

The Voting positions are listed below, with the following nominees, more than one nominee may run for a position.

President; Paul Owen, N5NSX

Vice President: OPEN

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR

Treasure: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU

Director One: Rich Jones, W5VEK

Director Two: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J

Note: The Non-Voting, Committee positions are appointments by the president.

HAM of the Year

It's also that time of the year to vote for the HAM of the Year, all nominees should go through Bob Ewers, K9HOU. This will be a confidential vote with the results announced in January at the Annual Banquet.

Annual Banquet Plans

Rob Nixon has taken on the responsibility for locating a venue for our January awards banquet. If you have a favorite place in mind, send him a note. Current suggestion is Rudy's BBQ

November General Meeting

We will have a short meeting with each nominee giving a short discussion/ by our nominees and then a vote.

Presentation General Meeting

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.

Open Committee Member Positions

Currently, we have one committee position open:

“Public Information Officer” effective January 2024

- a. See By-Laws for position description and submit your name to the Board members.

Repeater Status and Weekly Net Operations

NARS has a lot on the menu going forward. To get the latest Repeater Status, check out W5NC.club for the latest information.

Our repairs to the LBT Houston site were completed on Monday, November 4th with the removal of the existing antenna and the installation of the new antenna. CMS, our “certified climbers,” had the old antenna down to the “penthouse” level in 30 minutes and the new antenna installed with a new jumper to the hard line within an hour and a half, including the coax cable supports. The “climbers” consisted of JP, Dustin and Lance and they worked very well together to accomplish our project safely, efficiently, and with good communication. The team completed our task smoothly and on schedule.

Old Antenna – RIP (resting in place)



New Antenna



Stay up to date with our weekly VHF and DMR nets at w5nc.club. The DMR net meets every week on Tuesdays at 7PM and the VHF net meets on Wednesdays at 8PM, primarily using AllStar at this time.

Information is published prior to each weekly net regarding frequencies and various links into the nets.

See you at our November 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)

T8A08

What is the approximate bandwidth of a typical single sideband (SSB) voice signal?

- A. 15 kHz
- B. 6 kHz
- C. 1 kHz
- D. 3 kHz

General (Element 3)

G2D11

Why are signal reports typically exchanged at the beginning of an HF contact?

- A. To allow each station to operate according to conditions
- B. To be sure the contact will count for award programs
- C. To allow each station to calibrate their frequency display
- D. To follow standard radiogram structure

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

G2D11

Why are signal reports typically exchanged at the beginning of an HF contact?

- A. To allow each station to operate according to conditions
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- C. To allow each station to calibrate their frequency display
- D. To follow standard radiogram structure

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>. 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 Recognizes University of Scranton During Amateur Radio Station Dedication

The University of Scranton in Pennsylvania has a new amateur radio station, W3USR. A dedication was held at the university's Loyola Science Center on Friday, October 25, 2024, led by Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, an Associate Professor of physics and electrical engineering, and club advisor for the University of Scranton Amateur Radio Club.

The new [W3USR University of Scranton Amateur Radio Station](#) supports the radio club, academic research, and the university's outreach to the community. Frissell kicked off the dedication by framing the station's purpose for education, research, service, and fun.

"With the establishment of your radio club and station, you're not just creating a technical resource; you're building a vibrant community of learners and innovators," said Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, the Director of Marketing and Innovation for ARRL®. Inderbitzen is also a staff advisor the ARRL [Collegiate Amateur Radio Program](#).

Club President Gerard Piccini, KD2ZHK, ceremonially handed an application for ARRL affiliation to Inderbitzen, who responded by presenting the University of Scranton Amateur Radio Club with a



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>

certificate as the newest ARRL Affiliated Club. Since its inception in 1918, the Affiliated Club Program has united amateur radio clubs to enhance the Amateur Radio Service, recognizing their crucial role in developing active radio operators and serving local communities.

"You are now part of a thriving network of college ham radio stations across the country, each contributing to a larger tapestry of knowledge, innovation, and fun," said Inderbitzen.

Before the dedication, students provided tours of W3USR. Perched five stories up, the room committed to the new station is impressive for being well appointed with the latest amateur radio gear, but also for its panoramic views of the campus and city of Scranton.

\$47,000 Raised for Amateur Radio STEM Education Through ARRL Online Auction

The 19th annual ARRL Online Auction, sponsored by RT Systems Inc., went off without a hitch from October 18 - 24, 2024. In addition to hundreds of views, the auction saw 329 individual bidders vying for equipment, vintage books, "mystery junk boxes" from the ARRL Lab, and more.

There were 206 items up for bid and more than 1430 bids were recorded with 40 items finishing in overtime bidding. This year's ARRL Online Auction grossed more than \$47,000.

Top three items with the most bids were, both with 25 bids each, Mastrant rope and ARRL Field Day

Cooler Bag surprise, and with 24 bids was one of the mystery junk boxes.

Proceeds from the yearly ARRL Online Auction go directly to ARRL's education programs, including promoting activities to license new hams, strengthening amateur radio's emergency service training, offering continuing technical and operating education, and creating instructional materials.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology trains educators to incorporate amateur radio and wireless communications into their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) lessons. This is creating a real impact on the number of new hams across the country. See more about the program at www.arrl.org/TI.

Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Recognized

The Fulton County Amateur Radio Club was recognized by the Fulton County Commissioners for its contributions to the community. The club's efforts in supporting the county, especially during emergencies, were highlighted.

A proclamation was read during the commissioners' meeting, acknowledging the club's dedication and service. This recognition underscores the importance of amateur radio in maintaining communication during critical times.

This recognition emphasizes the value of local organizations like the Fulton County Amateur Radio Club in enhancing community resilience and safety. The club's members were present at the meeting to receive the recognition.

[Click here](#) for the original article.

UNSUNG HEROES: Local radio club connects people during Helene

When Hurricane Helene disrupted power, Internet, and cell service in Polk County, the Thermal Belt

Amateur Radio Club provided essential communication support using radio repeaters.

Despite losing power to their repeaters, the club used battery backups and generators to maintain communication lines, coordinating aid and supplies.

Club members embedded in local areas to assist with supply distribution and emergency needs, receiving positive feedback for their efforts.

Founded in 1974, the club now has over 30 members across Upstate and western North Carolina, continuing to offer vital services in emergencies. For more information, visit tbarc.org.

[Click here](#) for the original article.

Deep Space Exploration Society Holds Open House with 100+ Attendees

The Deep Space Exploration Society (DSES) recently held its annual open house, showcasing a new building constructed over the summer¹. The event, attended by over 100 people, featured scientific demonstrations and a meal provided by the Town of Haswell². Eads High School science teacher Dr. Joseph Wagner brought students who experienced bouncing their voices off the moon, learning about radio waves and the speed of light³. The new control center, replacing a cramped trailer, allowed for more space and better research conditions. The DSES also demonstrated their work with pulsars and ham radio, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities in radio astronomy.

[Click here](#) for the original article.

New space: University of Scranton amateur radio station links others, home for atmospheric research

The University of Scranton has inaugurated a state-of-the-art amateur radio station, W3USR, enhancing its capabilities for both education and research. Led by Nathaniel Frissell, an associate professor of

physics and engineering, the station features advanced equipment including a 40-foot tower with a Skyhawk High Frequency antenna and various VHF/UHF satellite and microwave antennas. This facility, described as “world class” by physicist Steve Cerwin, allows students and community members to engage in global communications and groundbreaking research on the earth’s upper atmosphere.

The station is integral to the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) project, which Frissell leads. The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1.8 million grant to support this initiative, aimed at building a network of ground-based receivers to study space weather effects on earth. This project builds on previous NSF-funded research, enhancing the ability to collect data on the ionosphere, a critical layer of the earth’s atmosphere affected by both terrestrial and space weather.

During the station’s dedication, attendees, including students and community members, participated in live communications with operators across the country. The station also serves as a valuable educational tool, hosting weekly club nights and supporting physics courses. Frissell and his team are pioneering new techniques for measuring the ionosphere, contributing to a deeper understanding of this vital natural resource and its role in global communications.

[Click here](#) for the original article.

Local Amateur Radio Operators Help Out at Neewollah

Neewollah Festival Draws Thousands with Volunteer Support

The annual Neewollah festival in Independence, Kansas, concluded successfully, drawing up to 50,000 visitors to the town of 8,400. This year, over 500 volunteers, including members from local

amateur radio clubs, played a crucial role in ensuring the event’s smooth operation. The festival featured a Grand Parade and Band Competition, with volunteers from Montgomery, Labette, and Chautauqua Counties in Kansas, as well as Washington and Nowata Counties in Oklahoma, providing essential traffic and safety services.

Licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, amateur radio operators, or “hams,” are known for their ability to assist during local and national emergencies. At Neewollah, these volunteers utilized their radio equipment and two-way radios to maintain communication and manage traffic and security. Jason Kastler of Eagle Security coordinated the efforts, highlighting the significant impact of the radio club volunteers on the event’s overall safety and efficiency.

The involvement of amateur radio clubs not only enhanced the festival’s safety but also showcased the importance of community engagement. For those interested in learning more about amateur radio or joining the local clubs, information is available on the Independence club website at www.n0id.org and the Coffeyville club website at www.coffeyvillearc.org. The success of this year’s Neewollah festival underscores the vital role of volunteers in community events.

Amateur radio club connects students with enthusiasts

The annual Neewollah festival in Independence, Kansas, concluded successfully, drawing around 50,000 visitors to the town of 8,400. This year’s event saw over 500 volunteers, including members from amateur radio clubs in Coffeyville and Independence, who played a crucial role in managing traffic and safety during the Grand Parade and Band Competition. Volunteers from Montgomery, Labette, and Chautauqua Counties in Kansas, as well as Washington and Nowata Counties

in Oklahoma, were on duty from 5 a.m., ensuring smooth operations.

Licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, amateur radio operators, also known as “hams,” are vital during local needs and national emergencies. At Neewollah, they utilized their radio equipment and two-way radios to maintain communication and respond to any situations. The clubs’ participation was coordinated by Jason Kastler of Eagle Security, who praised the volunteers for their ability to instantly communicate and manage critical traffic points, significantly enhancing the event’s safety and efficiency.

The involvement of amateur radio clubs not only ensured the festival’s success but also highlighted the importance of community engagement and volunteerism. Organizers expressed their gratitude to all volunteers and encouraged those interested in amateur radio to learn more about the clubs and their activities. Information about meeting times and club details can be found on the Independence club website at www.n0id.org and the Coffeyville club website at www.coffeyvillearc.org

2024 ARRL Field Day Results Published

Results are published, and the numbers are in. They paint a picture of a very active 2024 ARRL Field Day. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were reported during the 24-hour event. That is up from 2023’s 1.25 million contacts. That’s likely indicative of the continued rise of Solar Cycle 25 leading up to the event, but more people also participated this year.

Entries were received from all 85 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections, as well as from 27 different countries from outside the US and Canada. “It is encouraging to see a rise in participation year to year,” said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. “ARRL Field Day is amateur radio’s premier event, and the hams turned out for it.”

Field Day is whatever you make it. For some participants, it’s a contest; for others, it’s a social gathering and club activity. Other groups use Field Day to showcase what amateur radio is all about to the public. Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to introduce youths to amateur radio.

Class A, B, and C scores are included in the 2024 QST results article. The scores for Class D, E and F stations and club aggregate scores are listed in the 2024 line scores on the web, as well in the digital edition of QST.

Results are available now on the ARRL Field Day website at <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php> and in the December issue of QST.

Los Alamos Amateur Radio Club Announces Two November Events

Los Alamos Amateur Radio Club (LAARC) has announced two significant events for November. The first event is the regular monthly meeting on Friday, November 8, at 8 PM in the Club Meeting Room at 4017 Arkansas. This meeting will cover various topics, including the state of amateur radio frequencies, repeaters, long-distance propagation, and emergency support equipment. The meeting is open to current licensees and anyone interested in amateur radio.

The second event is a Boy Scouts Radio Merit Badge Demonstration on Saturday, November 16. This demonstration will take place at the Troop 22 annual Turkey Roast at the Sportsman’s Club archery range. Amateur radio operators will showcase HF and VHF radio communication techniques, the LAARC emergency communications trailer, and portable gear. This event aims to help scouts earn their Radio Merit Badge by providing hands-on experience with radio communications.

The LAARC emphasizes the importance of amateur radio in emergency response services. With many

new hams moving to Los Alamos for jobs at LANL, the club aims to support and educate both new and experienced radio enthusiasts. These events highlight the club's commitment to fostering a strong amateur radio community and enhancing emergency communication capabilities in Los Alamos and Northern New Mexico.

Meet the ham radio enthusiasts who help keep the New York Marathon running smoothly

The New York Marathon, the world's largest marathon with over 50,000 runners, relies heavily on volunteers for smooth operations. Among these volunteers are amateur radio operators, or "hams," who provide crucial communication support. Donni Katzovicz, a ham radio enthusiast, has been volunteering since 2018 through Event Hams, a group that coordinates the use of amateur radio spectrum for the marathon.

Ham radio operators serve two primary functions during the marathon. Firstly, they handle non-critical communications, freeing up official channels for more urgent matters. For instance, they might address minor issues like costume violations, allowing the NYPD and other emergency services to focus on more significant concerns. This helps ensure that the marathon runs smoothly without overburdening the primary communication systems.

Secondly, ham radio operators provide a reliable backup communication method in case of a failure in the primary systems. Katzovicz highlights the resilience of ham radio, which operates independently of centralized infrastructure. This makes it an invaluable tool during emergencies when other communication methods might fail. The simplicity and self-sufficiency of ham radio technology make it particularly suited for such roles.

The importance of ham radio was underscored during the 9/11 attacks, which severely disrupted New York City's communication infrastructure. Ham

radio operators and local volunteer groups played a vital role in maintaining communication during the crisis. This experience has reinforced the value of ham radio as a dependable backup communication method in emergency situations.

As the marathon approaches, the ham radio volunteers are prepared to assist with any communication needs that arise. While they hope their services will only be needed for minor issues, they stand ready to ensure that the marathon can continue smoothly, even in the face of potential communication failures. Those interested in volunteering can contact Event Hams for more information.

[Click here](#) for the original article.

ARRL Podcasts Schedule *ARES® Task Book Updates*

The ARES® Task Book, an important resource and reference for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service®, is used by amateurs who want to be of service to their communities. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, joins the podcast to talk about the task book's place in a ham's training, as well as recent updates to the book.

[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](#).

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

October General Meeting

The Northwest Amateur Radio Club (NARS) met for the Octobers General Meeting at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Kirc Breden, N5XJB, spoke about digital voice modes such as WinLink, VarAC and others that allow operators to send email, chat and other digital services over the radio waves. The presentation was a fantastic review and demo of the options. Thanks to Kirc for a great presentation!



Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on November 15, 2024 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We will be reviewing and voting for board member candidates, ham of the year, and preparing for the end of the year! We hope to see everyone there!

Also, remember that our December meeting is our project showcase! If you have a project to share with the club, prepare to bring it to our December meeting on December 20, 2024.

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 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.

Best Logging Software for Ham Radio Operators in 2024

Whether you're a casual operator or an experienced contester, a good logging program is an essential tool for any ham radio enthusiast. These applications help you track contacts, manage logs, and ensure your operations are organized for awards, certifications, and even compliance with regulations. It seems every ham operator will have their own favorite logging software. With so many options (and opinions) available, it can be difficult to choose the right one. In this article, we'll break down some of the logging software available in 2024, each offering unique features for different types of ham radio operators.

N1MM Logger+ – *The Contester's Choice*

Best for: Contesting, DXing, and advanced users

Platform: Windows

N1MM Logger+ is often considered the gold standard for contest logging software. It's a powerful, free program that supports hundreds of contests and logging formats. Designed for high-speed operators, N1MM Logger+ is built to handle the fast pace of competitive contests with ease. Key features include:

- **Real-time Bandmap:** Visual representation of stations heard on different bands, perfect for quickly identifying new contacts.
- **Integrated DX Cluster:** Built-in access to a global DX Cluster, making it easier to spot rare DX stations.
- **Macro Support:** Automate repetitive tasks like sending common responses or CQ calls.
- **Rig Integration:** Seamless integration with most modern transceivers for logging frequency and mode automatically.

While the interface is somewhat utilitarian and has a learning curve, N1MM Logger+ excels in functionality, especially for contesters and serious DXers.

Logbook of the World (LoTW) – *The Digital Record Keeper*

Best for: Award tracking and digital logging

Platform: Web-based (requires an Internet connection)

While not a traditional logging software application, **Logbook of the World (LoTW)** is a service provided by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) that allows you to upload and manage your contact logs for QSL confirmation and award tracking. It works seamlessly with most logging software, making it an excellent complement for operators looking to confirm DX contacts for awards like DXCC, WAS, and VUCC.

Key features include:

- **Award Management:** Automatically tracks your progress towards various ARRL awards.
- **QSL Confirmation:** Use your uploaded logs for online QSLing with other operators, reducing the need for physical cards.
- **Compatibility:** Most modern logging software, including N1MM, Log4OM, and others, support direct LoTW uploads.

For operators looking to keep their logbook digital and pursue awards, LoTW is a crucial tool. It integrates well with many logging programs, making it a versatile choice for serious operators.

Log4OM – *The Free and Feature-Rich Option*

Best for: General logging, DXing, and user-friendly interface

Platform: Windows, Linux (via Wine), macOS (via Wine)

Log4OM is a free, open-source logging software that caters to both casual and serious operators. It has a simple, intuitive interface, but it doesn't skimp on advanced features, making it an excellent choice for a wide range of hams.

Key features include:

- **Integrated DX Cluster:** Just like N1MM, Log4OM has real-time DX cluster integration, allowing operators to quickly spot DX stations.
- **Automatic Logbook Synchronization:** Sync your logs with both LoTW and eQSL, streamlining your award processes.
- **Cloud-Based Backup:** Log4OM allows you to back up your logs to the cloud, reducing the risk of losing valuable data.
- **Multiband and Multi-Mode Support:** Supports logging for various modes and multiple bands simultaneously.
- **Rig Control Integration:** Works with many modern radios, providing automatic logging of frequency and mode.

Log4OM is particularly attractive for those looking for a free, feature-packed option. It's highly customizable and offers a robust set of tools without the steep learning curve associated with some other programs.

Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) – *The All-in-One Solution*

Best for: Full-featured logging with rig control and digital modes

Platform: Windows

Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) is a comprehensive software suite that includes not only a logging program but also tools for rig control, digital modes (PSK31, FT8, RTTY), and satellite tracking. HRD is designed for both casual and serious operators, with a range of features that scale to your needs.

Key features include:

- **Rig Control:** HRD provides full integration with most modern radios, allowing you to control your rig directly from the software.
- **Digital Mode Support:** HRD includes an integrated suite of digital mode tools, so you can operate FT8, PSK31, and other modes without leaving the program.
- **Logging and Award Tracking:** The logging function is simple to use, with real-time access to DX clusters and award tracking.
- **Remote Control:** For hams operating remotely or from different locations, HRD offers remote control features, allowing you to log and operate your rig from anywhere.

While HRD is one of the most feature-rich packages available, it's not free—there is a cost for the full suite of tools. However, for users who want a comprehensive all-in-one solution, HRD is an excellent choice.

eQSL.cc – *The Digital QSL Service for Global Contacts*

Best for: Digital QSLing and award tracking

Platform: Web-based

eQSL.cc is another popular online QSL service that integrates with many logging programs. Unlike LoTW, eQSL allows you to send and receive QSL cards digitally, which can be especially useful for international contacts where physical QSLing is expensive or impractical.

Key features include:

- **Digital QSL Cards:** Send and receive QSL cards digitally, saving time and money.
- **Award Tracking:** eQSL offers awards for confirmed contacts, including the eDX100, which is a popular award for DXers.
- **Automatic Integration:** Many logging programs, including Log4OM and HRD, support direct eQSL integration.

Though eQSL is not as widely used for confirming contacts as LoTW, it is a great choice for operators who prefer a digital-only QSLing system or for those who frequently work international stations.

MacLoggerDX – For Mac Users

Best for: Mac OS users who want a user-friendly logging solution

Platform: macOS

For macOS users, **MacLoggerDX** is one of the best logging programs available. It offers a sleek, intuitive interface designed specifically for the macOS ecosystem, with features that appeal to both casual operators and DX enthusiasts.

Key features include:

- **Integrated DX Cluster:** Like many of the best logging programs, MacLoggerDX supports real-time DX cluster access.
- **Rig Control:** It integrates with many modern rigs for automatic logging.
- **Logbook and Award Tracking:** The software supports various awards, including DXCC, and integrates with LoTW and eQSL for digital QSLing.

While it's not free, MacLoggerDX is often considered the best option for Mac users looking for a robust logging application that doesn't sacrifice ease of use.

Conclusion

Whether you're just getting started in ham radio or are a seasoned operator, choosing the right logging software can enhance your experience and improve your operational efficiency. The options above cover a wide range of needs, from contesting and DXing to award tracking and digital modes. Each has its strengths, so think about what features matter most to you—whether that's automation, award management, or digital QSLing—and choose accordingly. Happy logging and 73!

2024 Field Day Results Posted

Results are published, and the numbers are in. They paint a picture of a very active 2024 ARRL Field Day. NARS was very successful this year, scoring the most points in the 3F class! For complete details on Field Day results, [click here](#).

Northwest ARS (W5NC), 3F

Total QSOs: 1,805

Power Category: 2 (5W – 100W)

Number of Participants: 71

Final Score: 7,679

Serving across Houston

NARS Members and VE Help Students in Amateur Radio



Shown are the new licensees (one new General, 5 new Technicians) from 2024 with the Volunteer Examiners from the NARS club who administered the tests. From left: Luke Ritter KI5ZHW, new General; Dr. Pat, trustee W5TAR; Luis Nunez KJ5IRX, Brandy Lang WE9L (VE); Cristal Johnson KJ5IRW, Cedric Williams KJ5ISS, Dale Schmirler KN5DS (VE), Anthony Zhang KJ5IRD, Paul Owen N5NXS(VE), Sheree Horton (VE), and Ed Messman KT5EM (VE).

The Rice University Amateur Radio Club, licensed by the FCC as W5YG, has been a staple on the Rice campus for more than 100 years. Initially housed in the engineering buildings, the club now operates from Herman Brown Hall under the guidance of Professor Patricia Reiff, W5TAR. The club's history is rich, with its first transmitter funded by Howard Hughes in 1920, using the call sign 5YI.

Over the past two decades, more than 60 students have earned their Ham licenses through courses taught by Dr. Reiff. These courses, including the "Physics of Ham Radio" class, have been instrumental in fostering a new generation of amateur radio enthusiasts. The class, now listed as PHYS 501, is offered every other year and is open to interested undergraduates with the instructor's permission.

Often, these students earn their license through testing sessions hosted by NARS Volunteer Examiners (VEs). Through the efforts of our NARS VE team, many students (as shown here) and community members have gained or upgraded their licenses.

About the Rice University Amateur Radio Club

The club's current setup includes a Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver for HF work, utilizing crossed Inverted-V dipole antennas on the roof of Herman Brown Hall. This setup supports various digital modes such as FT-8, VARAC, and PSK31. Additionally, the club has a steerable VHF/UHF Yagi antenna connected to an Icom 9700, enabling satellite contacts and local repeater communications.

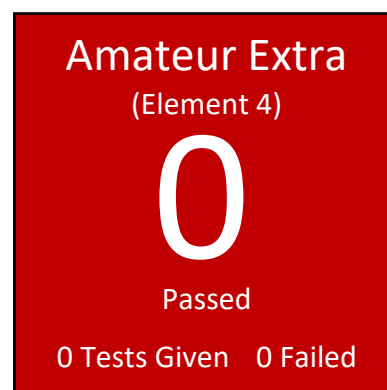
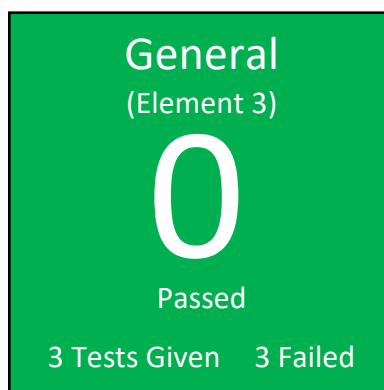
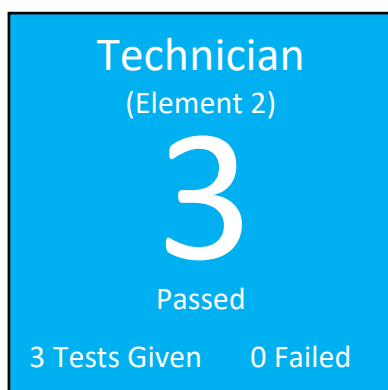
The club actively participates in the ARRL "School Club Roundup" almost every year, showcasing their skills and engaging with the broader amateur radio community. The club's activities and achievements are a testament to its enduring legacy and commitment to amateur radio.

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

Attendees

On Saturday October 19, 2024, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. During the testing session, 3 candidates took 6 tests.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams¹:

- Richard A Prybell – new Technician
- Daniel Belcher Jr – new Technician
- Robert A Williams - new Technician

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 November 16, 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:

- Brandy Land WE9L
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- Dale Schmirler KN5DS – Assist. Session Mgr.
- Robert Ewers K9HOU

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.

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

New & Renewing Club Members

New Club Members

Welcome to the following new members of NARS!

- Fred Joly R Davila, N5BDJ
- Kevin Kretzschmar, KJ5HPJ

Renewing Club Members

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Robert Bernardini, KJ5DKB | • Neal Naumann, N5EN |
| • August Canik, KI5YPD | • Dale Schmirler, KN5DS |
| • Robert Ewers, K9HOU | • James Freeman, WN5BSA |
| • Rich Jones, W5VEK | • Thomas Smith, N5AMA |
| • Beth Kasper, KI5SCM | • Keith Dutson, NM5G |
| • Michael Livingston, AG5ZG | |

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: T8A08 - D. 3 kHz

General: G2D11 – A. To allow each station to operate according to conditions

Amateur Extra: E4C14 – C. To reduce interference from stations transmitting on adjacent frequencies

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 – November 15, 2024 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session – November 16, 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

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

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

November 2024 -

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2024/November%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>

