



**W5NC**

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

# NARS NEWS

**OCTOBER 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 PAUL KENT, KI5FJS

## Thanks to our President

As everyone should know, Ron Matusek WA6TQH, our club president for the last 6 years, has stepped down due to health reasons. Ron and his staff have accomplished a lot over the past 6 years and we thank him for his guidance. Ron, our prayers are with you and we wish you all the best and a quick recovery.

As part of the Club Bylaws, the Vice President is next in line to take this position. Thus, the Board members elected me, Paul Kent, KI5FJS, the interim president of NARS. This appointment will last until the next election cycle, which will be taking place over the next few months.

## Elections coming up

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 as soon as possible. The current Board Members, to which you should submit this information, include:

- Paul Kent, PaulFKent@cs.com
- Brandon Rogers, k5blr@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.

- President; Paul Owen, N5NXS
- Vice President:
- Secretary:
- Treasure:
- Director One: Rich Jones, W5VEK
- Director Two: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J

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

## Annual Banquet Plans

Rob Nixon has taken on the responsibility for locating venue for our January awards banquet. If you have a favorite place in mind, send him a note.



## September General Meeting

Ron Matusek and Paul Kent added to the previous presentation with a close-out on CenterPoint Energy and the natural gas meter.

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 President.

## 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](http://W5NC.club) for latest information.

I would like to welcome Mike Lizzio, WA2TOP, back to the Lead Net Control position. If you have any questions regarding net control operations or would like to join his team of weekly net control operators, give Mike a shout.

Our repairs to the LBT Houston site were further delayed by the building management and building engineer's review of CMS, our "certified climbers" MOP. Last week we received their comments and submitted them to CMS for update along with NARS data as requested. The updated documents were received this week and resubmitted to LBT for a second review. Once the updated documents are approved, we can schedule the work to remove the old antenna and install the new antenna.

The Galleria repeater site has a site visit scheduled for October 5th at which time our Repeater Team will add a small laptop computer and change out the current modem.

Stay up to date with our weekly VHF and DMR nets at [w5nc.club](http://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 October 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)

#### T7C08

Which instrument can be used to determine SWR?

- A. Ohmmeter
- B. Voltmeter
- C. Directional wattmeter
- D. Iambic pentameter

### General (Element 3)

#### G2A07

Which of the following statements is true of single sideband (SSB)?

- A. SSB is the only voice mode authorized on the 160-, 75-, and 40-meter amateur bands
- B. Only one sideband and the carrier are transmitted; the other sideband is suppressed
- C. Only one sideband is transmitted; the other sideband and carrier are suppressed
- D. SSB is the only voice mode authorized on the 20-, 15-, and 10-meter amateur bands

### Amateur Extra (Element 4)

#### E1C04

What is an IARP?

- A. A permit that allows US amateurs to operate in certain countries of the Americas
- B. An indication of increased antenna reflected power
- C. The internal amateur radio practices policy of the FCC
- D. A forecast of intermittent aurora radio propagation

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

## New ARRL Partnership will Benefit Members 65+

ARRL is pleased to announce a partnership with Grouper. Grouper provides benefits



+ **Grouper**

to ARRL members aged 65+ for staying active in their communities and these benefits include covering costs associated with your social activity. According to the United States Surgeon General, staying socially active in group activities has proven health benefits and is critical for older Americans, who have above-average risks of social isolation and depression.

For ARRL members with an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan, you'll receive a \$50 check from Grouper. In addition, if you continue to stay active in ARRL activities -- such as attending ARRL Affiliated Club meetings, getting on the air with friends, going to hamfests, or even just socializing with other members at the coffee shop -- Grouper will send you a \$20 social wellness incentive every three months.

From ARRL contests to Field Day and radio club meetings, ARRL and amateur radio activities keep our members socially connected and promote 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>

healthier, more fulfilling life. We know you value community and camaraderie. Let Grouper support those values.

To redeem your benefit, visit <https://hellogrouper.com/arrl>.

Questions? Please contact Grouper's Member Engagement Team at 833-445-2400 or [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com).

## ARRL Philanthropist, Radar Detector Pioneer, Michael Valentine, W8MM, Silent Key

Michael "Mike" D. Valentine, W8MM, of Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away on Monday, September 16, 2024. He was 74. Mike and his wife of 51 years, Margaret "Peg" K. Valentine, have been the most generous individual supporters of ARRL® The National



*Michael "Mike" D. Valentine, W8MM, SK | 1949 - 2024*

Association of Amateur Radio®. Valentine earned his amateur radio license as a teenager. "I was first licensed as WN8MSF and WA8MSF, simultaneously in the spring of my freshman year in high school, 1964. I was a combo Novice and Technician, as was customary in those days for technically proficient beginners..." he wrote in his biography for the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

His interests in amateur radio and electronics led Valentine to enter the electrical engineering program at the University of Cincinnati, where he met Peg. He was selected by the R. L. Drake Company as an engineering coop student. He would go on to work for Drake and Cincinnati Electronics after graduation in 1973. He co-founded Cincinnati Microwave, maker of Escort radar detectors.

Mike and Peg founded Valentine Research in 1983. The company designs, manufactures, and sells electronic devices directly to users. Their flagship model, the Valentine One®, and the Valentine One Gen2, brought many innovations in that space, including being the first radar detector to indicate the direction of the radar device relative to the vehicle. Valentine and his products have been profiled many times in automotive enthusiast media.

In 2023, ARRL awarded Michael, W8MM, and Margaret Valentine the inaugural Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Medal of Distinction.

Together, the Valentines shared their success generously with many organizations including public television, higher education, the arts, and ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio®. The Valentines are the single biggest individual donors in ARRL history. They are Millennium Class members of the ARRL Maxim Society.

Mike served on the ARRL Second Century Campaign Committee, which coincided with ARRL's Centennial in 2014. The campaign, including the Valentine Challenge Fund which matched the dollar-for-dollar contributions of other donors, established an endowment to ensure ARRL's ongoing commitment to amateur radio.

In 2023, ARRL awarded the Valentines the inaugural Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Medal of Distinction during a donor recognition event held in Dayton, Ohio. "To say that the Valentines are great philanthropists is

an understatement," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, in remarks he made during the award presentation. "Mike and Peg have invested significantly in supporting the future of amateur radio. They have set the example for all our donors with their philanthropic leadership."

In addition to his successful business pursuits and exceptional generosity to many organizations, Valentine could often be found cheering at University of Cincinnati Bearcats games, operating ham radio, and driving sports cars.

The Cincinnati Enquirer has published a Life Story with these additional details: A visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, from 9:30 AM until time of funeral service at 11:00 AM, at the Covenant First Presbyterian Church, 717 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. A reception will immediately follow in the Parish Hall. Burial will be held privately at Spring Grove Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Mike's memory to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) or The Matthew Mangine Jr. One Shot Foundation.

## **ARRL Section Managers Gather for Training at Headquarters**

The ARRL Field Organization is divided geographically into 71 sections. A key volunteer that members in each section elect is the Section Manager. These ARRL member-volunteers take a critical role in being the front line of the organization to members.

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, 13 ARRL Section Managers gathered at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, for training. ARRL staff members gave them a detailed overview of what the association does on a daily basis, and how the resources from HQ can serve members out in the sections.

ARRL Field Service Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, serves as the point of contact for Section Managers.

“These folks have taken on a tremendous responsibility to serve ARRL members and ham radio in general. They’re the ones who facilitate the work of ARRL in the field, and we want to make sure they have every tool available to them,” said Walters.

After a day of hard work in the conference room, the group of volunteers activated W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station.

Section Managers in attendance include: Scott Bauer, W2LC, of Western New York; Matthew Crook, W1MRC, of Santa Clara Valley; Carmen Greene, KP4QVQ, of Puerto Rico; Steven Keller, KC3DSO, of Delaware; Bruce Krypton, AG6X, of San Diego; Alan Maenchen, AD6E, of Pacific; Jon McCombie, N1ILZ of Eastern Massachusetts; Antonis Papatsaras, AA6PP, of San Francisco; Houston Polson, N5YS, of Louisiana; Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, of Oregon; Douglas Sharafonowich, WA1SFH, of Connecticut; and Chris Van Winkle, AB3WG, of Maryland-DC. Also in attendance was ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY.

## National Preparedness Month - Station Readiness

As ARRL continues the September series on National Preparedness Month, we turn to a critical element for radio amateurs and especially Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers: their station.

Many hams have a home station from which we operate on a regular basis. Is your station set up to operate or have the ability to operate off the grid or on alternate power sources? There are many ways to set this up to run on battery power and could even be done temporarily if you don’t have a permanent battery backup situation.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says it is easier than ever to

have a backup. “With the new batteries out there, and solar technology both improving in quality and decreasing in price, building a resilient station is no longer difficult or expensive,” he said. Johnston encourages ham radio operators to think about powering more than just the radio on an alternate power source. “Do you have lights that could run off the battery source? Do you have an alternate power source for your computer? What about your internet connection? Is there a backup for it?” he asked.

Johnston says backup generators are great but sometimes are only fed to certain circuits in your home. Amateurs should test their ham station to ensure that it is powered by the generator. If the whole house system does not power the station, a portable generator could be an option. The key is to test the system under blue sky conditions to ensure it works, check for RF noise, and potential power drop.

Having backup antennas is also crucial. “Especially if we are dealing with storms, it may be useful to have alternate antennas on hand, especially for HF and VHF,” said Johnston.

## Get Ready for JOTA/JOTI

Jamboree On - The - Air (JOTA) and Jamboree On - The - Internet (JOTI) is the world’s largest digital Scout event using amateur radio and the internet. The event, to be held October 18 - 20, 2024, connects scouts worldwide for a full weekend of online activities that promote friendship and global citizenship.

Millions of scouts participate and during the 2014 event, worldwide Scouting participation included 1.1 million Boy Scouts and 200,000 Girl Guides/Girl Scouts, for a total participation of over 1.3 million--the largest Scouting event in the world.

Amateur radio operators use their stations to allow the scouts to make contracts. While many scouts



are licensed radio operators, the majority participate in JOTA/JOTI through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

Throughout the years, JOTA/JOTI amateur radio stations have been set up in unusual locations including the top of a mountain or on a boat. The event also features a variety of informal education activities, including webinars, global campfires, talent shows, live shows, fun challenges and more through an interactive 3D campsite.

More information about JOTA/JOTI, including rules, regulations, callsigns and worldwide frequencies can be found at Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) ([arrl.org](http://arrl.org)). Additional information is available in the JOTA-JOTI Ham Radio Handbook.

## Fall 2024 Classic Exchange

The Fall 2024 Classic Exchange (CX) event will take place October 13 - 16, 1300Z to 0700Z for phone contacts. CW contact days are October 20 - 23 from 1300Z to 0700Z. The CX is a twice-yearly operating event organized as a contest but is a low pressure activity, with many rag chews and mostly talk about equipment of the past... vacuum tube radios. Amateur radio operators will be reminded what it was like to tune the older radios and offers collectors of these memorable rigs an opportunity to use and enjoy them. Additionally, it gives owners of modern equipment an opportunity to hear how the old rigs sound on the air. CX began 50 years ago when Stu Stephens, K8SJ (SK), his brother Al, and Bob Morgan, K8RBV, were "waxing" nostalgic about their early 50s gear. Current CX organizers are Ron Pollack, N2RP, and Mark Bell, K3MSB. All rules and more information about CX can be found at the [Classic Exchange Website](#).

## Hams Respond as Hawaii Threatened by Three Major Storms

In late August, Hawaii's big island was threatened by three major tropical storms and amateur radio operators were prepared to assist as the threat grew more intense.



*Hurricane Hone 2024  
[Photo courtesy of the National Hurricane Center]*

Russell Roberts, KH6JRM, Public Information Officer, Hawaii County, ARRL Pacific Section, said that beginning August 23, storm watches and warnings were being issued for tropical storms Hone, Gilma, and Hector, all churning off the island's southern coast.

By August 31 and September 1, Hone had become a Category 1 hurricane with winds over 75 miles per hour (MPH), occasional gusts to 100 MPH and heavy rain. Gilma was next as a Category 1, but later intensified to a Category 3 hurricane, dropping 28 inches of rain which flooded roads, along with high winds that brought down trees, power and communications lines.

"We had 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) operators on the net for about 24 hours beginning August 30 and they handled 41 contacts," said Roberts. "Some repeaters were out of fuel, so we switched to HF to pass traffic and assess the damage."

The storms never made landfall and while there were no fatalities or injuries, the damage was severe. Nearly 30,000 residents were affected. Power is still out for over 200 customers, cleanup and road repair are active.

"We were very fortunate," said Roberts. "There was concern a fire warning would need to be issued for

several parts of the island. But the approaching weather brought rain and lowered temperatures.”

## An Incredible Amateur Radio Rescue Story

*Editor’s note: The following story was submitted by Don Gardner, W7PJ, ARRL Idaho Section Emergency Coordinator.*

*This story can be accessed on ARRL’s site at <https://www.arrl.org/news/an-incredible-amateur-radio-rescue-story>.*

On the evening of September 21, 2024, Greg Owen, WX7Z, heard an amateur radio emergency call on the VHF frequency known as the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz. Ed Clark, K7ELC, was calling to get medical help for a 51-year-old man who had rolled his four-wheeler.

Mac Mackintosh, W7ENZ, found the accident and injured man near his property where there isn’t any cellphone service. Mackintosh had given his handheld radio to Clark to make the call for help while he gave aid to the injured man. The injuries were serious... head trauma, broken collarbone, broken ribs, and difficulty breathing.

Owen called 911 to request help. An ambulance, Life Flight helicopter and law enforcement were dispatched to the location, which was 35 minutes outside Orofino, Idaho. Meanwhile, Owen continued using the amateur radio to relay updates to the dispatcher. The injured man was transported to the hospital via Life Flight and at last report was recovering.

Gardner said hams in Idaho support an old national program called the Wilderness Protocol which

encourages the use of the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz.

“As amateur radio operators, we train to be available to help when help is needed. The more that ham radio operators listen to the radio, the more chance there is that someone will be listening to take your emergency call. This is something that has been used many times throughout this county and here in Idaho,” he said. “This is another incredible story to share.”

## ARRL Podcasts Schedule

### *A Tour of 10 Meters*

The 10-meter band offers something for hams of every license class, including Technicians, who can use voice, Morse code, and digital modes on this band. Scott Freeberg, WA9WFA, joins this episode of the podcast to take us on “A Tour of 10 Meters,” and to explain why right now is the best time to get on the band, thanks to the terrific radio wave propagation being generated by Solar Cycle 25.

[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

## September General Meeting

The Northwest Amateur Radio Club (NARS) met for the September General Meeting at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Ron Matusek and Paul Kent added to the previous presentation with a close-out on CenterPoint Energy and the natural gas meter.

Ron's original presentation can be found on the club website or by [clicking here](#).

## Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on October 18, 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.



## 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

## Hurricane Milton – Storm Updates

For updates on Hurricane Milton and related amateur radio traffic, please review the details on the ARRL website here: <https://www.arrl.org/news/hurricane-milton-storm-updates>



# 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.

## Powering Your Amateur Radio on the Go: Exploring Mobile Power Solutions

As an amateur radio operator, the thrill of making contacts while on the move is unparalleled. Whether you’re participating in field days, emergency communications, or just enjoying a weekend getaway, ensuring your radio equipment has reliable power is crucial. Here, we’ll explore several effective ways to power your amateur radio while on the go, so you can keep those signals strong no matter where you are.

### Batteries: The Classic Choice

One of the most common and portable solutions is using batteries. Here are a few options to consider:

#### *Lead-Acid Batteries*

These are widely used due to their availability and affordability. They come in various sizes, from small sealed units to larger deep-cycle batteries. A 12V lead-acid battery can power most HF radios for several hours, making it a solid choice for field operations.



#### *Lithium-Ion Batteries*

While initially more expensive, lithium-ion batteries are lighter, have a higher energy density, and can last longer than lead-acid batteries. They are ideal for portable use, especially when weight and space are concerns.

#### *Rechargeable Battery Packs*

Many amateur radio operators use rechargeable battery packs designed for specific radios. These packs often provide a convenient and lightweight power source for portable operations.

### Solar Power: Harnessing the Sun

For those who enjoy long outings, solar power is an excellent sustainable option.

#### *Solar Panels*

Portable solar panels can charge batteries during the day, providing a continuous power supply for your radio. Look for panels that fold up for easy transport and have a suitable wattage to meet your needs. Pairing them with a charge controller ensures your batteries are charged efficiently and safely.



## *Solar Generators*

A solar generator combines solar panels and a battery system into one unit. These devices can power your radio and other electronics, offering versatility and convenience.

## **Vehicle Power: Utilizing Your Ride**

If you're mobile, your vehicle can be an excellent source of power.

### *12V Vehicle Battery*

Most vehicles come equipped with a 12V battery that can be used to power your radio while parked. You can connect your radio directly to the car battery with appropriate cabling and fuses. However, be cautious of the vehicle's battery life; running the radio for extended periods with the engine off can lead to a dead battery.

### *Inverter Systems*

If your radio requires AC power, a power inverter can convert your vehicle's DC power to AC. Ensure that the inverter can handle the power draw of your radio and other devices.

## **Portable Generators: Power on Demand**

For larger setups or longer excursions, portable generators offer another alternative.

### *Gasoline or Diesel Generators*

These generators can produce significant power and run for extended periods. They are perfect for field day events or emergencies but consider the noise and fuel requirements.

### *Inverter Generators*

Quieter and more efficient, inverter generators provide clean power suitable for sensitive electronics like radios. They are often lighter and more portable than traditional generators.



## **Hand-Crank Generators: An Eco-Friendly Backup**

While not a primary power source, hand-crank generators can be a handy backup in emergencies. They allow you to generate power manually, ensuring you can still operate your radio when other sources are unavailable. However, they require effort and may only provide enough power for low-draw devices or short transmissions.

## **Conclusion**

With various options available, powering your amateur radio while on the go is easier than ever. Whether you choose batteries, solar power, vehicle systems, or generators, each solution has its advantages and drawbacks. Understanding your power needs and the duration of your operation will help you select the best method for your next adventure. Stay connected, and happy operating!

*Do you have any other experience with power on the go? If so, please write in to the newsletter and we'll include your suggestions in a follow-up article!*

## Projects from the ARRL

The ARRL provide a number of interesting and useful projects in the magazines and on their website. Check out of list below of recent projects that you can access as an ARRL member:

A Full-Power, Inexpensive Antenna Relay – ARRL QST Magazine (November 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=604160a2-6442-4ed0-9695-2e753da4eb98>

Mobile Power – ARRL On the Air Magazine (Sept/Oct 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=604160a2-6442-4ed0-9695-2e753da4eb98>

Foxhunting Yagi Antenna for 70 Centimeters - ARRL On the Air Magazine (Sept/Oct 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=604160a2-6442-4ed0-9695-2e753da4eb98>

Space Blanket Counterpoise - ARRL On the Air Magazine (Sept/Oct 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=604160a2-6442-4ed0-9695-2e753da4eb98>

“Hole-in-one” Antenna-Raising Tool - ARRL On the Air Magazine (Sept/Oct 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=604160a2-6442-4ed0-9695-2e753da4eb98>

Build a Modular Gear Rack System for your Vehicle – ARRL On The Air Magazine (Jul/Aug 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=3570288f-4c7f-4cab-b6df-8773574c22dc>

DIY Open-Wire Line – ARRL On The Air Magazine (Jul/Aug 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=3570288f-4c7f-4cab-b6df-8773574c22dc>

Drive-on Antenna Mast Mount – ARRL On The Air Magazine (May/June 2024) -

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=fde4fb49-df93-4ff6-a076-830ce63e468e>

Tri-band Lamp Antenna for Your Handheld – ARRL On The Air Magazine (May/June 2024) -

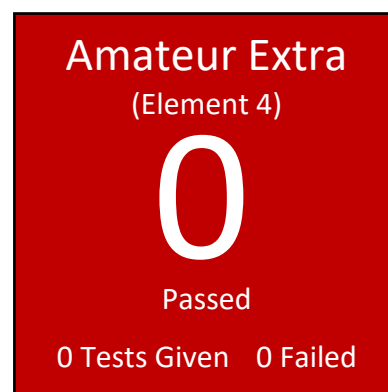
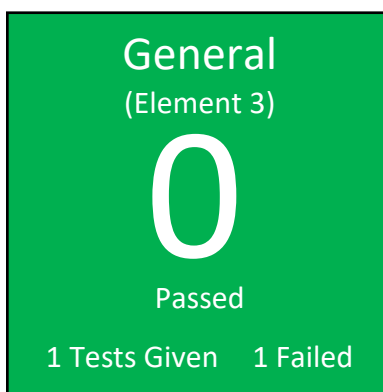
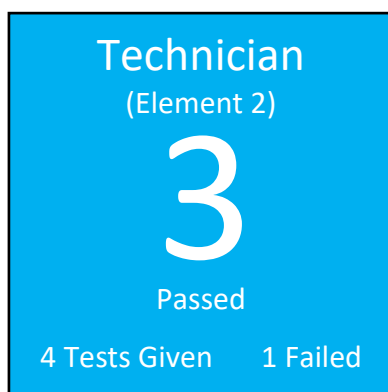
<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=fde4fb49-df93-4ff6-a076-830ce63e468e>

## VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SHEREE HORTON, WM5N

### Attendees

On Saturday September 21, 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 5 tests.



### Congratulations!

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

- Michael Dicarlo – Technician
- Brandon L Thomas – Technician
- Cole H Wilhite - 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/arrl/77070/inperson>

The next session will be October 19, 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
- Brandy Lang, WE9L
- Vicki Owen, AC5EW
- Robert Ewers, K9HOU

### 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!

- Quentin Dergan, N0GIY
- Kevin Kretzschmar, KJ5HPJ
- Barbara Riedel, KF5FNU

## Renewing Club Members

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

- Michael Lizzio, WA2TOP
- Robert Riedel, KE5PBM
- Scott Seifert, KA2EEU
- Tom Stamps, N5TL

## 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:** T7C08 - C. Directional wattmeter

**General:** G2A07 – C. Only one sideband is transmitted; the other sideband and carrier are suppressed

**Amateur Extra:** E1C04 – A. A permit that allows US amateurs to operate in certain countries of the Americas

## 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 – October 18, 2024 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session – October 19, 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

October 18 - 20 | [Pacificon](#), ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, California

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

## Contests and Radiosport

### *ARRL Contest Corral*

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

Vice President: Paul Kent, KI5FJS, 713-724-4398, [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

## 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](mailto:webmaster@w5nc.net)

Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

## 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).

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

### 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>