



# NARS NEWS

**AUGUST 2025**

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

[w5nc.club](http://w5nc.club)



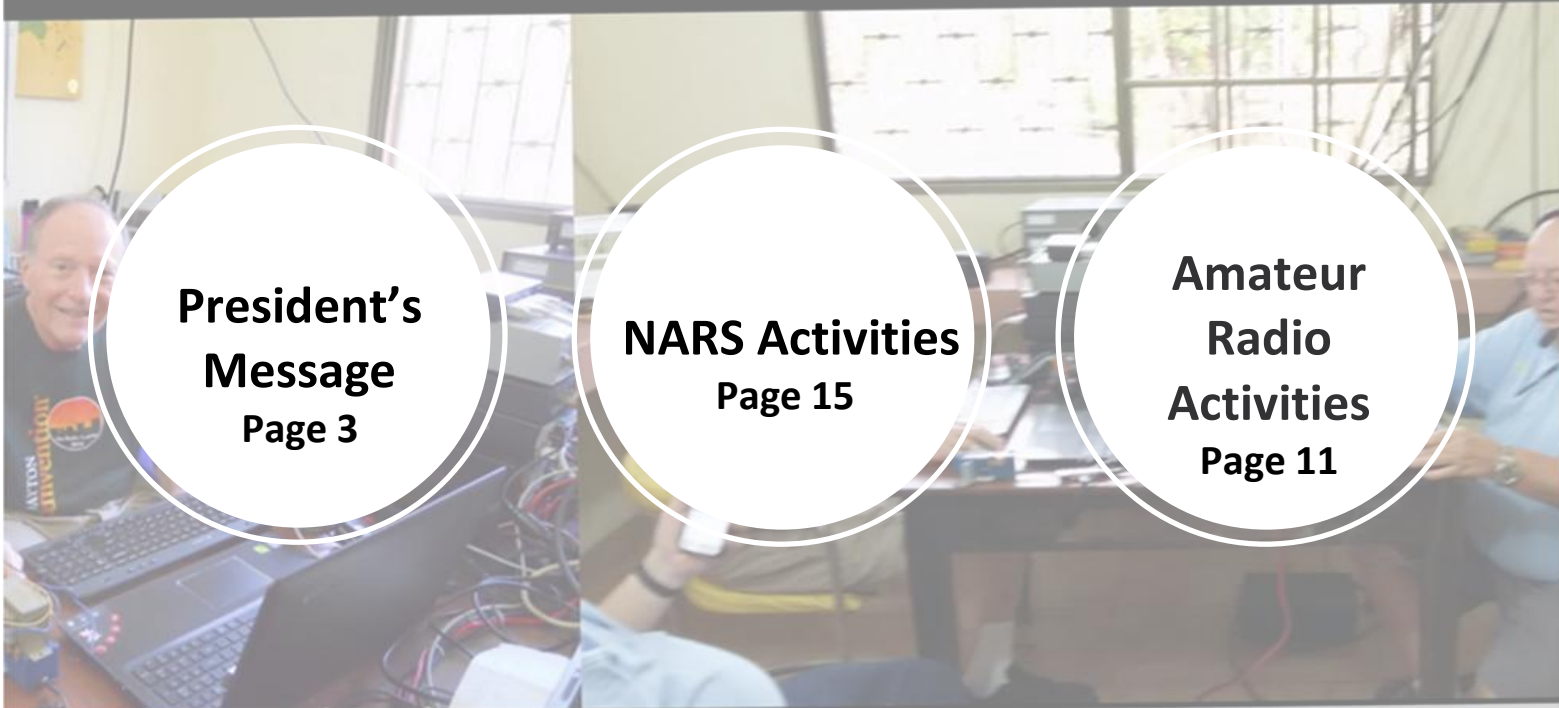
erating a Foreign Country

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# President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

## ESD Radio Room and More of NARS History

In appreciation for the efforts we made to help sell Keith's radio equipment, Beth Dutson has made a donation to the club of Keith's Icom IC-7300. It was used at Field Day for the digital station and is now in the radio room at the ESD building. This makes 3 HF rigs that the club owns and are available for member use. For those interested in using the equipment, contact me with your name and call sign. A scheduling request and more details on how to get a badge are available on the club website [here](#).

## NARS History

I would like to share some of what Keith, NM5G/SK, did for NARS. Keith joined the club sometime around 1994 and is the only member who held every elected officer position. His call was WA5DXL at that time. In no time he jumped at the chance to pitch in as editor of the NARS News from 1996 to 1998 and again from 2001 to 2006, and he took on the job of Treasurer from 1996 to 2000. He then served as Secretary for 1 year, in 2001. While he was away from positions in the club, he was very much a big part of everything going on in the club activities. Keith served as coordinator for the Buffalo Regatta, helped at the Wings Over Houston Airshow, The Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs and the S.I.R.E event. He was a big part of Field Days, from the FD coordinator to being the CW captain, and delivering to the FD midnight shift all the delicious baked goods.

For a time, he got too busy at his job to help us, but then came back to take on Vice President in 2010 and President in 2011. He also became the Volunteer Examiner Leader in 2010, and held that title for 9 years, until 2018. During this time, he became the VP in 2015 and President in 2016. He then jumped back into VP job from 2017 - 2018.

During his time in NARS, he was a very active member of the Texas DX Society and went on many DXpeditions. At last month's meeting, Marty, W5MF, gave a presentation on the trip he took with Keith to Nicaragua in 2017.

It would be very difficult to find anyone in the club these past few years who was as active in the club. I will miss him, along with the other members who have signed off over the years while I have been a part of this club.

*To be continued...*

## 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 [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - Repeater Status Update](#).

*Repeater update, August 2025*

**LBT Repeater (Downtown)** - Is off the air (standby).

**Klein Repeater** – Fully operational with UHF linked to ALLSTAR.

**W5NC HUB (Node 59847)** – Allstar and Echo links are operational. DMR repeater (K5MAP) is connected.

## 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, to 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

## 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)***

#### **T1D02**

Under which of the following circumstances are one way transmissions by an amateur station prohibited?

- A. International Morse Code Practice
- B. Broadcasting
- C. Telecommand or transmissions of telemetry
- D. In all circumstances

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

#### **G9C10**

Which of the following can be adjusted to optimize forward gain, front-to-back ratio, or SWR bandwidth of a Yagi antenna?

- A. All these choices are correct
- B. The physical length of the boom
- C. The spacing of each element along the boom
- D. The number of elements on the boom

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

#### **E9C13**

How does the radiation pattern of a horizontally polarized antenna vary with the increasing height above ground?

- A. The takeoff angle of the lowest elevation lobe increases
- B. The takeoff angle of the lowest elevation lobe decreases
- C. The horizontal beamwidth increases
- D. The horizontal beamwidth decreases

See the answers on [Page 20](#).

## 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: [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - 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

## Amateur Radio Volunteers Help in Texas Floods

ARES volunteers stepped up to help out during the floods in the Hill Country on July 4. Radio amateurs are providing communications capabilities to agencies whose primary systems were damaged in the flooding event or where they suffer poor connectivity due to the terrain.



Cal Warnecke, WB2WQD and Glenn Rowan, K3MGR, serving at an American Red Cross shelter at the Calvary Temple Church in Kerrville, Texas.

## Current News...

the ARRL website posts recent news on current events, activities, and policies that are taking shape in the Amateur Radio world. The following is an excerpt from their News section.

ARES members helped the American Red Cross with setup of a reunification shelter in response to the floods and ten hams were assigned to search-and-rescue teams. During the flooding event and subsequent search and recovery missions, ARES members have been deployed to serve many different counties, including hard-hit Kerr and Kendall Counties. Mutual aid has been offered between several ARRL sections.

## ARRL and Radio Relay International Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Because both ARRL and RRI recognize the importance of effective public service and emergency communications, including the shared goal of modernizing and enhancing the National Traffic System, coordination between the two organizations will prevent duplication of efforts and ensure that both the public and emergency services agencies have access to effective NTS disaster communications facilities. The National Traffic System, created by ARRL in 1949, is a network of trained amateurs who ensure the rapid transmission and relay of messages, or “traffic”. The NTS has been modernized through the addition of the Digital Traffic Network, as well as interoperable messaging gateways and specialized software templates developed in association with the Winlink Development Team. This is in addition to the current basic voice and Morse Code “CW” communications networks.





Future plans for the improvement of NTS include the development of additional robust HF digital networks, improved interoperability with local and state emergency communications organizations, and continued development of local and regional VHF and UHF digital “packet radio” network capabilities. Coordination between RRI and ARRL will play an important role in achieving these goals.

## ARRL Launches Dream Station Sweepstakes

ARRL has introduced a sweepstakes that gives members a chance to win an Icom Dream Station, which includes a limited edition IC-7760 HF/50 MHz transceiver, an IC-PW2 amplifier, and a microphone, all donated by Icom America.



Between January 3 and December 31, 2025, full ARRL members in the US have a chance to win an Icom Dream Station.

The sweepstakes is running from January 3 to December 31, 2025 and is part of a year-long campaign to encourage new membership (and a fun way for current members to extend their support for ARRL). The winner will also receive a limited edition Seiko watch celebrating Icom's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Participation is open to full ARRL members in the US. Members will automatically earn sweepstakes entries when they 1) join or renew membership (earn 1 entry), 2) set up auto-renewal (earn 2 entries), 3) donate to the ARRL Diamond Club (1 entry earned for every \$50 donated). Members can earn up to six entries during the year-long campaign. For more information about the ARRL Sweepstakes and the official rules, visit [www.arrl.org/dreamstation](http://www.arrl.org/dreamstation).

## ARRL Files Comments to Protect 70-Centimeter Amateur Band

ARRL has filed comments with the FCC to oppose part of an application by AST & Science, LLC (AST) requesting use of 430-440 MHz to communicate between 248 satellites and five ground stations, using up to 5 channels with up to 256 kHz bandwidth. The formal opposition, filed by ARRL's Washington Counsel, asserts that the permission AST seeks "should be denied because AST does not demonstrate need for TT&C spectrum beyond that available within existing allocations." The comments go on to read that the "430-440 MHz band is not allocated domestically or internationally for the requested space-to Earth and Earth-to-space satellite TT&C operations."

ARRL continues to assert that the 70-centimeter band is used in emergency communications, and as recently as July was used during the Texas Hill Country floods. TT&C operations are capable of causing harmful interference to radio amateur communications, including to amateur satellites operating in the 435-438 MHz sub band. The comments go on to outline why the application would be non-compliant with the ITU Radio Regulations Treaty. Comments are due to the FCC by August 5, 2025.

## ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every week. 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 thru podcast host Blubrry.com, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts -- [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).



Locally, the Spring repeater KA2EEU, on 444.350, broadcasts the Amateur Radio Newsline on Sunday at 4 pm and it broadcasts ARRL Audio News at 7pm on Monday. The NARS repeater, W5NC, on 444.375, broadcasts the Amateur Radio Newsline on Saturday at 10am.

## How to Become a Volunteer Examiner

If you're interested in becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner it's easy and free. There are three steps to becoming a VE –

1. Review the [Volunteer Examiner Manual](#), paying special attention to Chapter 2. Also review the published manual [Supplemental Information](#)
2. Complete and sign the [ARRL Application / Open-Book Review](#) (40 questions).
3. E-mail, fax or mail forms to – ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA. You can also fax to 800-594-0339 or email to VEC @arrl.org

Once you are accredited, you'll receive a laminated VE badge to wear at exam sessions and a certificate suitable for framing. You don't have to be an ARRL member to be a VE, but you must include with your application a copy of your accreditation certification if you aren't an ARRL member.

VE sessions can be paper based or computer based (either in-person or remote sessions). Monthly NARS VE sessions are in-person computer based, using ExamTools software. To grade these computer-based exams a VE must go through a short training course on the ExamTool's website. Once completed they will qualify to grade ExamTools based exams.

At VE sessions, VE's may be asked to help with checking in examinees so knowing what IDs are accepted and how payment can be made is important. The current VEC Exam fees are \$15 for adults and youth under 18 pay \$5. If the examinee fails the exam and wants to re-take it during the session they must pay another fee.





# NARS Monthly Club Meeting

## July DXpedition Presentation

The July monthly meeting featured a presentation by NARS member Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF, on "Operating from a Foreign Country". Marty spoke about a DXpedition he was part of in 2017 to the country of Nicaragua. He said the success of any DXpedition depends on identifying your objectives, goals that you've set and planning. Planning includes researching the country you're going to, including the licensing requirements, knowing the frequencies and rules, as well as finding a host site to work out of. He mentioned that getting through customs with the equipment, and possible issues with theft are two things



to be aware of. Keith Dutson took on the role of operating manager for the group of four. Marty said the group was able to make 9,000 contacts over the course of 8 days, including some satellite contacts, SSB, CW and RTTY. The group took their own equipment, but he mentioned that you need to know what antennas are available at the location where you will be. They stayed with a host who rented out his villa to groups, and the cost included 3 meals/day. They also took a couple of days to see sites in the area, including an active volcano, a lake and do some shopping.

## Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on August 15, 2025, at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We hope to see everyone there as we will have a special speaker!

## New Radio for New Hams: Jumpstart Program



Through a partnership with GigaParts, this program is designed to lower the barrier to entry into amateur radio by providing new hams with a high quality radio for **only \$17.99 (plus tax and shipping)**. The radio is supplied with an antenna, desktop cradle charger, battery, and belt clip. Effective February 28, 2025, new hams will be entitled to a **70% discount** on the Explorer QRZ-1 VHF/UHF handheld transceiver, as well as a variety of accessories.

The eligible ham must have a QRZ account and be able to log in and apply for the program. Certain types of identification, including a photo ID, will be required. This information is not shared or exchanged with any party and is used only to validate eligibility under this program.

This program is available exclusively to USA licensed amateur radio operators who obtained their first license from the FCC within the last 6 months. The Jumpstart program may be changed or terminated without notice based on availability and corporate sponsors.

### 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.

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 learning new aspects of the amateur radio hobby. This article with photos is taken from the April 2024 issue of QST.

### An Unforgettable DXpedition in the Arctic by Max Van Rymenant, ON5UR

After nearly 16 months of hard work and planning, the DX Adventure team was ready to head to Svalbard for the JW0X/JW100QO DXpedition on April 19-26, 2022. The first part of our DXpedition included operating as JW0X from Longyearbyen. Then, a handful of team members were set to travel to Kapp Linne for the second part of the operation to attempt to make the first-ever contact from Svalbard with the QO-100 satellite.

Our team members included: me; Erik De Mey, ON4ANN; Jelmer Vos, DJ5MO; Willy Ghysens, ON2BDJ; Carlo Houben, ON4BR; Cedric Baelemans, ON4CKM; Patrick Blancquaert, ON4DCU; Andre Joos, ON4DTO; Erik Crabbe, ON4EC; Pascal Lierman, ON5RA; Marc Cosemans, ON6CC; Franky Beuselinck, ON7RU; Francis Balcaen, ON8AZ; Marc Celis, ON8AK, and Mike Van Hoorickx, ON2MVH, who joined the team at the last minute to replace Marc Wullaert, ON4MA, because of a medical emergency.



Erik Crabbe, ON4EC, and Marc Cosemans, ON6CC, setting up the DX Commander antenna in Longyearbyen.

#### DJW0X Operations

Our adventure started on April 17, 2022, when we (and all of our ham radio equipment) flew from Zaventem, Belgium to Oslo, Norway. From Oslo, we continued north to Tomso and landed safely in Longyearbyen, Svalbard on April 19. After gathering our luggage, we quickly noticed that the suitcase with our high-power band-pass filters was missing. We sent a complaint to the airline, and they promised it would arrive with one of the next flights.

The weather was perfect: sunny and only a few degrees below freezing. We cleared our 4x4 rental truck of snow so we could distribute all of our equipment among the three locations we would be staying at. We also had access to the Svalbard Amatorradioklubb's, JW5E, location.

We were eager to get JW0X on the air as soon as possible. By early evening, it was getting considerably colder, and the ice was incredibly slippery – while placing the DX Commander antenna, Willy had a serious fall on the ice and needed medical attention. A helpful man provided us with foil to keep him warm while waiting for emergency services. The emergency services in Svalbard are made up of volunteers, so it took



some time for them to arrive. Luckily, Willy was able to leave the hospital later that evening, when our first two stations were ready to start our JW0X operations.

The first evening we made 1,390 contacts. Not all of our stations were operational yet, and we were still missing our high-power band-pass filters. Still, the pileups were better than we thought they would be – you never know what to expect in the far north.

Svalbard is almost constantly in the aurora zone, and when we were there, the sun never went below the horizon, resulting in constant light. Operating on 160 meters was hopeless, and 80 meters was very difficult. Operating on 40 meters was sometimes good, but during the day there was little to do. The 20-meter band was constantly open, and the 17-meter band was open about 20 hours a day. During the evenings, 15 meters was completely closed. Twelve meters opened sporadically, and 10 meters was rarely open. Despite the fact that some bands remained completely closed, we were able to make 4,090 contacts on the second day and 5,219 contacts on the third day. Four days after our arrival, we finally received our missing suitcase. After installing the filters, we were able to make 6,725 more contacts at this location.



Marc Cosemans, ON6CC, operating CW and Patrick Blankaert, ON4DCU, operating FT8 for JW0X.

## QO-100 Operations

We visited the specialized outdoor adventure company Poli Arctici to discuss the final details of the QO-100 DXpedition with Stefano Poli; he and his team provided the transport to Kapp Linne for the



En route to Kapp Linné for the QO-100 DXpedition. The only way to get there was to take a 6-hour trip via snowmobiles. DXpedition, and they were also responsible for our safety during the trip because of the large polar bear population in the area.

On the fourth day, Cedric, Patrick, and I left for Kapp Linne to join the QO-100 DXpedition. Before our departure, Stefano gave us instructions on what to do during an emergency. We then departed for our 6-hour trip with four snowmobiles, each equipped with a sled holding our ham radio gear, extra fuel, emergency equipment, and coffee.

Our trip to Kapp Linne was pure enjoyment – the beautiful scenery, the adventure, and the experience dominated the cold temperatures. We had to brave some mountains, and sometimes the slope was so steep that Stefano had to bring the sleds up one by one. We arrived safely at Isfjord Radio, a radio station that was important during World War II and was later used for communications to the mainland. The station is no longer in use, but the antennas and masts are still there, and the tourism company Basecamp Explorer has turned it into a hotel destination. We found this location after months of research – it was the only place where we could have a line-of-sight connection with the QO-100 satellite over Africa. Remember, we are 78 degrees north at the end of the QO-100 footprint, at an elevation angle of only 3 degrees. Even though we had absolutely no guarantee of success, we knew it was possible.

After being welcomed with a delicious meal from Isfjord Radio Station Manager Maaik Groeneveld and her team, it was time to unpack and build the stations. The feet of the Triax satellite dishes were stormproof, which was necessary, given their location in an open plain. At times, the wind was fierce, and with the cold temperatures, it took a little bit longer than usual to construct everything.



Patrick Blancquaert, ON4DCU, during the installation of the Triax satellite antennas. The team brought two 120-centimeter antennas because they were active with two stations at the same time on the QO-100 satellite.

At the time, no one had attempted to reach the QO-100 satellite from Svalbard before; the pressure on our shoulders was enormous. When we saw the first QO-100 signals appear on our screens, the adrenaline raced through our bodies. Sixteen months of preparation and all of our efforts had paid off!

After adjusting our antennas, we had strong signals. During the first audio tests we had pronounced only a few words in Dutch, and operators went crazy – several stations immediately started calling us and shouting at each other to keep quiet. After urging them to be patient while we carried out a few more tests, it was silent again. Our thanks and respect for the discipline that was shown.

Our tests were complete, and we were ready to start operating. The first-ever contact from QO-100 in Svalbard was made with Alex Jamar, ON6AJ. To give as many people as possible a chance to contact us, we decided to put JW0X and JW100QO on the air simultaneously. We were able to see peoples' excitement on social media, we received compliments and pictures of people celebrating, and we were sent images of the pileups. Seeing the world of ham radio enjoying itself was a great pleasure for us!

AMSAT-DL President Peter Gulzow, DB2OS, asked us if we wanted to attempt a contact with the German Antarctic research station, Neumayer Stations III, DP0GVN, and on Saturday afternoon, we contacted Karsten Boddeker, DM2KX, who was wintering there; the first-ever QO-100 connection between the north and south poles was in the name of the Belgians, thanks to the cooperation of Felix Riess, DL5XL. In total,

we made 1,229 QO-100 contacts in 68 countries. We recorded 743 unique call signs in the logbook, including 28 Belgian calls. More than 50 percent of these contacts were made on our first night.

On Sunday evening, Stefano picked us up and safely brought us back to Longyearbyen. Once again, it was an unforgettable trip. We arrived a little after midnight and were welcomed by the HF crew with congratulations.

The HF crew in Longyearbyen had not been idle while Cedric, Patrick and I were in Kapp Linne. On day five, they suffered from aurora but still made 5,797 contacts, and day six was completed with 6,730 contacts. On our last night in Longyearbyen, we stopped operating during the early hours of the morning so we could dismantle the stations and re-pack all 36 suitcases. We were able to make another 2,272 contacts. To our great surprise, the pileups were still as fierce as they were on day one.

## Contacts Roundup

In total, we made 32,223 contacts, with 13,041 in CW, 10,115 using SSB, and 9,067 on FT8. See Table 1 for more information.

Without help from Basecamp Explorer and Poli Arctici, none of this would have been possible. Thank you for your cooperation, for answering our many emails, and above all, for your patience.

The expenses for the QO-100 DXpedition alone amounted to more than 10,000 euro (nearly 10,910 USD). Thank you for all of your donations and support – together we made this DXpedition possible! Thank you to all of our commercial sponsors for their contributions and for their equipment donations. And thank you 32,223 times to everyone who called us for giving us an experience we'll never forget!

Table 1 – JW0X/JW100QO Most-Worked Countries	
Out of 32,223 contacts, 12,996 were made on 20 meters.	
Country	Percentage of Contacts
United States	21.8%
Germany	9.7%
Japan	8.5%
Italy	7.7%
European Russia	6%
Belgium	4.7%



Click below for the video -

[JW0X/JW100QO: An Unforgettable DXpedition in the Arctic - April 2024 QST](#)

About the author – Max Van Ryment, ON5UR, has participated in nearly 20 DX operations since 2001, either with a team or individually. Max can be reached at [info@maxi-print.be](mailto:info@maxi-print.be).



Click here to watch the JW0X/JW100QO DX Adventure team tell the story of their DXpedition through video.



## NARS Activities

### *Celebration of Life for Keith Dutson, NB5G/SK*

The Celebration of Life was held by Keith Dutson's family on July 5, 2025 in Tomball, Tx. The event was well attended and included NARS members, family and friends. Keith had a wide circle of friends that included not only hams but Corvette buddies. On display were trophies, items collected from the many ham conventions attended, and plaques from his DXpeditions.



### *NARS Youth Airwaves Initiative*

The newly elected Vice President, Kyle Vann, K5KNV, has developed the NARS Youth Airwaves Initiative to create interest in young amateur radio enthusiasts. To this end he has created a committee made up of Logan Hebert, KG5LLM, and Brynn Hebert, HG5KRV, to help actively recruit new, younger members to radio in general.

In July, Kyle and Logan met with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) staff members at Lone Star College Tomball to offer both help and a partnership with the College's new STEM-focused academic support hub, Lone Star Sci-Fi Center, opening on September 16. The aim is to offer interested students a hands-on learning experience in physics, electronics and communications technology. Amateur radio is a valuable tool in STEM education and the hope of the committee is to recruit at least 20 new young members within the first year and to organize quarterly workshops for local schools and youth groups. In addition, they hope to establish a permanent presence within the Lone Star Sci-Fi Center by providing mentorships and resources for young radio enthusiasts. At the grand opening of the Sci-Fi Center NARS will have a table to demonstrate and educate to the community and college students about amateur radio and its applicability to many areas of our lives.

In addition to working with Lone Star College Tomball, Kyle has approached Tomball City and ISD officials about the NARS Initiative and of NARS' commitment to community involvement through radio outreach. The Club is proud to have Kyle and these young people on the committee to help keep NARS involved in future STEM events.

At the **August NARS meeting**, Kyle has also arranged for Dr. Aaron Clevenson to speak to the club about Radio Astronomy. Dr. Clevenson is a prominent figure in the field of astronomy and education and is currently the Director of the Insperity Observatory in Humble. His philosophy is to inspire curiosity and exploration in the field of astronomy.

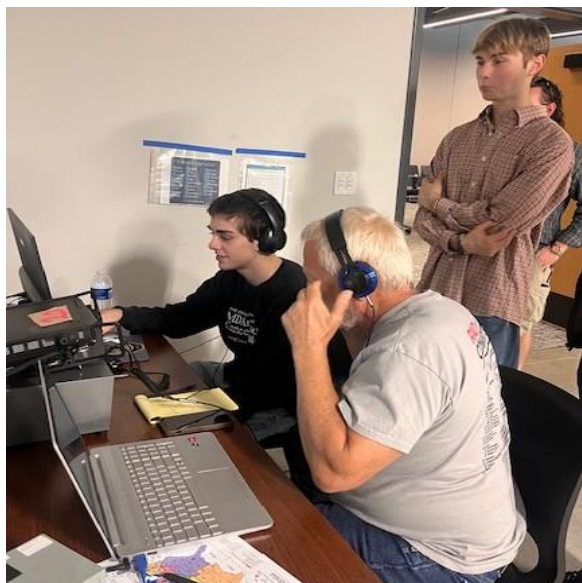
## 2025 Field Day Results

The Field Day results have been submitted to ARRL. We had a total of 1,116 contacts with a total of 4,172 QSO points and 1,090 total Bonus points. The preliminary total score was 5,262 points. The CW station took the lead with 540 contacts. Kudos to our CW operators – Marty, WM5F; Mark, K5GQ; and Bob, KC5T! Many thanks to Marty for providing the radio, computer and keys. Digital had 344 contacts and the GOTA station, with 86 contacts, was manned by Larry, KJ5JST, Rhys Mack (17), Owen Mack (13), David Mack, Micah Danke (18) and Larry, WA8EXE. Thanks to Bob, K9HOU, for providing the equipment for GOTA.

The SSB station was having a rough time with band conditions and having to share antenna operating time with the CW station. They made 145 contacts and some of the operators included Craig, W5CEV, Micah Danke and Beth, KI5SCM. Thanks to David, WJ9O, for providing the station with radio, EFHW antenna and computer. He also provided the one satellite contact we needed for 100 bonus points.



Thanks to the supporting crew for their help – kitchen crew Rich, W5VEK, and James, WB5AW; Jerry, N5EKO, for providing the Wi-Fi router and band pass filters; the Hebert family for providing the CW training keys, and Brynn, KG5KRV and Logan, KG5LLM for overseeing the operation. Also, thanks to Robert, KJ5DKB, for helping post signs and visitor sign-in on Saturday, and thanks to Tom, N5RIV, for showing off the DMR radio and answering questions. Some of the photos were taken by John, W5PDW. We hope everyone who came out had a great time. If you didn't make it this year we want to see you on the 4th weekend of June next year!

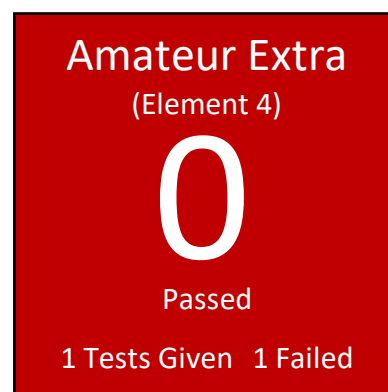
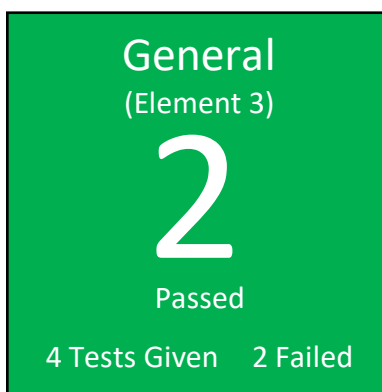
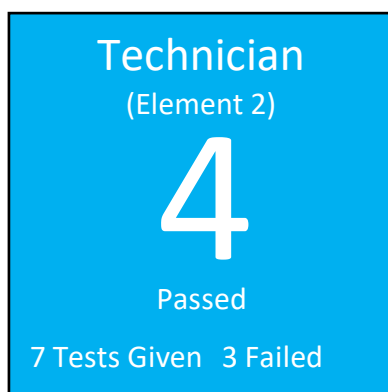


# VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

## Attendees

On Saturday, July 26, 2025, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379 in conjunction with Field Day. During the testing session, 6 candidates took 12 tests.



## Congratulations!

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

- Carlos Borjas – passed Technician and General
- Ronald Maier – new Technician
- Sherry Rodriguez - new Technician
- Danny Tran - new Technician
- Bruce Sibell – passed General

## Pre-registration for Testing Sessions

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

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

The next session will be Aug 23, 2025 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Please visit [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - License Exams](#) 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 – session manager
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Logan Hebert KG5LLM
- Sheree Horton WM5N
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- Vicki Owen AC5EW
- Craig Veteto W5CEV
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- A. John Canik KI5YPD

### VE Session Guidelines

If you have a temperature or feel ill – DO NOT attend.

Wear a mask 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:

Brett or Synomen Hebert – [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 Brett or Synomen Hebert know if you want to learn more about becoming a volunteer examiner.

# New & Renewing Club Members

## New Club Members

none

## Renewing Club Members

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

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Jason Springs, KR1BBT      | • Jim Berry, KD5BN      |
| • Rick McCauley, NB3V        | • Martin Rogoff, N5GPS  |
| • Susan McCauley, KJ5JBF     | • Marie Rogoff, N5VLA   |
| • Alexander McCauley, KJ5JBO | • Robert Callahan, KC5T |
| • Lance Clarke, KB5UC        | • Carl Kotila, WD5JRD   |
| • Raymond Donaldson, KJ5BRC  | • William Norton, KN5KX |
| • Bill Skipper, KB5BS        | • Dave Lalor, WA5OUW    |
| • Lesa Skipper, KB5GMW       |                         |



# 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!

## NARS Club Documents and Minutes

Did you know that you can find all of the club's public documents, including board meeting minutes, financial statements, and newsletters on the [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - Home](#) website?

## Exam Practice Answers

**Technician:** T1D02 – B. Broadcasting

**General:** G9C10 – A. All these choices are correct

**Amateur Extra:** E9C13 – B. The takeoff angle of the lowest elevation lobe decreases



# 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

CENT	UTC	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8 AM	1300		FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
9 AM-2 <sup>45</sup> PM	1400-1945	VISITING OPERATOR TIME				
3 PM	2000	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
4 PM	2100	CODE BULLETIN				
5 PM	2200	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
6 PM	2300	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
7 PM	0000	CODE BULLETIN				
8 PM	0100	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
8 <sup>45</sup> PM	0145	VOICE BULLETIN				
9 PM	0200	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
10 PM	0300	CODE BULLETIN				

## W1AW Schedule

Morse code transmissions on 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555 MHz

Slow code = practice sent at 5, 7 ½, 10, 13, and 15 wpm

Fast code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, and 10 wpm

Code bulletins are sent at 18 wpm

Voice transmissions on 1.855, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59, 50.350 and 147.555 MHz.

Digital transmissions on 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095, 50.350 and 147.555 MHz.

Bulletins sent using 45.45-baud Baudot, PSK31 in BPSK mode and MFSK16 on a daily revolving schedule. For more information, visit W1AW at [www.arrrl.org/w1aw](http://www.arrrl.org/w1aw)

# Calendar

## Club Activities and Events

NARS General Meeting – August 15, 2025 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session –August 23, 2025 – [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.

NARS Table at Lone Star College Tomball – September 16, 2025 @ 2 pm

The full NARS calendar can be viewed at: <https://w5nc.groups.io/g/main/calendar>

## Social Events

### Wed 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

## Hamfests and Conventions

August 9, 2025 | Shreveport-Bossier Hamfest at La State Fair Bldg, 3206 Pershing Ave, Shreveport, LA

August 16-17 | Huntsville Hamfest 2025 at Von Braun Center South, Huntsville, AL

September 12-13 | Slidell EOC Hamfest LA State Convention at Slidell, LA

October 4 | ARRL Hamfest at Cadence Bank Center 302 W. Loop 121 Belton, TX

## Contests and Radiosport

### *ARRL Contest Corral*

**August 2025** - <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2025/August%202025%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>.

For a list of Special Event Stations, please see <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

### Did you know...

NARS has a social media presence! Thanks to Sam Labarbera, K5FM, 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.

# NARS Club Officers and Information

## Board Officers with Voting Privileges

President: Paul Owen, N5NXS, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Vice President: Kyle Vann, K5KNV, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

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

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

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

Director: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

## Committee Team Members

Administrative Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN

Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, K5FM

Newsletter Editor: Vicki Owen, AC5EW

Public Information Officer: TBD

VE Team Lead: Brett Hebert, KG5IQU

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

**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

Please be on the lookout for a weekly message from Mike WA2TOP on [w5nc.groups.io/g/main](https://w5nc.groups.io/g/main) for more information.

### 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 [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - W5NC Email Reflector](#)