



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

w5nc.net

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President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

Show and Tell and More of NARS History

I want everyone to think about something you can bring to the K5ZTY/SK Show and Tell meeting in December. Show the club members what you accomplished over the past year. Whether it was a radio project or something new you learned about. You can also reach out and ask for help in doing something for yourself or the club.

I have tried doing things a little differently than in the past. We had our first Winter Field Day, a picnic in the park that NARS had their first picnic in, a Field Day without a named FD coordinator, we came together to say goodbye to a long-time member of the club, and we went to a local college to advertise amateur radio to the students there. The students in a club at the college have asked us to show them how they can participate in a fox hunt. They even want to try their hand at making the direction-finding antennas. Please help support Kyle, K5KNV, with this worthy endeavor.

It's that time of year to nominate a club member who has stood out at doing things for the club this past year. At the January meeting we will present the "Ham of the Year" award. Please send your suggestion for the member you think should be recognized, to officers@w5nc.net.

Speaking of our January meeting. Instead of meeting at the administration building on our usual 3rd Friday, we will meet at a location to be announced on groups.io. Last year we were at Spring Creek BBQ.

The December issue of QST is out. Why mention this? Because it has the Field Day report that shows where everyone placed. For the number of stations that were submitted as Class F, there were 162 locations. The number of Class 3F locations was 41. In the list of Class 3F, we are 4th of 41 in the nation and 1st of 7 in Texas and 1st of 3 in STX Section. The point spread between 1st and 4th was only 2,565 and between 3rd and 4th it was 580. Under the Club Aggregate score, we had 3 NARS members send in their logs for a point total of 7,494.

A storm came through the Cypress area on Nov. 24 and caused some damage to Jerry's, N5EKO, home, fence and he lost several antennas. The strong wind also re-arranged the club's trailer location in the ESD parking lot, and it had minor damage to the swing-down wheel and one corner had a dent.

NARS History

The last meeting of the year, since 2012, has become the K5ZTY/SK Show and Tell, where everyone is invited to bring that special project they have been working on all year, or might seem like all year. Uncle Zed loved both the serious and the light-hearted side of this meeting.

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](#)

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)

T7A11

Where is an RF preamplifier installed?

- A. At the output of the transmitter power amplifier
- B. Between the transmitter and the antenna tuner
- C. At the output of the receiver audio amplifier
- D. Between the antenna and receiver

General (Element 3)

G9C04

How does antenna gain in dBi compare to gain stated in dBd for the same antenna?

- A. Gain in dBi is 2.15 dB lower
- B. Gain in dBi is 2.15 dB higher
- C. Gain in dBd is 1.25 dBd lower
- D. Gain in dBd is 1.25 dBd higher

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E9D03

What is the most efficient location for a loading coil on an electrically short whip?

- A. As low as possible on the vertical radiator
- B. Near the center of the vertical radiator
- C. At a voltage null
- D. At a voltage maximum

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

NARS Membership – Due Dates and More



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 - Membership 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 Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched its nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at the passage of legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet and flagpoles. The bipartisan bills – H.R.1094 and S. 459 are designed to prevent restrictive homeowner's associations (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas. "This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters."

ARRL is calling on its members and all licensees of the US Amateur Radio Service to take action by sending letters to their congressional representatives. Through a dedicated online tool at [HOA page - Legislative](#), amateurs can easily generate and submit pre-drafted letters with a few clicks. Every letter matters!

Images Beamed from Space Celebrate 25 Years

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) marked two major milestones in November with a special Slow Scan Television (SSTV) event, transmitting a series of 12 commemorative SSTV images.

ARISS first went on the air on November 13, 2000, when the ISS Expedition 1 crew made the inaugural ham radio contact using an Ericsson VHF radio. That same year, the first scheduled school contact linked ISS Commander Bill Shepherd, who had call sign KD5GSL, with students at Luter Burbank School in Burbank, Illinois. Since then, ARISS has connected an estimated 200,000 students, educators, and enthusiasts each year with astronauts living and working aboard the orbiting laboratory.

In ARISS's most recent SSTV campaign – held in early October to celebrate World Space Week – nearly 9,000 images were submitted by more than 3,600 participants on all continents.

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.



ARRL Dream Station Sweepstakes Ends Soon

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 60th 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.

FCC Extends Renewal Filing Deadline

ARRL reports that the FCC has extended the filing deadline to March 5, 2026, for amateur radio licenses that otherwise were due to expire from October 1, 2025 to March 5, 2026. The announcement is included in an FCC Public Notice (DA-25-943) released on Monday, November 17, 2025.

The news follows the recent reopening of the federal government on November 13, following a lengthy 43-day shutdown. Since reopening, many federal agencies, including the FCC have resumed activities, though reducing backlogs and rebounding to full operations may take some time. This includes significant delays in filing amateur radio license applications.

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 Newslines 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 Newslines 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.

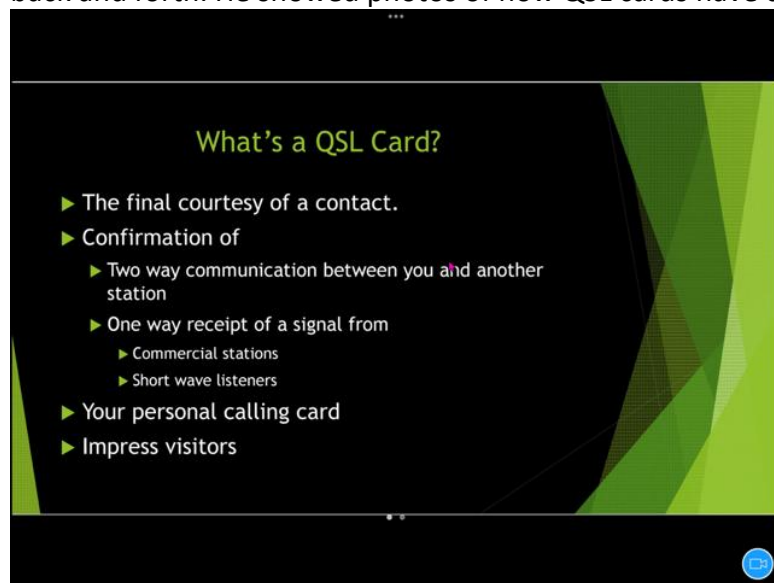
At VE sessions, VE's may be asked to help with checking in examinees so knowing what IDs are accepted and how payment can be made is important. The current VEC Exam fees are \$15 for adults and youth under 18 pay \$5. If the examinee fails the exam and wants to re-take it during the session they must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



NARS Monthly Club Meeting

November QSL Cards Program

The presentation during the meeting was on QSL Cards by Paul Owen, N5NXS. QSL cards were first used early in the amateur radio days to confirm a contact between two stations. They were sent via snail mail, back and forth. He showed photos of how QSL cards have changed over the years and explained that hams



kept paper logbooks listing all the contacts that were made or attempted. In addition, it could be noted in the logbook when you sent and/or received a QSL card.

He also talked about electronic logging programs and that you want to find one that is either free or at modest cost, one that is simple to use, and one that offers ADIF Import/Export. Some nice-to-have features include the ability to interface with eQSL or Logbook of the World, as well as one that prints QSL Labels and prints actual QSL cards.

In addition to the logging programs, ARRL also offers awards for contacts using Logbook of

the World (LOTW). He showed members a little about each of the popular logging programs and explained the complications of trying to give and receive QSL cards with amateur radio operators in other countries.

Upcoming club events discussed at this meeting – the December meeting will be Show and Tell so bring your projects you've built this year. The January meeting will be part of the annual banquet (location pending). Winter Field Day is planned in Jan also. Though it is not an endorsed ARRL event, participating in Winter Field Day is good practice for the annual ARRL Field Day in June.

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on December 19, 2025, at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. Show and Tell night! We hope to see everyone there.

NARS Activities

Fox Hunt

David Holden, WJ9O, organized a Fox Hunt at Burroughs Park in Tomball on November 1. The Hunt was open to both NARS members and anyone else interested in this hobby. The start time was 9am and several groups went out to search for two 'foxes' along the trails close to the Pavilion. Frequencies used were 429.550 and 430.550. The teams spent about two hours looking for foxes and everyone found either one or the other.

Most were able to stay afterwards for the picnic of hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans and potato salad. Chips and dessert were on the menu as well.

The weather was great, and everyone seemed to have a good time. It was well attended, with between 15-18 there at any one time. Looking forward to the next hunt!



Maintenance On The Antenna!

It took some work to schedule the maintenance time to work on the antenna that is located on the ESD 16 tower. The first day, we had a wonderful blue sky and low temperatures scheduled, but the wind was blowing 30mph. On our second try we had the Fire Department ladder truck, but with very limited time because it was in service and the second ladder truck was in the shop. We only had time to go up there and take the balun from the antenna. We saw that water was in the barrel connector and just had to leave the rest of the work until the next time. Our third attempt, on Nov. 13, was the charm. We had the ladder truck with no back in service time set. Walter, K5WH, made a new balun, and we had a blue-sky day and mild temperatures. Rich, W5VEK, and I, along with T Rod, the ladder truck operator, went up there with all the



stuff we needed and got it done in about two and a half hours. Marty, W5MF, and Walter were in the radio room checking out the antenna (but they didn't wait till we got down). They said the antenna wasn't doing very good, so we asked them to wait until the bucket was away from the tower. The bucket near the antenna was the problem and now the antenna is looking great. That weekend Marty used the beam for ARRL Sweepstakes and his report on the antenna performance was that it worked great on all the bands.



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 November 2024 issue of QST.

What Solar Eclipses Have to Tell Us by Gary Mikitin, AF8A and Dr. Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF

HamSCI reports on what citizen scientists observed on the HF, MW, and LF bands during an eclipse and explains how amateur observations become scientific findings.

Project Origins: The Great American Eclipse of 2017

The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) successfully encouraged hams to operate during the North American total solar eclipse of August 2017. Thousands of Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) contacts were made on 6 – 160-meter bands were monitored and later used to prove that amateur radio volunteers – citizen scientists – could play a valuable role in space physics research. Hams helped prove that solar eclipses affect the ionosphere by temporarily modifying its ability to refract radio waves from one point to another on Earth’s surface. The complete study, authored by Dr. Frissell et al., in 2018, is available at www.doi.org/10.1029/2018GL077324.

Fast-Forward to 2023

A near-total solar eclipse, categorized as an annular eclipse, transited North and South America on October 14, 2023. This not only presented an opportunity for a second running of the SEQP, but it was also the ideal time for hams to put new hardware, software, and monitoring techniques into place. New equipment and methods conceived by HamSCI community members were designed to record expected changes in the ionosphere during this major solar event. Additionally, this eclipse provided practice for the next big event: the North American total solar eclipse of April 8, 2024.

Grape Personal Space Weather Station

The new equipment became known as a Grape Personal Weather Station (PSWS). Its components include a compact, single-frequency shortwave receiver, a GPS-disciplined oscillator, and a Raspberry Pi single-board computer. Most participants in the Grape network built their own receivers, assembled the components, configured software, and erected an antenna. Once their Grape was powered up and tested, they connected their systems to the internet so data from their receivers could be uploaded daily to a central server for later examination by scientists and amateurs. Eventually, all Grape data will be available for download on a public site.

Grape PSWSs are used to monitor standard time and frequency stations such as WWV, WWVH, or CHY on a 24/7/365 basis. Those stations’ transmitters are extremely precise – accurate to the microhertz (millionths of a Hertz). Despite the many factors that impact a radio signal as it travels hundreds or even thousands of miles, it is possible for a Grape PSWS to receive and accurately measure those signals with millihertz

(thousandths of a Hertz) precision. In fact, Grape systems make receive frequency measurements so well

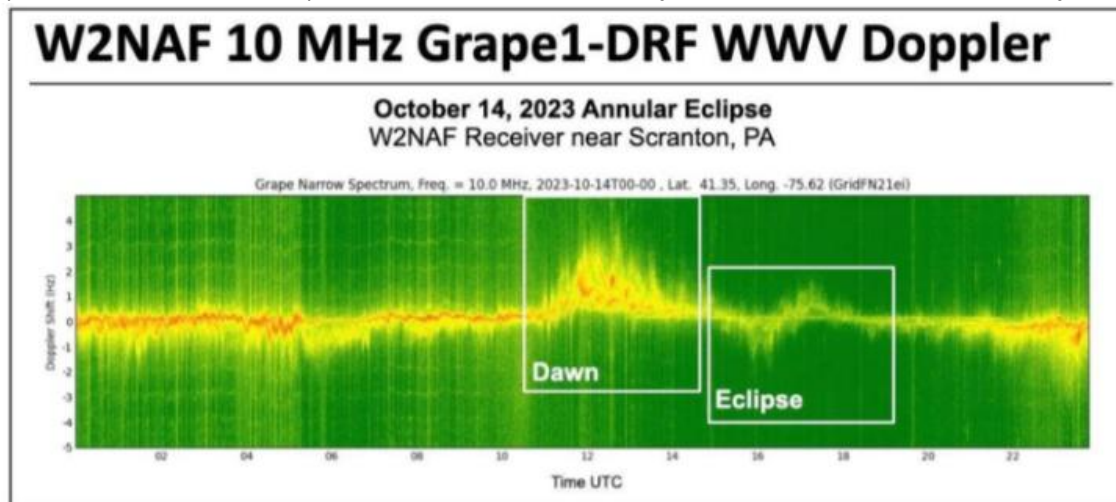


Figure 1 — Dr. Nathaniel Frissell's, W2NAF, Grape data plot for the October 2023 eclipse. The reddish line moving away from 0 indicates frequency shift. A positive shift indicates the bottom side of the ionosphere is moving down toward Earth's surface, while a negative shift indicates it is moving upward. Note the similarities between dawn (beginning at hour 12) and the period just after the eclipse (between hours 16 and 18). In both cases, the ionosphere is transitioning from being "in the dark" to being fully illuminated by the sun.

that their output data can be used to sense changes in the height of the bottom of the ionosphere. The bottom side not only rises and falls, but it experiences ripple-like effects known as *traveling ionospheric disturbances*. Scientists hope to use Grape data to develop theories about bottom-side

motion and how it is linked to solar, magnetospheric, and atmospheric events. Figure 1 shows a Grape PSWS data plot for the October 2023 eclipse. Learn how the Grape PSWS makes its measurements at www.hamsci.org/grape.

Monitoring the Medium-Wave Band

The medium-wave (MW) band, from roughly 500 to 1700 kHz, is used for professional AM radio broadcasts around most of the world. When it is nighttime at an operator's location, distant stations (DX) can be received from across the continent. When the sun is up at that same location, almost all signals are from local stations. The lack of daytime DX can be explained by the well-known phenomenon known as *D-layer signal absorption*. The D layer forms in the ionosphere at sunrise and dissipates at sunset.

We know that nighttime brings better DX conditions

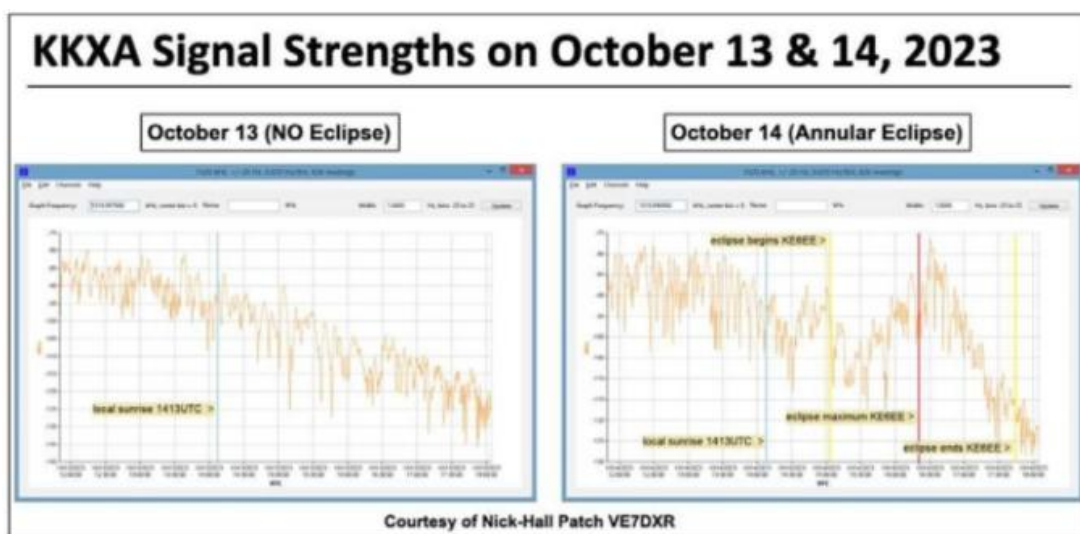


Figure 2 — Nick Hall-Patch, VE7DXR, compiled this illustration showing that a signal from station KKXA (Snohomish, Washington), received by Richard Cook, KE6EE (Fair Oaks, California), varied relatively little on the day prior to the eclipse. On eclipse day, Cook's station recorded a significant jump in signal strength.

when there is no D layer to absorb MW signals. Of course, night occurs every 24 hours, though its length varies based on location and time of year. Of current interest to HamSCI are the brief conditions resembling night that occur thanks to a solar eclipse.

During a solar eclipse, the moon passes between the sun and Earth. For those in or near the eclipse's path, a brief period of near-darkness occurs because much of the sun's radiation is blocked from reaching Earth. The period of near-darkness resembles a very brief "night" perhaps 3-5 minutes in length. HamSCI members, knowledgeable about MW propagation and curious about how the short period of eclipse-generated night might affect radio signals, monitored AM broadcast stations before, during, and after the October eclipse. Figure 2 shows how the eclipse impacted signals from station KKXA. Researchers are eager to review their data, and they looked forward to having more receiving stations participate around the April 2024 eclipse. Further details are at www.hamsci.org/MW-recordings.

Moving to the Low-Frequency Band

HamSCI member Steve Cerwin, WA5FRF, monitored the signal from WWVB in Fort Collins Colorado, during the 2017 and 2023 eclipses. WWVB's frequency (60 kHz) is in the low-frequency (LF) band (30 – 300 kHz). WWVB transmits the signal received by atomic clocks, which are consumer devices that self-correct when able to receive WWVB for short periods each day. In true ham spirit, Steve used a homebrew peak-detecting superheterodyne receiver designed for receiving WWVB. His antenna was a square loop with 2 meters on each side. Steve's setup allows us to compare results from similar eclipse events, 6 years

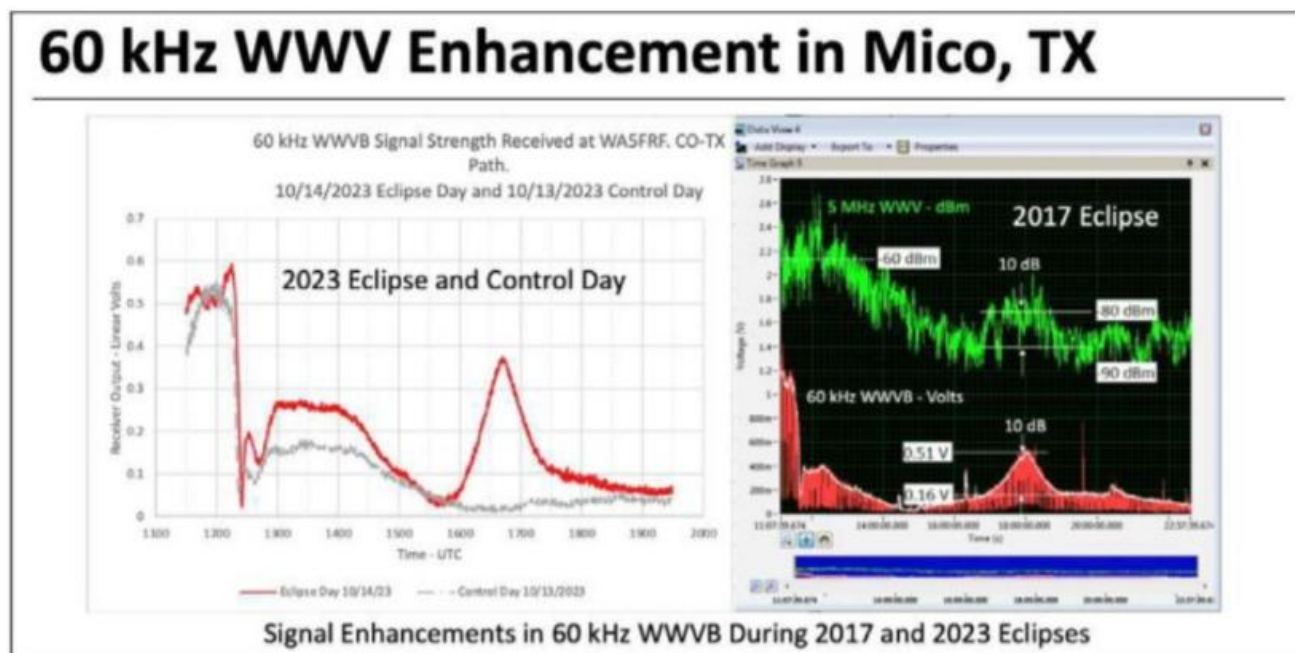


Figure 3 — These plots indicate receiver output, with voltage following signal strength. On the left, Steve Cerwin, WA5FRF, obtained control data (in gray) 1 day prior to the 2023 eclipse, and then he repeated his measurements (in red) on eclipse day. Note the signal enhancement beginning at 1600 UTC and continuing through 1730 UTC. On the right, plots have a similar shape in data recorded during the August 21, 2017, North American total solar eclipse.

apart. When looking at Figure 3, one can plainly see that there was enhanced reception of WWVB at Steve's Texas location when solar eclipses passed over his station – first in 2017, and again in 2023.

Observations and Findings

We can see *what* happened, but when will we know *why* it happened? Before we answer that question, it would be helpful to explain the difference between observations and findings. Described above are observations: data presented in formats that clearly depict what was observed (for example, changes in the height of the ionosphere and the enhancement of MW and LF signals during an eclipse). Scientific findings – explanations for the observations – will develop over time. In short, observations are what we saw, and findings are why we saw them.

Findings will first appear in scholarly articles, which may be published in scientific journals or presented at scientific conferences. A scholarly author and co-author(s) spend a great deal of time studying data, formulating hypotheses, discussing and debating, and finally writing their conclusions into articles. Articles are submitted to journals, which use the peer-review process. Reviewers look for gaps in the data and errors in logic or calculations. They consider originality, methodology, and significance of the work while providing constructive criticism to the authors, who then revise their article to answer reviewers' criticisms. The process can take anywhere from months to years.

Recognizing Participants, Partners, and Sponsors

HamSCI's solar eclipse studies began in 2017, continued in 2023, and will carry on into 2024 and beyond. Each eclipse passes over North America for only a few hours. During those brief events, hams contribute to scientific knowledge as part of a tradition that dates back to the Transatlantic Tests. HamSCI and the space physics community are grateful to the hams and shortwave listeners who participate. All contributions are important.

The HamSCI community is led by The University of Scranton Department of Physics and Engineering Amateur Radio Club, W3USR, in collaboration with Case Western Reserve University Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU; the University of Alabama; the New Jersey Institute of Technology Center for Solar-Terrestrial Physics Amateur Radio Club, K2MFF; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Haystack Observatory; TAPR in Arizona; additional collaborating universities and institutions, and volunteer members of the amateur radio and citizen science communities. We are grateful for the financial support of the US National Science Foundation, NASA, and Amateur Radio Digital Communications.

About the authors – Gary Mikitin, AF8A, was first licensed in 1977. He is a retired electrical engineer, and enjoys ragchewing, DXing, and contesting on HF CW. He volunteers as the Amateur Radio Community Coordinator for HamSCI.

Dr. Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF, is an Associate Professor of Physics and Engineering at The University of Scranton. He was introduced to space physics in middle and high school through amateur radio. His interests led to the founding of the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (www.hamsci.org)

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, Nov. 22, 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, 5 candidates took 7 tests.

Technician
(Element 2)

2

Passed

2 Tests Given 0 Failed

General
(Element 3)

1

Passed

2 Tests Given 1 Failed

Amateur Extra
(Element 4)

2

Passed

3 Tests Given 1Failed

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their license exams¹:

- Robert Bernardini – passed General
- John R. Green – passed Extra
- Thomas L. Migi, Jr – passed Extra
- Robert J. O’Guin – new Technician
- John W. Sparks – new Technician

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/arrl/77070/inperson>

The next session will be December 20, 2025 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Please visit [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - License Exams](#) for the announcement.

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

Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:

- Brett Hebert KG5IQU – session manager
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Dale Schmirler KN5DS
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- Vicki Owen AC5EW
- Sheree Horton WM5N
- Michael Robinson KI0DE
- Craig Veteto W5CEV
- 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

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

- Luke Moore, AA5L
- Nathaniel McMullan, WD1STC
- Jose Ortiz, KI5NES

Renewing Club Members

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

- Ron Brooks, K5TDF
- Stephen Stepinoff, KG5VUG
- John Green, KI5QMY
- Marcus Garcia, AI5LM
- Sam Labarera, K5FM
- Bill Buoy, N5BIA

Training and Education

NARS

NARS Meeting Presentations - [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - Meeting 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: T7A11 – D. Between the antenna and receiver

General: G9C04 – B. Gain in dBi is 2.15 dB higher

Amateur Extra: E9D03 – B. Near the center of the vertical radiator

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 ⁴⁵ 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 ⁴⁵ 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.arrl.org/w1aw

Calendar

Club Activities and Events

NARS General Meeting – December 19, 2025 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session –December 20, 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.

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

December 6 | Minden Amateur Radio Christmas Hamfest, 711 Gradney St, Minden, LA

February 13-15, 2026 | Orlando HamCation & SE Division Convention, Orlando, FL

February 20-21 | Greater Houston Hamfest & ARRL State Convention, Rosenberg, TX

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

December 2025 - <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2025/December%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

Vice President: Kyle Vann, K5KNV, officers@w5nc.net

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, treasurer@w5nc.net

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, officers@w5nc.net

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

Director: Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J, 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

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 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 Groups Email Reflector](#)