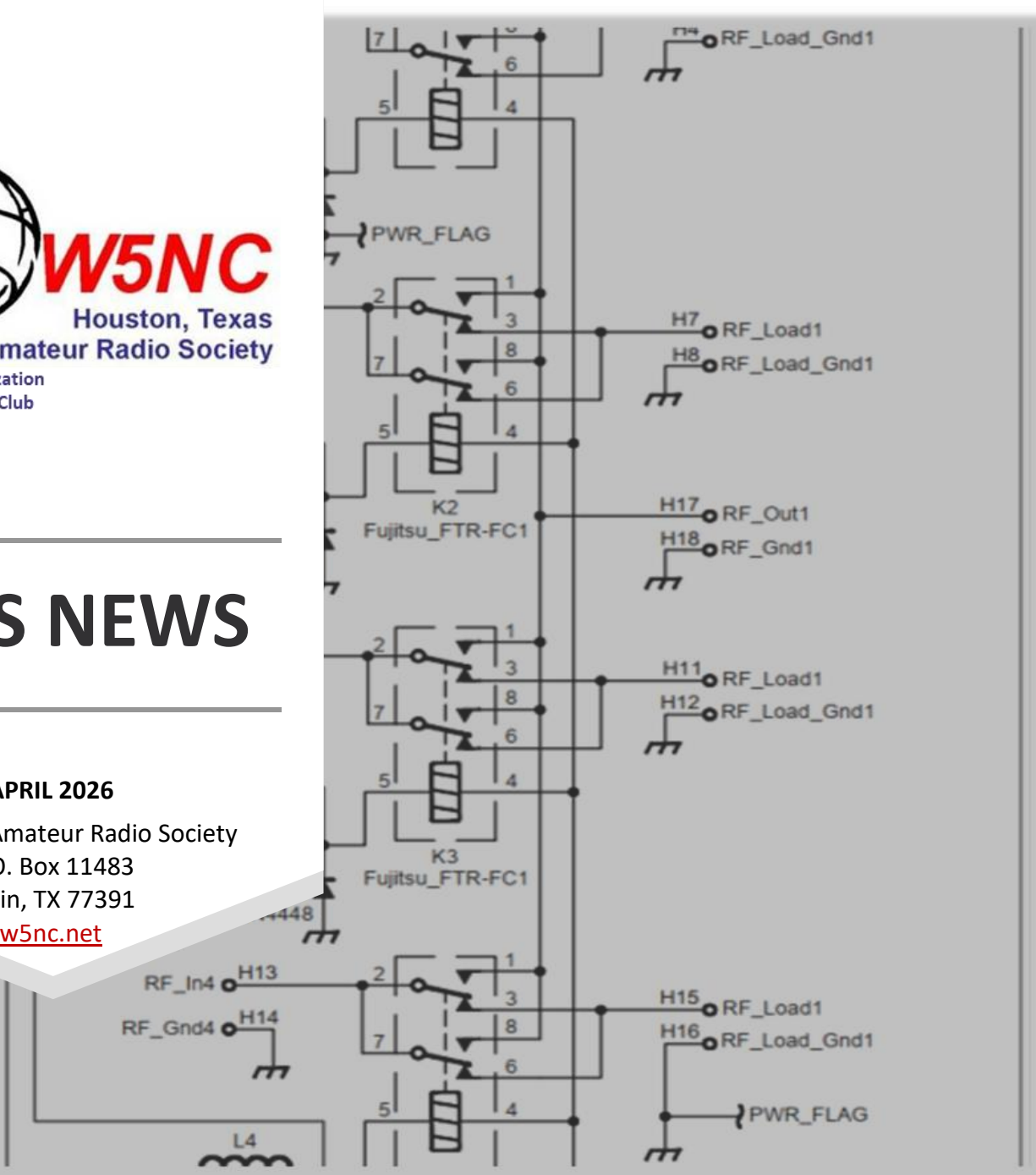
W5NC
Houston, Texas
Northwest Amateur Radio Society
A 501(c)(3) Organization
An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

APRIL 2026

Northwest Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 11483
Klein, TX 77391
w5nc.net



AMATEUR RADIO
A NATIONAL RESOURCE

Contents

President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

I think Winter is finally over. Next comes Spring. Don't blink or you'll miss it! I would like the club to continue the annual NARS Spring Picnic. This year I was late getting a reservation for a pavilion at Spring Creek Park. We can use Roy C Burroughs Park where we had the fox hunt last year. It is bigger and has more picnic tables under a tree. The date will be **May 2**. I will need some members to offer to bring some food items to make the picnic work out. When we were there last year, we had hamburgers and hot dogs at a spot that had 3 picnic tables near a grill. I can bring the charcoal briquets left from last year. You are encouraged to bring some chairs. It would be nice if we had some radios on display in the park…maybe someone could try out their POTA setup? Please go to the calendar and click the +1 event and RSVP so we can see who is signed up. I know many members don't even know how to get to the calendar, but they get the emails about our lunches and Saturday breakfast. The menu on the left has the calendar item listed near the bottom. Just go to May 2nd and click the +1 more tag and it will show you a pop up of the event. There will be a Fox Hunt run by David, WJ9O, before the picnic. Watch for more information on the NARS reflector (w5nc.groups.io).

While I was at the Greater Houston Hamvention last month. I asked a NARS member if he would consider being the Field Day Coordinator this year. He said he would think about it and see if he would be available on the 4th weekend in June. I heard from another ham who told him to tell me he would do it. It got me thinking about whether I asked for the rooms to be reserved for that weekend, but it turns out that they are being used by other groups that Saturday. I quickly submitted for the Boardroom, EOC, Loading Dock and Radio Rooms to be reserved for us to use. It does present a few problems with running Field Day this way because we will be spread out in the building. There is an outdoor area on the secure side of the building and a break room that we could use for eating areas. We can setup some of the learning tables in the Boardroom. I will ask if any of our members would think about providing something that we haven't done in the past few Field Day events. This could be making a display to show case what hams do and put it on a table.

Here's something different. Did you know that there is another NARS club? It is called Nashua Area Radio Society. It's located in Nashua, NH. They have a great website chock full of things to explore. They really are going after getting youth in Amateur Radio. Explore their website at https://www.n1fd.org/. They have an extensive collection of articles and videos done by the club. Check out there "2019 Year End Highlights" https://www.n1fd.org/video-collection/. The Club President, Fred, AB1OC and Anita, AB1QB, was interviewed by Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID and commentary from Gordon West, WB6NOA. They also received the Club Of The Year at the 2019 Dayton Hamvention.

Did you know that back in the day we used a members callsign? It was Bruce Cline, N5FD and was first used on the 1988 Field Day. We may have used it on the 1987 FD but there are no newsletters from 1987. There are 2 binders that have all the early years in them. I loaned them out to a club member late last year but didn't make a note of who it was. If it was you, PLEASE return our club history to me. I hope I can get them back so I can get all the missing years on the clubs' website

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, February 2026

LBT Repeater (Downtown) - Is off the air. Plan is to put 443.075 sometime in the future.

Klein Repeater – Fully operational 444.375 (+100 CT) and is linked on ALLSTAR.

EchoLink – W5NC-R

W5NC HUB (Node 59847) – Allstar is operational. Linked to DMR and EchoLink.

DMR Talk Group – NARS TG 3146211 (CC1, Slot 2 Brandmeister)

NARS TG can be found on:

Klein Repeater – DMR repeater (K5MAP) 440.300 (CC3, Slot1).

Richmond Repeater – DMR repeater (W5VOM) 443.750 (CC9, Slot 2).

Tomball Repeater – DMR repeater (N5BDJ) 145.230 (CC1, Slot 2) on Tue and Wed night nets.

Tomball Repeater – 145.230 (-82.5 CT) on Tue and Wed night nets. (AllStar 654060)

Gregson Repeater – this will be the new home for 146.660 (-100Hz CT) and will be linked to ALLSTAR.

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)

T5A12
What describes the number of times per second that an alternating current makes a complete cycle?

A. Pulse rate
B. Speed
C. Wavelength
D. Frequency

General (Element 3)

G0B05
Which of the following conditions will cause a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to disconnect AC power?

A. Current flowing from one or more of the hot wires to the neutral wire
B. Current flowing from one or more of the hot wires directly to ground
C. Overvoltage on the hot wires
D. All these choices are correct

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E6A12
What is the purpose of connecting Zener diodes between a MOSFET gate and its source or drain?

A. To provide a voltage reference for the correct amount of reverse-bias gate voltage
B. To protect the substrate from excessive voltages
C. To keep the gate voltage within specifications and prevent the device from overheating
D. To protect the gate from static damage

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 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

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 Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched it 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!

Indiana Hams Living Under HOAs Gain Antenna Protections

The Indiana General Assembly has passed, and Governor Mike Braun has signed, a bill that adds protection for amateur radio operators who live in homeowner association (HOA) regulated housing developments.

Credit for adding the new language goes to Hunter Reed, KD9YLQ; Campbell Reed, KD9GEK, and State Senator Scott Alexaner for their efforts writing and introducing the bill, and to the Muncie Area Amateur Radio Club, and ARRL Affiliated Club. The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

Official language of the House Bill 1152 can be found IGA | House Bill 1152 - Homeowners association matters

FCC Posting – Recruiting Field Agents Electronics Engineers

The FCC is looking for qualified applicants for Field Agents in seven Enforcement Bureau offices across the United States: Atlanta,, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY; and Portland, OR.

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.

Work for ARRL

ARRL is seeking talented individuals to join our team and help advance the Amateur Radio Service. We are currently hiring for several impactful positions,

RFI Lab Engineer – supports ARRL's mission to protect and enhance spectrum access by managing and resolving Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) cases. This role includes database management, coordination with the FCC and participation with standards bodies (IEEE & C63), and contributions to ARRL's Technical Information Service, publications, and member support.

W1AW Station Manager – Lead initiatives that elevate the visibility, credibility, and impact of ARRL and amateur radio. Responsibilities include overseeing daily station operations, maintaining and troubleshooting equipment and antennas, ensuring compliance with emission standards, coordinating schedules and staffing, and supporting the ARRL Laboratory when needed.

Public Relations & Outreach Manager – Lead initiatives that elevate the visibility, credibility, and impact of ARRL and amateur radio. Responsibilities include developing and executing national PR and outreach strategies, managing media relations, creating content across print, digital, and social platforms, and supporting advocacy communications.

There are additional opportunities at ARRL also. Go to Employment Opportunities

Dayton Hamvention 2026 Award Winners

Technical Achievement Award went to Robert Familgio, K3RF

Amateur of the Year Award went to Dr. Jose "Otis" Vicens, NP4G

Special Achievement Award went to Martha Fell, N3QBE and Joe Fell, W3GMS

Club of the Year went to Long Island CW Club

For more details on the above awardees Awards - Solicitation - Dayton Hamvention

Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026!

It's not too early to gear up for Field Day on June 27-28. This year's theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource". It's the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the Field Day webpage.

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 mailto: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

March Meeting

The March meeting was great. We had two guest speakers present at the club that night. It was fun having Andy Perryman, N0APX, who is the Product Manager for World Radio League. I hope everyone enjoyed seeing both the WRL logging program in great detail and the Ham Radio Prep site. The Prep site contains courses for studying for amateur license exams. They also now have video courses to show you what you can do after you get a license. They cover POTA operating, Emergency Communications 101, Satellite and Space Operations, Ham Radio Basics and finally the HF Masterclass course. Members should check out at least one of them. The club is now a partner with Ham Radio Prep. Anyone can use the discount code to get a 10% discount on any of their products. Just enter this code - NARS.

The second presenter was Rich, W5VEK. He had a PowerPoint on the wire antennas he put up in his back yard. The HOA never said a word about them because they didn't see them. He showed us how he went from coax to ladder line to convert the antennas from dipoles to center-fed doublet for multi band coverage. He also showed how ladder line loss was not a big factor when compared to coax feed line. He also covered the dipoles he has up and how he supports them so the trees can move about without them coming down during windstorms.

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on April 17, 2026, at the ESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner-Airline Rd, Spring, Tx 77379. We hope to see everyone there. Also, make plans now to attend the NARS Picnic and Fox Hunt, to be held May 2 at Roy C. Burroughs Park, 9738 Hufsmith Rd, Tomball.

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 May 2024 issue of QST.

The RAS2 – A Remote Antenna Switch

If you want a remote-controlled relay-based antenna-switching unit, WA9FVP's solution is for you.

John Albert, WA9FVP

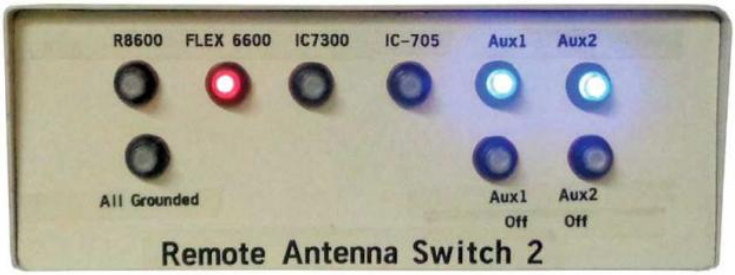


Figure 1 — The RAS2 controller.

The RAS2 is a flexible antenna relay control system that's easily modified by software and consists of a controller box and a separate antenna switch box. The controller (Figure 1) is placed at the operating position, and the relay box (Figure 2) is mounted where the coax enters the shack. All und-switched SO-239 ports are shorted to ground. When you're not in the shack, a remote desktop laptop connection provides you with remote control of the controller.

This project involves knowing how to code. If you need more information on how to do so, see the sidebar "Resources for Learning Code".

Operational Description

Figure 2 — The RAS2 switch box.

The Arduino Nano microcontroller is programmed with nine inputs and eight open collector outputs. Four outputs drive relays, and one output is used for keying an amplifier. Four inputs are for transceiver connections using a transceiver's send relay or open collector output. When connected to one of the four Nano inputs, the send output automatically activates the relay that connects the selected transceiver to the antenna. Simultaneously, a second Arduino output keys the amplifier. Because receivers don't have a send output, pushbuttons on the control box connect the selected receiver to the antenna. In this case, the amplifier is not keyed. Two auxiliary inputs and outputs are reserved for controlling ancillary devices. In my case, one auxiliary output controls my Astron Corporation power supply with a solid-state relay (Figure 3), and a second auxiliary provides a remote signal that turs on my FLEX-6600. The sketch (software), list of materials, and CAD files are available on the QST in Depth web page (www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth). See Figures 4 and 5 for schematics.

The RAS2 Controller

Figure 3 — Astron Corporation power supply remote-control interface with bypass switch.

The controller printed circuit board (PCB) measures 5 x 3 ½ inches and is mounted in a repurposed serial port A/B switch box, as shown in Figure 6. I glued a thin PCB over the front panel and punched new holes for the nine LED pushbutton switches. The four radio buttons are grouped together and light up when pressed. A GROUND ALL button grounds all the antenna ports. Separate from the radio buttons are the two auxiliary on/off buttons.

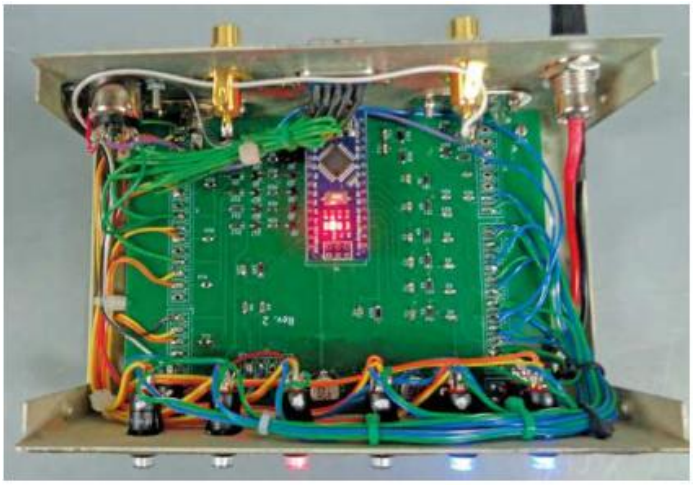


Figure 6 — Inside the controller.

I covered two DB9 holes on the rear panel with blank cover plates and punched holes in the plates for two female RCA jacks for the two auxiliary outputs. Because the Arduino USB port faces the rear panel, I punched a hole below the center DB9 connector for access to this port. External equipment can be accessed via a six-pin DIN socket. Other outputs are available for other ancillary devices if desired. For example, I can use a multiplexer unit to transfer band data from the selected transceiver to my KPA500 amplifier. Only five wires are needed to interface with the antenna switch box.

The Relay Switch Box

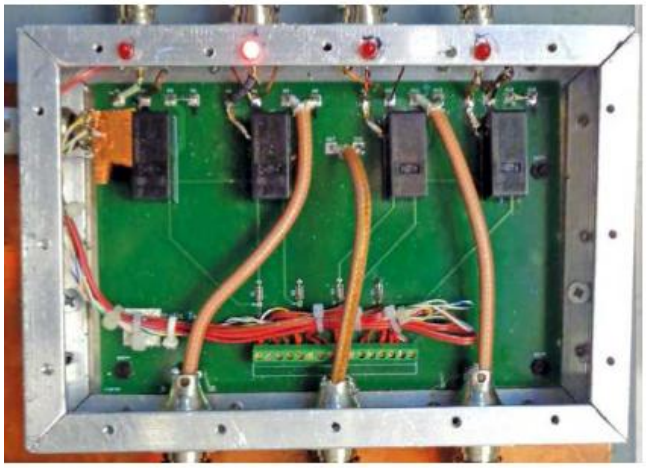


Figure 7 — Inside the relay antenna switch.

The antenna relay PCB is approximately 6 ½ x 4 ¼ inches. While I made my own box, a Bud Industries CU-3008-A would be a good enclosure. The RF switching side of the relays, each of which can handle up to 100W, is as close as possible to the connectors to minimize volage standing wave ratio (VSWR). A bottom side solid copper fill runs under the RF copper tracks and the relay contacts. The ground connections to the relay coils have a ground fill that is separate from the RF ground to improve isolation. To improve the isolation between radio ports, I removed the coax connecting to the 50 ohm loads and reconnected the relay pins directly to the RF ground. This also reduced any electromagnetic interference that might leak across the board. The worst-case VSWR is 1.05:1 on 6 meters. An internal view of the relay switch box is shown in Figure 7.

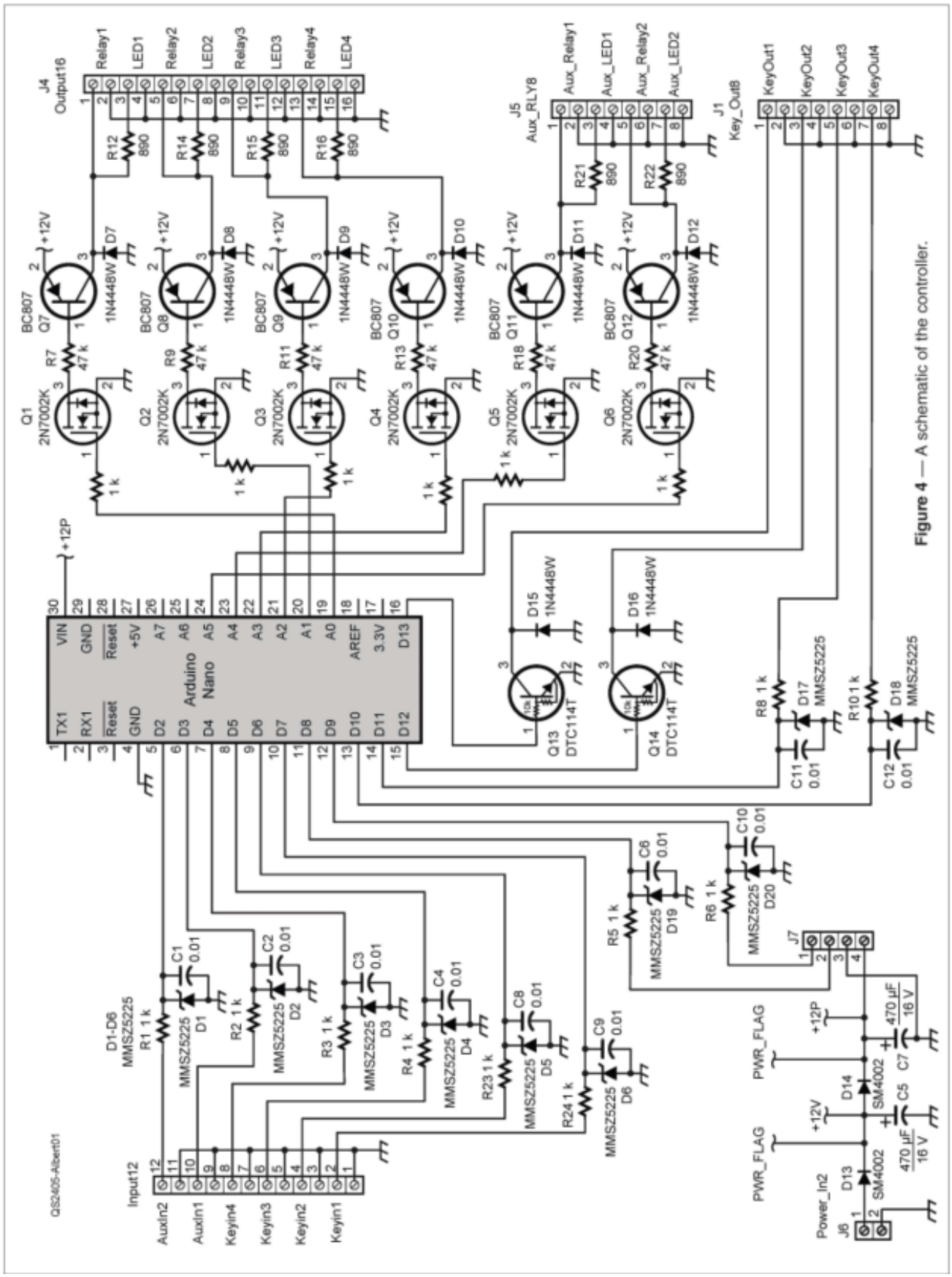


Figure 4 — A schematic of the controller.

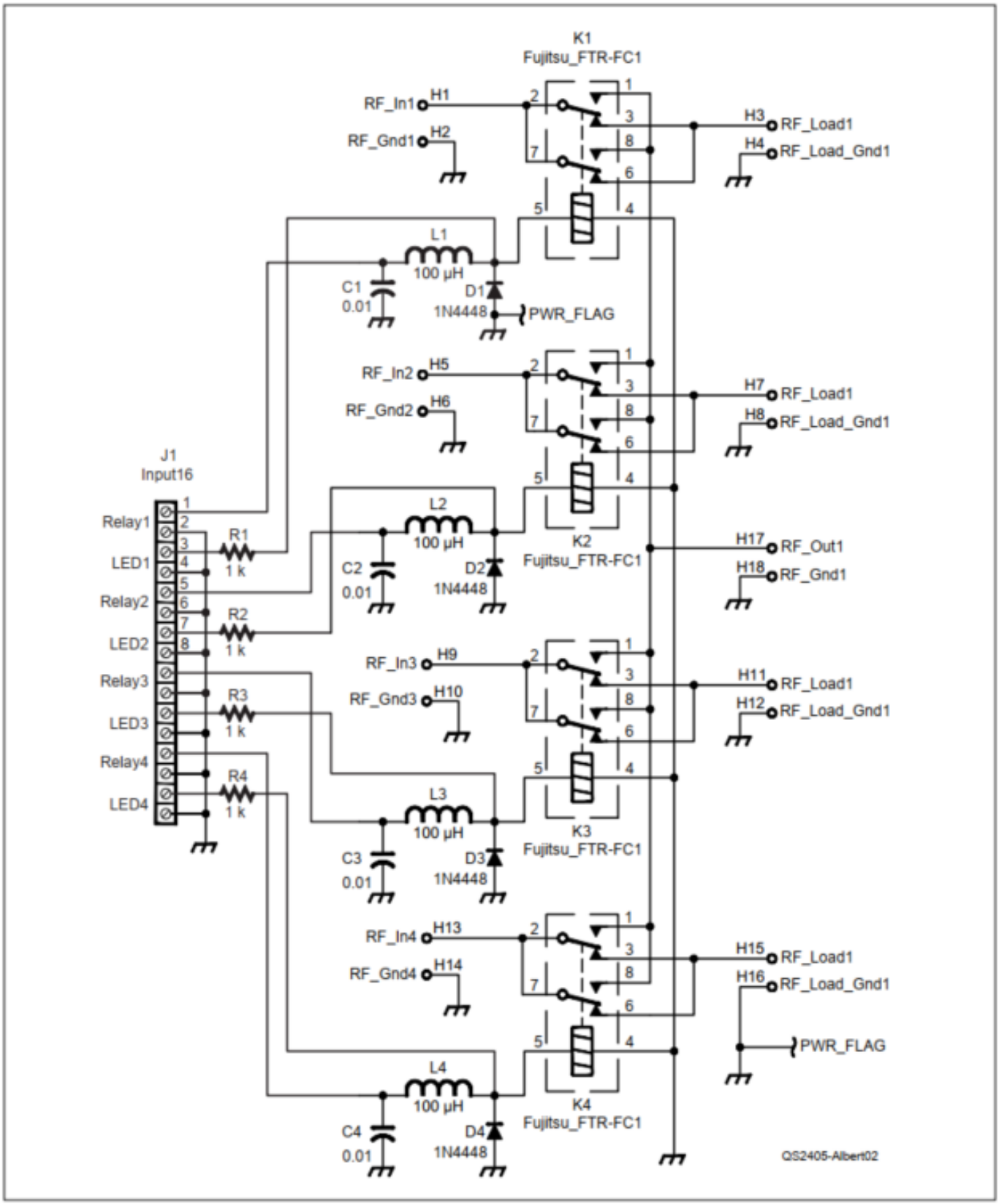


Figure 5 — A schematic of the relay box.

The Software

The open-source Arduino IDE software (www.arduino.cc/en/software) makes it easy to write code (sketch) and upload it to the Arduino Nano, which connects to my shack PC via the USB port. The sketch manages the input commands from the push buttons, the radio's push-to-talk, or commands from the USB port. Whether the commands are hardware or software driven, the results are the same. Pressing radio button one activates relay one. Commands coming down the USB pipe are simple one-digit numbers. So, number one activates relay one, number two activates relay two, number five activates the auxiliary one output, and number seven turns off auxiliary one.

Visual Studio 2022 (https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/downloads) permits running a remote-control console. The console includes virtual buttons that mimic the physical front panel. There's a pull-down list to select the port number and baud rate. When you press a virtual radio button, the Arduino receives the command and returns a response that can be viewed in the console text box. The remote control display is shown in Figure 8.

Conclusion

The RAS2 is a very flexible unit. However, you should definitely think about future applications. This means consideration of Arduino input/output ports, program memory, and physical interfaces. Besides antenna switching, you may want to eventually control your radio and amplifier powering, as well as other devices in your station.

I would like to thank Bob Beckstrom, W9WZ, for helping me with the "Flex handler" timing software.

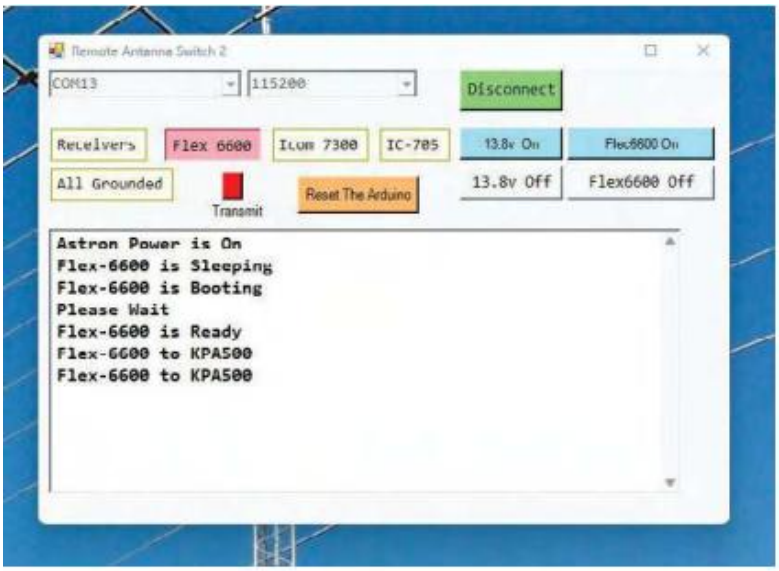


Figure 8 — Remote control display.

About the author – John Albert, WA9FVP, was in the U.S. Army and then worked for Rockwell Collins Telecom Division, Tellabs, and Argonne National Laboratory. As a retiree, John has spent most of his time designing and homebrewing ham radio projects. John can be reached at ***wa9fvp@arrl.net****.*

Resources for Learning Code

- "2023 Arduino Tutorial for Beginners 01 — Introduction" (**www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnJIKX5J0Cc&t=42s**)
- Arduino Programming Language Documentation (**https://docs.arduino.cc/learn/programming/reference**)
- Arduino Language Reference (**www.arduino.cc/reference/en**)

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. During the testing session, 5 candidates took 9 tests.

Technician (Element 2)	General (Element 3)	Amateur Extra (Element 4)
5 Passed	1 Passed	1 Passed
5 Tests Given 0 Failed	3 Tests Given 2 Failed	1Tests Given 0 Failed

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their license exams[1]:

- Anselmo Arratia – new Technician
- John P. Halvorsen – new Technician
- Benjamin D. Walters – new Technician
- Ian D. Swenson – new Technician
- Joshua Thibodeaux – new Extra; passed Technician, General and Extra in one sitting!

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 April 18, 2026 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
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- Craig Veteto W5CEV
- August J. Canik KI5YPD
- Dale Schmirler KN5DS

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

Renewing Club Members

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

- Robert Callahan, KC5T
- Kyle Atkins, KE5SWK
- Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ
- Milan Marinkovich, KJ5IDO
- Sonja Robinson, KJ5HXA
- Joseph Janica, KI5YVS
- Jim Berry, KD5BN

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: T5A12 – D. Frequency
General: G0B05 – B. Current flowing from one or more of the hot wires directly to ground
Amateur Extra: E6A12 – D. To protect the gate from static damage

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 – April 17, 2026 – HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379

VE Test Session –April 18, 2026 – 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 Picnic & Fox Hunt – May 2, 2026 – Roy C. Burroughs Park, 9738 Hufsmith Rd, Tomball

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

April 11, 2026 | Ham Expo, Cadence Bank Ctr 301 W Loop 121, Belton, TX

May 29-30 | Radio Fiesta, Schertz Civic Center 1400 Schertz Parkway, Schertz, TX

June 12-13 | DFW Ham Expo, NTX Arena at Vista Mall, Lewisville, TX

July 11 | Tidelands Texas City Hamfest, Doyle Convention Center 2010 5th Ave N, Texas City, TX

August 7-8 | Shreveport-Bossier Hamfest, ARRL Delta Division Convention, State Fairgrounds, 3206 Pershing Blvd, Shreveport, LA

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

April 2026 - April 2026 Corral.pdf

For the 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

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

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.