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

NARS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Contents

President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

I hope everyone came through the Ice Storm Warning we had in Houston without any problems. The weather kept us from using the EOC and radio rooms at the ESD for Winter Field Day. I asked members to try working at the WFD from their home location using their callsign. To see the results go to www.winterfieldday.org. Select the Results from the menu on top. Then Select Class, select Home from the drop down. Then in the Search: for box, type STX, select the gray Search button next to Get results for: and then you will see the all station from South Texas Section. You can reorder the results by selecting Total QSO's. You can see who had the most or the lest number of QSO's. I had to point this out only because I found my callsign with the most right now. I hope I remain at the top after March 1.

We had a good turnout at the NARS Banquet. I think everyone had a good time. I gave out a lot of Certificates of Appreciation to many members for their hard work helping the club. We also presented the HAM of the Year to Scott Seifert, KA2EEU. Please thank him for all the things that he does for the club. See the pictures under NARS Monthly Club Meeting.

Winter Field Day

A few brave members tried their hand at working Winter Field Day from their home station since we were prevented from using the EOC because it was on standby for the bad weather. I only heard from a few members of the club who sent in their story about participating in the WFD event.

We had Walter, KJ5WGR, working 10, 40 and 2 meter bands. He made only 2 contacts because he was going to be watching how experienced hams make contacts during pile ups. He's never worked a field day, so this was all new to him being a new ham. He also listened in on the 2 meter band to catch what was going on in Houston during the storm. He also used the time on the radio to learn more things about his radio to hear stations better.

David, WJ9O, made 35 contacts during WFD. Most of them were on SSB but he did make a few VaraAC contacts. He said it was a lot of fun.

Tom, N5RIV, working a few bands making 51 contacts.

I am sure some haven't sent me their story about their participation in WFD. I think each operator learned a little bit about things they never ran into while operating in a non-contest environment - something like making a contact with a station being called by many other operators, busting through a pile up, or sitting on a frequency calling CQ and getting more than 3 stations coming back to you at the same time.

Hopefully next year we can do it together at the ESD meeting location. We can have a contest between club members who want to operate from home, even if you operated at the ESD but don't have a contact with the club station during the event. Maybe we can end up with a club member who can beat my score.

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, Feburary 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)

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)

T6D02
What is a relay?
A. An electrically controlled switch
B. A current controlled amplifier
C. An inverting amplifier
D. A pass transistor

General (Element 3)

G4D11
How close to the upper edge of a band's phone segment should your displayed carrier frequency be when using 3 kHz wide USB?
A. At least 3 kHz above the edge of the band
B. At least 3 kHz below the edge of the band
C. At least 1 kHz above the edge of the segment
D. At least 1 kHz below the edge of the segment

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E5B11
What is the phase angle between the voltage across the current through a series RLC circuit if XC is 25 ohms, R is 100 ohms and XL is 75 ohms?
A. 27 degrees with the voltage lagging the current
B. 27 degrees with the voltage leading the current
C. 63 degrees with the voltage lagging the current
D. 63 degrees with the voltage leading the current

See the answers on Page 18.

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!

$25k At Stake in Student Coding Competition

Pre-registration is open for a Student Coding Competition, a new national challenge sponsored by ARRL. The project is designed to engage young radio amateurs in shaping the future of amateur radio through software development. Open to ARRL-member amateur radio operators age 21 and younger, the competition invites students to design a mobile app that supports ARRL and the amateur radio community. Cash awards totalling up to $25,000 will be presented to one or more winning entries.

The competition officially begins January 1, 2026 when complete rules and application specifications will be released. Entries must follow the published requirements and submissions are due by March 31, 2026. Entries will be judged on how well they meet the specifications, user interface design and usability, code quality and stability, and the inclusion of extra features. More information can be found at Student Coding Competition .

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.

Changes to 60-Meter Band

The new 60-meter frequencies approved by the FCC in December will become available to amateurs as of February 13, 2026, along with new power restrictions on those frequencies.

As of Feb. 13, FCC-licensed amateur operators holding General Class or higher licenses may operate on a secondary basis anywhere between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz, subject to a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz and maximum transmit power of 9.15 watts ERP. For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP is multiplied by the antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole antenna. A half-wave dipole is presumed to have a gain of 1 (0 dBd). Amateurs using other antennas must maintain in their station records of either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain. The confusing part – the existing 60-meter channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz remain as secondary amateur alloations with masimum power of 100 watts ERP. However, the old channel at 5358.5 kHz is elimated as it is now part of the new 5351.5 – 6366.5 kHz subband and subject to the lower power limit.

Amateurs are cautioned they must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. Data or RTTY emissions, in particular, must be limited in transmission length so as not to cause harmful interference. Digital mode operators must be familiar with offsets in order to stay within the authorized frequencies.

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

January Banquet and Recognitions

The Northwest Amateur Radio Club (NARS) met for their annual banquet at Valley Ranch BBQ at Spring Cypress and Hwy 249. As part of the meeting, recognitions for service in various activities was given. About 50 club members attended the banquet to partake of some good food and social engagement. Certificates were presented to the Board and Committee members as well as various teams (Repeater, Field Day, Winter Field Day, QSO Party, and VE). The presentation for Ham of the Year was presented to Scott Seifert, KA2EEU, for his work with the club during the past year.

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on February 20, 2026, at the ESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner-Airline Rd, Spring, Tx 77379. We hope to see everyone there.

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 February 2025 issue of QST.

Connecting Youth with Ham Radio in the Classroom

Two Staten Island Technical High School students share how an ARRL Grant helped to enhance the engineering curriculum by immersing them in hands-on activities.

Ashley Li and Olivia Wojtczak

Amateur radio initiatives at Staten Island Technical High School (SITHS) began in fall 2022 and wouldn't have been possible without the help of ARRL and the ham radio community. After attending one of the ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology sessions, one of our engineering teachers, Mr. Henriques, KD2ZZT, added concepts to our existing engineering curriculum that support the ham radio license exam training and post-licensure activities. Additionally, our school received an ARRL Education & Technology Program (ETP) School Station Grant that brought our experiences with amateur radio to the next level. The ARRL Education and Technology program, which supports the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology and School Station Grants, is funded entirely by donors to ARRL.

SITHS Engineering Teacher Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT (on the right), assists Olivia Wojtczak (on the left) and Ashley Li (in the middle) with building a directional antenna.

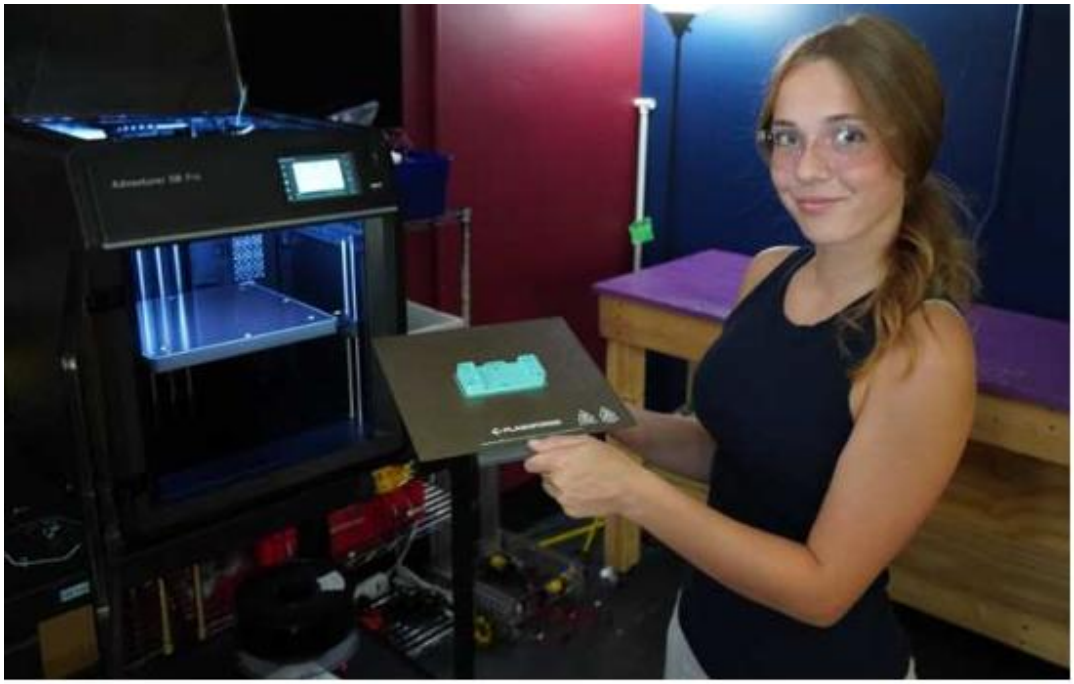
Hands-on Coursework

The main purpose of introducing amateur radio into SITHS was to improve communications and telemetry applications for the school's solar car team – Seagull Solar, WS0LAR – which consists of a group of students and staff from different schools who are building a street-legal solar-powered car to eventually race in the Solar Car Challenge at the Texas Motor Speedway.

Now, we not only have a radio station at our school, but some students were also inspired to start a ham radio club for our school – SITHS Amateur Radio League (SITHS ARL), WS1THS – to further develop their

ham radio practice. Currently our station is set up for the use of student-dedicated communication frequencies and Staten Island's local repeater. Because it's a high-powered system, it allows for communication anywhere in the building. It also serves as an occasional crossband repeater and is mobile for off-grid satellite contacts.

SITHS ARL offers opportunities for students interested in learning about amateur radio applications beyond those offered in class. The radio club is also available for students who are unable to participate in any of the classes offered in the engineering curriculum. We are all enamored with the Geochron, which shows just about every Earth condition in real time on SITHS ARL's 4K station screen, thanks to ARRL's ETP School Station Grant!



Olivia Wojtczak built a part for one of her projects using the 3D printer that SITHS students in the engineering program have access to.

So far, we've designed and built directional antennas for foxhunting and contacting the International Space Station (ISS) and participated in skill-based labs applicable to ham radio that include soldering, building electronic terminal connections, learning about standing wave ratio (SWR), learning how to read power measurements, and understanding practical uses for amateur radio. We also engage in radio-related independent studies, including learning about radio programming and participating in simplex, repeater, and local net operations.

While this program is geared toward engaging students with fun projects and activities that introduce amateur radio practices, our understanding of radio extends far beyond the classroom. For example, having a ham radio license and knowledge of electronics and engineering concepts allow us to figure out how to communicate in areas where cell phones don't work or aren't permitted.

Growing Connections with Ham Radio

Ham radio immediately formed a community within our school. Students are excited to broaden their communication skills, acquire a real FCC license, and develop their practical circuit theory. Not only does ham radio create a sense of unity within our school by bringing together students with common interests, it also connects us to radio enthusiasts who are miles away.

Mr. Henriques said “We’ve received a great deal of support from ARRL members and staff, including ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and ARRL Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD, who both visited our school and ran the testing for our most recent batch of students. In that single day, they inspired several students to pursue future upgrades. Also, Ed was kind enough to donate an antenna kit to the club for students to explore the world of HF – it’s a wonderful community!”

What Classmates Are Saying

Amateur radio has opened us up to new opportunities (such as contacting satellites and learning about long-distance communications and wireless data transmissions) that can benefit us in a variety of careers, like those in the mechanical, electrical, and general mechatronic fields. Here’s what some of our classmates have to say:

Lori Gallo, KE2CMD – Getting my ham radio license has been a fun and engaging way to combine physics and engineering principles. While it was a part of our curriculum to get licensed, the skills I’m learning through ham radio are equally useful outside the classroom, both for hobby and emergency purposes.

Erica Yu, KE2CMO – I’m now able to join a network of engineers, innovators, and enthusiasts and collaborate with others to change the world!

Aaron Ye, KE2CMN – I’m amazed by the many opportunities that come with ham radio, because radio operations are the fundamental backbone to many existing technologies and communications.

Excitement for the Future

Since the amateur radio initiatives at SITHS began in 2022, 265 students have earned their license, including 228 Techician-class licensee, 27 General-class licensees, and 10 Amateur Extra-class licensees, and these numbers continue to grow.

We’re all hoping that SITHS can host an ARISS contact with astronauts on the ISS. It’s anticipated that the application process will begin in the spring of 2025.

Whether the knowledge acquired from this curriculum propels us toward our desired career paths or simply provides us with a new hobby, there is no doubt that ham radio

Watch students Kangxi Yang, KE2DYE, and Shiphi Panicker, AA1SP, talk about ham radio in the digital edition of *QST* (**www.arrl.org/qst**).

offers us a unique experience that can be useful in the future.

The Staten Island Technical High School is now a Model School for the ARRL Education and Technology Program, setting the example for other schools interested in pursuing amateur radio to complement their STEM education program. These results and opportunities are possible due to the generous support of ARRL donors to the Education and Technology Program, which supports the entirely donor-funded ARRL Teacher's Institute on Wireless Technology. In 2024, several donors have stepped up to fully fund a seat for a teacher to attend, and others have donated what they can in small amounts. All of these gifts are an investment in the future of amateur radio. Those interested in making a difference in programs like this can contact the ARRL Development Office or give online at www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM.

SITHS's Engineering Program Evolution

By SITHS Engineering Teacher Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT

The engineering curriculum at SITHS was originally intended to provide students with practical activities that address the concepts of the FCC licensure exams. After attending ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI), I learned additional ways to incorporate ham radio into the curriculum, while still supporting training for the exams, that added post-license activities. TI trained me for the Amateur Extra-class license, and I learned how to effectively promote foxhunting, satellite contacts, and HF applications with students.

The Staten Island Technical High School engineering program has received generous support from the ARRL Education and Technology Program School Station Grant and mentoring from several local hams. Resources like amateur radio equipment are important, but the time that local hams have donated has also been invaluable. Mentoring from local hams provides an opportunity for students to engage in a good amount of discussion about operating skills for young hams. This has helped students grow and has facilitated their abilities to take the lead on specific diverse projects.

I would like to thank Steve Goodgame, K5ATA; Ed Wilson, N2XDD; Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, and the network of teachers I gained from TI for providing me with the resources, training, support, and great ideas that my students now enjoy. If teachers are looking to bring radio and wireless technology into their classrooms, but also need to learn about it themselves, then I highly recommend attending ARRL TI! *Editor's note: For more information on TI, including the program's plans for the future, read "ARRL Teachers Institute: Looking Back, Moving Forward" by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, in the January 2025 issue.*

About the authors – Ashley Li and Olivia Wojtczak are students at SITHS. They initiated the creation of the school's student-run newspaper, The Tech Times – Ashley is the editor-in-chief and Olivia is the managing editor. They recruited a team of talented writers to work on the periodical, which I distributed to the student body and staff monthly. Ashley is an aspiring civil engineer and hopes to receive her amateur radio license in the upcoming year.

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. Due to the Freeze Warning, Winter Field Day at the ESD was cancelled. During the testing session, 1 candidate took 2 tests.

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

Congratulations!

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

- Jason S. Lore – 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 February 14, 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
- Dale Schmirler KN5DS
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- Craig Veteto W5CEV
- Michael Robinson KI0DE
- Benjamin Springs KR1BBT
- Paul Owen N5NXS

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

- Ryan Woods, KJ5NXJ
- Ronald Tabor, WA7TZM
- Darrell Kirk, KC5JAR

Renewing Club Members

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

- Tom Hoherd, KK5YU
- Jerry Davis, N5EKO
- William Walker, KI5ZDD
- Ralph DiGuillio, KF5AHC
- Robert Bernardini, KJ5DKB
- Randy Handley, KC6WYH
- Tom Smith, N5AMA
- Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF
- Ronald Geedman, KJ5JME
- Robert Ewers, K9HOU
- James Blackburn, WB5AW
- Bill Bierman, N5RDO
- Paul Kent, KI5FJS
- Michael Ballesteros, WI5FI
- Vicki Owen, AC5EW
- Paul Owen, N5NXS
- Jesse Brookover, W5KY
- Thomas Stokes, KD5MER
- Robert White, K0RCW
- Mark Tyler, K5GQ
- Brandon Rogers, K5BLR
- Terry Myers, KQ5U
- Allen Majeski, WA5REJ
- John Jackson, N3AG

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: T6D02 – A. An electrically controlled switch
General: G4D11 – B. At least 3 kHz below the edge of the band
Amateur Extra: E5B11 – B. 27 degrees with the voltage leading the current

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/Dinner – February 20, 2026 – Valley Ranch BBQ, 22548 State Hwy 249, Houston TX 77070

VE Test Session –February 14, 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.

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

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

February 20-21 | Greater Houston Hamfest & ARRL State Convention, Ft Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, TX

February 27-28 | Orange Tx Hamfest 2026, Orange County Convention & Expo Ctr, Orange, Tx

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

February 2026 - February 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.