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

NARS NEWS

JULY 2026

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

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President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

It was great to see all the members that came out to NARS ARRL 2026 Field Day. We had over 50 members, hams and visitors. Let's all give Robert, KJ5DKB, a big Thank You for being the Field Day Coordinator! This year we had a visit from the Klein Fire Department, District Chief Gonzalez and Fire Commissioner from ESD 7, Mr. Bob Schmanski.

I am glad that Robert took the job as Field Day Coordinator. We had many meetings and visited the ESD to check on equipment we were going to use. I am glad I got the chance to ride the FD tower truck up to the top of the tower to change out the pulleys and rope. It was so easy to pull the EFHW antennas up. We also use a different location for the end of the club EFHW antenna. We took a little longer to put the antenna support for it at the trash enclosure. I forgot that we needed a rope on the back side to keep the vertical pole straight.

I didn't get to try to work at the CW station this year but maybe next year. I sat with Marty for a few minutes and was amazed that he could pick out a call from the noise I heard. I need a lot more time in front of the radio. I did get to spend some time on the SSB station with Larry, WA8EXE, logging for me.

It was great having the Trail Life Troop come by our Field Day. We really need to get all the members of the troop on the air soon. I hope they accept the invitation from the club to do JOTA, Jamboree On The Air, with them in mid-October. We will need some volunteers to help with this activity.

Robert and I spent 2 hours on the ARRL Field Day submittal site. We went over the information and we still had to go fix 2 entries for it to accept our entry. Our final total score was 3,989 and we managed to get 855 bonus points. The CW station had 311 contacts, Digital had 333 contacts and the SSB had 279 contacts. We'll have to wait till the scores are published in the December QST. If you operated from home and made a few contacts, please go to the https://field-day/srrl.org/fdentry.php page (must be ARRL member) to enter your contacts or email to fieldday@arrl.org. If you did get the W1AW message during Field Day, then you get to score 100 bonus points. Have a PDF file to upload it. If you did a paper log, then you must submit a dup sheet by making it. If you don't know how to do it then email me at my n5nxs@flash.net and I can help you make it.

For more on Field Day see the article from the Coordinator and all the pictures.

Click **HERE**

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, May 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.

Gregson Repeater – 146.660 (-100Hz CT) is up and running. It's also linked to the 444.375 repeater and connected to both ALLSTAR and EchoLink.

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, Spring, 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)

T5D09
What is the current through a 24-ohm resistor connected across 240 volts?

A. 2400 amperes
B. 0.1 amperes
C. 10 amperes
D. 5760 amperes

General (Element 3)

G7C12
What is the frequency above which a low-pass filter's output power is less than half the input power?

A. Notch frequency
B. Neper frequency
C. Cutoff frequency
D. Rolloff frequency

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E1D04
Which of the following is required in the identification transmissions from a balloon-borne telemetry station?

A. Call sign
B. The output power of the balloon transmitter
C. The station's six-character Maidenhead grid locator
D. All these choices are correct

See the answers on Page 22.

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!

New Technician Question Pool effective July 1

A new Element 2 Technician class question pool takes effect on July 1 for license examinations. VECs and Ves must have new test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.

The newly revised pool, released December 2025, and updated and re-released on Feb. 19, 2026, must be in use starting July 1. There are 409 questions in this pool, down slightly from 412 in the previous pool. The pool also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions. View all current question pools on the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org .

"VE teams using paper exams must discard all older Technician tests and print new versions from ExamTools, "said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. Those using the online ExamTools will see that it automatically switches to the new pool and exams on July 1.

New editions of ARRL licensing publications for the 2026-2030 Technician pool, the 6th edition of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, the 9th edition of *ARRL Tech Q & A* and 11th edition of Gordon West's Technician Class study guide will be available starting in June, for exams taken on or after July 1, 2026.

Amateurs Asked to Keep Frequencies Clear Following Venezuela Earthquake

Local Venezuelan radio amateurs have asked that all amateur radio colleagues in the Americas and the rest of the world protect the following frequency used by Venezuelan amateur radio operators:

40 m: 7135 kHz

Domingo L. Hernandez Lima, YV5IZE, director of the Venezuelan Radio Club's National Emergency Network reports that a large part of the capital is without electricity and communication systems are operating on battery power. They were already activating their emergency shortwave (HF) frequency and also using digital frequencies and communication modes.

Young Ham Supports the America250 Celebration

While many teenagers spend their evenings playing video games or scrolling social media, 14-year-old amateur radio operator Micah Sandoval, KB5MPS, was busy this past week making radio contacts across he US. Sandoval participated as part of a special event station supporting the ARRL America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award program, a year-long operating event celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States. The ARRL is a supporting partner of America250, the national nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration. Operating alongside his mentor, James Hooper, K9QJS, Sandoval logged over 150 ham radio contacts. The event has attracted the participation of ham radio operators from across the country, and even around the world.

The ARRL America250 WAS event runs through December 31. Ham radio operators can pursue the award by making contact with other hams in all 50 states and confirming their contacts through the ARRL Logbook of The World. A process for ordering the award certificate and endorsements will be available soon. Three separate endorsements can be earned by confirming contacts with all 50 states on CW (Morse Code) and phone and digital modes for a Triple Play; by contacting the W1AW/portable station activations in all 50 states, or by contacting ARRL- affiliated radio clubs in all 50 states.

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 Club Activities

Impressions of Field Day 2026 by Robert Bernardini, KJ5DKJ

The 2026 Field Day has wrapped up, and we did a good job. We logged a lot of contacts, picked up bonus points, and — most importantly — had a great time. From my perspective as Field Day Coordinator, it was months of serious lessons learned. My goal was to study, observe, and collect every bit of insight I could from Paul, N5NXS, on how to run a successful Field Day. This was my second Field Day and my first time as Coordinator, so the experience is still fresh.

Time will tell how well we did, but one thing is clear: Field Day is an incredible amount of work. Most of it has fallen to Paul in past years, and he delivered. The scores stayed good year-over-year, and that's a real accomplishment. Well done, Paul — and thank you.

Field Day is the nationwide simulation of emergency conditions where radio operators would step up to help police, fire, and emergency services, report utility outages, handle medical emergencies, and relay critical information both locally and to national authorities.

We're truly blessed to have the partnership with Klein Fire and Emergency Services Department 16. This year we had a comfortable indoor location — out of the weather but still representing the real conditions we might face. In past years we had been set up under a tent in a park with generators. This time it was definitely a step up: air-conditioned, indoor plumbing, running water, a kitchen, and an emergency generator that could power the entire site. We even had fire and EMT personnel available during regular hours, fully trained in the National Incident Management System, so we could embed ourselves in an actual incident if needed.

We're self-trained on our own gear, but we only got a small taste of how we'd feel in a real emergency. That's Field Day — a test of adaptability, patience, and ingenuity. When the antenna did not cooperate, the atmosphere turned to crap, or our favorite band disappeared, we adapted and overcame. That's the lesson: It's All Good despite the "problems," because of the experience and knowledge of so many of our members.

I saw exactly what Field Day is when I had to explain it to a Trail Life Troop who were invited for a Saturday tour. The boys knew little or nothing about ham radio at first, but watching Mark Tyler, K5GQ, and Marty Fitzgerald work CW clicked it for them. Their younger members were excited by the GOTA station; the older scouts were amazed by the antennas — inanimate metal sticks rising out of the ground. The troop leaders were genuinely interested, so we're now teasing them with an offer to run a JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) with them in October. If they want to get involved, it'll be a blast.

Saturday, June 26 We started with lunch at the Aviator Grill at Hooks Airport, then headed to the ESD. We began after 1:00pm to hoist the 2 EFHW antenna masts and baluns, guying the poles and locking the far ends of the antennas to pulleys on either side of the beam tower. The trailer was hauled into the front parking lot as a visible advertisement, with gear and coax hauled inside. We finished around 5:00 p.m.

I picked up the Field Day cake from HEB while the rest of the team set up in the ESD. Tables, signs, and connections were in place. By noon, Jim Blackburn and Tom Hoherd served an outstanding lunch of burgers, dogs, potato salad, pasta salad, and beans.

Reception was still spotty in the heat, so stations rotated bands. Jerry Davis, N5EKO, networked the three adjacent stations in the EOC to collect central logs for the N3FJP software.

At 3:00 p.m., ten scouts and four leaders from Windwood Church's Trail Life Troop 2237 arrived for tours. We split them into groups so we could show them the GOTA station (still struggling with reception) and the EOC operations. Mitchell Boughter, KJ5GZR, followed the CW basic instructions with an explanation of Paul's board-mounted QSL collection. In the Radio Room in the back, Mark Tyler, K5GQ, gave a demo of CW operation, and answered the scouts' questions. He is a super CW teacher. The scouts finished by inspecting the antennas on the back lawn. Brett Hebert, KG5IQU, had built a working GOTA antenna by then, and Synomen Hebert, KG5IRS, helped guide the scouts to make a few contacts. The tours ended around 4:30 p.m.; everyone left with CW certificates and ARRL stickers.

Official Visitors

- 3:15 p.m. – Lee Glassman, HC ARES representative, visited.
- 12:09 p.m. – Bob Schmanski, Fire Commissioner ESD 7 toured and checked in; we earned bonus points for his presence.
- 2:00 p.m. – KFD Chief Gonzalez toured and checked in; we earned bonus points for his presence.
- 9:45 p.m. – Eric Breden, District 14 ARES Coordinator, paid a quick evening visit.

Later in the afternoon the atmosphere cleared and contacts picked up.

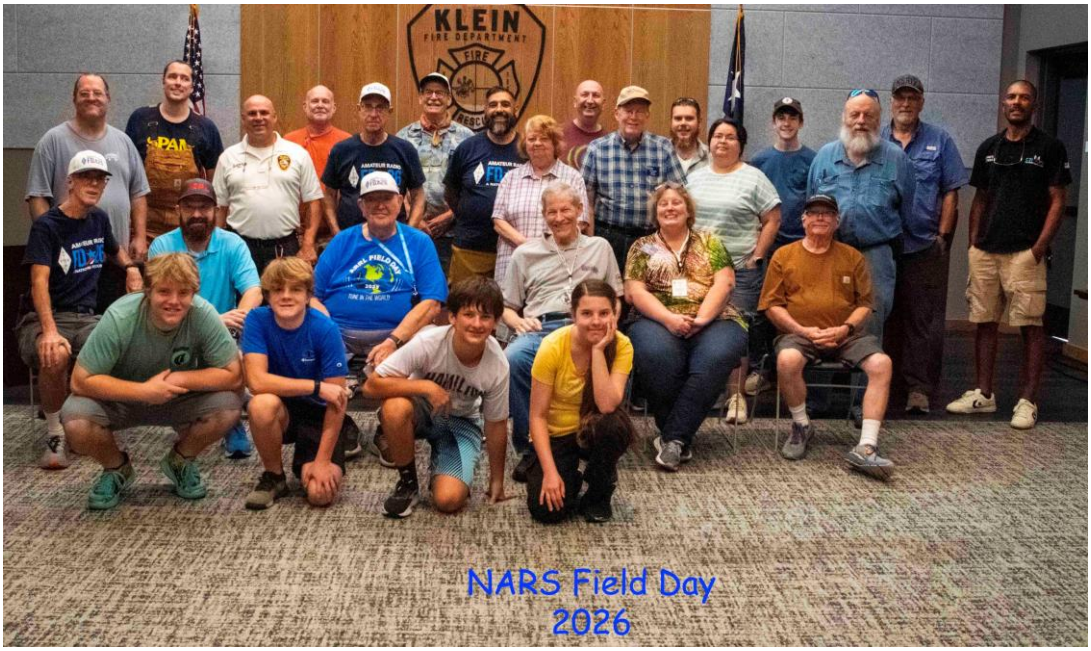
At 6:00 p.m., Jim, WB5AW and Tom, KK5YU, served dinner. After the meal the operations really took off. Shifts changed, and contacts increased. I stretched out for sleep at 11:30 p.m., then woke up at 4:30 a.m. to find James Wheeler, W5PL, and Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J, sounding victorious as they just then surpassed the CW team's contact total. I texted Marty Fitzgerald, who was at home totally asleep but jumped to the ESD within minutes — SSB and Digi were again left behind.

Sunday, June 28 Fresh operators took over while the die-hards kept going. Contacts were strong and logging was in full swing. Sheree Horton, WM5N, handled the Houston Traffic Net. At 8:00 a.m., Jim, WB5AW and Tom, KK5YU, served breakfast — eggs, bacon, and biscuits — followed by coffee and good conversations in the big room by the kitchen.

At 1:00 p.m. the countdown ended. Take-down began immediately. The EFHW antennas came down, coax and guys coiled for storage, the trailer was towed, and we loaded everything in. What had taken hours of setup simply disappeared in an hour. Inside we disconnected filters, jumpers, and the triplexer, returned everything to the original beam condition, and declared victory. Paul and I picked up the last items; everyone else was loading vehicles.

Bottom Line We finished the weekend with respectable scores, lots of stories to tell, and a much clearer understanding for me of what it takes to run a Field Day. We're already planning improvements for next year. We all had a great weekend.

2026 Field Day



Back Row: David, KJ5NSW, Sam, Ne5IE, Chief Gonzalas, Glenn, KJ5WGR, Craig, W5CEV, Robert, KJ5DKB, Jorge, WK5J, Vicki, AC5EW, Neal, N5EN, Tom, KK5YU, Kyle, K5KNV, Catrina, K5GRR, Michell, KJ5GZR, Larry, WA8EXE, Tom, N5RIV, Hedner, KC9MFQ

Middle Row: Paul, N5NXS, James, W5PL, Marty, W5MF, Mark, K5GQ, Brandy, WE9L, James, WB5AW

Front Row: Rhys Mack, Owen Mack, Carson Clark, Carryn Mack

Field Day Cake: Paul, N5NXS, Tom, KK5YU, Robert, KJ5DKB, James, WB5AW

Mark, K5GQ, and Catrina, K5GRR. She was making CW contact.

Synomen, KG5IRS, teaching boy scout to make Field Day contacts on the GOTA station.

Spring Fire Chief Scott Seifert, KA2EEU, ESD 7 Commissioner Bob Schmanski, Paul, N5NXS

The Cook - James, WB5AW
and the helper - Tom, KK5YU

Synomen, KG5IRS, showing Logan Nesmith' a scout, how to spell his name in Morse Code

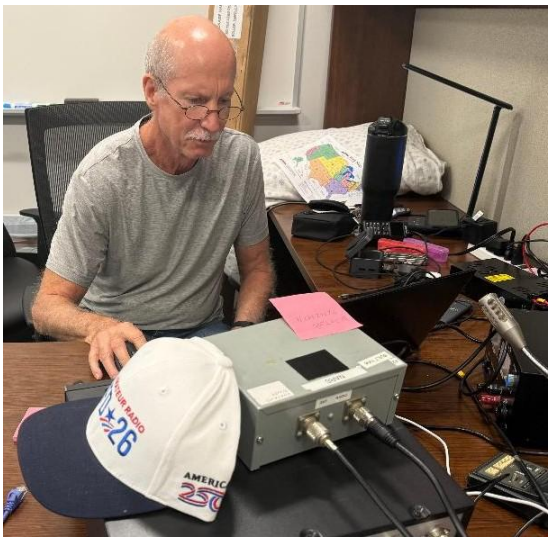
Jorge, WK5J hard at work
on the Digital station.

Mark, K5GQ and Marty, W5MF
at the CW Station

SSB Station with Craig, W5CEV and Jorge, WK5J

SSB Station with John, W5PDW and Larry, WA8EXE

Digital Station with James, W5PL and Michell, KJ5GZR



Digital Station with John, KI5YPD

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on July 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 help at the NARS Field Day event June 27-28 at the ESD16 Admin Building.

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 December 2025 issue of QST.

The Adjust-a-J Antenna

This J-pole was an honorable mention in the 6 meters and up category of the 2024 QST Antenna Design Competition.

John Post, K7SKI

The deployed Adjust-a-J antenna.

The Adjust-a-J (see lead photo) came about because I wanted an antenna design that would be time-tested, safe, and reasonably well performing. I also wanted one that could be modified to have the lowest-possible standing wave ratio (SWR) at the desired operating frequency. At the time, I was active on packet radio and used 145.010 MHz. I additionally needed to use a local repeater that used 147.84 MHz as the input frequency. I had been using copper tubing for several J-poles and appreciated how inexpensive and readily available it was. These antennas were dc grounded, enhancing safety in my thunderstorm-prone area.

During a winter Yagi-building period, I thought of using 6063-T832 telescoping aluminum tubing for the main elements of a J-pole; merely adjusting the length of each element could move the antenna's resonant point to the desired frequency. Making a small slit in the top end of each tube and using a good hose clamp also allowed me to easily adjust the length of the element(s). I hit on the idea of using a flat plate of high-grade 6061-T6 aluminum to securely mount the elements and provide more mounting options. By drilling four holes in the base plate that match the span of stainless-steel muffler clamps, I could entertain the possibility of mounting on a vertical mast, a horizontal mast, or even the boom of my HF tribander (see Figure 1). By adjusting the length of each element, I've been able to build J-poles for the maritime and aircraft VHF frequencies.

One key feature of the Adjust-a-J is the feed point. I have my late uncle, Robert Moore, W6FIV (SK), to thank for suggesting this design. The center of the coax is insulated from the aluminum elements by the insulation on the wire, thus isolating the radio from dc current. RF is passed into the long element by the coil wound around it – approximately 6 inches above the RF connector. The feed-point wire starts out as a 19-inch length of #14 AWG wire and bends 90 degrees toward the long element (see Figure 2). Use shrink tubing or high-quality electrical tape to secure and moisture proof the coil. Feed-point construction does not change with the desired operating frequency.

Construction Notes

The parts list is provided in Table 1, and Figure 3 shows the dimensions. I found that DX Engineering and Texas Towers were reliable sources for aluminum tubing. After cutting the 5/8-inch section to the ½-inch section; these slotted ends will be pointed toward the top of the antenna. Next, drill the six holes that will attach the plate to the tubing, per the mounting plate details (see Figure 3). Mark a spot 3 inches up from the bottom of each vertical element, which will align with the top of the mounting plate. Place the tubing element under the plate and mark the spots where the rivets or machine screws will attach the plate to the tubing. Mark and drill the uppermost holes in the tubing – matched up with the plate – and then drill the other holes in the tubing with the plate attached via the uppermost holes.

Figure 1 — Stainless-steel muffler clamps fit through the four holes shown in Figure 3.

Mounting the vertical elements to the mounting plate requires patience and a steady hand or drill. Early on, I decided to build a wooden jig to hold all of the aluminum pieces in their proper location while drilling them. I also use a drill press to ensure properly aligned rivet or machine screw points. I prefer to use high-grade stainless-steel or aircraft-grade aluminum pop rivets to attach the elements together, but I've used stainless-steel machine screw bolts and nuts as well. Using bolts will require you to drill completely through the tubing, rather than on one side for the rivets at the points where the vertical elements meet the mounting plate. If you don't have a drill for the 5/8-inch hole for the coaxial connector, and if you're unable to purchase one, any machine shop will be able to help.

Figure 2 — The tubing mounts to the plate with pop rivets. An SO-239/UHF connector mounts on the same plate and feeds the longer element through the matching wire.

Fixing the RF connector to the mounting plate is best accomplished with 1/8-inch stainless-steel or aluminum pop rivets. You can top everything off by placing small plastic tubing caps on the vertical elements; these caps will keep moisture from running down inside and possibly corroding the rivets or bolts.

Mounting the Adjust-a-J

After purchasing the stainless-steel muffler clamps, measure the distance from center to center on the threaded ends. Drill the four-bolt pattern on the mounting plate based on that distance. Arrange the pattern in a square to give you the option to mount on a vertical or horizontal mast. You can also use large wood screws/lag bolts to fix the antenna to a fence or the side of the house, but take care to provide a ground wire if you do. Add ferrite beads on the wire to prevent common-mode currents.

For 2-meter operation, the long element should extend 61.25 inches above the mounting plate, and the short element should extend 19.25-inches above the mounting plate. To change the resonant frequency, note the following formula: 234 divided by the desired frequency equals the length of the shorter element. Multiply the length of the shorter element by 3.2 to find the approximate length of the longer element. Use the hose clamps to secure the ½-inch sections to the desired lengths.

As measured with several brands of SWR meters, the SWR is well below 1.5 across the 2-meter band. I have measured similar results over 5 MHz spans in the aircraft and VHF marine bands.

Preventing Common-Mode Current

When many amateurs find that an antenna's SWR is acceptable, they tend to not worry about much else. A J-pole with common-mode current in the structure or feed line produces a fairly high angle of radiation. It is good for working airplanes or mountaintop repeaters from a nearby valley, but not so much for stations on the horizon.

I generally use high-quality RG-8 coaxial feed line, and I add three or four mix-31 ferrite beads from Palomar Engineers near the feed point. I've also used several turns of good-quality RG-8X coax in the same location to minimize RF on the coax. I think these methods – and this antenna – are easy for the average amateur to replicate while enjoying the benefits at a modest cost.

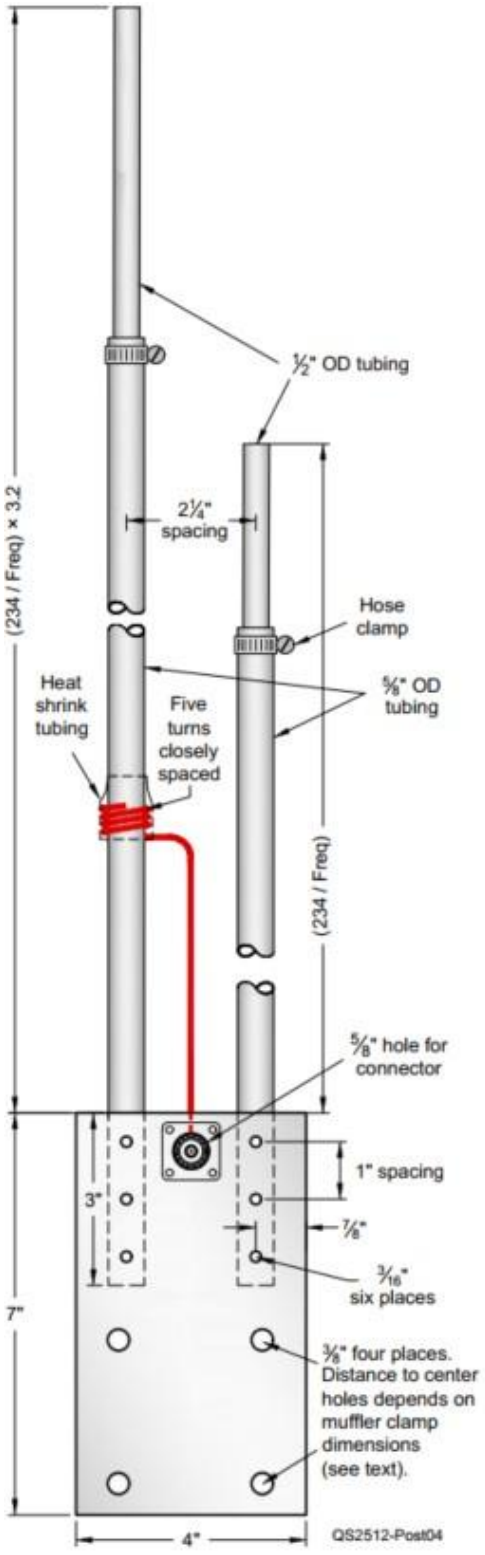


Figure 3 — Dimensions of the longer and shorter aluminum tubes.

Table 1 — Parts List

Quantity	Part Description
1	⅝ OD × 54-inch aluminum 6063-T832 telescoping tubing
1	⅝ OD × 18-inch aluminum 6063-T832 telescoping tubing
1	½ OD × 12-inch aluminum 6063-T832 telescoping tubing
1	½ OD × 6-inch aluminum 6063-T832 telescoping tubing
1	4 × 7 × 0.1-inch-thick aluminum 6061-T6 plate
6	⅛-inch pop rivet (or 1-inch machine screw and nut)
4	⅛-inch pop rivet for attaching RF connector (or small machine screw and nut)
1	19-inch-long #14 AWG insulated solid wire
1	1-inch shrink tubing
1	SO-239 UHF chassis mount connector (or equivalent N-type connector)
2	Approximately 2-inch stainless-steel muffler clamp
2	Stainless-steel hose clamp that will go to minimum ⅝-inch-diameter tubing

All photos provided by the author.

About the author – John Post, K7SKI, was first licensed in 1984 after patient and persistent mentoring by Paul Alexander, K5LZT. Building antennas has been his favorite pastime since his Novice days. The Adjust-a-J antenna continues to evolve, and one of his designs has been in use for more than 20 years. John can be reached at adjustajpole@gmail.com .

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, June 27, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. During the testing session, 6 candidates took 8 tests.

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

Congratulations!

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

- Enoch Bauer – new Technician
- Richard Kuslan – passed Technician to restore expired General license
- Conan Massey – new Technician
- John Reid - new Technician
- Scott Reid - new Technician
- Rex Smith - 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 July 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
- August J. Canik KI5YPD
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- Vicki Owen AC5EW
- Tom Migl KG5FFX
- Brandy Lang WE9L

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

- Mark Triplett K3MBC

Renewing Club Members

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

- Michael Estes KR4CZF
- Diane Simmons KI5ULB
- Raymond Donaldson KJ5BRC
- Scott Blanchette K5RSB
- Joe Lasater KG5ZOZ
- Robert Bridges KI5WAL
- Rudy Hardy, Jr W5HRH
- William Norton KN5KX
- Mike Hvasta KF5IUM
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- Brandy Lang WE9L
- Dan Cassiani N5KPI

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. Use our partnership code, **NARS**, to get 10% off when you enroll.

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: T5D09 – C. 10 amperes
General: G7C12 – C. Cutoff frequency
Amateur Extra: E1D04 – A. Call sign

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

W1AW Schedule

Cent	UTC	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8 am	1300z		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
9 am to 2:45 pm	1400z to 1945z	**Visiting Operator Time**				
3 pm	2000z	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
4 pm	2100z	Code Bulletin				
5 pm	2200z	Digital Bulletin				
6 pm	2300z	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
7 pm	0000z	Code Bulletin				
8 pm	0100z	Digital Bulletin				
8:45 pm	0145z	Voice Bulletin				
9 pm	0200z	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
10 pm	0300z	Code Bulletin				

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 – July 17, 2026 – HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379

VE Test Session –July 18, 2026 – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, 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

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

Nov 13-14 | CRHRC Hamfest & Raffle Drawing, Columbus Club Hall, 1458 County Rd 406, El Campo, TX

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

July 2026 - July 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
- Gregson: VHF Analog Repeater 146.660 Tone 100
- Klein: UHF Analog Repeater 444.375 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.