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

NARS NEWS

JUNE 2026

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

Contents

President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

See the announcement from Robert, KJ5DKB, below about ARRL 2026 Field Day. He is being assisted by Glenn, KJ5WGR and Mike, WA2TOP.

I want to thank David, WJ9O, and his team of helpers with the Lone Star College Fox Hunt on May 25th. See the article by Kyle Vann, K5KNV in this month's Newsletter.

I also want volunteers to help David, KJ5NSW, and his group of 5 young boys to have a Fox Hunt before our Field Day weekend. David asked if July 11th would be good, but I need to see if I can get a team to help me on that Saturday. Please email me, n5nxs@flash.net, if you would like to help.

BY Robert Bernardini, KJ5DKB

I am the Field Day Coordinator for this year's NARS 2026 Field Day set for June 27th & 28th. Check your phones, your calendars and with spouses, children and grandchildren to clear those dates for your participation! We need a full complement of operators. I will need operator assistants as well as escorts to tour guests around the stations to see a close look at operators making contacts; a perfect task for members who want to just visit, or interested spouses?

It will all take place at the ESD 16 Administration Building, 18606 Stuebner Airline Road in Klein, TX. This year our use of the facility is limited due to ESD training and another group using the big rooms on Saturday. We will be using the Loading Dock area for GOTA and Talk-in radio, the EOC Room for the SSB and Digital Stations, and the Radio Room for the CW station.

On Friday the 26th, after 1pm, we'll be setting up the HWEF antenna with coax to box at base of tower, lay down coax in the building, set up tables and chairs at the operating positions.

On Saturday morning, the VE Team will be in the Board Room until approximately 10:30 and then we need to change the set up for the education table and welcome table for members, hams and visitors to sign in. The Board Room and Break Room will be used to stage visitors to see the stations in the EOC Room and then go to visit the GOTA station. I will need members to be their escorts into the secure part of the building. After 5pm the Break Room and Outdoor Patio will be our gathering place to talk and hang out. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Dinner will be served after 5pm. I will need some members to man the overnight period. Right now, I know Jorge, WK5J, will stay overnight. He will be the one to contact to let him know if you plan to arrive between 9pm and 7am.

On Sunday, we will use the big room next to kitchen area for eating breakfast. We will need members to man the Board Room for the education table and welcome table for members, hams and visitors to sign in. It's very hard to plan for anybody to be at the site between 6 and 11am. It would be a good time to sign up for a time slot. Send an email to Michael Lizzio now, ml2772@gmail.com. Michael is collecting names and time slots of operators for all stations.

But, most of all, plan to attend! It's getting closer and I'm getting nervous. Please join us the last weekend in June to make this event a success!

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)

T1B01
Which of the following frequency ranges are available for phone operation by Technician licensees?

A. 28.050 MHz to 28.150 MHz
B. 28.100 MHz to 28.300 MHz
C. 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz
D. 28.500 MHz to 28.600 MHz

General (Element 3)

G6B01
What determines the performance of a ferrite core at different frequencies?

A. Its condiuctivity
B. Its thickness
C. The composition, or "mix" of materials used
D. The ratio of outer diameter to inner diameter

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E3B06
On which of the following amateur bands is long-path propagation most frequent?

A. 160 meters and 80 meters
B. 40 meters and 20 meters
C. 10 meters and 6 meters
D. 6 meters and 2 meters

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!

Dayton Hamvention Wrap Up

Dayton Hamvention was held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio over four days in May. It featured five indoor exhibit halls for vendors and organizations, four parallel tracks of forums, and a massive flea market that filled the infield of a horse racing track and spilled over into surrounding areas.

The Southwest Ohio DX Association's DX Dinner was held Friday night and was the base for multiple award presentations, as well as a keynote address on "radiosportsmanship" by ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. The Heritage CQ DX Hall of Fame welcomed two new members, legendary QSL manager Charles Wilmott, M0OXO and avid DXpeditioner Elvira Simoncini, IV3FSG.

Minster, in his speech, challenged DXers in the room to pay serious attention to questions about excessive power, remote operating that uses stations in multiple locations, "pay to play" for getting confirmations from some DX stations, whether certain stations really need to work DXpeditions on all possible bands and modes while others are trying to make just one contact, the future of the DXCC Honor Roll and deliberate QRM. "The most important aspect of radiosport," he concluded, "is to have a good time, but not at the expense of others."

ARRL Field Day 2026 Coming Soon!

It's time 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 the information you need to get started can be found on the Field Day webpage.

ARRL Store: Handheld Yagi Antenna

The store is now advertising a Dual-Band 2m/70cm handheld Yagi Antenna that can be used to make satellite contacts (with included diplexer), hunt for hidden transmitters, and capture signals from weather satellites. It assembles and disassembles in minutes. No tools are necessary and comes with a black carrying bag and step-by-step instructions. For more information you can go to ARRL Dual-Band 2 m/70 cm Handheld Yagi Antenna.

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

Youth Airwaves – The Hunt with LSC LASO Club by Kyle Vann, K5KNV

After having a Build Day on April 21, the Lone Star College LASO {Latin American Student Organization) Club spent Saturday, April 25, on a Fox Hunt. Several students showed up at 9am at Spring Creek Park for a fox hunt! David (WJ9O) and Tom (N5RIV) had gotten there early in an attempt to set up the foxes in their secret locations before the hunters arrived. As usual, nothing ever goes according to plan.

So, after an emergency battery change and then another unplanned transmitter change, the hunt was on. Students started at a central location inside the park and began searching in teams. It was much hotter and more humid than is usual for mid-April, so keeping to the shade was a priority.

As the hunters narrowed in on the hidden signals, Glen (KJ5WGR) acted as an invaluable resource, sharing tips and giving gentle guidance on how to manipulate the antennas and receivers to best capture and triangulate the confusing signals. It was very apparent that theory and actual application can feel very different in the heat of the chase. Eventually both foxes were located and celebratory pictures were taken with smiles all around.

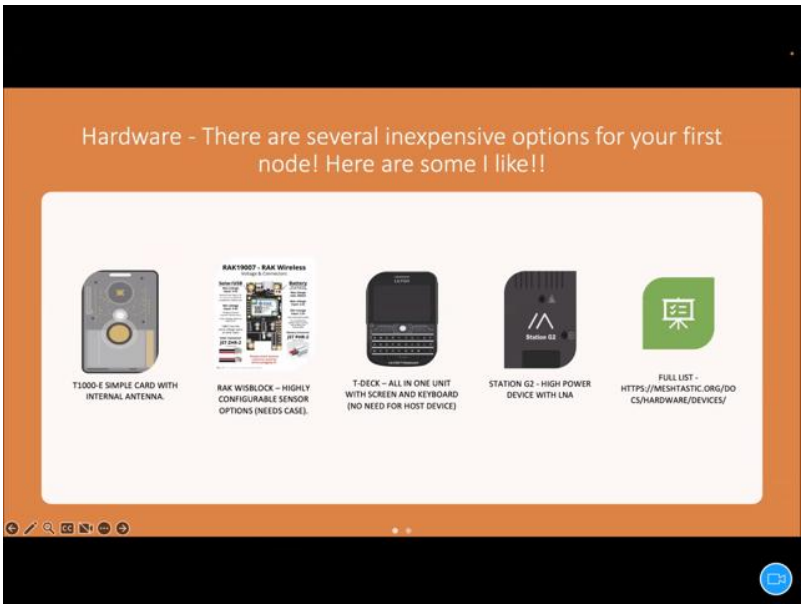
One comment I heard that stood out to me was about community. Not only does NARS act as a community itself, but it also serves as a valuable resource to those outside of the amateur radio family. Face to face events build camaraderie in a way that is impossible to replicate in a primarily digital/online world. It is a great joy for me to be able to rely on our members to come together and volunteer their time and their expertise in the pursuit of educating the public about the multitude of opportunities that amateur radio can offer.

Special thanks go to NARS members David (WJ9O), Tom (N5RIV), Glen (KJ5WGR), for showing up and helping out. If you'd like to be put on the shortlist to help out during an upcoming Youth Airwaves event, please reach out directly to Kyle. If you are unable to give of your time please remember that Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Thanks to Kyle for his hard work and allowing us to put this in the newsletter!

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

May Meeting



An introduction into Meshtastic was presented by James Wheeler, W5PL. Meshtastic is a community-driven open-source protocol and firmware that uses LoRa radios as personal communicators. It does not rely on Wi-Fi, cellular or internet connections. LoRa is the hardware, or physical layer, and Meshtastic is the protocol. LoRa uses license-free sub-gigahertz radio frequency US915 (900-928 MHz) in North America and enables long-range transmissions with low power consumption.

It can be very useful in emergencies because it depends on a mesh network, and messages can be sent with full 256 bit AES encryption. Since no license is required you can communicate with friends and family who don't have an amateur radio license. In the license-free mode you are limited to 1 watt or less. Those with an amateur license can operate up to 5 watts. James explained that he experimented by using it at the Texas Renaissance Festival, giving nodes out to friends, because cell signal is non-existent there.

He said that the best way to grow mesh communications is to get ham operators involved. Your device sends a message out on the network and clients & repeaters will repeat packets until the hop limit is depleted. The more clients and repeaters the further the message will travel. He passed around a variety of nodes and went through the steps to set it up and activating it. The one he showed members cost about $70 in material.

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on June 19, 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

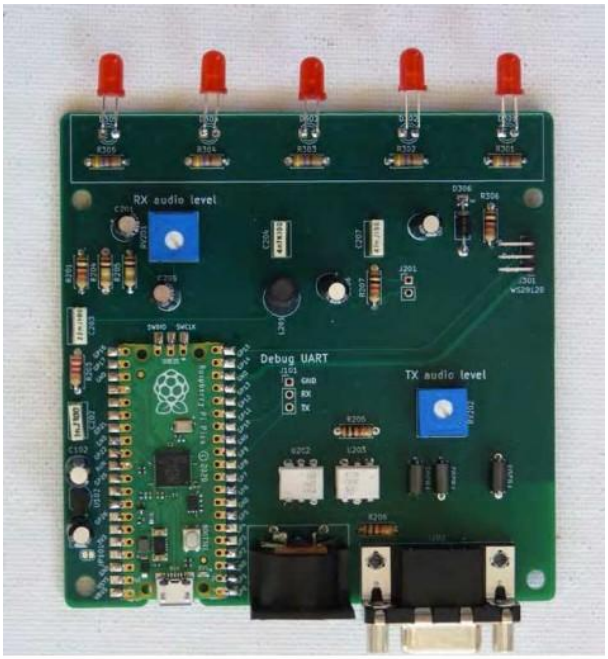
The "Amateur Radio Activities" feature of NARS News highlights various activities related to ham radio. Each issue provides a quick overview for those who may be interested in learning new aspects of the amateur radio hobby. This article with photos is taken from the January 2026 issue of QST.

The OpenTNC: An Open-Source Packet Radio Controller

This project provides a low-cost avenue into packet radio without sacrificing features or performance.

David Platt, AE6EO

The Open Terminal Node Controller (OpenTNC; see lead photo) is a new take on an old idea: a packet radio controller for 1200- and 9600-baud AX.25 digital communication, with capabilities and commands modeled after the classic Tucson Amateur Packet Radio TNC-2 design. Its performance is competitive with commercial TNCs. The design is made with modern components and meant to be homebuilt at a fraction of the cost of a commercial TNC. The OpenTNC supports FX.25 error correction; AX.25 V2.0 and V2.2; Keep It Simple, Stupid mode, and Deflate data compression. It works with any serial port terminal emulator and does not require the installation of specialized AX.25 networking software on the PC. USB connected and USB powered, it appears as a virtual COM port. Current drawn from the computer's USB port is less than 100 mA. Finally, the project source code, KiCAD schematics and board layout, Gerber files, ready-to-flash firmware images, and documentation are all available on the project website at www.gitlab.com/davidplatt/opentnc.



The OpenTNC prototype.

Basic Design Approach

For those unfamiliar, 1200-baud amateur packet radio is based on the old Bell-202 telephone line modem standard. The sender transmits alternating 1200/2200 Hz tones to send the data bits, and the receiver recovers the data by detecting the data bit transitions. The OpenTNC does almost all of the audio signal processing digitally using an inexpensive Raspberry Pi Pico microcontroller. The required analog circuitry includes only a simple transmitted data low-pass filter and some level-shifting and volume-control circuits. The result is a simple design with few parts and a straightforward printed circuit board (PCB) layout. Figure 1 is a block diagram of the OpenTNC. The complete OpenTNC schematic is show at www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth and the required parts are given in Table 1 and in an uploadable spreadsheet file on the project website.

OpenTNC Operational Description

Referring to Figure 1, the received audio signal from the radio connector goes through a volume-adjusting potentiometer, a dc-blocking capacitor, and a voltage-bias network, and it is fed to one of the Pico's analog-to-digital converter (ADC) input pins. The voltage on this pin is sampled by the ADC at regular intervals, and the resulting digital samples flow into the frequency discriminator software. The transmitted audio signal comes from a digital output pin driven by the Pico's pulse-width modulation hardware. It is fed through a passive low-pass filter, a dc-blocking capacitor, and a volume-adjusting potentiometer, and then out to the radio connector's transmit audio pin. A digital output pin on the Pico drives an opto-isolator, driven by the radio's "RF carrier detected" signal, pulls a Pico input pin to ground whenever the radio's squelch is open – this is an optional feature.

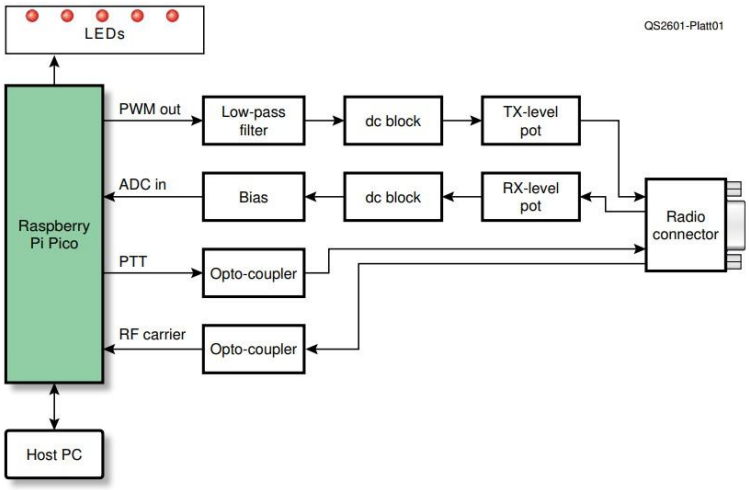


Figure 1 — The OpenTNC block diagram.

Finally, the Pico drives a set of LEDs that show the TNC's status (heartbeat, connected, carrier detected, packet received, PTT active, and transmission underway). The board can have either five traditional single-color LEDs or a strip of five WS2812B NeoPixel RGB LEDs.

Table 1 — Parts List

Qty	Description	Value	Reference	DigiKey Part	Mouser Part
5	Capacitor	10 µF	C101, C102, C201, C205, C206	P19445CT-ND	667-ECA-1HHG100I
1	Capacitor	0.001 µF	C202	399-19343-1-ND	80-R82EC1100SH50J
1	Capacitor	3900 pF	C203	399-R82EC1390AA50J-ND	80-R82EC1390AA50J
1	Capacitor	100 µF	C301	493-10975-1-ND	667-ECA-0JHG101I
5	Red LED	N/A	D301, D302, D303, D304, D305	754-1266-ND	604-WP7113LID
1	Diode	1N4001	D306	1N4001G-T	625-1N4001E-E3/73
3	Ferrite bead	Mix 43	FB201, FB202, FB203	1934-1416-1-ND	623-2743005112
1	Connector	DB9F	J202	609-5188-ND	649-LD09S13A4GV00LF
1	Connector	DIN5P	J203	CP-2350-ND	490-SDS-50J
1	Inductor	10000 µH	L201	RLB0812-103KL	652-RLB0812-103KL
5	Resistor	1 kΩ	R201, R206, R208, R209, R306	CF14JT1K00CT-ND	660-CF1/4CT52R102J
1	Resistor	2.2 kΩ	R203	CF14JT2K20CT-ND	660-CF1/4CT52R222J
2	Resistor	100 kΩ	R204, R205	CF14JT100KCT-ND	660-CF1/4CT52R104J
1	Resistor	100 Ω	R210	CF14JT100RCT-ND	708-CF14JT100R
5	Resistor	470 Ω	R301, R302, R303, R304, R305	CF14JT470RCT-ND	660-CF1/4CT52R471J
1	Variable	5 kΩ	RV201	3386F-502LF-ND	652-3386F-1-502LF
1	Variable	5 kΩ	RV202	3266W-502LF-ND	652-3266W-1-502LF
1	Pico	N/A	A101	2648-SC0915CT-ND	358-SC0915
1	Regulator	LP2950-3.3	U102	296-LP2950-33LPRE3CT-ND	595-LP2950-33LPRE3
2	Opto-isolator	4N32	U202, U203	4N32M-ND	512-4N32M

Component Choice, Availability, and Installation

The only specialized parts on the board are the Raspberry Pi Pico and the low-dropout linear voltage regulator. The Raspberry Pi company has publicly committed to keeping the Pico in production through 2035. It is possible to build the board without the low-dropout regulator if you re-enable the Pico's onboard switching regulator. All of the other components and connectors are standard through-hole parts. The release package at the OpenTNC project website includes a ZIP archive containing the necessary Gerber photo plot files for creating a PCB. You can simply upload the archive to the website of any PCB company and place your order, and boards will arrive in the mail in a few weeks. The minimum order at most companies is five boards. I have used JLCPCB (www.jlcpcb.com) and have been happy with their service, quality and prices. PCBWay (www.pcbway.com) and ELECROW (www.elecrow.com) are competing manufacturers that accept small-run orders, and there are plenty of others you can investigate. Figure 2 shows the most recent version of the PCB.

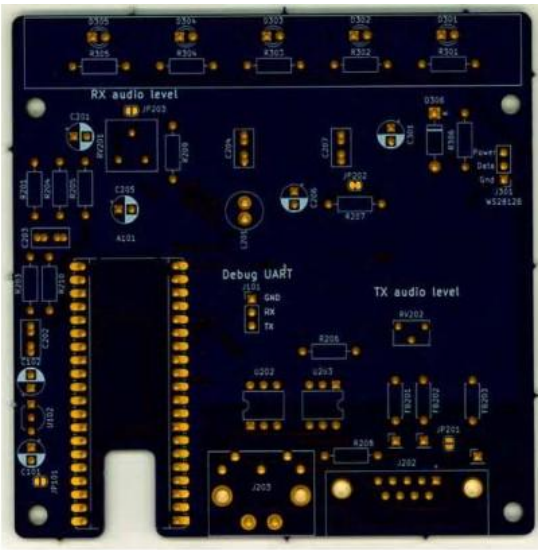


Figure 2 — The current OpenTNC PCB.

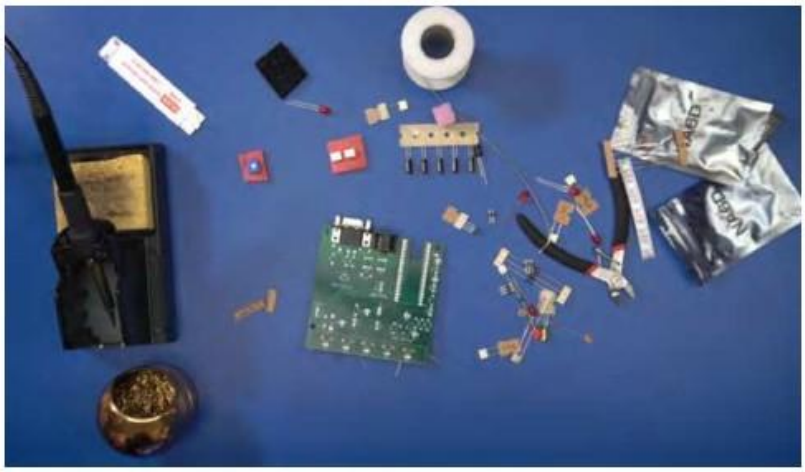
The Pico can be connected to the PCB using pin headers and pin sockets, which allows you to replace it if necessary. Or, because the Pico board has crenellated edges, you can hand-solder it directly to the pads on the PCB footprint. To prevent static damage, wear a proper wrist strap with a safe connection to ground, and work on a static-free surface. The lead photo shows the completed OpenTNC prototype. This uses five single-color LEDs, and it has a pin header installed to allow users to test a WS2812B LED strip.

Programming and Use

Once you have built the board, the firmware image must be flashed into the Pico's memory; this is usually a drag-and-drop operation. The firmware image, the instructions for flashing it, and the way to access the OpenTNC virtual COM port can be found on the OpenTNC website. Once you have finished the firmware and connected to the USB COM port, you will be greeted with a sign-on message and a **CMD:** prompt. Typing **HELP** will display all of the supported commands. At that point, you can connect the OpenTNC to your VHF FM radio and start making connections to packet radio systems. You can also tune your radio to 144.390 MHz, enter the **MONITOR ON** command, and start observing automatic packet reporting system (APRS) traffic in your area.

Open TNC Evolution

The current version of the OpenTNC has some limitations compared to commercial TNCs. It has no direct support for APRS (there's no way to connect it to a GPS receiver) and no mailbox capability. While 2400-bit-per-second transmission is currently unavailable, it is also currently under development. New features can be added by anyone because all of the source code is available. Finally, the OpenTNC design is not tied to the Raspberry Pi Pico. Most of the firmware was written to be hardware independent. The OpenTNC is built as an application running on the free open-source Zephyr runtime kernel and libraries, which support



Visit **https://youtu.be/wN2WjA5JruE** to watch ARRL Lab Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, W1DRF, build the OpenTNC.

many microcontrollers and boards. My hope is that this project – and the code that supports it – will spur additional interest in packet radio systems.

All photos provided by the author.

About the author – David Platt, AE6EO, has been interested in radio and electronics since he received a crystal radio kit at age 10. David received his license in 2001 and has been part of his local ARES, RACES, and repeater groups from that point on. David worked as a software engineer for 5 decades at Honeywell, The 3DO Company, TiVo, and Google, and he still programs for fun. You may reach him at dplatt@radagast.org .

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, May 23, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. During the testing session, 2 candidates took 3 tests.

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

Congratulations!

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

- Jonathon Hinchley – new Technician
- Terry Riley – 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 June 27, 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
- Sheree Horton WM5N
- August J. Canik KI5YPD
- Dale Schmirler KN5DS
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- Michael Robinson KI0DE
- Brynn Hebert KG5KRV
- Logan Hebert KG5LLM
- Tom Migl (helper) KG5FFX

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

- Hedner Sanches, WC9MFQ
- Joel Wilson, KJ5BDP

Renewing Club Members

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

- Geoffrey and Amy Hall, KJ5AHG
- Marie Rogoff, N5VLA
- Martin Rogoff, N5GPS
- James Wheeler, W5PL

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: T1B01 – C. 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz
General: G6B01 – C. The composition, or "mix" of materials used
Amateur Extra: E3B06 – B. 40 meters and 20 meters

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

VE Test Session –June 27, 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.

Field Day – June 27-28, 2026 at ESD16 Administration Building, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379

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

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

June 2026 - June 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.