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

# NARS NEWS

**MARCH 2026**

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

## Contents

# President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

February was a busy month for me. I apologize for forgetting to publish the NARS News before leaving for Florida. My wife, AC5EW and I drove to Florida leaving Houston on Tuesday morning. We attended HamCation in Orlando on Friday and Saturday. I attended a few seminars and we walked through the Tailgate area, Swaps building, North Hall and East/West Hall buildings where all the vendors were. We saw all the familiar names like Ham Radio Outlet, Icom, Yeasu, Kenwood and Giga Parts.

We had a few NARS members and a board member join us at HamCation. Walter, K5WH, always schedules the dinners after the show where we had 18 to 20 at the table. The Florida weather was great and eating lunch outside was pleasant.

The seminars I went to included "DX Contesting From V26B in Antigua" which went over the logistics, operators and band planning that goes into operating in the contest. I also attended the "Getting Started with FreeDV" where Mooneer, K6AQ, who is a frequent visitor to Walter's Zoom room, went over the recent changes to the program. He also went over a list of items that will be coming out in the next few months. On Saturday I went to 5 seminars. One of them was "Youth Forum – Engaging Youth in Ham Radio". The speakers were Carole Perry, WB2MGP and Andrew Auster, KO4TZK. Each had a different perspective with their approach to engaging young people. Carole has many years of experience with explaining Ham Radio to educators and Andrew explained how he could do his homework and FT8 at the same time. He also explained how you must engage with the parents by inviting them to participate in group activities like Field Day and Fox Hunting.

The next week had me going with the repeater team on Friday to get the 146.66 repeater from the downtown site. We found out the antenna had no problem using UHF so our intent will be to put the 443.075 repeater downtown. I delivered the VHF duplexer to Bob, KC5T, earlier in the week and then at the meeting I gave him the VHF repeater to check it out. Both items are in great shape and are ready to be installed at the new tower location very soon.

I went to the Greater Houston Hamfest in Rosenberg on Friday and Saturday. I hope you tried to attend because it was a good one. It was another great job by Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club and their leader, Mike, N5VCX. I saw many NARS members there and 2 of our members walked away with 2 of the three grand prizes. Congratulations to Tom, N5RIV and Jason, KR1BBT.

I also took the chance to ask Allen, N5XZ, to do a meeting presentation "DX Contesting". I saw a QST Ad about The Antenna Factory and how Ed Fong would give presentations to clubs. I emailed him and got the August meeting covered. He makes VHF-UHF antennas and peripherals.

I also have a few members that made suggestions for other future meetings. Craig, W5CEV, got Crystal Schiffbauer-Bowles that heads up the UAV Team at Black & Veatch. They make large commercial drones and the presentation is scheduled for the April meeting. I am also looking at another suggestion from David, WJ9O.

## 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)***

**T0A12**

Which of the following precautions should be taken when measuring high voltages with a voltmeter?

A. Ensure that the voltmeter has very low impedance
B. Ensure that the voltmeter and leads are rated for use at the voltages to be measured
C. Ensure that the circuit is grounded through the voltmeter
D. Ensure that the voltmeter is set to the correct frequency

***General (Element 3)***

**G6B05**

What is an advantage of using a ferrite core toroidal inductor?

A. Large values of inductance may be obtained
B. The magnetic properties of the core may be optimized for a specific range of frequencies
C. Most of the magnetic field is contained in the core
D. All these choices are correct

***Amateur Extra (Element 4)***

**E1E06**

Who is responsible for the proper conduct and necessary supervision during an amateur operator license examination session?

A. The VEC coordinating the session
B. The designated monitoring VE
C. Each administering VE
D. Only the VE session manager

*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!

### $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 Posting – Recruiting Field Agents Electronics Engineers

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

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

## 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 allocations with maximum power of 100 watts ERP. However, the old channel at 5358.5 kHz is eliminated 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

## February Meeting


*Texas QSO Party Team Award Multi Op-Low Pwr*

*Scott working*

*Rich and Craig working*

*New Tower with Club Antennas*

## Next Club Meeting

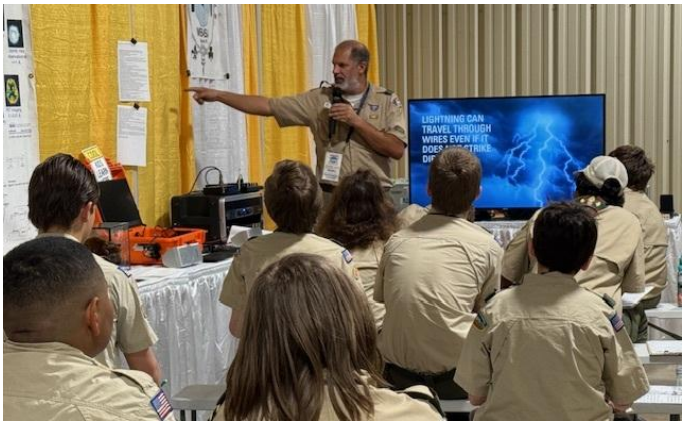
Our next General Meeting will be held on March 20, 2026, at the ESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner-Airline Rd, Spring, Tx 77379. We hope to see everyone there.


## Orlando 2026 HamCation

by Vicki Owen, AC5EW

The annual HamCation was held Feb. 13-15 in Orlando, Fl. It is quite a big event with over 90 booths for vendors, amateur radio clubs and radio organizations. There was also a building filled with used radio equipment for sale as well as a large tailgate area with items for sale. On Friday and Saturday there were 3 forums running simultaneously every hour from 9:15 to 4:00. There was a DSTAR forum which I attended for informational purposes. Even though DMR is the most popular mode in our area, DSTAR is very prevalent in other areas of the country; and if you have a Kenwood or ICOM digital radio you would have DSTAR. Fortunately, there are hotspots that will handle multiple modes so that if you have an ICOM, for example, you can still communicate with those on DMR. DSTAR was created by the Japanese Amateur Radio League and supports voice, data, pictures and text messaging.

In the CQ Worldwide forum they explained how the event works as well as the participation stats for the 2025 event. The speaker then talked about a team he was active with, V26B, Team Antigua. There was also a forum on Going Vertical, which explained programming the Radiosonde which is used in balloon launches. There was a seminar on FreeDV; one on AMSAT, with updates to the list of satellites you can contact; and a seminar covering portable apps on your phone, which explained POLO, a portable logging program (free) for phones and tablets. One seminar – Engaging Youth in Ham Radio – was very interesting. It was led by Carole Perry, WB2MGP, from the Youth Initiative of the RCA (Radio Club of America) and a youth, Andrew Auster, KO4TZK. Ms. Perry is an amateur and an educator with 30 years of experience teaching amateur radio to students in public schools. They talked about how to attract youth to the hobby through Fox Hunting, kit building, POTA, balloon launches, and by getting the parents involved. I highly recommend going to HamCation at least once. You will learn a lot, and there are plenty of places in Orlando to visit during your off time.




*Scouts getting their Radio Merit Badge*


*Carole Perry on getting youth active in ham radio*

# 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.

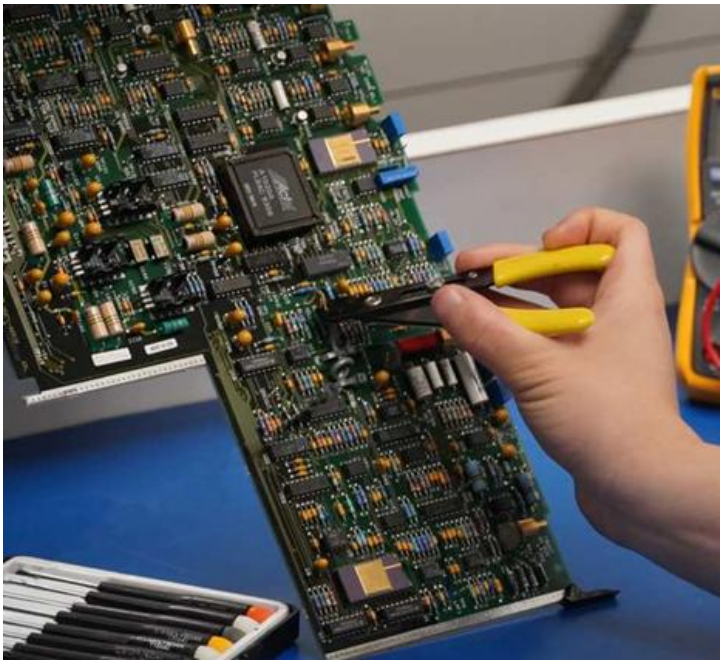
# Amateur Radio Activities

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 September 2025 issue of QST.

## Repair Your Radio Without Circuit Analysis

*Simple and safe equipment fixes for hams with little or no technical knowledge.*

### Sumner Weisman, W1VIV



I've enjoyed the ham radio hobby for more than 70 years and have had to learn a few things about occasional repairs to my transceivers and accessories. Although I'm an electronic engineer and understand electrical circuits and components, I've met many hams who don't have technical backgrounds.

There are many advantages to fixing equipment by yourself: It's hard to find a good repair shop, and if you do find one, they will typically only replace an entire subassembly with a very expensive new one. By contrast, you may be able to troubleshoot right down to the component level and replace only a little resistor or capacitor. Also, you can use the repaired unit immediately, oftentimes the cost of repairs is minimal, and you'll have a feeling of pride and confidence.

I've put together some simple equipment fixes. You may find that older radios are often easier to work on, because the newest devices are compact and loaded with surface-mounted components and integrated circuits, which often require special skills to repair. Older radios are roomier and typically have discrete components mounted on double-sided printed circuit boards (PCBs). Finally, because these techniques won't fix all common problems, I will cover a few points where some circuit knowledge is desirable.

### Hone Your Soldering Skills

If you want to repair your radio with circuit analysis, you need to be able to solder well; newer radios usually have crowded circuit-board layouts. You'll need a small-pointed soldering iron rated at about 25 W, a roll of small-diameter 60/40 tin-lead solder, and accessories, such as a solder sucker and a solder wick. It's common for radio clubs and hamfests to offer courses on soldering. Lessons can also be found on YouTube. The more you practice, the more skillful you will become.

You should also have a few good-quality tools – small and medium flat- and Phillips-head screwdrivers, small Allen wrenches (or hex keys) for tightening loose radio knobs, small needle-nose pliers, wire cutters, nut drivers, etc. Also, an inexpensive volt-ohm-milliam-meter allows you to test components and voltages.

Once you've acquired adequate soldering skills, you can take on tasks like replacing a worn-out microphone cable or a noisy fan in a power supply. For example, the coil cable from my mobile radio's microphone had a plastic outer shell that was gradually disintegrating. I unsoldered eight little wires from eight tiny PC pads on the microphone end and eight little pins on the connector end, then I carefully installed the new cable. The repaired microphone worked perfectly. I didn't have to worry about things like push-to-talk connections or shielding the audio output because this was close to an exact replacement, apart from different wire color codes. I avoided having to buy a new microphone, and I spent a fraction of the cost repairing it.

Another one of my recent repair projects involved replacing the increasingly noisy cooling fan in my MFJ switching power supply. I purchased and installed a new cooling fan, and the supply is now as quiet as when it was new (see Figure 1). Don't be afraid to try your hand at simple repairs like these. Oftentimes, little or no technical knowledge is required.

## Perform Thorough Visual Inspections

I have long believed that many equipment problems can be diagnosed by completing a good visual inspection, which is done without power applied to the radio, so there's no risk for electric shock (see the sidebar "Use Caution When Working with Electricity" for advice on handling potentially dangerous voltages). I have an illuminated magnifying lamp on my workbench (see Figure 2), but using the flashlight in your smartphone with a handheld magnifying glass will do the job just as well. Here are some examples of repairs you can make without knowledge of electronic circuits, after careful visual inspection.

**Figure 1** — Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, replaced the cooling fan in his MFJ switching power supply.

- **A cracked copper PCB conductor** – This can happen after years of heating and cooling, causing board expansion and contraction. First, clean the surfaces on both sides of the crack, then bridge the crack by soldering a piece of tinned copper wire across it. I like to use a small jackknife blade for cleaning, and I have a roll of 26 AWG tinned copper wire for the bridging.
- **A burnt capacitor** – If there are several similar capacitors on a board, and one is darker or burnt-looking, try replacing that component. If the capacitor was shorted and caused other problems like a damaged power supply, additional repairs may be needed.
- **A resistor that got too hot** – A blackened area on the PCB under a resistor, or a darkened resistor, indicates that the resistor got too hot. Replacing it may be all that's needed. Again, it's a good place to start, but it may not do the entire job.
- **Fuse replacement** – Some radio equipment may have a fuse mounted on the rear panel or wired under the chassis (or even in line with the power cord). Glass fuses, such as 3AGs, can show you

that it's open. Sometimes a fuse fails randomly in equipment that is perfectly good, and it can be easily replaced.

- **A cold solder joint** – Occasionally, solder connections aren't made properly at the factory during the PCB wave-soldering operation. Sometimes these problems can be found by conducting a good visual inspection. If you don't see a clean solder connection on a pad, try holding the component wire with a pair of needle-nose pliers and wiggling it. If it moves, then you should re-solder that joint by heating it up and flowing new solder onto it. This is not uncommon, so it's something to look for.
- **A dirty contact** – Contact cleaner can be very useful when cleaning your radio. If one of your volume controls sounds scratchy when you turn it, use the thin plastic tube that came with the cleaner and spray a small amount into the control, then rotate it a few times to spread the cleaner. Don't use too much – one short spray is enough. Similarly, if your band selector switch or other wafer switches are intermittent, or if some bands don't work at all, a small amount of spray will often clear up the problem. If your radio has circuit boards plugged into a motherboard, unplugging the small boards and using a little contact cleaner on the board contacts can do wonders for reliability.
- **A short between component leads** – Sometimes a good visual inspection can find a short between two or more component leads on or beneath a crowded chassis. Carefully move the leads around to ensure that there are no accidental shorts between them.
- **Electrolytic filter capacitor replacement** – A low-pitched hum coming from your radio is an indication that new power supply electrolytic filter capacitors are needed. Look for leaks from the larger electrolytic capacitors that filter your power supply. Electrolytics are polarized capacitors and will be marked with a plus and minus sign. These are chemical devices, and a leak or drips beneath the chassis indicate that they should be replaced. Sometimes it's difficult to find the right values, but two can be paralleled, if necessary. Make sure that the dc voltage rating is at least as high or higher than the old one. Today's electrolytic capacitors are often better and smaller than the old ones. Some hams automatically replace all the electrolytics (known as re-capping) when they acquire older radios, but I usually replace only the large power supply filter caps.

**Figure 2** — An illuminated magnifier helps improve visual inspections.

- **An open circuit** – Double-sided PCBs have through-holes. The pad on the component side of the board and the pad below it on the wiring side of the board have a plated-through copper connection to attach the two circuits. Occasionally, the through-hole opens, resulting in an open circuit between the top and bottom of the board, sometimes due to a defect in manufacturing. You won't be able to see this via a visual inspection, but your ohmmeter can show it. If you find such a condition, simply apply a little solder to the pad at the top of the board. Because the bottom was already soldered, the component lead will now complete the circuit. If there is no component wire through the hole, add a short length of bus wire and solder it on both sides.
- **Replacing incandescent lights or LEDs** – If your indicator lamps aren't lighting up, it's usually a simple task to replace them. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are polarity sensitive, so look for the

longer lead on the replacement device. That is the anode, or positive side. A flat on the base of the device indicates the cathode, or negative side, which is useful in case the leads have been cut shorter. There is usually a current-limiting resistor of a few hundred ohms in series with one side. It may be on the circuit board, but it's sometimes built into the case of an LED assembly

## Successful Repairs Are Worth the Effort

Once you gradually pick up some electronics knowledge, there's so much more you can do in the hobby. For example, you can use your voltmeter to check power supply voltages and use your ohmmeter to check signal diodes and power supply rectifiers, and to see if resistors meet specifications or have drifted with time, or if capacitors are shorted.

If you can't find the problem, it may be time to step away before you break something or hurt yourself. If this happens, you have several options: find a person with more skills, set the radio aside until you have acquired more skills, or consider replacing the radio and selling the old one. There's an active market for selling ham equipment on eBay for parts only.

It may be difficult to take your first step into making small non-technical repairs, but there are many reasons to try. I have repaired several transceivers and accessories with only a thorough visual inspection and careful repair. A fix of this sort, followed by successfully putting the radio back on the air, provides a wonderful feeling of ham radio accomplishment.

*About the author – Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, holds an amateur Extra-class license and has been a ham since 1952. He is a retired electronic engineer, working mostly in the electronic instrumentation field, including as engineering and national sales managers. Sumner's favorite ham radio interest is CW contesting. He can be reached at* ***w1viv.radio@gmail.com****.*

### Use Caution When Working with Electricity

Radio equipment contains potentially dangerous voltages. Someone without training in electrical safety should not open any device while it's connected to a power source. Unplug or disconnect the device and wait a few minutes for any charge to bleed off. Observe these cautions:

- Vacuum-tube linear amplifiers use plate voltages of up to several thousand volts. It's probably best not to work on these without experienced help.
- Any tube-operated equipment can use hundreds of volts, which can be life-threatening.
- Any device connected to the ac power line can be dangerous, especially if it has a two-prong plug (unless it uses double-insulated construction).
- Large capacitors in any device can hold a charge if discharge resistors are faulty.
- Internal batteries with high current capacity are dangerous if shorted, even if the device is off.
- Never bypass any fuses or safety interlocks.

# VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

## Attendees

On Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. During the testing session, 4 candidates took 5 tests.

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

## Congratulations!

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

- John New – new Technician
- Billy Banks, Jr – passed Technician to restore expired General privileges
- James Decker – passed General
- Terence Pierce – passed Extra

## 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 March 28, 2026 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Please visit Northwest Amateur Radio Society - License Exams for the announcement.

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

## Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:

- Brett Hebert KG5IQU – session manager
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- Craig Veteto W5CEV
- August J. Canik KI5YPD

## 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.

## 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

# New & Renewing Club Members

## New Club Members

## Renewing Club Members

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

- Larry Simko, WA8EXE
- Jorge Gutierrez, WK5J
- Mike Pate, K5MAP
- Jerry Boyd, WR5G
- Walter Holmes, K5WH
- Teresa Holmes, W5MOM

# 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**: T0A12 – B. Ensure that the voltmeter and leads are rated for use at the voltages to be measured
**General**: G6B05 – D. All these choices are correct
**Amateur Extra**: E1E06 – C. Each administering VE

# 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 – March 20, 2026 – HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379

VE Test Session –March 21, 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

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

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

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

## Contests and Radiosport

*ARRL Contest Corral*

**March 2026** - March 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.