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

NARS NEWS

MAY 2026

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

Contents

President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

Let's get ready for NARS to participate in the ARRL Field Day! I announced on Groups.io that David Bernardini, KJ5DKB, has accepted the challenge to be this year's Field Day Coordinator. He has been to the last 2 FD's and our Winter FD we did at the ESD Administration Building. He has some exposure to what FD is all about, but he will need some members to help him. This year's challenge is that we will be spread out in the building. The Board Room will be where we start the visitor orientation and sign up for GOTA station, which will be in the Loading Dock Room. The SSB and Digital stations will be in the EOC Room. The CW station will be in the Radio Room. The Break room and the outdoor patio will be used by another group on Saturday and then we can move to the Big Room next to the kitchen afterward. Watch for more information on the NARS reflector (w5nc.groups.io).

This month I had the pleasure of attending the Fox Hunt antenna-build held on April 21st at Lone Star College. We had David, WJ9O, show a PowerPoint on Fox hunting and then we got to put together some Yagi antennas so the students could use them at their Fox Hunt on the 25th. They met at the Spring Creek Park and ran a couple of teams on their hunts. They were very enthusiastic about having another one very soon. This group of students are members of the Latin American Student Organization or LASO. Kyle has been working with them to do ham radio as part of their after-school activities. I have been to two of their Open House events and got to show off an HF radio receiving FT8 signals with a random wire strung across the atrium.

Kyle and I went to David's, KJ5NSW, Introduction to Ham Radio meeting with 5 young boys. It is a church group that David is the leader of. This group left the BSA affiliation but use some of the BSA books to teach the boys about certain topics like the radio merit badge. I look forward to being able to have a Beginners Fox Hunt just for his group of boys sometime soon.

Glenn, Kyle, Paul, David and Dale.

Kyle, Paul, LASO President, David and Dale.

Students learn to build the Yagi

Student learning to use the Yagi antenna

Repeater Status and Weekly Net Operations

The NARS Repeater Team has a lot on the menu going forward, to get the latest Repeater Status check out [Northwest Amateur Radio Society - Repeater Status]

Repeater Update, February 2026

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

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

EchoLink – W5NC-R

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

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

NARS TG can be found on:

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

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

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

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

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

NARS General Club Meetings

NARS holds monthly club meetings where a variety of topics are presented from a number of guests. Come learn anything from antenna design, to phasing, emergency response, and more!

Who: All club members, friends, or anyone interested in the Amateur Radio hobby

When: The Third Friday of the Month at 7:30pm

Where: HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, 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)

T3B08
What frequency range is referred to as VHF?
A. 30 kHz to 300 kHz
B. 30 MHz to 300 MHz
C. 300 kHz to 3000 kHz
D. 300 MHz to 3000 MHz

General (Element 3)

G8C16
Which of the following provide digital voice modes?
A. WSPR, MFSK16, and EasyPAL
B. FT8, FT4, and FST4
C. Winlink, PACTOR II, and PACTOR III
D. DMR, D-STAR, and SystemFusion

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E9D09
What is the function of a loading coil in an electrically short antenna?
A. To increase the SWR bandwidth by increasing net reactance
B. To lower the losses
C. To lower the Q
D. To resonate the antenna by cancelling the capacitive reactance

See the answers on Page 17.

NARS Membership – Due Dates and More

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!

Amateur Radio to Participate in DoD Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

On May 9, 2026 this annual event will take place. For over 50 years, military and amateur stations have participated in this interoperability exercise. It provides a unique opportunity to conduct two-way communication between military communicators and stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS).

The US Naval Academy Amateur Radio Club, W3ADO, will activate the historic NSS call sign during the Crossband Test. Several Naval Academy midshipmen and members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club, including team leader Frank Donovan, W3LPL, will be operating on the grounds of the former US Navy radio transmitting facility in Annapolis, Maryland. To document your contacts with a QSL, visit: US Army MARS - Events and Announcements and complete the request form.

Dayton Hamvention Coming in May

Dayton Hamvention will feature a wide range of forums to appeal to amateur radio operators of all interests, experience levels and ages. On opening day, May 15, there are 22 forums planned beginning at

9:15 am with **HamSCI: The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation**. Another forum on Friday will be **Lightning Protection, Generators, Inverters and RFI**. Other forums planned include **Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Forum**, **TAPR – Topics in Digital Radio**, the **Antenna Forum** and **Arduino and Microcontrollers – Going the Distance**.

On Saturday afternoon young hams can join the **ARRL Youth Rally Activities**, which follows the **Youth Forum** being held Saturday morning. In addition, there will be an **ARRL Membership Forum** on Saturday to provide updates on outreach to students and educators, momentum behind the Year of the Club, ARRL's partnership with America250, and current legislative advocacy efforts shaping the future of amateur radio.

Sunday forums include **POTA Hacks: Little Things Add up to Big Success**, one on 3D Printing for ham radio uses, the HF digital modes, and mastering CW.

Hamvention runs May 15-17 in Xenia, Ohio. The entire lineup and schedule can be found at Forums - with forums - Dayton Hamvention.

Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026!

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

All 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.

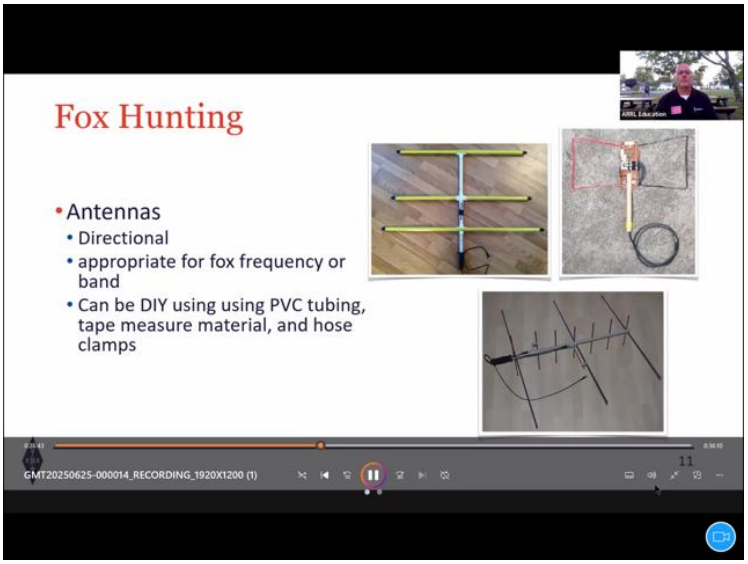
At VE sessions, VE's may be asked to help with checking in examinees so knowing what IDs are accepted and how payment can be made is important. The current VEC Exam fees are $15 for adults and youth under 18 pay $5. If the examinee fails the exam and wants to re-take it during the session they must pay another fee.

NARS Monthly Club Meeting

April Meeting

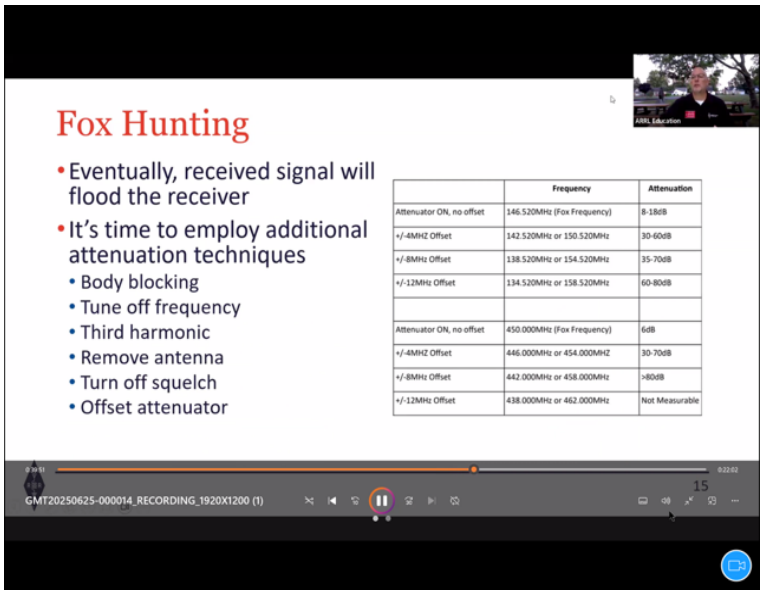
At the April meeting a video from the ARRL Learn website was shown, and featured Fox Hunting presented by Wayne Greene, KB4DSF. He began by explaining that, in his experience, kids are very interested in RDF (Radio Direction Finding), commonly known as Fox Hunting.

This activity has a number of practical uses such as Search and Rescue, military uses, finding rogue transmitters, searching for RF noise sources, and it's use in aircraft navigation. Greene mentioned he was in Civil Air Patrol and learned the techniques of finding ELTs and EPIRBs which had accidentally been activated. A few NARS members also learned those techniques as past CAP members, using direction finding equipment called the Little L-Per that 'homes' in on these signals (121.5 MHz).



Greene went on to explain that Bionics makes two models of "Foxes". The MF50 which puts out a .05mW to 53.7mW in power. The BFoxCon will connect to a Baofeng radio and uses the radio's power for output.

He mentioned that Fox transmitters usually have an omnidirectional antenna. All you need to locate the transmitter is a radio receiver, an antenna, attenuator and then switch to a rubber duck, or no antenna, as you get close to the Fox. He said the attenuator is helpful but not necessary. It just helps to pinpoint the direction of the transmitter.



Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on May 15, 2026, at the ESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner-Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We hope to see everyone there. Also, make plans now to attend the NARS Picnic and Fox Hunt, to be held May 2 at Roy C. Burroughs Park, 9738 Hufsmith Rd, Tomball.

New Radio for New Hams: Jumpstart Program

Through a partnership with GigaParts, this program is designed to lower the barrier to entry into amateur radio by providing new hams with a high quality radio for **only $17.99 (plus tax and shipping)**. The radio is supplied with an antenna, desktop cradle charger, battery, and belt clip. Effective February 28, 2025, new hams will be entitled to a **70% discount** on the Explorer QRZ-1 VHF/UHF handheld transceiver, as well as a variety of accessories.

The eligible ham must have a QRZ account and be able to log in and apply for the program. Certain types of identification, including a photo ID, will be required. This information is not shared or exchanged with any party and is used only to validate eligibility under this program.

This program is available exclusively to USA licensed amateur radio operators who obtained their first license from the FCC within the last 6 months. The Jumpstart program may be changed or terminated without notice based on availability and corporate sponsors.

How it Works:

1. Apply at https://www.qrz.com/jumpstart
2. Receive your unique discount code from QRZ via email
3. Add a **QRZ-1** to your cart.
4. Add any accessories you may want to purchase.
5. At checkout, enter your unique discount code

NARS Name Badges: Get Yours Today!

Cindy (KM4YGG) and Art (KM4YGH) Grant are offering the club a deal for the NARS club on getting membership name badges.

To order, go to https://badgesunlimitedllc.com/#!/4-2-NARS-CLUB-MEMBERS-ONLY/p/104217140/category=13635038 and pay the fees using the checkout capability on the website.

Amateur Radio Activities

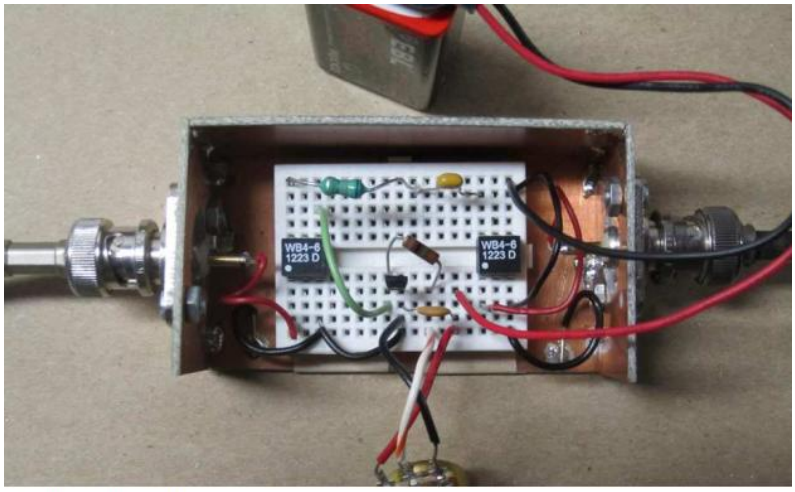
The "Amateur Radio Activities" feature of NARS News highlights various activities related to ham radio. Each issue provides a quick overview for those who may be interested in learning new aspects of the amateur radio hobby. This article with photos is taken from the April 2025 issue of QST.

A Low-Cost Tunable RF Preselector Using a Varicap Diode

Filter out unwanted signals inexpensively with this passive preselector that works on multiple bands.

Dr. George R. Steber, WB9LVI

Homebrew and inexpensive commercial shortwave receivers often lack good front-end RF selectivity. Adding a band-pass RF filter between the antenna and receiver can help reject strong out-of-band noise or signals that might overload the receiver input. Here, I describe an effective passive design for an RF preselector tuned with a voltage-controlled capacitor – specifically, a low-cost varicap.



The RF tunable preselector prototype.

In "A Tunable RF Preamplifier Using a Variable Capacitance Diode" in the January/February 2018 issue of QEX, I presented a design for an active, two-stage, varicap-tuned RF preamplifier. The passive varicap-tuned preselector I describe here is not as selective as the amplifier version, and it will have several more dB of insertion loss. However, these are not important factors with adequate receiver RF amplification. This design requires few parts and is easily built for $25 or less.

RF Preselector Basics

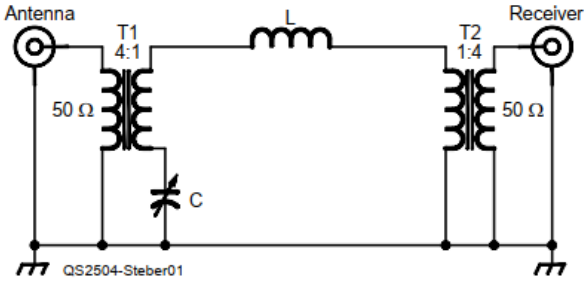


Figure 1 — A schematic for a basic tunable preselector.

A classic tunable preselector is shown in Figure 1. Variable capacitor C and inductor L form a resonant circuit. C varies the filter's center frequency. Typically, a mechanical variable capacitor is used. The filter is designed for a nominal 50 ohm antenna and a receiver with a 50 ohm input. The resonant L-C circuit alone would work, but the band pass would be broad. Wideband 4:1 impedance transformers T1 and T2 improve the filter selectivity. Higher-ratio transformers can further increase the selectivity, but at the cost of increased insertion loss.

Tunable RF Preselector Design

Like the design in my earlier QEX article, a varicap is used for tuning. A varicap is a type of solid-state diode operated in a reverse-biased state. The reverse bias voltage controls the thickness of the depletion zone and, therefore, the PN junction capacitance. The greater the applied voltage, the greater the depletion zone and the smaller the capacitance. Most diodes exhibit this characteristic to some extent, but varicaps exploit this effect and increase the capacitance variation range. And besides the benefit of a lower cost, the variable resistor controlling the dc voltage across the varicap has a larger angle of rotation (320 degrees) than a mechanical capacitor (180 degrees), which may provide finer control.

The 1SV149 varicap used in this project was designed to replace the tuning capacitor in AM radios. It has a Q factor of greater than 200, a small footprint, a high capacitance ratio, and low-voltage operation. Best of all, it can be found on the internet for less than a dollar! The 1SV149 capacitance variation versus applied dc voltage is shown in Figure 2; notice that most of the capacitance range occurs at less than 9 V.

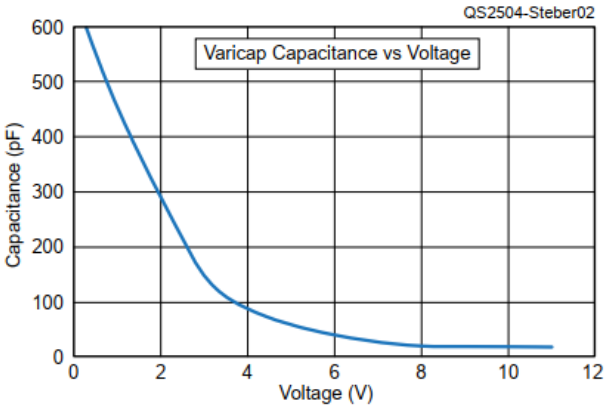


Figure 2 — Varicap capacitance versus applied dc voltage for the 1SV149 diode. This data was taken from the manufacturer's data sheet.

Figure 3 shows the complete schematic of the tunable preselector. With the values shown, this passive design covers the frequency range of about 2.5 – 12.0 MHz. I designed this circuit using the *LTspice* simulator prior to construction. After I built the breadboard circuit, I used a spectrum analyzer with a tracking generator to analyze it. There was close agreement between the *LTspice* simulation and the hardware.

As in Figure 1, inductor L and varicap D1 form a series resonant circuit between the antenna and the receiver. C2 blocks dc from the varicap circuit. Because C2 has much higher capacitance than D1, the D1 capacitance dominates, as C2 and D1 are in series. C1 bypasses any RF that might find its way into the circuit. R2 tunes the peak frequency by varying the dc volage to D1 through R1.T1 and T2 (the 4:1 RF transformers) each introduce about 0.5 dB insertion loss. The 9 V battery current consumption is low, at only about 90 μA. However, you may desire an on/off switch in series with the battery. Table 1 lists the necessary components. As of press time, the 1SC149 is available on eBay, Ali-Express, and Amazon. Contact me should this or any other part become unavailable.

Table 1 — Preselector Components

Quantity	Label	Value	Description
2	C1, C2	0.1 μF	Ceramic capacitors
1	L	6.8 μH	Mouser 77F6R8K inductor
1	R1	1 MΩ	¼ W 5% resistor
1	R2	100 KΩ	Potentiometer
1	D1	1SV149	Varicap
1	T1, T2	4:1 RF transformer	Coilcraft WB4-6L
2	J1, J2	N/A	BNC connectors

The lead photo shows my breadboard. I constructed it inside a case made from copper printed circuit boards. You can see the small varactor in the center and the RF transformers on the left and right. The

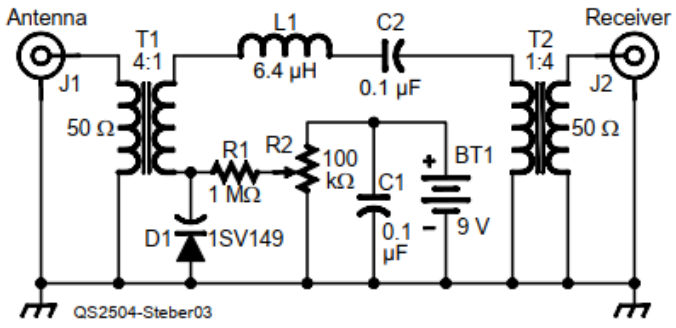


Figure 3 — The final schematic for the tunable preselector.

battery is at the top, and the potentiometer is at the bottom. Figure 4 shows the actual measured performance. The two peaks correspond to the extremes of the varicap tuning range.

To use the preselector, turn off the receiver's automatic gain control (AGC) and adjust resistor R2 until the received signal is the loudest. If you are using decoding software that has a spectrum analyzer display, you will see a pronounced increase in the signal as you approach the peak. After tuning, remember to turn the AGC back on.

A Fun Build for a Handy Device

This RF tunable preselector can prove helpful in a variety of interference situations, especially with low-cost receivers. Projects like this are both enjoyable and educational. Consider demonstrating this application of a varicap in a teaching situation, such as a presentation at your local ham club, or use it as an outreach tool at your local high school science class.

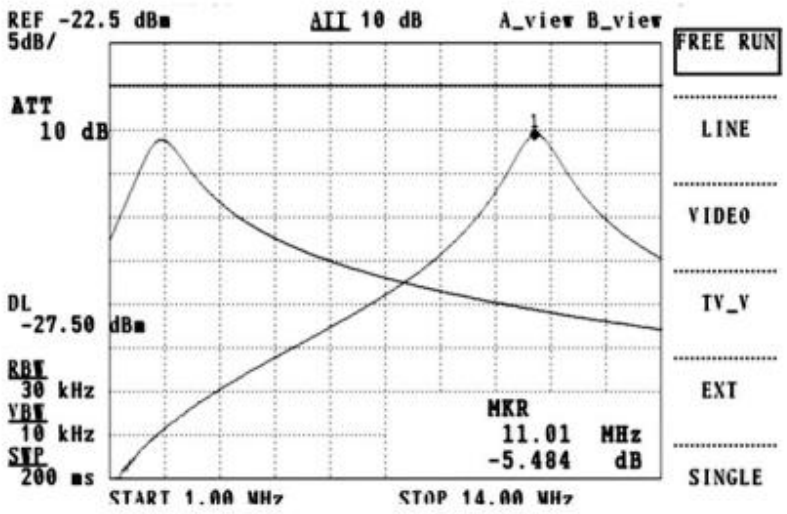


Figure 4 — The measurement taken with a spectrum analyzer and tracking generator. Note the peaks at the tuning range extremes.

All photos provided by the author.

About the author – George R. Steber, PhD, Wb9LVI, is Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is now retired. He is a Life Member of ARRL and IEEE. You may reach George at steber@execpc.com with "Preselector" in the subject line and the email mode set to text.

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, April 18, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. During the testing session, 5 candidates took 7 tests.

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

Congratulations!

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

- Daniel H. Cassiani – passed Technician to restore expired General privileges
- Steven C. Guy – new Technician
- Clayton Painter – new Technician
- Michael N. Rotz – passed Technician and General
- Daniel J. Harty – passed General and 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 May 23, 2026 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building. Please visit Northwest Amateur Radio Society - License Exams for the announcement.

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

Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:

- Brett Hebert KG5IQU – session manager
- Synomen Hebert KG5IRS
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- Craig Veteto W5CEV
- August J. Canik KI5YPD
- Dale Schmirler KN5DS
- Paul Owen, N5NXS
- Vicki Owen, AC5EW

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

- William Stroope, WD5ICM
- John Halvorsen, KJ5PJC

Renewing Club Members

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

- Joel Wilson, KJ5BDP
- Tom Davis, KB9KY
- Jeff Holderfield, WB5PCO
- Adam Grant, KJ5OSU
- Michael Panico, KG5BBJ
- Kristen Emler, K0AST

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: T3B08 – B. 30 MHz to 300 MHz
General: G8C16 – D. DMR, D-STAR, and SystemFusion
Amateur Extra: E9D09 – C. To resonate the antenna by cancelling the capacitive reactance

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 – May 18, 2026 – HCESD 16 Admin – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379

VE Test Session –May 23, 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

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

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

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

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

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

May 2026 - May 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.