



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Spring, TX 77391

w5nc.net



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President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

I hope you caught Marty's post highlighting his operations team's fantastic performance during the **Texas QSO Party**. Word is already filtering in that our club station is running out in front of the pack! Because the event sponsor, the **Texas DX Society (TDXS)**, must sift through a mountain of entries, with close to 400 logs submitted so far, it will take a few months to finalize the official standings. Keep an eye on txqp.net for the official 2026 results once they are published.

On another note, I recently attended a NARS Wednesday lunch where a new ham dropped by to have Bob (N5ET) verify some QSL cards for award points. His name is Robie (AJ5F), and he happens to be a TDXS member. Listening to him talk about the thrill of chasing DX stations was fascinating. Right then and there, I asked if he would be willing to do a presentation at our upcoming October club meeting. He has already sent over a list of excellent topics, and we have finalized the details. It is going to be a fantastic presentation, so be sure not to miss it!

It's that time of the year again, a time steeped in NARS tradition as we prepare to elect our new club officers. A great club relies on the energy of its community. For too long, a small, dedicated group of members has carried the weight of running our operations. To keep NARS vibrant and moving forward, we need new voices to step up. If you have ideas for how we can improve, or if you want to see the club take on new initiatives, this is your chance to make a real impact.

Don't just sit on the sidelines, get involved and lead the change! These are fully elected positions, and your participation matters. We are currently seeking candidates for President, Vice President, and Secretary. As of right now, only one name has been put forward for the President position, and we need a complete ballot to succeed. Step up, get involved, and help us keep NARS great.

Let me take this time to thank the members that have been doing the work. Please look at all the members that are listed under the NARS Club Officers and Information. Many of them have served more time than the Boards 2-year term. Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, has been the club Secretary since 2022. He also was the Editor of the Newsletter from 2022 to 2024. Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, has been the Treasurer since 2020 but was also the Treasurer from 2001 to 2004. I also want to thank Brett Hebert, KG5IQU and his XYL Synomen Hebert, KG5IRS, and all the VE Team members who participate at the 12 sessions per year. Mike Lizzio, WA2TOP, and David Holden, WJ9O, for handling the weekly nets. Bill Buoy, N5BIA, for being the Webmaster for more than 20 years and Scott Seifert, KA2EEU, who has filled in temporarily. Rich Jones, W5VEK, who has led the repeater team along with the team members. Sam Labarbera, K5FM, who manages the NARS social media. My XYL Vicki Owen, AC5EW, who has been the Newsletter Editor for the past 2 years. All these NARS members don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. Please remember that they do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

W5NC Puts Two Stations on the Air for the Texas QSO Party

The W5NC club station operated in the Texas QSO Party on Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20, 2026, from the radio room at the Klein Fire Department EOC. We ran two stations, one on CW and one on SSB.

The bands weren't very open, but the team still logged approximately 670 contacts and 236,804 points. Last year W5NC took the top spot in the Multi-Operator, Low Power category and those numbers have us hoping to repeat. We'll have to wait for the final results to know for sure.

Operators

W5MF (Marty), K5GQ (Mark), N5EKO (Jerry), KJ5LLT (Rick), K5GRR (Catrina), and W5PL (James)

Guest appearances

WA8EXE (Larry), K5KNV (Kyle), and KA2EEU (Scott)

Thanks to everyone who took a shift and to our guests who stopped by.

We'll share the final results when they're posted.

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)

T7B08

What should you do if something in a neighbor's home is causing harmful interference to your amateur station?

- A. Work with your neighbor to identify the offending device
- B. Politely inform your neighbor that FCC rules prohibit the use of devices that cause interference
- C. Make sure your station meets the standards of good amateur practice
- D. All these choices are correct

General (Element 3)

G7B08

How is the efficiency of an RF power amplifier determined?

- A. Divide the DC input power by the DC output power
- B. Divide the RF output power by the DC input power
- C. Multiply the RF input power by the reciprocal of the RF output power
- D. Add the RF input power to the DC output power

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E2A06

What are Keplerian elements?

- A. Parameters that define the orbit of a satellite
- B. Phase reversing elements in a Yagi antenna
- C. High-emission heater filaments used in magnetron tubes
- D. Encrypting codes used for spread spectrum modulation

See the answers on [Page 19](#).

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

ARRL Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched its 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!

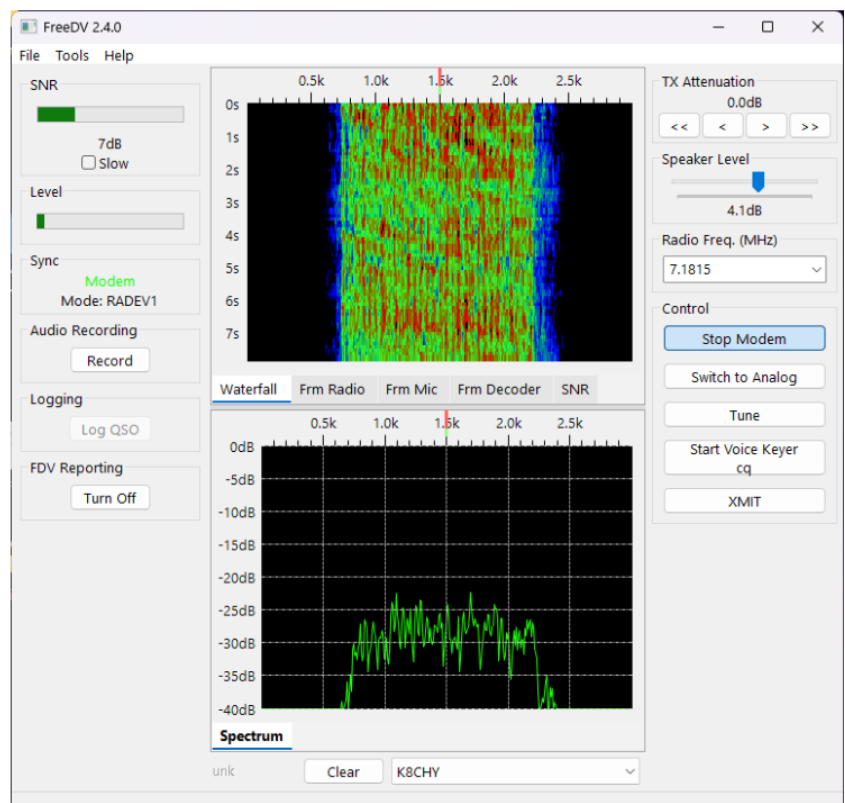
Will RADE Be the Next SSB?

It's been a half century since single sideband (SSB) supplanted amplitude modulation (AM) as the most popular voice mode on HF, due largely to its spectrum efficiency, occupying roughly half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now, there's a new digital voice mode from FreeDV called Radio Autoencoder, or RADE, that occupies half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly provides more natural-sounding speech.

According to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research that advanced RADE's development, "FreeDV RADE combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing (DSP) and can operate at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) as low as -2dB. Its design also addresses spectrum

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.



use, speech quality, and power efficiency, all important considerations for voice communications over HF”.

Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to integrate the mode directly into their radios, starting with a module that can be downloaded and installed on certain FlexRadio models. Users of other transceivers may run the mode through computers connected to their radios. More details are available from [FreeDV](#) and on the [ARDC](#) website.

Get Ready for Jamboree on the Air

“We’ve got scouts, we’ve got a special event call sign, and we’d love as many hams as possible – near and far – to come find us on the air.” That’s how Sal Mancuso, W6SAL, is promoting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 2026 on behalf of the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America). JOTA is an annual worldwide event, on the air and on the internet (as JOTI), with the goal of promoting friendship and global citizenship via amateur radio and the internet. This year’s event will be held from October 16-18, and now is a good time for radio clubs and individual hams to reach out to local scout units to set up JOTA experiences.

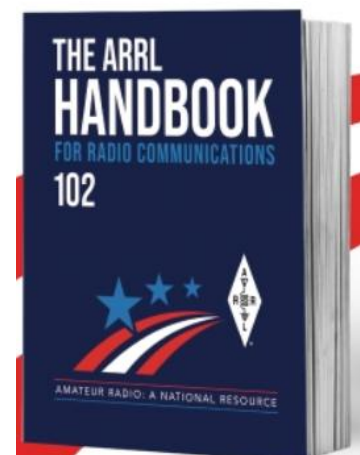
For Mancuso, it has meant getting a special event call sign – K6S – and setting up a public demonstration station on October 17 for scouts from throughout the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council. “We’ll have approximately seven licensed operators of varying license classes on hand, running HF, VHF, and UHF simultaneously, all signing K6S,” explains Mancuso. “We’ll be active on HF SSB and FT8, with packet possible as well.” Planned HF SSB frequencies are 7.090, 14.290, 18.140, and 28.990 MHz, but Mancuso noted that they will also be posting their actual live frequencies on Spotted Hams as the day goes.



New Handbook Available!

The 102nd edition of the ARRL Handbook will be available in October from the ARRL Store. It will be offered as a Softcover and as a Six-Volume set.

Go to [ARRL Handbook 102](#) to order your copy.



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](#).



Amateur Radio Newslines is on the NARS Repeater System on Saturday at 10:00 am.

ARRL Audio News is on the NARS Repeater system on Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

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

POTA by Jason Springs, KR1BBT

NARS club member Jason Springs did a presentation on working Parks On The Air (POTA) at the September meeting. He brought some antennas he uses as well as other equipment helpful in working ham radio from a park setting. He added that 12, 17, and 30 meters are good bands to go to on weekends.

Jason has to his credit successfully activated 52 unique parks so far, and the next milestone is to hit 75 parks. He explained how he used each antenna and how he sets up his station. Also in his equipment bag is a Fereday cloth (cloth with copper wires integrated into it) and uses it as a ground plane for his vertical antennas. His antennas are mounted on tripods for easy travelling and set up. He added he can usually set up his station in about 15 minutes. He also uses a 3-D printer to fabricate custom mounts for securing the verticals to the tripod, as well as custom winders for storing his end-fed half-wave (EFHW) antennas. He added that Ham Radio Dude also sells portable antenna mounts.

Jason went to Lake Somerville State Park to work the Texas QSO Party recently, and did a side of POTA by activating that location as a POTA station, too.



Next Club Meeting

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

New Radio for New Hams: Jumpstart Program



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

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

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

How it Works:

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

NARS Name Badges: Get Yours Today!

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

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



Amateur Radio Activities

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

Polar Modulation – The Path to High Efficiency

This modulation technique – expanded on in a QEX companion piece – was key to K1KP’s 12-year search for an improved HF transmitter.

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

Ham transmitters have followed nearly the same formula for producing RF output since the mid-1970s, when transistors and solid-state devices took over from tubes as the primary power-producing component in our radios. In the late 1990s, digital signal processing (DSP) replaced many of the internal functions in the radio. However, the basic circuits for generating RF output power remained unchanged, along with the fundamentally poor power efficiency. I made it my goal to bring significant improvements to the size, weight, and efficiency of HF transmitters. The key was adopting a new topology that combines polar modulation with high-efficiency switching amplifiers.

The Origin

At one point in my ham radio experience, I became interested in rebuilding classic ham gear, which led me to the traditional AM watering holes on the bands. I first heard a new type of transmitter known as a class-E rig on 3885 kHz. Technically minded amateurs were building tremendously efficient solid-state transmitters at the time, in the range of 90%! As I listened, I thought, “Wouldn’t it be great if they could do this on SSB?” It seemed obvious that I needed to phase-modulate the input to such a rig to achieve high efficiency SSB generation. This idea lay dormant until I retired in 2013. Joining forces with Brian Machesney, K1LI, I revived the project in earnest. I thought it would be relatively simple, but it took 12 years to get from the idea to a completed design that I dubbed the Polar Explorer.

I primarily wanted to prove to myself that the math and theory worked. I spent a lot of time trying to recall my high school math and trigonometry. It turned out that the math had already been done by Leonhard Euler in 1748.



A demonstration of polar modulation’s heat efficiency. A brick placed on the CW key in the background had been causing it to transmit for more than 48 hours, and the transmitter’s temperature never reached high levels. [Michael Walker, VA3MW. photo]

Reducing Size, Weight and Power

Why all of this attention to efficiency? Many transmitter attributes depend on it. With a classic linear amplifier stage, we expect around 50% efficiency. That means that for every 1 W we get out to the antenna, we have to put 2 W in, so the power supply has to be roughly twice as big as the desired power output. The wasted 1 W turns into generated heat that has to be dealt with in the transmitter via heatsinks and cooling fans. If we increase the efficiency from 50% to 80%, the benefits apply in many places in the design. This makes the power supply 35% smaller to start with. A larger percentage of the power goes out the antenna connector, and far less is dissipated as heat. The heat-sink and fans can then be reduced in size by 75%. All of this translates to drastically reduced size, weight, and power in the final package.

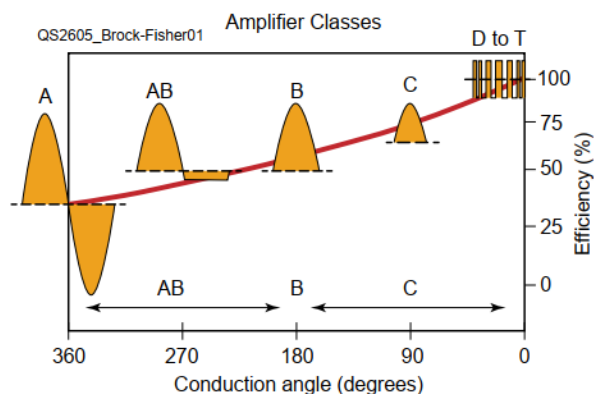


Figure 1 — Amplifier classes designated according to conduction angle.

The Challenge

Amplifier classes are designated alphabetically. There are classes A, B, and C, and after C, the remaining classes are switching amplifiers. A class-A amplifier is very linear. Non-linear amplifiers create harmonics and intermodulation distortion (IMD), which can cause interference to operators on nearby frequencies. As you go through the alphabet, there's a trade off as linearity goes down and efficiency goes up (see Figure 1). A class-A amplifier might be 45% efficient and wonderfully linear, whereas a class-C amplifier could be 60% to 70% efficient but not as linear. When we get to class D, things change drastically. Linear amplifiers (classes A, B, and C) have a power device, such as a tube or a transistor, that is partially conducting most of the time. This device shares the power with the load to control the instantaneous output power. In a switching amplifier, the power device is either off and not dissipating any power, or it's on and operating in its saturation region. In other words, it dissipates very little power because its resistance is much lower compared to the load resistance. Both states are incredibly efficient because most of the power goes to the antenna instead of being dissipated in the amplifier.

However, there's a drawback with a switching amplifier: The output level does not depend on the input. The output frequency and phase of a class-D amplifier follow the input signal perfectly, but the amplitude is fixed by the power supply voltage. According to Euler, by controlling both the amplitude and phase of a switching amplifier, we can create any output wave form, including SSB, AM, and CW. My goal was to find a way to control a switching amplifier to take advantage of its efficiency.

Leonard Kahn first described the technique in his paper "Single-Sideband Transmission by Envelope Elimination and Restoration" in the July 1952 issue of Proceedings of the IRE (see Figure 2). In the paper, Kahn described a method for splitting an SSB signal into envelope and phase components by "eliminating" the envelope from the amplifier drive signal and then "restoring" it in the form of

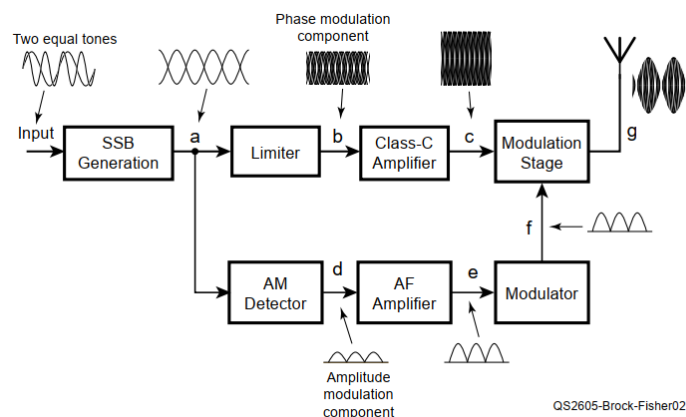


Figure 2 — Leonard Kahn's envelope elimination and restoration block diagram, redrawn for clarity.

plate modulation. In 1952, this was accomplished with vacuum tubes, and the highest-efficiency amplifier was class C. This technique has been used in high-power broadcast transmitters, but it did not become economically practical for amateur transmitters until recent advances in DSP and semiconductor physics.

Achieving the Goal with Polar Modulation

There are a lot of different ways to get to the same location. For example, what if we used range and bearing instead of latitude and longitude? If the latitude and longitude for a destination are known, then the range and bearing can be computed to get to the same point. Euler figured out a way to do just that. Today's DSP transmitters use what's known as quadrature data in the form of in-phase (I) and quadrature-phase (Q) samples. These samples uniquely describe the desired RF samples in Cartesian coordinates, similar to the way latitude and longitude describe a location. We can convert the IQ (Cartesian coordinate) signals into polar coordinates. To do this, we compute the envelope amplitude signal (range) as the magnitude of I and Q — the square root of the sum of the squares. We can compute the desired drive phase (bearing or compass heading) by taking the arctangent of Q/I, which is a trigonometrical means of figuring out the phase angle (see Figure 3). LPF $Y = Ae^{j(\omega t + \Phi)}$ LPF RF output Y Converting the RF to polar modulation provides the exact signals needed to produce any desired output from a switching amplifier. These signals are then applied to a switching amplifier and can produce any desired waveform — just as with a linear amplifier — but at a much higher efficiency (see Figure 4).

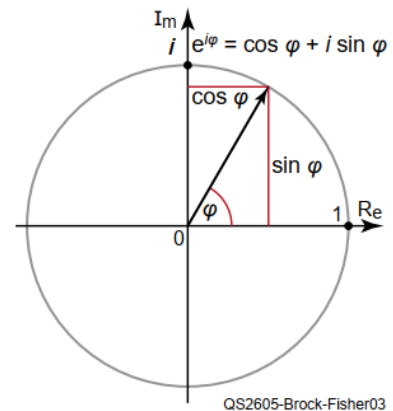


Figure 3 — Polar modulation describes a point by angle and distance from origin.

The Prototype

Brian and I worked to prototype the idea by combining existing building blocks and development kits with our own circuit designs built using ExpressPCB MiniBoards (www.expresspcb.com/product/miniboard-box). The result was a transmitter that used polar modulation to drive a small class-E power amplifier (PA). It put out 40 W on 40 meters, and it achieved efficiencies of 90% or better. We were able to make lower sideband contacts on 40 meters with excellent audio quality. It also implemented pre-distortion to achieve excellent transmitter IMD. We wrote about the project in "The Polar Explorer" in the March/April 2017 issue of QEX.

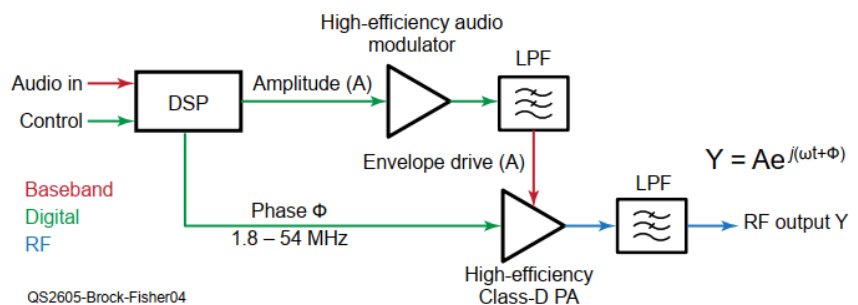


Figure 4 — Polar modulation provides the signals to produce any waveform from a switching amplifier.

Next Steps: 500 W, All HF

I recognized the idea's potential to be a gamechanger for ham transmitters. But to reach that potential, it needed to be developed commercially. It also needed a power level increase to 500 W and the ability to cover all of the HF bands. The power challenge was limited by the transistors we could use in the PA. My RF design skills were also pretty limited — everything I knew was only from my experience as a ham. The

design depended on device parameters that weren't described in the data sheets or included in simulators. So, in the summer of 2016, I bought every type of field-effect transistor from Mouser that I could find and tested each one. I changed the design from class E to class D and economized a switchable tank circuit for the PA to cover all of the HF bands. It took only a few days to put a schematic on paper, but it took 2 years to get it to work cleanly. Although it was much more efficient than contemporary 500 W transmitters, at 80% efficiency, the new PA still needed to dissipate 125 W. I developed a thermal solution that could route the waste heat to a heatsink from the small output transistors (see the lead photo).

In 2018, Brian and I parted ways on good terms; he had different ideas and wanted to pursue them independently. I was on my own and decided that I needed to find a commercial partner. I took the idea to the 2019 Dayton Hamvention® with the hope of finding one (see Figure 5). Fortunately, Steve Hicks, N5AC, of FlexRadio came by my booth. We forged an agreement to work together on it.

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

It's been a long time coming to ham radio — Kahn envisioned it 73 years ago — but the marriage of polar modulation and high-efficiency amplifiers has arrived. The basic concept was there, but we had to wait 7 decades for state-of-the-art DSP processing power and solid-state devices to make it technically feasible. Bringing Kahn's idea to a market reality offers significant improvements to the size, weight, and power efficiency of our transmitters. There are many people I would like to thank for their support along this 12-year odyssey, including my wife Michelle, N1XJA; Steve, N5AC; Gerald K5SDR; Brian, K1LI; Matt Youngblood, and all of the great folks at FlexRadio.



Figure 5 — The author's booth at the 2019 Dayton Hamvention.

About the author — Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, was originally licensed in 1967 as WA1IKP. Tony has a BS in physics and an MS in ocean engineering. He retired from Philips Electronics in 2013. He started working on the Polar Explorer project in 2013 and partnered with FlexRadio in 2019. Tony enjoys contesting, DXing and station construction projects, as well as writing for QST. Tony can be reached at k1kp@arrl.net.

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, September 19, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. During the testing session, 4 candidates took 5 tests.

Technician
(Element 2)

0

Passed

0 Tests Given 0 Failed

General
(Element 3)

3

Passed

5 Tests Given 2 Failed

Amateur Extra
(Element 4)

0

Passed

0 Tests Given 0 Failed

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their license exams¹:

- Samuel Bell – upgrade to General
- Christina Ball – upgrade to General
- Scott Reid – upgrade to General

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/arrrl/77070/inperson>

The next session will be October 24, 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
- Vicki Owen AC5EW

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

- James Smallman KJ5NRF
- Jason Althaus WA3ALT
- Oaklynn Mielcarek KJ5PEC
- Thomas Hickmott KC8VVQ
- Samuel Bell KJ5ROO

Renewing Club Members

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

- Ryan Callison KA5K
- Richard Hanf KJ5LLT
- David Holden WJ9O
- Kelley Garcia K2KYM
- Gregory Altimas K5LTI
- Krystian Altimas KI5ZNS
- Michael Lizzio WA2TOP

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: T7B08 – D. All these choices are correct

General: G7B08 – B. Divide the RF output power by the DC input power

Amateur Extra: E2A06 – A. Parameters that define the orbit of a satellite

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 – October 16, 2026 – HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session –October 24, 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

Oct 3 | Temple ARC Ham Expo, Huntington Bank Expo Center, 301 W Loop 121, Belton, TX

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

Mar 6-7 | Greater Houston HamFest, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, TX

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

October 2026 - [October 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: David Holden, WJ9O

Webmaster: webmaster@w5nc.net

Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

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

David WJ9O will be filling in for Mike WA2TOP due to his medical issues. We hope to see him back soon. Till then, be on the lookout for a weekly message from David WJ9O on w5nc.groups.io/g/main for more information.

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