



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Spring, TX 77391

w5nc.net

**President's
Message**
Page 3

NARS Club Mtg
Page 9

**Amateur
Radio
Activities**
Page 11

Contents

President's Message	3
Exam Practice.....	5
NARS Membership – Due Dates and More	5
Amateur Radio News	6
How to Become a Volunteer Examiner	8
NARS Monthly Club Meeting	9
New Radio for New Hams: Jumpstart Program.....	10
NARS Name Badges: Get Yours Today!	10
Amateur Radio Activities	11
USB Provides Easy Connectivity with Amateur Devices	11
VE Sessions and Results	15
New & Renewing Club Members.....	16
Training and Education	17
NARS Club Documents and Minutes	18
Of Interest to the Club	19
Calendar	20
Club Activities and Events.....	20
Social Events	20
Hamfests and Conventions	21
Contests and Radiosport.....	21
NARS Club Officers and Information	22
Board Officers with Voting Privileges	22
Committee Team Members.....	22
Club Nets.....	22

President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

We have two great on-air events in the month of September. The first is the special event called Route 66 OTA. This event is from Sept. 12th and goes on the 20th. Check out the information about the event at <https://w6ibt.org/route66ota/backgroundr66ota/>. You can contact 24 different stations located in the states along the route.

The next one is the Texas QSO Party. Marty, W5MF, is going to head this up again this year. He had a great team last year and they got a plaque for First Place Multiple Op – low power. You will get a chance to contact all 254 counties in Texas. To get more information about the event contact Marty or check out the website at <https://www.txqp.net>.

There is going to be another special event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the attack on New York and Washington, DC. Station K4A (standing for "K4 America") will be on the air September 9 through September 13. The theme this year is "9/11, We Do Remember".

As my term as President ends this December, it is time to prepare for our upcoming leadership transition. Per our Bylaws, NARS Board members serve two-year terms. All board positions will be up for re-election this November. Two years ago, we only had 2 new members to elect to your board because most were going to serve another 2-year term. This was because I had asked them to stay on if I was to fill the job as President. This year we have Kyle, K5KNV, who has stepped forward and expressed his desire to serve as our next President. Brandon, K5BLR, will be stepping down from his duties as Secretary at the end of this term.

We are seeking two members to serve as Vice President and Secretary. The list of nominees for the two open positions will be announced during the October meeting. At the November meeting, we will open the floor for additional nominations. Members may run for the two vacant spots or challenge an incumbent for any other position. The board members who want to remain in their respective positions for the upcoming term are your Treasurer, Tom, KK5YU and your Director positions - Rich, W5VEK and Jorge, WK5J.

To facilitate a smooth election process, I will be appointing a Nominations committee, consisting of one to three members, to provide a list of names who have chosen to step up and serve on the NARS Board.

25th anniversary of the attack on New York City



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)

T3B04

What is the velocity of a radio wave traveling through free space?

- A. Speed of light
- B. Speed of sound
- C. 0.86 times the speed of light
- D. 1.86 times the speed of sound

General (Element 3)

G0A07

What is the effect of modulation duty cycle on RF exposure?

- A. A lower duty cycle permits greater power levels to be transmitted
- B. A higher duty cycle permits greater power levels to be transmitted
- C. Low duty cycle transmitters are exempt from RF exposure evaluation requirements
- D. High duty cycle transmitters are exempt from RF exposure requirements

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E9A09

What is antenna efficiency?

- A. Radiation resistance divided by transmission resistance
- B. Radiation resistance divided by total resistance
- C. Total resistance divided by radiation resistance
- D. Effective radiated power divided by transmitter output

See the answers on [Page 18](#).

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

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!

New Technician Question Pool effective July 1

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

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

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

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

Current News...

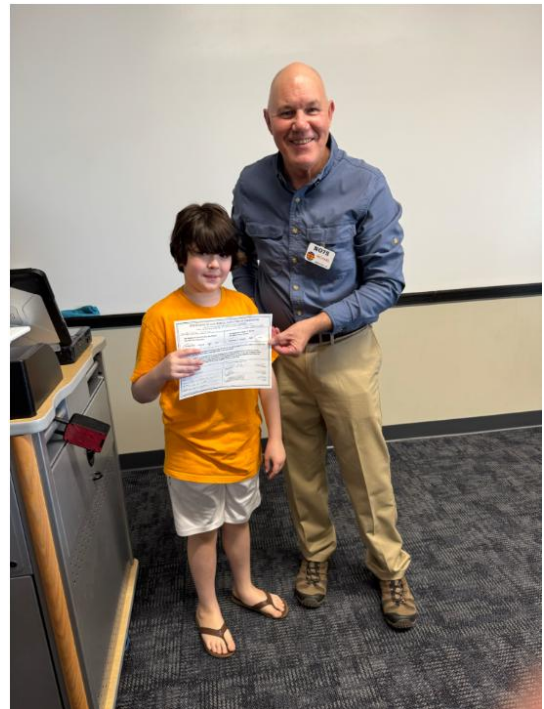
the ARRL website posts recent news on current events, activities, and policies that are taking shape in the Amateur Radio world. The following is an excerpt from their News section.

10-Year-Old Receives Ham License and More

A new you ham in Arizona got more than he was expecting after passing his amateur radio Technician class license exam earlier in August. Along with getting his call sign, KM7HFU, from the FCC, 10-year old Reynaldo Mangual was presented an almost-new Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF multimode transceiver, an LDG YT-100 automatic antenna tuner, and a power supply, all anonymously donated to the club with the stipulations that it be presented to a deserving young person upon successfully earning an amateur radio license. Also, in an effort to introduce him to Morse code, the young ham was also given a fully-restored WWII era J-38 telegraph key by club member Steve Miller, W6DSM, who collects and restores historic keys.

Reynaldo joined ARRL in August. He is also a member of the Pinal County 4-H Amateur Radio Club, whose youth program is supported by 4-H, MARA, the Arizona 4-H Foundation, and a grant from the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona.

Since 2024, ARRL Student Membership has been free for full-time students ages 21 and younger. This no-cost membership opportunity makes it easier for students to become involved in amateur radio and access ARRL resources.



Huntsville Hamfest a Success!

Huntsville Hamfest ended last week and by all accounts it was a success. Attendees from 37 states came for the 3 days of workshops, swap meets and vendor booths. On Friday evening National Convention attendees attended a dinner/fundraiser at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center to support the ARRL Education and Technology Program. Speakers included Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, ARRL Director of Education and Learning, and Kevin Beal, K8EAL, Director of Development. The evening also included special recognition of the Huntsville Hamfest Association for hosting the National Convention, with ARRL presenting a plaque to Chairman Mark Brown, N4BCD.

The ARRL Lab tested over 100 handheld radios for spurious emissions during the weekend while also promoting the ARRL Technical Information Service. At Saturday afternoon's ARRL Membership Forum, the Year of the Club newsletter and website contest winners were awarded. In Outstanding Newsletters, first place in Large Clubs went to Gloucester County ARC; Medium Clubs went to Ozaukee Radio Club; and Small Clubs went to Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association. For Outstanding Club Websites, first place went to Cumberland Valley ARC.

Tentative plans are for Pacificon to host the ARRL National Convention in San Ramon, California in October 2028.

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

VHF/UHF Dual Band J-Pole by Ed Fong, WB6IQN

Ed teaches graduate level classes in antenna design, RF design and high-speed interface at the University of California at Santa Ana. He has 13 patents and over 50 published papers and books in the area of communications and integrated circuit design. He was first licensed as an amateur radio operator in 1968.

The speaker began by explaining how to turn a single band antenna into a dual band antenna, and he added, "Why a J-pole?". Three reasons - no radials, very close to an ideal dipole pattern, and it is end-fed. In the photo of the tower, he said a DC shorted antenna does not require a lightening arrestor because it's made up of J-poles.

When talkies came out another antenna design was needed for dual band (VHF + UHF). In the diagram he explained how they designed it for both bands, setting up UHF at 11 1/4" and then adding VHF, the full length. He added that when making an antenna it's better to stay with copper. The overall presentation was from a non-mathematical perspective, and interesting to listen to.

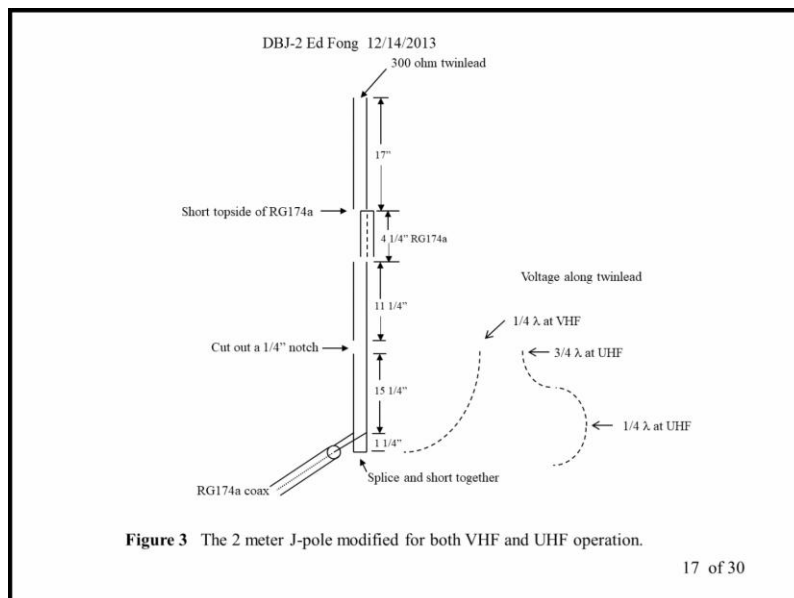
DBJ-2 Ed Fong 12/14/2013



Here is one of the main antenna towers in SF.

Notice there are NO radials on any of the antennas. Most use internal J-pole designs. A lightning arrestor is also not needed since by design, it is a DC short.

6 of 30



17 of 30

Ed's company, the Antenna Factory, is where they build single, dual and tri-band antennas by hand. The graduate students assemble everything and Ed puts them in finished form. The products are made and sold to fund the university's radio club. They are sold retail, and to radio clubs (sold at a discount).

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on September 18, 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.

USB Provides Easy Connectivity with Amateur Devices

Free yourself from interface boxes and tangles of cable with this decades-old solution.

Al Rovner, K7AR

From the late 1980s to the early 1990s, connecting devices to a PC resulted in a cabling mess. There was no commonality among cables or devices. There were Centronics parallel port cables for printing, RS232 breakout boxes and cables for modems, and DIN cables for keyboards and mice. A typical PC user had a drawer full of cables. In the late 1990s, all this changed with the arrival of the Universal Serial Bus (USB).

Starting with Windows 95B and Windows 98, USB connectors became the standard for many devices, including Mac and Linux PCs, resulting in a simpler way to connect peripheral devices with increased speed and performance. Today, many amateur devices include USB connectors, which allow easy interfacing with your computer.

USB Basics

The original USB A-to-B cable is shown in Figure 1. The “A” connector plugs into the computer, while the “B” connector is generally on the rear panel of the device you wish to connect. There are four wires inside of this cable — two for power and two for data. The ground and +5 V wires run straight through while a twisted pair of wires is used to carry data as a differential voltage. The computer USB port typically provides up to 500 mA of current capability. A device that uses more than 500 mA will provide its own power supply. The USB cable is widely used today, and most amateur devices use this cable. Figure 2 shows USB-B ports for a transceiver, amplifier, and rotator control box. Many other amateur devices provide this capability.



Figure 1 — A USB cable. “A” plugs into your PC, and “B” plugs into your device.

USB Hubs and Devices

A typical PC includes two or more USB hubs to expand a single USB port to multiple ports. There is one for front-panel USB connections, one for rear-panel connections, and usually additional USB headers on the PC motherboard. The hub is a smart device that communicates with the operating system. When a device is connected to a hub, the device starts drawing a current that “wakes up” the hub. Let’s say I connect an Icom IC-7610 to my PC. A “conversation” takes place that we can imagine goes something like this:

USB Hub Two: Hey, Windows! Someone just connected a device to USB hub two, port three. Go check it out.

Windows: I’m on it.

Windows: Hey, device on hub two, port three, who is your manufacturer?

Device: Icom

Windows: What is your model number?

Device: IC-7610



Figure 2 — The back of an Elecraft KPA1500, an Icom IC-7610, and a Green Heron RT-21 showing the USB-B port.

What happens next depends on whether the drivers for this device have been installed previously. In this example, Windows will check its list of installed, available drivers for the IC-7610. If a driver is found, Windows will load and activate the driver and include any devices supported by the driver in its Device Manager control panel. Supported devices can be utilized once they appear in the Device Manager control panel.

If no driver is found, Windows will check its online list of available drivers for this device. If no driver is found online, an error message will display, stating the user must manually install drivers for this device. If a driver is found, it will be installed, as discussed earlier.

Continuing with our IC-7610 example, if your computer has never connected to an Icom device using USB, it will need the Icom-specific drivers for the radio to operate properly. Microsoft does not have these on the Windows list of available drivers, so they will not self-install. They are, however, available to download from Icom directly. You'll need to take the additional steps of visiting the Icom website (<https://www.icomamerica.com>), clicking "Support" on the menu bar, and selecting "Firmware Download." Select "Search by Model Name" and enter your Icom model number — in this case, IC-7610. A list of available downloads will be presented, including the USB driver. Select the newest one (if there is more than one choice), read and agree to the Icom terms and conditions, and press the download button.



Figure 3 — The PC's Device Manager drop-down menu showing the added devices.

The download will appear as a .zip file in your “Downloads” folder. In Windows Explorer, click the file once to highlight it and then press the “Extract All” icon in the top menu bar. It will extract the file into the Downloads directory and create a new folder called “Driver.” In that directory, you will find two additional folders that have drivers dependent on your Windows operating system. Click the one you have, and you will see the driver, along with an .exe program to install it. Double-click the correct .exe for your operating system — 32-bit or 64-bit — and it will install the driver.

If you’re using a radio by a different manufacturer, you may need to take steps similar to the Icom example to find the specific drivers required.

Verifying Connected Device Status

Now that the IC-7610 is plugged into the PC and an appropriate driver has been installed, Figure 3 shows what new devices are available, highlighted here in red. The IC-7610 uses two Silicon Labs CP210x USB to UART Bridge interface chips. In my case, Windows has assigned these devices to COM3 and COM4. Also, a new sound interface called USB Audio CODEC is provided. Many amateur manufacturers provide similar functionalities and add a sound interface and one or more COM ports similar to the IC-7610 (they may even use the same chips). Having this functionality 20 years ago would have required external interface boxes, audio cables, etc. Now this is all accomplished using one simple USB cable. The two COM ports and the sound interface shown in Figure 3 can be used in any number of amateur software packages. Let’s look at *WSJT-X* and *N1MM* as examples.

WSJT-X

Figure 4 shows the **RADIO** tab in the *WSJT-X* Settings page. We can see that the Rig is set to Icom IC-7610, and it’s connected to COM3 with a baud rate of 115200. This assumes the IC-7610 already has its COM port set to 115200 baud. We use the computer-aided transceiver (CAT) method to assert the push-to-talk (PTT) line, and the COM3 Serial Port. This setup allows *WSJT-X* to read the frequency from the IC-7610, change the IC-7610 to other bands, and assert the PTT line when *WSJT-X* is ready to transmit.

Figure 5 shows the **AUDIO** tab in the *WSJT-X* Settings page. Here, we can see how the USB Audio CODEC is used. The USB Audio CODEC has two sections, one for Receive Audio and one for pTransmit Audio. While this setup is easy, there are a couple more tasks. The Receive and Transmit Audio levels must be set. To set up the Receive level, consult the *WSJT-X* documentation. To set up the Transmit level, if your rig has an upper sideband-data mode (also referred to as USB-data), use it.

Using the USB-data mode disconnects any front-panel mic audio. Also make sure your mic compressor is turned off. Adjust the Pwr Slider in *WSJT-X*, so your automatic level control meter shows little or no movement when transmitting.

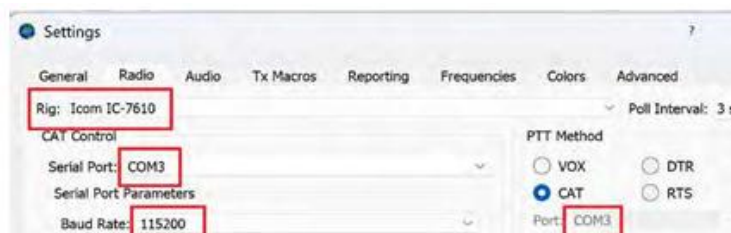


Figure 4 — A sample of what *WSJT-X* should look like when connecting it to the IC-7610.



Figure 5 — A sample of what *WSJT-X* should look like when setting up the audio devices.

Just a quick note: As you saw, the IC-7610 provides two serial ports (COM3 and COM4). The IC-7610's second serial port is used to run FSK RTTY. COM3 is used as previously described, and COM4 uses MMTTY to run RTTY, mainly in contests. You have frequency control for logging and FSK RTTY capability all through the same USB cable, which makes a very flexible and easy setup!

N1MM

N1MM is set up in a similar manner by using its **HARDWARE CONFIGURE** screen. Figure 6 shows a typical setup selecting the COM3 port installed by the driver, the IC-7610 rig, and CW mode. This setup allows *N1MM* to read the frequency from the rig for logging, changing bands, and to perform CW keying. Again, all this is done without needing external keying interfaces or RS232 breakout boxes.

Powering Down

When you power off your device, the USB hub recognizes that a current is no longer drawn from the previously used port. The hub notifies Windows that the device has been physically disconnected or powered off. Then Windows removes the supported devices from its Device Manager control panel and unloads the supporting driver.

As a traveling DXpeditioner, the less I carry, the better it is for weight management, quick setup, and teardown times. USB connectivity has been a boon to amateur radio for 25 years.

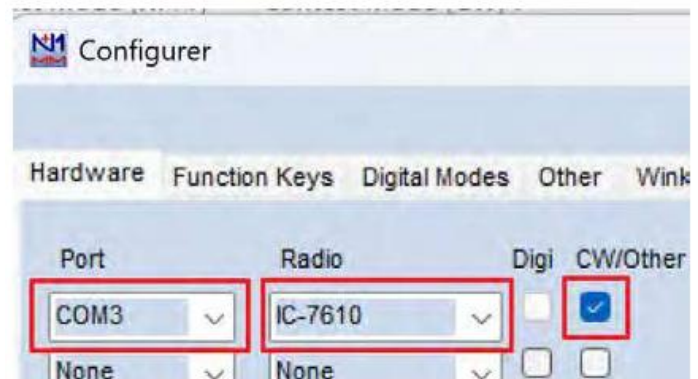


Figure 6 — A sample of what *N1MM* should look like when connecting it to the IC-7610.

All photos provided by the author.

About the author – Al Rovner, K7AR, has been a licensed ham radio amateur for 53 years, and is an active DXer and contestor. He is a retired engineer with a BS in electrical engineering from Drexel University and an MS in computer science from Oregon Health & Science University. Al can be reached at k7ar@comcast.net.

VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, August 29, 2026, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. During the testing session, 1 candidate took 1 test.

Technician
(Element 2)

1

Passed

1 Tests Given 0 Failed

General
(Element 3)

0

Passed

0 Tests Given 0 Failed

Amateur Extra
(Element 4)

0

Passed

0 Tests Given 0 Failed

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their license exams¹:

- Samuel Bell – new Technician

Pre-registration for Testing Sessions

To pre-register for an upcoming testing session, you can use the following link:

HamStudy.org page link: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrrl/77070/inperson>

The next session will be September 19, 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
- Kyle Vann K5KNV
- A. John Canik KI5YPD
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- Vicki Owen AC5EW
- Thomas Migi KG5FFX

VE Session Guidelines

If you have a temperature or feel ill – DO NOT attend.

Wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated or feel the need to wear them.

Please send an email to either of the following if you plan on attending the test session:

Brett or Synomen Hebert – vec@w5nc.net

Volunteering and Becoming a Volunteer Examiner

Anyone who wants to observe and/or participate in a session is always welcome. Please let Brett or Synomen Hebert know if you want to learn more about becoming a volunteer examiner.

New & Renewing Club Members

New Club Members

- Richard Remels KF2RR (pending)

Renewing Club Members

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

- Thomas Migi Jr KG5FFX
-

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](http://HamStudy.org) - 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](http://eHam.net)

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: T3B04 – A. Speed of light

General: G0A07 – A. A lower duty cycle permits greater power levels to be transmitted

Amateur Extra: E9A09 – B. Radiation resistance divided by total resistance

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 – September 18, 2026 – HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379](#)

Texas QSO Party – September 19-20, 2026 – Statewide event

VE Test Session –September 19, 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

Sept 4-5 | Slidell EOC Hamfest, Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 2nd St, Slidell, LA

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

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

September 2026 - [September 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](#)