



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization

An ARRL Affiliated Club

NARS NEWS

MAY 2025

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

w5nc.club

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NARS News is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS). Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Services Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, ARRL Club No. 2120.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter by publishing an article, adding calendar events, or any other contribution, please send all submissions before the end of the month to the newsletter editor:

Vicki Owen (AC5EW), Newsletter Editor

President's Message

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

ARES and more of NARS History

At the last meeting we had Jeffery Water, KE5FGS, the Section Director of Emergencies Services, come speak about the ARES leadership. They are a dedicated group of hams that serve the 97 counties that make up the South Texas Section. He then added information about the work of the ARES group during some of the past years' hurricanes and flooding events.

More of NARS History

In the very beginning, in 1985, we were meeting at the Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Services, and we still carry on with that tradition by meeting at the Klein Fire Department Administration Building. I remember going to that first meeting location on Sugar Pine Lane. That building was a dispatch center for a group of volunteer fire services. At the end of August was the first NARS Wednesday night net with 7 check-ins. The first charter member list was put out in the September 1985 NARS News; the first member on that list was Dee Logan, W1HEO and the second member was Paul Frantz, WB5DBT, now W5PF. Also, on the list at number 15 was Allen Majeski, WA5REJ. All of them are still around. I see Paul at the Monday lunch at Hooks and Allen sometimes comes to the Saturday morning breakfast.

In December 2005, Dee wrote about his part in starting this new club. He said in the article that the idea for a new radio club had roots in Connecticut where he started another new club in 1974. It was started because hams needed to show the FCC that our service was growing. Our frequencies depended upon it (in fact, you can donate to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund by going to the ARRL website <https://home.arrl.org/action/Donate/Spectrum-Defense-Fund>). A radio club was a logical way to get Fairfield, CT hams focused on licensing classes that would lead to more radio amateurs. There were many other sound reasons for having a club, but this is number one.

When he moved to Houston, he found little club activity except for an inactive downtown group. He started to talk with Paul, W5PF, and at the urging of Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, it was decided to get a group together to establish a radio club in the Northwest Houston area. They started meeting after the steering committee announced the club's formation. Since most of the members lived in the county, outside the Houston city limits, they decided they would name it Northwest Amateur Radio Society, NARS for short. The name stuck since no one could think of a better one.

To be continued...

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 Update](#).

Repeater update, Apr 2025

LBT Repeater (Downtown) - Is off the air.

Galleria Repeater – UHF machine is linked to ALLSTAR and the W5NC hub.
The VHF machine is operational as a standalone machine.

Klein Repeater – Fully operational with UHF linked to ALLSTAR.

W5NC HUB (Node 59847) – Allstar and Echo links are operational. DMR repeater (K5MAP) is connected.

Short Term Projects – The repeater team committee has now linked the Galleria UHF repeater on 443.075 to the Klein UHF repeater on 444.375. The radio link utilizes resources located at the HCESD 16 HAM radio station.

NARS General Club Meetings

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

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

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

Where: HCESD 16 Admin, [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)
Zoom Conference Call, Meeting ID: 2815436502, Passcode: 123456

Exam Practice

Are you new to the hobby and looking to pass your Technician exam? Are you preparing to level up your license by taking the next level exam? Check out the questions below to test your knowledge!

Technician (Element 2)

T5D10

What is the voltage across a 2-ohm resistor if a current of .5 amperes flows through it?

- A. 2.5 volts
- B. 1.5 volts
- C. .25 volts
- D. 1 volt

General (Element 3)

G1A10

What portion of the 10-meter band is available for repeater use?

- A. The portion above 29.5 MHz
- B. The portion between 28.3 MHz to 28.5 MHz
- C. The portion between 28.1 MHz and 28.2 MHz
- D. The entire band

Amateur Extra (Element 4)

E9H07

What is the function of a Beverage antenna's termination resistor?

- A. Decrease SWR bandwidth
- B. Absorb signals from the reverse direction
- C. Eliminate harmonic reception
- D. Increase the front-to-side ratio

See the answers on [Page 20](#).

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 - Club 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

Radio Connects is 2025 ARRL Field Day Theme

'Radio Connects' is the new logo and theme for the 2025 Field Day coming up on June 28-29. This logo highlights the many ways that wireless technology connects people across distances near and far. Ham Radio provides a connection – both for practical communications and to form relationships with fellow radio amateurs.

"Local amateur radio clubs bridge generations. Contacts made across town or around the world allow cultural exchange, right over the air," said ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX.

Make your plans to connect with radio for ARRL Field Day. Use the Field Day site locator (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>) to find a site near you, and clubs planning to host a site may list their event information there as well. Radio Connects merchandise is available for pre-order from the ARRL Store. Items will be shipped in late April.



Amateur Radio Helps 2025 Boston Marathon

Over 280 amateur radio operators volunteered to help at the 129th running of the Boston Marathon April 21, 2025. Operators worked at virtually every location connected to the race, including the starting line, the course, finish line, transportation and at various operations centers. Combined, they performed communications duties that included logistics support as well as backup support for medical and other public safety requests for the race. "This is one of the largest public service events amateur radio supports in the US and planning started over 6 months in advance," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, of the Boston Athletic Association Communications Committee.



Did you know...
that the ARRL sends a weekly letter describing some of the current events, activities, and policies that are taking shape in the Amateur Radio world? The following is an excerpt from these letters in January. View all the ARRL letters at

ARRL Launches Dream Station Sweepstakes

ARRL has introduced a sweepstakes that gives members a chance to win an Icom Dream Station, which includes a limited edition IC-7760 HF/50 MHz transceiver, an IC-PW2 amplifier, and a microphone, all donated by Icom America.

The sweepstakes is running from January 3 to December 31, 2025 and is part of a year-long campaign to encourage new membership (and a fun way for current members to extend their support for ARRL). The winner will also receive a limited edition Seiko watch celebrating Icom's 60th anniversary.

Participation is open to full ARRL members in the US. Members will automatically earn sweepstakes entries when they 1) join or renew membership (earn 1 entry), 2) set up auto-renewal (earn 2 entries), 3) donate to the ARRL Diamond Club (1 entry earned for every \$50 donated). Members can earn up to six entries during the year-long campaign. For more information about the ARRL Sweepstakes and the official rules, visit www.arrl.org/dreamstation.



Between January 3 and December 31, 2025, full ARRL members in the US have a chance to win an Icom Dream Station.

New Book Release on Portable Antennas

ARRL announced the release of the Portable Antenna Sketchbook by Salty Walt, K4OGO, of the Coastal Waves & Wires YouTube channel. The book begins with the basics of setting up a quarter- or half-wave vertical, but then draws readers into more experimental designs like his own Coastal 20 or an end-fed vertical made with a Slinky. Each sketch provides wire lengths and practical attachment information.

In addition to his sketches, Walt offers portable construction and operating tips, and just enough about counterpoise wires and ground to get you making contacts in no time. Walt also pairs each antenna with a dining spot you can try, whether you're on Walmea Bay in Kauai, deep in the Big Easy's French Quarter, or on the long Atlantic stretch of Nags Head, North Carolina. According to Walt, it's a book for the 'true amateur,' the ham who gets out by the waves with a radio to see what they can make happen.

The book is now shipping and can be ordered from the ARRL online store or an ARRL publication dealer. Member price \$22.95, retail is \$25.95.



ARRL Files Comments in Response to FCC

The Federal Communications Commission requested public input on alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens by deleting or modifying rules. In response to ARRL's request for member input, over 200 members submitted suggestions that were reviewed when considering what rules should be deleted or modified. In its filing, ARRL made the following suggestions –

Delete the LF and VHF/UHF Symbol (Baud) Rate and Bandwidth Limitations – doing so would enhance Amateur experimentation with digital technologies.

Update and Modernize Entry Level Technician Class License Privileges – this would provide new licensees an introductory window to HF data and phone communications that are at the core of the Amateur Radio experience and serve to incentivize the next generation of technical leaders just as Novice CW HF privileges did for earlier generations of operators.

Modernize 80/75 Meter Subband Divisions – changes in technology and modes since band usage was last addressed have resulted in overcrowding in one band segment that would be alleviated by adoption of ARRL's proposal.

Delete and Replace Obsolete Digital Code Limitations – ARRL asks that the FCC remove provisions that refer to digital codes that today are obsolete and permit radio amateurs to experiment freely with new digital codes, so long as such codes are publicly documented and decodable over the air.

Implement Changes to Third Party Rules Adopted Internationally at WRC-03 – ARRL is asking the FCC to implement rules that are consistent with those internationally agreed to align with the rest of the world. In 2003 ITU Radio Regulations removed a treaty requirement for third-party messages; however, there is no record that the FCC revised their rules to conform with this change.

Delete Amplifier Drive Limitation – asks that limits be removed on HF amplifier gain.

Remove Non-current Personal Information in Amateur ULS records – ARRL is advocating for privacy of radio amateurs by only making visible to the public (ULS) database current licensee information.

Delete Obsolete Identification Requirement for Special Call Signs – the FCC no longer mails physical copies of amateur radio licenses, so ARRL suggests deleting the rule that provides for sending paper replacements as obsolete.



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.

NARS Fox Hunt

BY DAVID HOLDEN, WJ9O

The NARS Fox Hunt was held May 3 at Spring Creek Park. The weather could not have been better – blue skies, temps in the 60s and 70s, and a light breeze. We started at 9 am with two foxes hidden in the brush. Various types of direction finding equipment was used and both foxes were found by at least some of the hunters.



If you look closely, you can see the “Fox” in the crook of the tree. We painted the fox’s bright orange this year. Celebrating the find are Tom, KQ5YU, Sam, NE5IE, Scott, KI5SEQ, Mitchell, KJ5GZR, Scott, KA2EEU, Robert, KJ5DKB, and David, WJ9O.



Loop antennas were popular options. Just ask Mitchell, KJ5GZR.



And Scott, KA2EEU.



Big ‘ol Yagi’s work pretty well too. Here Dale, KN5DS, gets a reading with his.

40th Anniversary NARS Spring Picnic

BY PAUL OWEN, N5NXS

Spring Creek Park

The picnic was held right after the fox hunt at the park. We celebrated our 40th anniversary at the park and most members in the club don't know this, but NARS started an annual spring picnic in the early days of NARS. The first annual picnic was in April 1987 in Spring Creek Park.

This year we had 26 hams come out and hopefully everyone enjoyed the day doing the fox hunt or just coming for the picnic. Those who stayed got to eat the cake. Traffic to the store, to pick up the cake, was heavier than expected, but the HEB bakery did another great job just like they did with the Field Day cake.

Thanks go to David, WJ9O, for asking if a picnic could be added to his fox hunt in the park. It worked out great and he did the work to make it happen. Special thanks go to our cook for the day, Brandy, WE9L. If others helped with the cooking, thank you. And many thanks to the 13+ people who brought the menu items so we could have hamburgers and hot dogs with beans, coleslaw, some key lime pie and many other fixings. Hope no one went away hungry!

Thanks to Jay, KJ5HMX for helping Paul, N5NXS, put up a 20m dipole using a tree and some vertical support poles on the other end. Then we had Mitchell, KJ5GZR, get on the radio and call some of the stations working in the Indiana QSO Party and other stations. Thanks also to Lee, WA5LEE, and Kirc, N5XJB, who brought out the AUXCOMM truck with many goodies inside to play with. Lee mounted an antenna that Bob, K9HOU, brought on the extendable mast and the group was making all kinds of contacts and getting good reports.



NARS Monthly Club Meeting

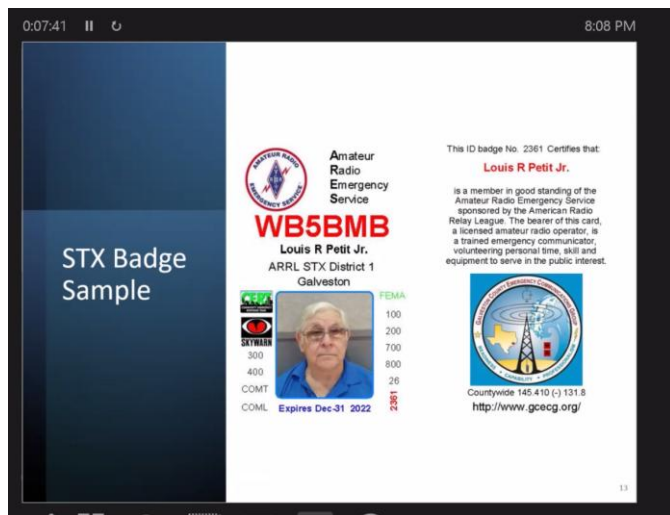
April ARES Presentation

The feature program at the April meeting was presented by Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). ARES is a program of ARRL, providing amateur emergency communications to the US and its territories. Membership is open to every licensed radio amateur, regardless of ARRL membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable but is not a requirement of ARES membership.

Walter explained the ARES organization structure in a slide. In the U.S. there are 71 sections (12 in Canada) and 15 divisions. Many states are just one section, but some have more than one. Texas has 3 sections.

Some training may be needed when you join in order to fully participate in ARES events. FEMA offers several courses and SkyWarn training is available, as well as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training, is an option.

As a new ARES member, you receive an identification badge. This badge contains your photo, name and what District you are in as well as a notation of any training you've received.



The local ARES organization helped during Hurricane Ike while based at Transtar. During Hurricane Harvey they were based at NRG.

Next Club Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on May 16, 2025, at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379. We hope to see everyone there!

New Radio for New Hams: Jumpstart Program



QRZ, RT Systems and GigaParts have teamed up to offer a sustainable program that is available, while supplies last, to amateur radio operators licensed in the USA for 6 months or less. The program offers a coupon code to the new ham that gives them a QRZ-1 radio, programming cable, RT Systems programming software, New Ham Welcome Kit, and a QRZ membership for only **\$21.99 (+tax & + S&H)**.

What's Included:

- Explorer QRZ-1 Handheld Radio
- Programming cable
- RT Systems Programming Software
- Premium QRZ Subscription

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 is taken from the June 2023 issue of QST.

Build a Portable 80- through 10-Meter Doublet by Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Resonant dipoles are often the go-to antennas for hams who operate in the field. They are simple to build, are efficient at radiating RF into the ether, and can be fed with coaxial cable with minimal losses. Their primary limitation is that they’re generally only resonant on a single band. Traps can be added to extend their operation to multiple bands, but at the cost of increased complexity, weight and some losses. Linked dipoles also allow for multiband operations, but the operator must lower the antenna to change bands. Fan dipoles are heavy and complex if they’re designed for more than a couple of bands.

Enter the Doublet Antenna

A doublet is a dipole antenna that’s used on multiple bands where it may not be resonant. Because this leads to high SWR on the feed line, open-wire feed line must be used instead of coax to keep the loss low. A balun and antenna tuner are required because the impedance seen



Figure 2 — The top-most spacer is cut from the upper half of a plastic hanger, which provides a convenient antenna attachment point.

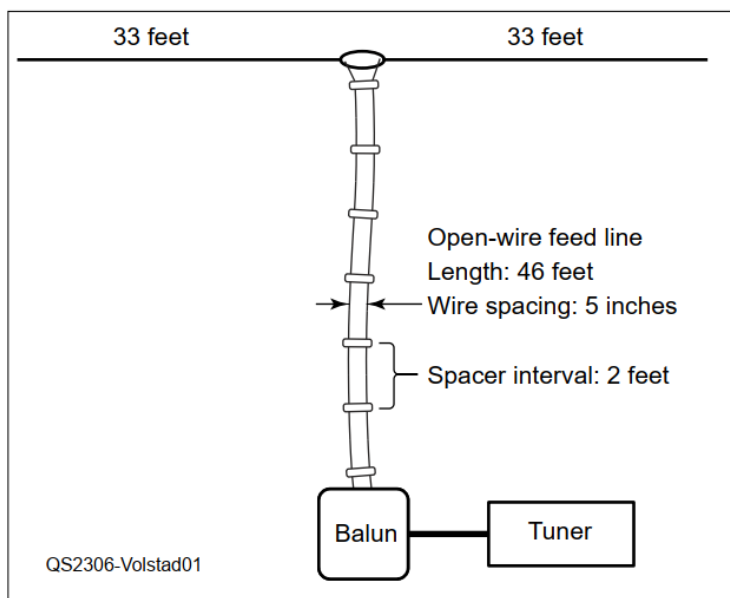


Figure 1 — Doublet antenna dimensions.

at the end of the feed line is likely to be far from the resistive 50 ohms that the transmitter expects to see. L.B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK), wrote an excellent analysis of the doublet, called “Introducing the ‘All-Band’ Doublet: What the Student and the Instructor Should Keep in Mind” (www.antentop.org/w4rnl.001/edu6.html). The doublet design shown in Figure 1 has proven to be very successful for me. I chose lightweight materials to facilitate portable use. The entire antenna system weighs only 10 ounces, but it can handle 100 watts.

The dimensions shown in Figure 1 allow for doublet operation on 40 through 10 meters, making it an ideal ARRL Field Day antenna, especially as Solar Cycle 25 ramps up and the higher bands become active again. For operation on 80 meters, I tie the

bottom ends of the feed line together and treat the antenna as a top-loaded vertical. In this configuration, I add a single 66-foot radial wire (counterpoise) to the system to provide a path for the return current.

The antenna is constructed from two continuous 79-foot lengths of #24 AWG PTFE, silver-plated stranded wire. The center is supported by an insulator made from a plastic hanger (see Figure 2). I found commercial feed-line spacers to be too heavy and bulky for my needs, so I made my own 6-inch spacers out of more plastic hangers (see Figure 3). I've also successfully made spacers using the plastic shells of pens. A 5-inch wire spacing results in a feed-line impedance of around 600 ohms. Aside from dramatically reducing SWR-related losses, this spacing requires spacers only every 2 feet or so, and it minimizes feed-line twisting. The feed line is terminated in a pair of spade terminals that connect to the balun.



Figure 3 — Feed-line wires are threaded through $\frac{3}{64}$ -inch holes drilled in the spacers, and epoxy is used to hold them in place.

Modeling and Storage

I've modeled this antenna system with EZNEC2 (<http://eznec.com>) and TLW3 by Dean Straw, N6BV, which is distributed with recent editions of *The ARRL Antenna Book*. As expected, the radiation pattern varies widely by band, as does the feed-point impedance. With a feed-line length of 46 feet, I can match all bands using the Elecraft BL2 switchable balun to provide either a 4:1 or 1:1 ratio, followed by an antenna tuner. When I'm finished using my antenna, I roll it up (starting at the end of the feed line) on a piece of stiff cardboard, and store it in a gallon-size freezer bag.

Antenna Support Options

In my capacity as Section Youth Coordinator for the ARRL Kentucky Section, I frequently demonstrate amateur radio to youth groups. Prior to these demonstrations, I often have little knowledge of the environment where I'll be setting up my HF station. Over the years, I've developed antenna support techniques to suit almost every situation that I might encounter – open fields, schools, urban parking lots, etc. These techniques can be adapted for supporting any lightweight wire antenna.

When using this antenna in an open field, I drive a 5-foot steel T-post into the ground, slide a section of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " PVC pipe over it, and then slide the mast over the PVC (Figure 4). The PVC pipe protects the inside of the mast from the sharp edges of the steel post. When working with hard surfaces, a tire mount for flagpoles is a convenient mast support (Figure 5). Because the inside diameter of the mounting tube is much larger than the outer mast diameter, I first insert a 2-inch section of PVC pipe into the tube. The outer diameter of the PVC was slightly larger than the inner diameter of the pipe shown in Figure 5, so I cut a $\frac{1}{4}$ " slot in the PVC, which allows me to squeeze the PVC inside the steel tube. I then slide the mast inside the PVC. Using any of these techniques, I can usually erect my doublet by myself in less than 20 minutes.

It's important to raise the center of the antenna as high as possible – I use a 33-foot fiberglass mast. This is when having a lightweight antenna is a huge advantage, because a steel or military-grade fiberglass mast isn't necessary. A lightweight, thin-walled telescoping mast, such as the MFJ-1910, is perfect for the task, and unless high winds are forecast, I usually dispense with guying the mast. If a sign, fence post, or small tree is available, I simply fasten the mast to it with a couple of bungee cords.

I dispense with the usual "egg" insulators and make a tiny reef knot to tie the ends of the antenna directly to a polyester kite string. Sometimes I can find an existing object that's at least 6 feet off the ground to tie the kite string to. Mounting a dipole in an inverted V makes it more omnidirectional, which works well given my location in the Midwest. If a pre-existing end support isn't available, I use 13-foot long fishing poles mounted on 2-foot diameter pine round boards. This makes it very easy to reorient the antenna if desired – I just pick them up and move them. I keep the ends of the dipole high enough to be out of reach, as the voltages can be high.



Figure 5 — Main mast support for a hard surface.

Operating Success

I have made thousands of ARRL Field Day contacts with this antenna, and hundreds of youngsters have made their first amateur radio contacts with it as well. If you build one, please share your success story with me!

About the author: Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, joined the amateur radio hobby in 2003. Originally from Canada, he has called Kentucky his home since 1988. He can be reached at ai4bj@arrl.net.



Figure 4 — Main mast support for an open field.

NARS Activities

Helping a former NARS member and SK

Recently Paul Kent, KI5FJS, and Paul Frantz, W5PF, had the opportunity to help Pat, widow of former NARS member Brian Derx, N5BA, remove the 75ft Rohn 25 antenna tower from her backyard.



They called on a climber, Dustin, who had recently helped with the club's LBT antenna, to come inspect the tower. Based on age, Dustin recommended using a crane and cutting the tower into two sections for removal.



A lightweight crane with a 100' boom was situated on the driveway and Dustin used a Sawzall to cut the mast sections apart.

The crane lifted the upper section and the guy wires were removed. The sections were then laid in the yard for further sectioning and transportation. The tower was completely on the ground within 1 hour of the crane set up. If you have need of an install or removal you can contact Dustin at

dustinfranklin138@gmail.com or call 281-868-9663.

Another antenna removal

Another team also removed Darel Kent's, K5WNO SK, 53' crank-up antenna tower on a tilt-over base. Darel's wife, Carol, wants to thank those involved in the removal. The team included Jason Boughter, KJ5JMD, Jason's father-in-law, Steven, KM5ET, as well as Paul, N5NXS, and Darel's brother-in-law Dennis, K7FL, and Darel's son. They used a cable to lower the tower to the ground to remove the antenna and rotor. Jason took away the tower loaded on his trailer.

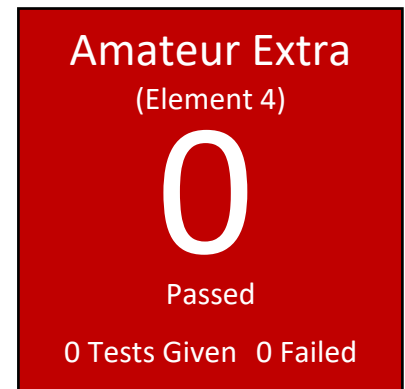
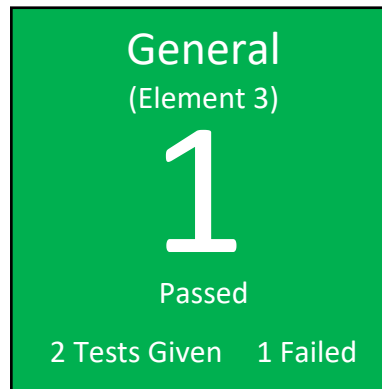
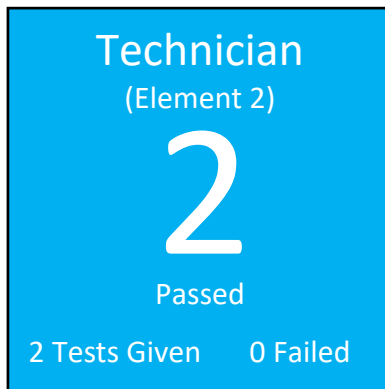


VE Sessions and Results

PROVIDED BY SYNOMEN HEBERT, KG5IRS

Attendees

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, a VE Test Session was held at HCESD 16 Admin, 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379. During the testing session, 2 candidates took 4 tests.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following for passing their new license exams¹:

- Samuel D. Johnson – new Technician
- Robert A. Lee – passed Technician and 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/arrl/77070/inperson>

The next session will be May 17, 2025 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
- Bob Ewers K9HOU
- Paul Owen N5NXS
- August Canik KI5YPD
- Dale Schmirler KN4DS
- Craig Veteto W5CEV
- Logan Hebert KG5LLM
- Brynn Hebert KG5KRV

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

Welcome to the following new members of NARS!

Renewing Club Members

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

- Rudy Hardy Jr, W5HRH
- Robert Bridges, KI5WAL
- Thomas (Ben) Gillis, K5TBN
- Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ
- Kyle Atkins, KE5SWK
- Tom Davis, KB9KY
- Kelly Garcia, K2KYM
- Geoffrey Hall, KJ5AHG & wife Amy

Missed from last month, renewing members:

- Walter Holmes K5WH
- Clay Yeaman K5YEA
- Adam Grant KJ5OSU

Training and Education

NARS

NARS Meeting Presentations - <http://w5nc.club/nars/index.php/club-info/technical-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: T5D10 – D. 1 volt

General: G1A10 – A. The portion above 29.5 MHz

Amateur Extra: E9H07 – B. Absorb signals from the reverse direction

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

GHSN monthly Simplex Propagation Net

Beginning January 2022, the [Greater Houston Simplex Network](#) will return to its regular schedule of the 4th Thursday evening of the month, with 6:15pm for the Zoom meeting and 7:00pm for the beginning of the net. Simplex frequencies are 146.540 MHz.

I would also like to restart the relay nets for the 2nd week of each month, so I need volunteer(s) to help out as Net Control Operator. I am just swamped with developing our cool new propagation application. Please contact me if you can help with this. The script is fully developed and can be found on [the website](#). Contact Mark - N5PRD@yahoo.com

Calendar

Club Activities and Events

NARS General Meeting – May 16, 2025 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session – May 17, 2025 – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#) - Check-in will start at 8:30am with testing lasting from 9:00am - 11:00am. All testing activities will be completed by noon.

The full NARS calendar can be viewed at: <https://w5nc.groups.io/g/main/calendar>

[Woodlands Event Comms - The Woodlands Triathlon](#) – May 10, 2025

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 16 – 18 | 2025 Dayton Hamvention at Greene County Fair and Expo Center, Xenia, OH

June 6-7 | DFW Ham Expo at Vista Mall Events Center, Lewisville, TX

July 12 | Tidelands Texas City Hamfest at Doyle Convention Center, Texas City, TX

August 16-17 | Huntsville Hamfest 2025 at Von Braun Center South, Huntsville, AL

Contests and Radiosport

ARRL Contest Corral

May 2025 - <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2025/May%202025%20Corral.pdf>

For a 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>

Area Event Alert

The South East Texas Amateur Club will host a Hidden Transmitter Hunt – Mobile on July 19 at 10 am. The area will be the Northwest Quadrant of the Inner Loop, boundaries will be I-45 North, I-10 West and Loop 610 NW, approx. ¼ of the inner city. The fox will be a mobile set on low power and transmitting at set intervals. The hunters will attempt to locate the Fox via RDF techniques. For those of you with Doppler or other high-tech RDF, you are invited to come practice, but you will be exempted from the prizes. The Fox will begin transmitting at 10 am, July 19 on 146.56 and we will have 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. For more information contact Anthony at ke5gip@arrl.net.

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: Robert Ewers, K9HOU, 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 Liaison: TBD

ARRL/VEC Liaison: 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

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

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 Email Reflector