



**W5NC**

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

A 501(c)(3) Organization  
An ARRL Affiliated Club



# NARS NEWS

**JUNE 2024**

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 11483

Klein, TX 77391

[w5nc.club](http://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:

Brandon Rogers (K5BLR), Newsletter Editor

[k5blr@arrl.net](mailto:k5blr@arrl.net)

# President's Message

BY RON MATUSEK, WA6TQH

## NARS Field Day

Field Day is an annual amateur radio contest, widely sponsored by IARU regions and member organizations, encouraging emergency communications preparedness among amateur radio operators. In the United States, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country, with over 30,000 operators participating each year.

Object: To work as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions.

A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the public with the capabilities of amateur radio.

Our Field Day Coordinator volunteer Paul Owen, N5NXS, has us off to an exceptionally good start.

Please keep the weekend of Field Day open and come out to have some fun operating.

June 22 and 23, starting time is 1800 UTC (1pm local) Saturday to 1800 UTC (1pm local) Sunday.

We will have lots of tasty food and wonderful time of fellowship. Please plan to come out to make it an enjoyable day on one or both days.

## Board Positions Open

We have two positions open so if you are interested and have the time, please contact a board member.

1. Opening – “Public Information Officer” effective January 2024
  - a. See By-Laws for position description.
2. Opening – “Director” effective January 2024
  - a. See By-Laws for position description.

## Weekly Net Operations

We have several NEW members along with those seeking information about the NARS Club. Please be available to greet those visitors and introduce them to our Club. Encourage them to sit down at one of our stations and try to make contact.

NARS has a lot on the menu going forward. Stay up to date with our weekly VHF and DMR nets (info at w5nc.club) and be sure to attend our monthly NARS General meetings. The DMR net meets every week on Tuesdays at 7PM and the VHF net meets on Wednesdays at 8PM. Information is published prior to each weekly net regarding frequencies and various links into the nets. I would like to announce that we now have a Weekly Net operation lead person. Mike Lizzio WA2TOP who has been providing ongoing organization and is now the officially appointed go to person for the weekly net operations.

As many of you know our VHF repeater operations was impacted by the recent storm. The Board is working extremely hard behind the scenes with Legal requirements with LBT to get our antenna repositioned, updated and serviceable. Information about our progress is available on groups.io. In the meantime, Walter Holmes K5WH has graciously offered the use of his repeater. This information will be published with the weekly email regarding net activity. Please be patient while the necessary repairs are made.

*See you at the June 22-23 Field Day Activities!*

## **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: <http://www.w5nc.club/nars/index.php/2014-03-30-18-23-31/membership-reports/club-roster>. Find your name in the list and look at the “Expires” column of the table!

## 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)**

#### **T7C05**

Why do most solid-state transmitters reduce output power as SWR increases beyond a certain level?

- A. To comply with FCC rules on spectral purity
- B. To lower the SWR on the transmission line
- C. To protect the output amplifier transistors
- D. Because power supplies cannot supply enough current at high SWR

### **General (Element 3)**

#### **G4B07**

What signals are used to conduct a two-tone test?

- A. Two non-harmonically related audio signals
- B. Two audio frequency range square wave signals of equal amplitude
- C. Two audio signals of the same frequency shifted 90 degrees
- D. Two swept frequency tones

### **Amateur Extra (Element 4), Ending June 30th**

#### **E4B06**

How much power is being absorbed by the load when a directional power meter connected between a transmitter and a terminating load reads 100 watts forward power and 25 watts reflected power?

- A. 100 watts
- B. 75 watts
- C. 25 watts
- D. 125 watts

### **Amateur Extra (Element 4), New!**

#### **E7F09**

Why is an anti-aliasing filter required in a decimator?

- A. It removes low-frequency signal components to eliminate the need for DC restoration
- B. It peaks the response of the decimator, improving bandwidth
- C. It removes high-frequency signal components that would otherwise be reproduced as lower frequency components
- D. It notches out the sampling frequency to avoid sampling errors

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

## The ARRL Letter

An excerpt from the weekly ARRL Letter

### ARRL Learning Center Features Two New Emergency Communication Training Courses

ARRL has released two new courses to train emergency communications (EmComm) operators for volunteering within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). Both courses are within the ARRL Learning Center.

The Basic EmComm course is designed to get a new volunteer started. It provides basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer and contains three modules and 11 topics, including required prerequisites. It's expected to take approximately 10 - 20 hours to complete.

The Intermediate EmComm course builds on the lessons learned in the first course and equips volunteer radio amateurs with the tools needed to thrive in the fast-paced environment of public service communications and to understand the legal



### 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 <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

rights and responsibilities of working with a served agency, as well as teach them and how ham radio fits into the broader incident command (IC) structure.

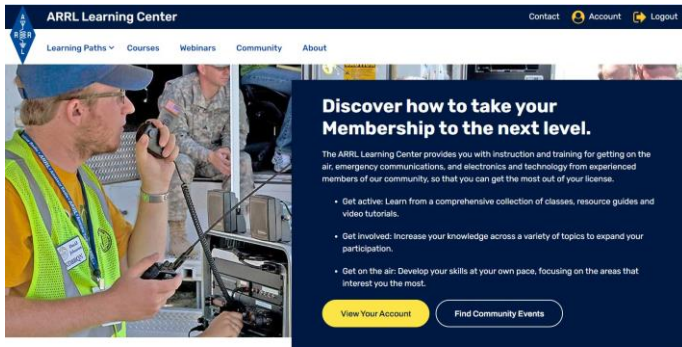
The new courses replace the previous EC-001 and EC-016 programs, however, certificates of completion earned for the previous courses are still valid. "Training is not a one-and-done thing. Throughout my firefighting and emergency management career, we were constantly taking new courses to reinforce existing knowledge and introduce new concepts," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Engaged volunteers should want to stay up to date on advances in the science of emergency communications. I'd even encourage veteran operators to take the new courses."

In 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revised the Guide for National Emergency Preparedness to specifically include amateur radio. ARRL and FEMA entered into a new Memoranda of Understanding in May 2023 that outlined the importance of trained radio amateurs within the response ecosystem.

"Amateur radio is as important as ever in emergency management," said Johnston. "The new courses will keep hams trained to serve effectively."

The ARRL Learning Center at [learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org) is a member benefit and features many ways to get the most out of your amateur radio license. The Basic and Intermediate EmComm courses are available to anyone with a free [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) account. Users

must log in to the ARRL Learning Center with this account, and functionality of the site relies on cookies being enabled.



**What do you want to do with Amateur Radio?**

Choose your own adventure! The ARRL Learning Center organizes its course content around Learning Paths, making it easy to navigate and explore the field. Select the path that interests you most to get started.

Above: A screenshot of the ARRL Learning Center at [learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org).

## Focus on Public Safety Relationship Building at the 2024 ARRL National Convention

Those attending the 2024 ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention® will have an opportunity to learn more about how amateur radio is relevant and highly involved in the modern emergency management landscape. The convention is May 17 - 19 in Xenia, Ohio.



ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, will host a booth for the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#)® -- ARES®. The booth will be supported by highly experienced ARES leaders and members of the ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee.

On Friday, Johnston and four representatives from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) will lead the forum "ARES®, SAFECOM®, and Building Relationships" as part of the ARRL National Convention track. CISA is the federal agency SAFECOM serves. Together, they'll

lead a discussion about how amateur radio emergency communications groups can establish and foster relationships with served agencies.

Johnston is ARRL's representative member of SAFECOM®. In 2023, [ARRL was elected to serve on SAFECOM](#)®, a program of the US Department of Homeland Security. SAFECOM supports the public safety community to improve the emergency communications ecosystem. This relationship gives ARRL a seat at the decision-making table for emergency communications policy nationwide.

"Amateur radio operators are in a unique position to serve agencies of many different types, but that relationship has to be well established long before a crisis," said Johnston, who emphasized that local partnerships are just as important as national-level relationships. ARES groups work with local, state, and county governments, and non-government affiliated organizations, including local offices of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and faith-based organizations.

The forum is held on Friday, May 17 at 9:15 AM in forum room three, where the majority of ARRL National Convention programming will take place. The National Convention program is published at [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo) or within in the [ARRL Events](#) app. Buy tickets to the convention on the [Hamvention](#) website.

## ARRL Volunteers Obtain Ham Exemption to Pennsylvania Handsfree Law

ARRL volunteers in Pennsylvania have successfully protected the legal right to use amateur radio while operating mobile within the state. A handsfree distracted driving bill had worked its way through the legislature over the past several years, and ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF, successfully advocated for an exemption for licensed





radio amateurs. "The bill survived until just before the latest vote, which stripped out our exemption but left in exemptions for commercial drivers, including truck drivers, bus drivers, and public transportation [drivers]," he wrote in a message to ARRL members in Pennsylvania.

In April, the exemption was stripped from the bill, sending Pennsylvania hams into a state of worry. ARRL members in the state rallied, contacting their state legislators to explain the benefit that licensed operators provide to the state. The bill also was going to remove the ability for first responders, such as volunteer firefighters, to use radios in their personally owned vehicles. "Hundreds of emails then went out to legislators and such and back to me. We also helped our volunteer emergency responders who were in the same boat as us with radio use from their personal cars. Many members are also emergency responders as well, and they picked up on this too," said Famiglio.

This week, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted in favor of accepting the bill with the exemption. The senate passed it last summer. The bill is now on its way to Governor Josh Shapiro's desk, where he is expected to sign it. Mobile use of amateur radio will continue in Pennsylvania, thanks to ARRL advocacy and government relations carried out by member-volunteers.

## MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.

**MFJ**

In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring:

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.

Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have "a lot of stock on hand." They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years.

He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members and loyal QST readers:

"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world, and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ.

MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"



*Martin F. Jue, K5FLU,  
founder of MFJ.*



## Changes in the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section

Steven Hendricks, KK6JTB, has been appointed as Section Manager of the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

He fills the vacancy left by John Litz, NZ6Q, who was appointed as Vice Director of the ARRL Pacific Division.

Hendricks has always had a love for radio, and he first earned his amateur radio license a decade ago. "In 2014, I became licensed as a Technician, and in 2015 I became a General," he said. Hams in the area helped him get active in the local radio community. He held several elected leadership positions within the Sierra Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service Club.

"With amateur radio, it's easy to operate in many different ways. Currently I'm having fun on HF all while exploring FT8, Winlink, and emergency communications," said Hendricks.

Hendricks has previously served as an Assistant Section Manager. His appointment was effective on April 24, and it will run through the remaining term until June 31, 2025.

## Storms and Tornadoes: Amateur Radio Ready

Strong storms and reports of at least 60 tornadoes have wreaked havoc in the Central U.S. for nearly two weeks. Homes and businesses across Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Iowa were destroyed, and power is still down for more than 30,000 residents. On May 1, 2024, President Joe Biden declared a major disaster exists in Oklahoma,



*Section Manager of the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section, Steven Hendricks, KK6JTB.*

making federal aid available to those affected by last weekend's severe storms in Hughes, Love, and Murray counties.

Section Manager of the ARRL Iowa Section Lelia Garner, WA0UIG, reported that in Iowa, they have moved from response to recovery. Currently, nine counties are under the Iowa State Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program.



*Iowa Tornado 2024 [NOAA photo]*

"Amateur Radio has served our local agencies well. We recently networked at a central Iowa hamfest and are building our emergency communications capacity primarily through [the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®)]. ARES resources [include] personnel, experience, meetings, training, [communications] equipment, [and] operating trailers. The opportunity to share our experience and knowledge gained in the field has been critical to supporting ARES in Iowa," said Garner.

Garner added that awareness is the best tool. She stressed that amateur operators and ARES members work to help the National Weather Service and other served agencies in order make their work and the community safer.

ARRL Emergency Management Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, agrees that everyone should stay vigilant in their awareness and preparations, even during periods of less activity. Make sure you are prepared at home and that your family has a severe weather plan. This is extremely important if you plan to be mobile or away from your home during a severe weather event. Your safety is the most important thing if you plan to be active during severe weather. Every ham who is interested in severe weather should take the [SKYWARN](#) storm

spotting class offered by the National Weather Service," said Johnston.

He added that some of the most important aspects of preparation are communication and building relationships. These activities, including drills and exercises, need to be done during blue - sky days to ensure you will be ready during days with severe weather.

The [ARRL Learning Center](#) offers courses like on Basic EmComm and Intro to Radio for Emergencies & Disasters.

## CQ Magazine Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, SK

Longtime amateur radio publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, has become a Silent Key. He passed away on April 27, 2024.

His colleagues respected him greatly.

"Dick was a friend as well as my boss, and we saw eye-to-eye on most things regarding amateur radio. Dick was a leader in the ham radio industry for decades and an innovator in ham radio publishing. He also built the CQ brand into worldwide leadership in many aspects of the radio hobby, particularly contesting and DXing," said CQ Editorial Director Rich Moseson, W2VU.

Ross had been Publisher of CQ magazine since 1979. Ross was given the Dayton Hamvention® 2010 Special Achievement Award for his work on CQ: (<https://www.arrl.org/news/dayton-hamvention-announces-2010-award-winners>).



*Longtime amateur radio publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, has become a Silent Key.  
[Rich Moseson, W2VU, photo]*

"I will greatly miss his ideas, his insights, and his friendship. His passing is a great loss for our hobby," added Moseson.

More information about Ross' distinguished life and career may be found on [ARRL News](#).

## International Museums Weekends (IMW) 2024

International Museums Weekends (IMW) 2024 will take place June 15 - 16 and 22 - 23. The purpose of this event is to activate an amateur radio special event station in as many museums around the world as possible. Frequencies, bands, and modes are at the discretion of the operators, as is the museum selection. For this event, the definition of museum can be loosely interpreted. It could be a collection of old cars or one of a kind paintings from a neighborhood artist. Through this event, organizers hope to present amateur radio to the public to garner support and understanding of the hobby. The first IMW was held in 2002 with over 80 museums, featuring small, local venues and large prestigious operations. The event was especially popular among amateur radio operators in the United Kingdom. For information about registration and event awards, visit [International Museums Weekends 2024](#).

## 2024 ARRL Field Day Guide

The June issue of QST features the 2024 ARRL Field Day Guide. The multi-page section features articles, tips, and checklists to help make your club's activation a success. Readers can learn more about the Get On The Air (GOTA) station and get tips on band planning from propagation experts. The June 2024 Digital Edition of QST is available now at [www.arrl.org/magazines](http://www.arrl.org/magazines) or in the ARRL Magazines app. Find complete resources and rules for 2024 ARRL Field Day at [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day).



## Dick Rutan, KB6LQS, SK

Dick Rutan, KB6LQS, record-setting pilot, has become a Silent Key. He passed away at the age of 85 on May 3, 2024, surrounded by family. Rutan was an ARRL member.

In 1986, Rutan made international headlines for his flight in Voyager with copilot Jeana Yeager. The pair flew around the world (nonstop and unrefueled) in 9 days, 3 minutes, and 44 seconds.



*Dick Rutan, KB6LQS, poses with his airplane. [Photo from Dick Rutan/Facebook]*

Rutan was a highly decorated United States Air Force combat pilot in Vietnam. His civilian test pilot career had him flying everything from military jets to rocket-powered airplanes, in which he set speed records. In 2022, Mojave Air & Space Port in Mojave, California, was renamed Mojave Air & Space Port at Rutan Field in honor of the contributions he and his brother Burt had made to aviation. Read more about Dick Rutan on [ARRL News](#).

## ARRL Podcasts Schedule

ARRL Forums at Dayton Hamvention 2024

This year's Dayton Hamvention, which occurred on May 17 - 19 in Xenia, Ohio, will be extra special -- it's also the 2024 ARRL National Convention. ARRL Director of Marketing & Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, joined May's podcast to share details about ARRL-sponsored activities at the show, including several of the ARRL-sponsored forums and the Youth Rally.

## ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. 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 on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts - - [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).

## Amateur Radio in the News

ARRL Public Information Officers, Coordinators, and many other member-volunteers help keep amateur radio and ARRL in the news.

["Club Stays Amateur Radio-active"](#) / The Carroll News (Virginia) May 2, 2024 -- The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club.

["Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Railroad Museum of South Florida to celebrate National Train Day May 11"](#) / North Fort Myers Neighbor (Florida) May 3, 2024 - - The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["A Stroudsburg teens' passion for radio"](#) / WBRE - TV (Pennsylvania) April 24, 2024

["Local radio operators prepare for the next weather emergency"](#) / WPSD - TV (Kentucky) April 27, 2024 -- The Paducah Organization of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES®).

["The world of amateur, or HAM radio, and its role during emergencies like Hurricane Ian"](#) / WGCU (Florida) April 29, 2024 -- The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

*Arrl.org. 2024. ARRL Letter. [online] Available at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=current> [Accessed 03 June 2024]*



# NARS Monthly Club Meeting

## May General Meeting

Due to highly impactful storms in the area, the May 2024 Board and General Meetings as well as the VE Session were cancelled. We hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to Field Day on June 22-23, 2024 at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379.

## Next Club Meeting

The ARRL Field Day will be held in place of our General Meeting for the month of June. We hope to see everyone there!

## 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, 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

# 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. Each badge costs \$10 and can be delivered at the next NARS meeting (if ordered two weeks or more before the next meeting).

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.



## Rich Jones: A Beacon of Community Service

We are thrilled to announce that Rich Jones, K5VEK, a dedicated member of NARS, has been honored with the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award. This accolade is a testament to Rich's unwavering commitment to serving others and making a positive impact in our society.

The President's Volunteer Service Award is a civil award bestowed by the President of the United States. Established by executive order by George W. Bush, the award was established to honor volunteers that give hundreds of hours per year helping others through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The award can be granted to individuals, families and organizations located throughout the United States.

Rich Jones, as a recipient of the award, has dedicated countless hours in service, over the years, demonstrating a passion for helping those in need.

We invite the community to join us in celebrating Rich's remarkable achievement. His example reminds us all of the power of volunteerism and the difference one person can make.



## 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 the learning new aspects of the amateur radio hobby.

### ARRL Field Day

Each year, the ARRL Field Day unites over 40,000 amateur radio operators across North America in a vibrant showcase of skill, service, and community spirit. Held on the fourth weekend of June, this event is much more than just an informal contest; it's a blend of emergency preparedness, public outreach, and technical practice.

#### What is ARRL Field Day?

ARRL Field Day, the largest on-the-air event in the US and Canada, is designed to demonstrate the science, skill, and service of amateur radio to the public. Participants set up temporary transmitting stations in public locations to simulate emergency conditions, operating under a wide range of power sources, including batteries and solar cells, to maximize their score and showcase their resilience in off-grid scenarios.

#### The Event Format

Field Day stations are categorized into different classes based on their setup and power sources:

- Class A: Club or non-club groups with three or more participants operating under emergency conditions.
- Class B: Single operators.
- Class C: Mobile stations.
- Class D: Home stations with commercial power.
- Class E: Home stations with emergency power.
- Class F: Stations operating from Emergency Operations Centers.

Stations exchange their operating class and ARRL/RAC section, aiming to make as many contacts as possible using various modes like CW (Morse code), Phone (voice), and digital transmissions.

#### Scoring and Multipliers

Points are awarded based on the mode of contact, with phone contacts earning one point and both CW and digital contacts earning two points each. Multipliers are applied based on the power source and output, encouraging the use of low-power, emergency-powered stations for higher scores.

#### Community and Education

Field Day is also a significant opportunity for public education and outreach. Clubs often invite the public, media, and local officials to visit their sites, learn about amateur radio, and even try operating a station.



This event highlights the critical role that amateur radio can play in emergency communication networks, emphasizing its value beyond a hobby.

## Get Involved

Whether you're a seasoned operator or a curious newcomer, Field Day offers a chance to learn, compete, and connect with the amateur radio community.

For additional resources, rules, and tips, check out the comprehensive guides and support materials provided by ARRL [on their official website](#). Join NARS on June 22-23, 2024 as we participate in Field Day at the HCESD 16 Admin Building – 18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379.

# New & Renewing Club Members

## New Club Members

Welcome to the following new members of NARS!

- Kelley Garcia, K2KYM
- Daniel Godbout, KD2DVG
- Jeff Holderfield, WB5PCO

## Renewing Club Members

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

- Geoffrey Hall, KJ5AHG
- Brandy Lang, WE9L
- Joe Lasater, KG5ZOZ

# New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released Effective July 1, 2024

The (NCVEC) [Question Pool Committee](#) (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new [Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028.](#)

The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, and member of the NCVEC QPC, said, "The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version. We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevancy to today's amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, 82 new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction [of] the number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced."

Somma advised that "the newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. New test designs will be available to [ARRL Volunteer Examiners](#) (VEs) on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new Extra-class [exam booklet designs](#) around mid-June."

Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of [The ARRL Extra Class License Manual](#) or the 5th edition of [ARRL's Extra Q & A](#) are encouraged to test on or before June 30, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024.

Notice provided by the ARRL at <https://www.arrl.org/news/new-amateur-extra-class-question-pool-released-effective-july-1-2024>, Accessed on January 1, 2024

## NARS Club Documents and Minutes

DID YOU  
KNOW



Did you know that you can find all of the club's public documents, including board meeting minutes, financial statements, and newsletters on the [club website](#) at [http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/)

# 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!

## Exam Practice Answers

**Technician:** T7C05 – C. To protect the output amplifier transistors

**General:** G4B07 – A. Two non-harmonically related audio signals

**Amateur Extra (Ending June 30<sup>th</sup>):** E4B06 – B 75 Watts

**Amateur Extra (New):** E7F09 – C. It removes high-frequency signal components that would otherwise be reproduced as lower frequency components

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:N5PRD@yahoo.com)

# Calendar

## Club Activities and Events

ARRL Fields Day – June 22-23 - HCESD 16 Admin – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#)

VE Test Session – June 22 – [18606 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein, TX 77379](#) - Check-in will start at 8:30am with testing lasting from 9:00am - 11:00am. All testing activities will be completed by noon.

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

## Social Events

### 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

## Did you know...

NARS has a social media presence! Thanks to Sam Labarbera, N6HB, 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.



## Hamfests and Conventions

June 15 | [Knoxville Hamfest](#), ARRL Delta Division Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee

June 28 - 30 | [HAM RADIO](#), Friedrichshafen, Germany

July 12 - 13 | [HamCon: Zion](#), ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, St. George, Utah

July 13 | [Tidelands Hamfest](#), Texas City

July 19-20 | [Radio Fiesta](#), San Antonio

August 17 - 18 | [Huntsville Hamfest](#), ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Huntsville, Alabama

August 22 - 25 | [Northeast HamXposition](#), ARRL New England Division Convention, Marlborough, Massachusetts

September 28 | [Red Rivers Radio Amateurs Hamfest](#), ARRL Dakota Division Convention, West Fargo, North Dakota

October 18 - 20 | [Pacificon](#), ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, California

## Contests and Radiosport

### *ARRL Contest Corral*

June 2024 - <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2024/June%202024%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>.

# NARS Club Officers and Information

## Board Officers with Voting Privileges

President: Ron Matussek, WA6TQH, 713-825-9606, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Vice President: Paul Kent, KI5FJS, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU, 713-828-8630, [treasurer@w5nc.net](mailto:treasurer@w5nc.net)

Secretary: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR, 713-294-6630, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Director: Rich Jones, W5VEK, [officers@w5nc.net](mailto:officers@w5nc.net)

Director: TBN

## Board Non-Voting Associate Members

Administrative Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN

Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, N6HB

Newsletter Editor: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR

Public Information Liaison: TBN

ARRL/VEC Liaison: Sheree Horton, WM5N

Repeater Team Lead: Mike Pate, K5MAP

Webmaster: Bill Buoy, N5BIA, [webmaster@w5nc.net](mailto:webmaster@w5nc.net)

Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

## Club Nets

**DMR Weekly Net** – Every Tuesday at 7pm. Tune in on Talkgroup 3146211 for information on configuring codeplugs, see the DMR pages on the Club website (<http://w5nc.clubs>) or contact a club Elmer.

**The Weekly Wednesday Evening Net** - Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm. Join us on one of the W5NC repeaters: 146.660 MHz, -600kHz offset, PL 100.0 - wide area centered on downtown Houston and/or 444.375, + 5 MHz offset, PL 100 best in the Spring / Klein area. You can also join from anywhere in the world by connecting to EchoLink node W5NC-R or via Allstar (node #59847).

## Repeaters

For information on NARS-managed repeaters, please see the club website at <http://w5nc.club/nars/index.php/repeaters/nars-repeaters>

### 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 <http://w5nc.club/nars/index.php/social-media/email-reflector-groups>