

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 2005

## April Meeting – Direction Finding

Program by Jerry Green on Direction Finding equipment and how-to's.

## Annual Picnic 2005

Date: Saturday, May 7

Time: 11:00AM until 4:00PM

Location: 24415 Deep Meadow Dr, Tomball – see map below

Food: BBQ and side dishes from Rib Tickler, home made desserts

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Bring your own chairs and cokes (iced tea provided).

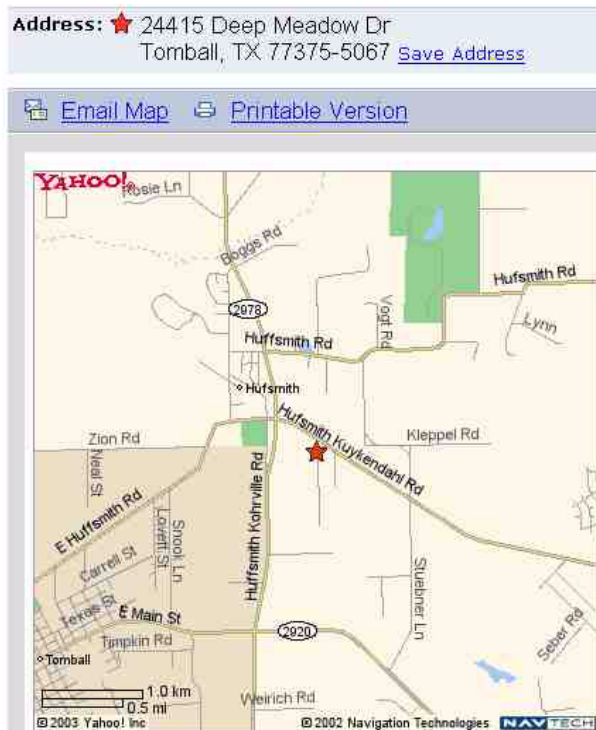
Come join the NARS crowd for good eats, games and plenty of eyeball QSOs. Horseback rides will be available for kids and daring adults. There may even be a bit of music entertainment from the NARS Pickers.

A volunteer is needed to pick up the BBQ from Rib Tickler. We also need horseshoes, washers, badminton, or whatever else would be fun. Do you have one of these? If so, please call 281-351-7683. Thanks.

Do you have a favorite dessert you make to show off? Hint – chocolate chip cookies – yum. If so, bring it along. There will be a prize awarded to the maker of the favorite sweets as voted by the diners.

Mark your calendar now for this fun, informal get-together.

Keith Dutson NM5G  
keith@dutson.net  
281-351-7683



## Important Dates

**Friday, Apr 15, 7:30 PM** – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

**Tuesday, Apr 26, 7:30 PM** – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive. This is one signal light west of Ella on 1960, go north about 200 yards and park on the south side of the fire hall, NOT in front of the big doors.

**Saturday, Apr 23, 8:30 AM** – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

### Contests

Apr 16–17 MI QP, ON QP, YU DX  
Apr 23–24 SP DX RTTY, FL QP, NE QP  
May 7–8 NV QP, OR QP, IN QP, 10–10 Intl Spring CW  
May 28–29 CQ WW WPX CW

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Apr 13 Jason's Deli  
Apr 20 Neal's Restaurant  
Apr 27 Olde City Pub & Grill  
May 4 Red Lobster  
May 11 Casa Imperial Mexican  
May 18 Strack Farms

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Apr 13 Chili's  
Apr 20 Fuddrucker's  
Apr 27 Escalante Mexican  
May 4 Jason's Deli  
May 11 Luther's BBQ  
May 18 Skeeter's

### Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

11:00 AM Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport

**Notice:** NARS membership dues are \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

*Deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the last day of this month.*

**BREAKFAST**  
**at Joey D's**  
5918 W FM 1960  
**Saturdays**  
**7:30 AM**

## President's Corner

April 2005

Greetings Fellow NARSians, I understand that the March meeting went well and that Paul Flagg did a great job on Digital Photography. Thanks Paul! I didn't make the meeting because Nancy and I were cooling our heels (literally) along the Danube in Germany and in the Austrian Alps for 2 weeks on vacation. I think Nancy may have gotten her temporary fill of snow – it was up to the second story windows in Austria!

I did make the NARS board meeting the last Tuesday of March and I can tell you that things are hopping in NARS-land. We are planning for HamCom, Field Day and the Texas QSO Party.

HamCom is coming up June 3, 4 and 5. I have it on my calendar and intend to make it this year. How about you? From all I hear, it is a fun time in the old town.

Field Day is coming up the last full week-end in June 25 & 26, and it is looking as if NARS will conduct its FD operations at the park on Hammerly again. However, there is a back-up location just in case of bad weather. Mike Lodge is our fearless leader for FD this year, but Mike has a possible conflict which would keep him away for a while. Shalee is preparing to acquire a new Seeing Eye dog and there are two possibilities for the training classes Shalee and the dog must attend. If they are assigned to the second class, then the graduation ceremonies will land on FD weekend and Mike will most certainly attend with our blessings. Consequently, NARS is requesting that someone step forward and work with Mike to plan FD so that FD has a trained leader just in case. This is an important task folks and not second fiddle, so step up and take the reins and support our group. Call Mike or me and discuss it or just accept.

H.O. is planning another great year for TQP and the NARS sponsorship. He will speak to us about it at the July meeting, so plan to attend. A little birdie has told me that H.O. actually has codified most of the rules/traditions of TQP and I can't wait to hear what he has to say. Last year we made a very focused and concerted effort to get mobiles out and get our folks on the air so we could pull down the top score for NARS. And it was absolutely great fun! Let's do it again, but this year make it pale by comparison! Come on, get the jalopy in gear and let's go, go, go. . .

73, Lee K5AVY

## Public Service Events

*Your Radio Skills Are Needed*

Events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (October), SIRE Ride-A-Thon (October) and Sunmart Texas Trails Run (December). Events supported by NARS members include Houston Marathon, MS 150 and Wings Over Houston.

Plan to help with one or more of these events in 2005.

Here is some last minute news on the MS 150.

BP MS150 April 16 & 17, 2005, [www.ms150.org](http://www.ms150.org)

Now is the time to sign up for the MS150! I need to know if you are going to work the event so assignments can be made and motels rooms reserved. If you are planning to work the MS150 this year please go to <http://www.houstonhams.org/Register.html> and sign up. Amateur radio operators are the primary communications for the MS150 and provide communications on the entire ride from Houston to Austin. Operators are assigned with several different groups or they are stationed at different locations along the route. Some of the positions are:

Break points – providing communications for supplies and medical problems – Normally a 1 day commitment but depends on your location.

Medical vehicles – operators ride in ambulances and First Responder vehicles for emergency communications – This is 2 day commitment MS150 Staff – operators ride with MS150 staff to provide communications for important issues and problems during the ride. – This is 2 day commitment SAG vehicles – provided communications for the SAG drivers who are on the course picking up riders that have mechanical problems or that cannot ride. – This is 2 day commitment Supply Trucks – provide communications for the supply trucks so supplies can be routed to the needed locations. – This is 2 day commitment

NET Control – Net controls operations are set up in Houston, Bellville, LaGrange and Austin. There are two NETS running at all times and many operators are needed to cover this very important position. – This is a 1 or 2 day commitment depending on your location.

Houston Command Post – The command post oversees medical incidents, and other problems on the ride. The command post monitors the ride on HF, or VHF or UHF amateur bands. Medical vehicles are tracked with APRS units along the entire course. The command post is set up to receive calls from event personal and emergency services along the route through 800 telephone numbers to coordinate emergency calls and situations. – You can work from 1 hour to two days. The command post is open from midnight Friday to midnight Sunday. Motorcycle Hams – If you have a motorcycle and an amateur radio license, you can help out with the Motorcycle group that needs volunteers. With an amateur radio on your motorcycle you can be in contact with the action on the ride. You can contact Jerry Irwin, WA0GLD, the Motorcycle coordinator, at [F16Jock@earthlink.net](mailto:F16Jock@earthlink.net)

To volunteer you need at least a 2 Meter/VHF radio (dual band preferred) that has at least 25 watts output and a gain type antenna. If you are stationed in a MS vehicle your radio must be easily transferred between any vehicles since you may be moved from one vehicle to another during the ride. Food and sleeping areas (you need to bring your own bed linens) are provided by the MS150 organization. A secure parking area will be provided for your vehicle.

Volunteer hours begin at 4:30 am on April 16 and end around 7 pm on April 17. There will be two information meetings the week before the ride one on April 11th and one on April 13th. For more information please sign up at the BP MS 150 Volunteer Signup Page at <http://www.houstonhams.org/Register.html>.

If you would like more information on the event or how you can help out, please contact me at 713-826-6917

*Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
Communications Coordinator  
BP MS150 Bike Tour*

## MOTORCYCLE HAMS NEEDED

**If you are an Amateur Radio Operator, with or without a motorcycle, interested in volunteering for the BP MS-150 on April 16-17, please contact:**

**Jerry Irwin, WA0GLD**

**Home: 936-856-5178 Cell: 936-537-7524**

**email: [F16Jock@earthlink.net](mailto:F16Jock@earthlink.net) or visit: <http://www.ms150.org>**

# Ham and "Sheez" News

## Thank You

Some of you may not believe this, but it is actually a pleasure to be writing the column again this month. I want to say a big thank you to Laurie for jumping in and getting the March column written and in the newsletter for everyone last month. It was just another example of her sweet spirit and willingness to help.

## March Madness

Well, I guess "March Madness" could apply to lots of things, including college basketball. While the Ham and "Sheez" did not rack too many points this month, there were some individuals among us who can relate to the term. There were kept very busy during March, inside and outside of the Ham and "Sheez" events. All in all, March was a good month for the ladies. We continue with the large majority of us taking part in the Tomball Stampin Up Club each month. What a wonderful treat it was to meet at Carol Fitzgerald's for some more stamping fun. Carol's mother was there and joined in the activities. Carol and her mother also prepared a low fat feast that was enjoyed by all. Carol – we still want the recipes.

Our club meeting was held the last Monday night of March at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church. We enjoyed a special treat provided by Jo Nan Carr and Paul Flagg. They delivered a presentation of their three-week trip to China that took place about a year ago. Words are not sufficient to describe what a pleasure this was. They brought along with them some of the pictures that they enlarged to show some of the intricate detail in the craftsmanship associated with some of the things they saw. They also brought some of their souvenirs for us to examine. What an enjoyable evening and one I wouldn't mind repeating. The stories that the pictures told were incredibly interesting and very

entertaining. Thanks again to Jo Nan and Paul for sharing their trip with us.

## Upcoming Activities

Hold on to your hats – April and May are going to be very busy. The Ham and "Sheez" are going to have something for everyone in the next two months. So pull out your calendars, your PDAs, your Palm Pilot, or another piece of string for your finger, there will be lots to do. I will go in chronological order, simply because I am easily distracted and may want to linger a little longer than most of you at some of these activities.

**April 9th** – Saturday night, April 9th, will be another Bunko party at Desi Livingston's home. I heard that the fuzzy dice will make another appearance. The time and directions will be coming in an email sometime this week.

**April 17th** – Tomball Stampin Up Club meeting will be at Tina Sinclair's. Those bringing goodies should let Tina know the week before.

**April 25th** – Christie Richards and her daughter-in-law, Stephanie, will be hosting our April Ham and "Sheez" meeting at Stephanie's house. They will be preparing lasagna for super and treating us to a Mary Kay foot spa. Stephanie lives in Prestonwood, near 249 and Grant Road. Instructions and a list of other things to bring for super will be coming soon. The last time we did a foot spa, I didn't want to leave, so someone may need to bring a crow bar to get me out of there.

**April 30th** – The Stampin Up Club would like to get together for a stamping party of our own. We don't have a place as yet, so if you would like to host the free for all, just speak up. We will all bring our own stamps and supplies and share a little creativity and build up our supply of all occasion cards.

I told you to hang on, now here comes May.

**May 7th** – The weekend of Mother's Day seemed like a good time for a ladies day out. The Ham and "Sheez" will be traveling to Galveston for a tour of the Bishop's Palace, a little shopping, a little lunch, a little shopping, a carriage ride on the strand, and did I mention, maybe a little shopping. There has been an alternate date of Saturday, May 14th, so if you have a preference, please let it be known. There is still plenty of time to change the date.

**May 15th** – The regular monthly meeting of the Tomball Stampin Up Club will meet at the home of Laurie Meier at 2:30.

**Saturday, May 28th** – And just so you don't make other plans, the third annual Ham and "Sheez" Memorial Day BBQ will be hosted by Laurie and Bruce Meier. This event has been voted the best of the year for the last two years so don't miss it.

**Monthly Recipe** – Garlic Roasted Potatoes

This one is a quick and easy side dish that I got many years ago from the American Heart Association.

2 tablespoons olive or canola oil  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Mix together in a medium bowl. Then add: 4 medium baking potatoes chopped in small chunks (unpeeled)  
Make sure all the potatoes are coated.

Bake on a cookie sheet at 400 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes until golden brown.

*Have a bountiful Spring,  
Anita – N5AOK*

## VE Session Results

### VE Test Sessions

There was no March 26th VE testing session in Tomball in honor of the Easter weekend. However, our VE team was busy during two special sessions.

### Special VE Test Session

A special VE Test Session was held the evening of March 17th at Tomball Community Center. One of our members, home from the U.S. Naval Academy, Brandon Vier–KD5HDA and brother David Vier were both tested and both passed. Brandon received a CSCE for his Element 3 and David passed his Element 2 to soon become a Technician. Brandon hopes to soon pass his Element 1 and secure his General License. Ms. Claudia Vier, Brandon's and David's mother had approached us about allowing them to take the test at this time because Brandon will be here for only a week. I was able to secure the assistance of Cal White–WF5W, Paul Frantz–W5PF and

Keith Dutson–NM5G; at that point the test was scheduled. Brandon wants to revitalize the Naval Academy's Amateur Radio Club and that sounds like a worthy challenge, we wish him all the luck in the world.

Thanks again to Cal, Paul and Keith for your help this evening.

### Rice University VE Test Session:

On Monday, March 28 we had a VE Test Session at Rice University and what a session it was. I'm not sure I was quite ready for the energy of the group.

Dr. Pat introduced, and in a couple of cases re-introduced, fourteen candidates to the world of amateur radio. Out of the group we have one new Extra, David Carr – KD5QGR; one new General, William Triffo and ten new technicians; Matthew Allen, Jorge Landiver, Roman Natoli, Rui Liu, Jorge Campos, Susan Creager, Nancy Schultz, Robert Smith, Parker Redman and Muhammad Abid. The

group worked hard and their efforts paid off. It was a great pleasure to work with a group of this caliber. Well done guys.

Dr. Pat has aspirations of reviving the Rice University Amateur Radio Club and we wish her all the best; that is a worthy effort.

I want to thank the VE's, without them it couldn't happen: Madison Jones–W5MJ, Gregg Erlenbusch–W5IDX, Eddy Reynolds– K5WQG, Keith Dutson–NM5G and Paul Frantz–W5PF; great work guys.

The next session will be April 23rd at our regular time. I'll post a notice the week before.

Thanks again to all those who volunteer their time.

73

*Norm Covey/K5OS*

*NARS VE Session Manager*

## Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on March 29 at the Ponderosa Firehouse on Rolling Creek Drive. The following board members were in attendance: Lee Kinard, Joe Sokolowski, Mike Lodge, Cal White, Mark Tyler, Paul Frantz and Chuck Sanders along with the following guests: H.O. Townsend and Bill Stietenroth. Highlights of the meeting:

- VE Sessions – It was noted that the VE session at Rice University yielded excellent results. As reported on the reflector, Dr. Pat introduced, and in a couple of cases re-introduced, fourteen candidates to the world of amateur radio. Out of the group we have one new Extra, David Carr – KD5QGR; one new General, William Triffo and ten new technicians; Matthew Allen, Jorge Landiver, Roman Natoli, Rui Liu, Jorge Campos, Susan Creager, Nancy Schultz, Robert Smith, Parker Redman and Muhammad Abid. A big thank you to the following members who assisted Norm in this session: Madison Jones – W5MJ, Gregg Erlenbusch – W5IDX, Eddy Reynolds – K5WQG, Keith Dutson – NM5G and Paul Frantz – W5PF. Chuck mentioned that he would be giving a talk to the group in April on his projects related to the use of GPS receivers in mobile contesting.

- Programs – The group reviewed the possibilities for programs during the upcoming months and laid out the following plan. Please note that some of these are still in the very tentative stages and have not yet been firmed up:

Month – Presenter , Topic, Status

April – Jerry Green, Direction Finding, Unconfirmed

May – Mike Lodge, Field Day, Confirmed

June – Gene Hafele, Skywarn, Unconfirmed

July – William Simon, Computer Forensics, Unconfirmed

August – Dr. Tompkins, Galapagos Islands, Confirmed

September – Fred Windisch / Paul Owen Fire, prevention/protection, Unconfirmed

October – Walter Holmes, APRS, Confirmed

November – Larry Dierker, Baseball, Very tentative

December – Open Floor, Show and Tell & Silent Auction, Confirmed

- Field Day – Mike Lodge reported that he had visited Spring Creek City Park, which had been proposed for consideration as a Field Day site, and found it to be lacking in several respects so the plan is to continue with the location used the last several years off of Hammerly. Mike also reported that he will continue with preparations but, due to a possible conflict, may not be able to be on hand for the actual event and that the club should locate a backup to work with him during the preparations and to take a lead role in coordinating the actual Field Day event.

- Texas QSO Party – The board welcomed H.O. back after his recent absence. He reported on the expenses for the 2004 TQP and on what needs to be done to clarify the awards for the upcoming 2005 TQP in September. He discussed a draft proposal on

this subject which he will be finalizing and presenting for board review at the April meeting. H.O. has also requested that a committee be formed to manage the TQP since the event has grown, in large part due to H.O.'s efforts, over the last several years and has become too large to be managed by a single individual. H.O. will serve as overall coordinator of the event with the following members serving in the indicated roles: Publicity – Vacant, Rules – Bruce Meier, Expenses – Joe Sokolowski, Scoring – Chuck Sanders, Awards – Vacant, Tee-Shirt Orders – Keith Dutson, Website – Bill Buoy.

On the last Tuesday of each month the board meets at 7:30 pm to discuss club business and to set direction for the club. The new meeting place is the Ponderosa Fire Station at 17061 Rolling Creek Drive. The Ponderosa Fire Station can be reached as follows: traveling west on FM1960 take a right at the intersection of FM1960 and Rolling Creek Drive. The station will be on your left at the end of the small strip mall. You should park on the south side of the fire hall and enter the building through the main door under the arch. The normal meeting room is the first room on the right. All members are invited to attend the board meetings. If you desire a specific item to be on the agenda please communicate your request to Lee Kinard.

*C. W. Sanders, NO5W*  
*NARS Secretary*

# QUA\* Jerry Whiting KB5VGD?

I just had a long conversation with someone who I thought was a very kind, thoughtful person. My original opinion hasn't changed, but I have since found there is much more than I expected beneath the surface. KB5VGD, Jerry Whiting has accomplished much in his life and has had his cherished wife, Mary, of almost 50 years at his side. Here is his story. . .

Jerry was born in Buffalo, NY to a father who specialized in finance and a mother who was a professional secretary. He considers Olean, NY home, because he spent the most time in that city, both as a child and later as an adult.

He tells an intriguing story about his father and his pipe. They were rolling peas at his grandfather's farm and had stopped for a short break. His father was sitting on the tractor, took out his pipe, tamped down the tobacco and pulled out his matches. He saw there was only one match, tossed it away and put his pipe back in his pocket and they went back to work. Jerry asked his father later why he threw away a perfectly good match. His father replied that if he had lit the match the wind would have blown it out and he would have been disappointed. By making a choice to wait until later to smoke his pipe he had avoided the frustration.

This story reminded me of my father who once said, "If you make the hard choices for yourself in life, then nothing the world throws at you will be any harder." I'll bet we all have memories like that and they make us better people. Following is a choice that Jerry made for himself several years later.

Because of his father's work in auto finance, Jerry's family moved frequently. He attended 13 different grade schools. His father was a troubleshooter and would move to a dealership to bolster their business.

When Jerry turned 18 he was picking up the mail from their post office box. He noticed an obvious draft letter from the Army. He quietly tossed it back in the box and walked up-stairs to the Air Force recruiting office and enlisted. Talk about making a choice!

After a concentration on science in high school he had attended one semester at Rochester Institute of Technology, when it became necessary to enlist in the Air Force. He chose that branch of the service because he had always loved planes. He had built models as a child and even soloed in a J-3 Cub at 16! He didn't get his private license until later in his career when they lived in St. Louis, MO.

He was stationed for a couple of months in Korea, but was then transferred to Fukuoka base in Japan for about one year. He was then reassigned to the SAC fleet at Lockhorn near Columbus, Ohio. He was a jet engine mechanic.

While in Ohio a friend set up a blind date. Her

name was Mary. She was attending Ohio State, majoring in home economics. She was the daughter of a minister and he carefully went through all the proper courtship procedures. He was then discharged and moved to Tulsa to attend the Spartan School of Aviation.

Jerry completed one year and then went back to Ohio to marry Mary (she is quite merry and not at all contrary – that's my personal observation!) and bring her home to Tulsa in 1956.

He received his A/E license and was hired by TWA and transferred to Kansas City. He flew as a flight engineer on the Connie. But, Eastern employees went on strike and they had been leasing the planes and crew from TWA and had seniority.

They moved back to St. Louis and he took a job with McDonald Aircraft. Debbie, their oldest daughter was born in St. Louis, but they moved back to Olean, NY for a position with Dresser Industries specializing in compressor turbine engines.

In 1966 he became a Field Service Representative and remained in this field until he left the company two years ago.

He spent approximately 12 years in the field and then accepted a position in their aftermarket engineering department. In 1988 he was transferred to Houston to manage their southern U.S., Mexico and South American Service Department. He managed approximately 40 people until 2002. They began to ask him about retirement in 1995 but he refused until they offered him a really good retirement package. He is still under contract with them and has assisted with a few projects.

Jerry and Mary also had a son born in Olean, NY and another daughter born in St Louis.

They have no grandchildren, but two SPCA black labs and three cats they inherited from their daughters. They thought the two dogs were boys and named them Amos and Andy, but one is a girl so their new names are Jack and Jill.

Jerry was interested in HAM radio in high school and had a Hallicrafters S42 receiver. His first experience hearing a contact was when he was 14. A neighbor, W2VEP, showed him his shack and made a contact on 20 meters with Scotland.

Jerry was licensed in 1978 as WD5HPE. He now holds a General class license, KB5VGD.

He has a Kenwood 520, tube transceiver which is a good receiver, but he doesn't use it to transmit. He also has a Yaesu 840 HF rig and a Kenwood. He has two Alinco dual band radios, one in his Car and one in the shack.

He has a Stealthy R7000 vertical antenna and a loop. He also has an inverted-V for 80 meters.

He built a home brew two-meter antenna designed after one he bought in Holland.

During his field service career for Dresser he carried a short wave radio, but the antenna he would put up on the building in China would mysteriously be knocked down or the cable cut. This would be explained as phenomena.

When Jerry went to China he was the 45th person to sign the book at the newly opened consulate office in China. Dresser started a hydra-ammonia plant from the ground up. They built the power plant and all ancillary equipment, including a pure water plant. He was in the country for 11 months, home for two and back for eight. There were 57 ex-pats from Holland, Germany, Italy and Spain. When they would travel from this southern Manchurian plain the train would have the windows painted black.

He also went back to China in 1996 in the Canton district. What was supposed to be 60 days became 7 months. He was in Brazil for seven months and Tehran, Iran in 1973, before the fall of the Shah. He spent 3 months in Holland at a steel mill to repair and build oxygen BOF (a process to inject oxygen into the furnace to increase the temperature). He has been from Borneo on the equator to the North Slope in Alaska. And, to fill in his spare time he also had projects all over the U.S.

He and Mary enjoy cruising and have been to the Caribbean and Alaska. Mary wants to cruise the east coast of the U.S. in the fall to see the fall foliage.

They were both involved with AFS (American Field Service), which brought 50 high school age students to live in family homes on the east coast to receive an education in the U.S.

He is now helping John Ellis and Tom Rum with the Redd school. There are children from ages seven to fourteen who are learning Morse code and amateur radio theory. They recently received a radio originally used by the great-grandfather of one of the students. It is an antique and Tom is restoring it.

Jerry and Mary have a collection of 300 old radio broadcasts and they fall asleep at night listening to these programs from the 1930's and 40's. Their favorite parts are the commercials.

Jerry immediately responded to my question about how he would sum up his life with "It has been very fulfilling and extremely interesting, especially the people." Well, Jerry, I only hope that we can add a few more interesting moments to your life, because you sure have added interest to ours.

*Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL  
Ham & Sheez Reporter*

\* QUA: "Q" signal meaning "Have you news of . . . ?"

# DX News

*“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”*

Hi gang, Wow, March was a great month for DX and I hope everyone got their share. The boys on Crozet and Kerguelen were the main excitement of the month, but as much as I tried I never heard a whisper. It definitely pays to have a lot of aluminum in the air to work guys like that.

Well, I did manage to get one card in this month. FP/VE7SV Miquelon Is. for two contacts made in Oct 2004. That brought me up to 225 confirmed on phone. One all time new contact for me was the club station in Kyrgyzstan, EX9A. Thank goodness for a DL manager, I might get lucky and get a card. Well I could go on and on but promised I wouldn't.

Now here is a real treat, one of our YL's blessed us with a report this month. Now I don't consider myself to be one of the founding fathers of this club but have been here since 1998. Looking back over the years and reading the words of wisdom from Bill K8CSG and H.O. K5CX and Terry KQ5U I can't recall any of the Ladies in the club ever having input to the DX column. Well maybe this is the start of a new trend.

Dr. Patricia Reiff, Thank You.

I have never been a serious logger (except helping NARS with TQP), having more important things to do (manual labor) while near my HF long wire rig (at my ranch). But since we now have a HF rig at Rice (and my ham radio class asks me about such things), it's about time for me to really start keeping track of my Q's... and my husband Tom (bless him) let me fool around and only come out to help when he really needed an extra pair of hands. (He did insist on my wearing headphones, though...and I found out that the "noise canceling" headphones really do help!)

So, I decided to spend a few pleasant hours on a blustery Easter weekend playing around with the DX contest, racking up only 68 Q's but I decided to get serious with my "lifetime country list" so I was selective... so I now have confirmed contacts with Chile (CE4PBB), Argentina (lots), Brazil (PU2WDX), Uruguay (CX2DDP), Belize (V31LZ), New Zealand (ZL1V), Ducie Island (PT5Z), Anguilla (VP2E), Baker and Howard Is

(KH1XX), Netherland Antilles (PJ2T), several each from Canada, Japan, Mexico, Italy, Germany; Ascension Island (ZD8Z), Serbia and Montenegro (4N1SM), Colombia (HK3LT), Luxembourg (LX5A), Aruba (P43E), Jamaica (6Y4Y), Bulgaria (LZ9W), Yugoslavia (YT5J), Portugal (CT8T), Czech Republic (OL5Q), Trinidad/Tobago (9Y4W), Honduras (HR2JGG), Venezuela (VY4BK), Barbados (8P2K), Caicos Is (VQ5L), and Costa Rica (TE2M)... all new to me (well, except Canada, Mexico and Japan which I have hit from time to time but not sure if I could find them in my various handwritten logs). Hawaii (KH7X) was a new state for me, too. (I guess I need to go back to those TQP listings to get my state and county logs in order...) I don't guess the Tibet radio club AC4TT counts as a new country...!

I didn't break the pileup on D4B (Cape Verde), or Martinique (FM5FJ) shucks... Now I wish I had logged Spain when Colin hit them from my Prius last year...!

So, although I may be way behind most club members in the total life country list, but I bet I have the most new countries (31, or 28 without Canada, Mexico and Japan) in just over 24 hours (5 pm - 10:34 pm Sat and 1:30 to 5:15 pm Sun), and sang in two Easter services to boot! Now I gotta get my rig to talk to my Mac....

Dr. Pat W5TAR

Pat, AC4 call signs were deleted a few years back, I believe that now it's A5 for Bhutan. Nice catch, wish I had it.

OK moving right along, Mike K5UO always has a good report.

Fair month with difficult conditions on 160. Tough band! I guess that is what intrigues a lot of people. Worked KH8SI Swains Island on about all bands; but very doubtful it will count as a "new one" by DXCC. I fancy those African new-ones, especially on the lower bands as they are hard to come by. Usually takes a visiting ham to activate the country. About one-half of my "new ones" this month came from Africa. Time to take down the Beverages and raised transmit radials for the season.

K5UO Month of March  
Call Band (m) Date Time (UTC)  
FT5XO 30 3/23 0141  
T88M 17 3/20 2103  
5Z4DZ 30 3/25 0017  
3V8BB 17 3/23 1432  
XT2JZ 30 3/4 0323  
XT2JZ 40 3/3 0330  
VQ9LA 80 3/3 0122  
XQ6ET (CE) 160 3/1 0234  
5TOCW 30 3/1 0331  
SV5/DJ7RJ 80 3/1 0448  
SV5/DJ7RJ 17 3/18 1419

March month end improvements / status:  
Band New Confirmed Worked/ Confirmed  
160 1 114 117  
80 2 239 241  
40 1 305 309  
30 4 269 282  
20 1 308 309  
17 3 219 240  
15 2 272 274  
12 2 191 216  
10 0 292 298  
"Challenge" 2209 2286

Thank You Mike.

Next is from Mr. Kirk KJ5X who after that glowing column in the last QUA section of the newsletter needs no introduction.

A milestone may have finally been reached in the KJ5X shack. After sadly missing VU4 and FT/W recently I think I can now claim FT5XO as number 326. Man, I thought it would never get here. I thought I had a 50-50 chance contact with VU4RBI but NIAR's website says they got my cards but nothing in their log. And Crozet refused to hear my beautiful signal. But Kerguelen should be a good one. And amazingly the contact was on 30M using my slope-dangler 80M dipole and 150 watts. I say slope-dangler as one end is at about 60 feet and the other at 20 feet with about eight feet on both ends dangling down honoring the law of gravity. There were some contest Q's during the month where I picked up 15 new countries on 40M. The log book has way over a hundred on 40 but have had trouble getting cards back.

*Continued on page 6*

# *DX News – Continued*

But Kerguelen should be a good one. And amazingly the contact was on 30M using my slope-dangler 80M dipole and 150 watts. I say slope-dangler as one end is at about 60 feet and the other at 20 feet with about eight feet on both ends dangling down honoring the law of gravity. There were some contest Q's during the month where I picked up 15 new countries on 40M. The log book has way over a hundred on 40 but have had trouble getting cards back. But the highlight of the month was a CQ I answered resulting in a 45 minute QSO with KC6GLD and the 5th grade class at Wengert Elementary School in Las Vegas. I have a beautiful card, hand drawn by class member Eliana to prove it. And then there was a 45 minute chat on 20M with Doc in Clarkesville AZ. He got his license the year I was born. As we chatted he brought up on his computer the aerial photo of the Spring area projecting it on a large wall mounted display screen. He identified the neighborhood swimming pool but said he couldn't pick out my house because of the trees. Ain't ham radio grand? 73 all. KJ5X

Thank you Jim.

Well the wheel keeps turning, next is Bruce N1LN

Well not much DX this month as most of it was spent traveling. I did manage to get home in time to add a new county to the count, however.

New Countries:

FT5XO – Kerguelen – 40cw, 30cw, 20ssb/cw

New Band Countries:

VK0MT – Macquarie Isl. – 40 ssb, 10 ssb

Z22JE – Zimbabwe – 15 ssb

XT2JZ – Burkina Faso – 40cw, 30cw,

20cw

T88CW – Palau – 17cw

FT5XO – Kerguelen Isl – 40 ssb

Sure wish I could hear him on 80 or 160.....oh well.

Bruce, I wish I could hear them period.

Not to be out done is Cal WF5W

This was a good month, no contesting, but worked 250 QSOs. new Countries FT5WJ (on 20); FT5XO (on 20,30 & 40)(9 times) once with the new Christmas straight key that will be on the SKN plaque, so its now officially been "on the air". New band Countries SU, SV2, OX.

The LOTW made possible application for 5 band DXCC with the last one needed on 80 mtrs. That's a good thing as someone once said.

W5MJ, Madison's 706 now mine and being made ready for /MM from Galveston bay...

That's it from the end of Harris County. Cal WF5W

Thank you Cal.

H.O. K5CX had another great month.

March was another good month at the K5CX shack. 74 DX contacts were logged representing 48 DXCC countries and 22 CQ zones. Interestingly enough zone 14, Western Europe, accounted for 21 of the 74 contacts. The band breakdown looks like this: 3 QSOs on 80-meters, 10 on 40, 13 on 20, 15 on 17, 22 on 15, 7 on 12, and 3 QSOs on 10-meters.

I did finally log the Kerguelen Island

FT5XO station after listening for over an hour.

The biggest event was getting my WA5MLT and K5CX logs uploaded to the ARRL's Log Book of The World. 6,100 QSOs yielded about 166 DXCC hits representing 3 new countries and all counted for 5BDXCC. I encourage each of you to use this program. Many thanks to Paul W5PF for fatherly guidance in getting it done. If I can do it, you can also.

73 See you on the bands,  
H. O. – K5CX

And last but not least, John W5PDW

I had a good month with 180 log entries. Several hours on the air at 5 WPM!! Had a nice QSO with Ken, KQ4CXK on 10 meter cw. Tnx Ken. Looks like 57 countries, mostly in the WPX contest. Missed Crozet but got Kerguelen. Finally solved the rotor problem. The TH6 turns very smoothly when i pull on the rope tied to the boom. I need more rope and pulleys so i can turn it from inside.

I have a new straight key for show and tell at the Tail Draggers. I gave it a test run on 40 and at 8-10wpm it was still running cool!

H.O. good to hear you in the pile ups.

73 es good hunting  
W5PDW

Well I guess that's it for March. Again, Thanks to all that continue to support this column.

AI  
W5ADF

## **Tomball Repeater Group News**

Mike (KC5HEI/HR1) and Suzie Felcyn, members of our "Tomball Bunch," are missionaries in Central Honduras. Saturday, April 23rd is the annual fundraising banquet at First Baptist, Tomball – their home church. One of the Felcyns will be there to report on their activities. It would be nice for our ham community to make a show of supporting them.

**FOCUS International  
First Baptist Church, Tomball  
April 23, 2005, 6 P.M.  
Fish Fry \$10 per person  
Silent auction. (donations for auction are  
welcome)**

More information about the organization:  
<http://www.focus-international.org/>

GET THE LATEST NEWSLETTER:  
<http://www.focus-international.org/nl0503.pdf>

Please make plans to attend. Call Dana Daniels at 281-290-8640 for reservations.

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Martin Rogoff N5GPS, Gregory Sanders KE5DXA and Dario Vargas KD5RGG

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY  
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com  
Allen Majeski WA5REJ  
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net  
Bill Denton W5SB - Antennas  
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net  
Madison Jones W5MJ  
281-350-4330, w5mj@hal-pc.org  
Larry McCain KN5Z  
281-469-6709, kn5z@arrl.net  
Deral Kent K5WNO - Antennas  
281-548-7476, k5wno@juno.com

### Satellite:

Dick Rooney W5VHN  
281-288-8424, dickrooney@usa.net

### Digital Modes:

Don Bedell KA3BKU Packet  
281-257-6425 donka3bku@ev1.com  
Gregg Erlenbusch, W5IDX PSK/RTTY  
281-970-6860, W5IDX@ARRL.net

### VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA 281-894-5942

### PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson NM5G  
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

### Interference (Basic Advice):

Mark Tyler K5GQ  
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com  
Terry Myers KQ5U  
281-443-6042, tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net

### Card Checking Awards Managers:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC  
281-363-0209, rwalworth@charter.net  
Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC  
281-894-5942  
H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ  
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

### NARS Public Information Officer:

Laurie Meier N1YXU  
936-271-1096, n1yxu@arrl.net

## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Lee Kinard K5AVY  
281-586-0785 l-kinard@sbcglobal.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Tyler K5GQ  
281-587-0256 k5gq@juno.com

### SECRETARY

Charles Sanders NO5W  
936-321-0053, no5w@txucom.net

### TREASURER

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR  
281-353-2196 kd5kr@arrl.net

### DIRECTORS

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD  
281-583-5588, g\_whiting@sbcglobal.net  
Paul Frantz W5PF  
281-351-8930 w5pf@houston.rr.com  
Cal White WF5W  
281-351-6323 CWhite314@direcway.com  
Mike Lodge K7LEX  
281-255-2202 lodgem@swbell.net

### ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

TBA

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR  
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

Send address, phone, email and other  
changes to:

NARS  
PO Box 90387  
Houston, TX 77090-0387

### NET

10M Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM, 28,444 ssb  
Coordinator: Jim Kirk KJ5X  
281-376-0718, kj5x@swbell.net

### WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>  
Webmaster: H.O. Townsend K5CX  
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

### NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.qth.net  
Coordinator: Peter Wang KF5ND  
281-550-3864, kf5nd@yahoo.com

### TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: H.O. Townsend K5CX  
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

### VE SESSION (ARRL)

Manager:  
Norm Covey K5OS  
281-252-8285 k5os@arrl.net

### REPEATERS

2M: 146.660 / 146.060 (KA5AKG)  
Tone: 141.3  
70 cm: 444.375 / 449.375 (KA5AKG)  
Tone: 103.5

### MEETINGS

#### Monthly General Membership

Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM  
Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 6000  
Spring Cypress Road

#### Saturday Breakfast

Joey D's Restaurant 7:30 AM

#### Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

Various locations (Info on 146.660 and  
listed on front page in Important Dates  
column)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by  
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Send all articles and materials for the  
Newsletter to:

Editor: Keith Dutson NM5G  
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a  
Special Service Club affiliated with the  
American Radio Relay League.

ARRL Club No. 2120