

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 2005

December Meeting – Computer Forensics

What you see on TV about computer investigation is someone tapping a few keys very fast and miraculously the answer is right there on the screen. Not so in the real world. This investigative work, now called computer forensics is a science and a time experience of knowledge. The Northwest Amateur Radio Society will have Mr. William Simon give a presentation on computer forensics.

William Simon is a fully licensed private investigator specializing in computer forensics. He has worked for several years in the corporate world in the IT departments. Investigation really not new to him, his father was an FBI agent as well as his uncle. He has been a licensed Investigator since 1999. This should provide a very interesting topic.

Time to get your Banquet reservations in!

OK. We've talked about it for the past few weeks and now it's time to get your reservations in for the NARS 20th Anniversary Banquet Dinner on Friday, January 20th, 2006. The cost is \$20.00 per person and includes a super dinner along with a Bill Denton Production documenting twenty years of NARS – 1985 to 2005! You've seen his work before, but this year represents his finest yet. (No, Paris Hilton and Courtney Love were both turned down for leading roles. . .) As in the past, the banquet will be held at Wyndehaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Road, about one-half mile south of FM 1960. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations will be accepted during the December general meeting on December 16, or you can mail in your checks to NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston, TX 77090-0387. Please indicate who will be attending, as we will require name and call signs for name-tags. We're keeping door prizes at a minimum, but the few we do have will be real keepers! This year's menu will reflect some welcome changes over the past. We decided to "kick it up a notch", but at no additional cost to you.

Don't procrastinate! Get those reservations in now! Operators will not be standing by, but "Guido and da boys" are ready to "break some knee-caps", so stay healthy. . . Put down the remote, get up off your duff and write that check now while there's still time.

Joe KD5KR



Important Dates

Friday, Dec 16, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, Jan 28, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).
NOTE: NEXT VE SESSION IN 2006

Tuesday, Dec 27, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

Dec 17 OK DX RTTY, RAC Canada Winter
Dec 17-18 Stew Perry Topband Challenge, Croatian CW
Jan 1 ARRL Straight Key Night
Jan 7-8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 8 Kid's Day
Jan 14-15 North American CW QSO
Jan 28-29 CQ WW 160 CW
Feb 25-26 CQ WW 160 SSB

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – North

Dec 21 Casa Imperial Mexican
Dec 28 Strack Farms
Jan 4 Pepperchino
Jan 11 Luby's Cafeteria
Jan 18 Jason's Deli

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Dec 21 Luther's BBQ
Dec 28 Skeeter's
Jan 4 Charlie's Hamburgers
Jan 11 Cafe Express
Jan 18 Chili's

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

Dec 21 DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers
Dec 28 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
Jan 4 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
Jan 11 Luther's Barbecue
Jan 18 Fred's Italian Corner

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 Denny's
7720 Louetta
Saturdays
7:30 AM

President's Corner

December 2005

Greetings Fellow NARSians

Well, here we are, another year coming to a close. A new slate of officers has been elected. We have one more meeting before the annual banquet. It is Christmas time. Festive lights decorate our houses and yards. The tree is up, lighted and trimmed with our favorite ornaments and tinsel. There are more Christmas parties and gatherings available than we have time to enjoy. The spirit abounds along with the 'spirits' of the season. 'Tis the season to be jolly. We watch the story of Scrooge and resolve to have his ending spirit.

This is a good time to reflect on the events of 2005. How has NARS done this past year? Have we changed? Have we improved anything? I think the answer is a resounding yes. Well, as we move through the year, we have to change and improve or we would cease to exist. We participated in our regular fare of events; MS-150, Field Day, TQP, Wings Over Houston, Buffalo Bayou Regatta and the Sunmart Texas Trail Endurance Run coming up next weekend. Two events stand out in our memories. Field Day was outstanding because NARS came in fifth in the nation in our category and we actually were able to have FD this year. TQP was outstanding because of hurricane Katrina and Rita that caused plenty of havoc with our participation and also with our lives in general. I think we will never forget this year's TQP!

We remember Franny, K9DOG, Shalee Lodge's faithful friend who passed away 15 December 2004. And we greeted Sarge, Shalee's new faithful friend who made his debut during Field Day and is pictured in the July & August Newsletters. SKN made its appearance during the banquet when Cal White made the announcement and it was begun 2 February. The Newsletter picked up a new column; Highlights of the Board Meetings. How many noticed? Now when you renew your membership (or join), the club roster is mailed to you. The webmaster job was separated and given to Bill Buoy. Much attention was given to the NARS repeater including replacing the GE with a Motorola unit and adding a director element to the Force 12 antenna. Of course many other things happened, but I think these are the highlights of 2005 for NARS.

And I won the TDXS grand prize!

73, Lee

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

Events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (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.

VE Session Results

No session was held in November. There will be no session in December. The next session will be held Saturday, January 28, 2006. See you then.

73

Norm Covey/K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager

Tomball Field Day Photos



Photos by W5PDW

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

October appears to have been an extremely slow month for the many NARS DXers as very, very few reports were submitted. Let's hope the cooler weather improves our participation on the bands.

John, W5PDW, was detracted as perhaps others by the activities at Hooks Fly In. He was able to get a one man guided tour of a B-17 by an ex-WWII B-17 pilot Bill, K5JHP. And you know John had his camera with him all the way. He must sleep with that camera!

John is ready for the winter radio season as he pulled some preventive maintenance on his TH-6 DX yagi tribander. That is well to do right now with this super autumn weather: not hot; not cold. Didn't know that kind of weather existed here in South Texas! "PDW" also received his "Route 66" certificate and a bunch of related QSL cards. Congrats John!

Bruce, N1LN (a.k.a. K5PTC) is doing the finals on his backyard Beverages for the season. In the cool months his backyard is about like mine: wires (Beverages) everywhere. He was able to pick up some new band counters this month:

CX5BW on 160m CW (#113)
9G5TF on 80/30 CW
VR2XMT on 17m SSB

Bruce also reports a lot of much improved DX contact activity on all bands; not new-ones, but interesting areas:

V73RY on 10m SSB
6W7/F8PDR and EA6UN on 17m CW
5Z4DZ, XU7AYY, 5N5NDP, JT1CO on 20m
R1ANT on 30 and 40m CW
5X4/UA4WHX, VK5XE, 4X4BP and HB0/SP2FAX on 40m CW
FO/N6JA and HA9RT on 75m SSB
Worth looking into folks!

Bruce also hosted a NARS-member CQWW SSB all-band M/2 operation the weekend of 30/31 October. Rough recap:

1873 QSO's, 130 zones, 436 DXCC countries for 2,590,016 points.

Interesting notes: First time DXCC on 40m from K5PTC with 101 countries. 55 DXCC countries on 75m. All of this in the low of the sunspot cycle! It was slow at times during the deep night; but during the sunset/sunrise and daytime, the bands were relatively hot!
DX IS folks!

Cal, WF5W, has been in the house remodeling business recently taking him away from his radio. Got that house sold so now we expect to have some good DX reports from him. "Mr. Straight Key" also let us know that there are only two more sessions of SKN, held the second Tuesday of each month. Someone will be chosen as "Fist of the Year" from the participants. I think the yearly "Chosen-One" will be awarded a very nice traveling trophy. Cal also advises that the official Tomball ARC Field Day will take place on 12-13 November in Tomball.

I am assuming that Cal will be using his "K9AY" low-band receive antenna again this year. It seems to have worked pretty good for him last year. It's a small two loop-type of wire antenna for four switchable directions of the compass. The system provides a cardioid directional pattern in four different directions. Also includes a 15dB preamp and a bandpass filter covering the 160 and 80 meter bands. Others of you might be interested in this close spaced antenna for your low band receive antenna? I, also have one of these that I am experimenting (playing) with. This year I have the horizontal runs about six feet up (VS: 3-4 feet) to avoid QR-Deer interference.

Mike, K5UO: for myself, it has been a last minute maintenance opportunity with the "my kind of weather" putting the new Beverages up and replacing the Teledyne T12 LP original boom truss setup with an improved arrangement. Ms. Rita's visit sort of made that necessary. I don't mind running up and down the towers when it is 65-75

degrees F. So far there hasn't been any QR-Deer damage; but that will happen I am sure. There is a small herd of maybe ten deer that homestead every night in our side and backyard. They come in and go out along the fence lines where my Beverages are either terminated or fed; where they are the lowest to the ground. In years past I have put florescent ribbon, reflectors and tiny bells at the feed and terminate points with questionable results. I think deer may be like antelope and are nosy. Interesting new band-counters for this month:

ON4WW on 160m CW (#124)
CX5BW on 160m CW (#125) First time ever heard Chile on 160m.
HA9RT on 80m CW (#241) He was 599 here.

Important QSL's received:
9M6NA 17m CW. (20 day QSL turn-around from the JA operator!)
KH9/W0CN on 12m, 15m, 17m (QSL turn-around was about the same!)

With the light member reports I will list some nice DX alerts from the bulletins:

1. Cyprus, 5B4: DL7AFS and DJ7ZG will be active until November 16. 160-6 meters all modes.
2. Tonga, A35: A35BO (HB9FBO) 80-10 m until November 18
3. Greece, SV: Special event station SX1W until October 30 celebrating 60th anniversary of the end of WWII. 80-10 meters.
4. Chagos Isl, VQ9: Larry, VQ9LA has been a regular all over the bands it seems. Also heard (not worked!!) VQ9X during CQWW SSB on 40m. Probably from the same station as VQ9LA.
5. Cambodia, XU: Two Belgium operators from IOTA AS-133, Koh Tas Isl from October 30 to November 10. XU is always a good one to catch!

Continued on page 5

Ham and "Sheez" News

November in Review

The cooler weather has brought some of the long anticipated sights, sounds, and aromas of fall. For those of you who have spent any time at all in the outdoors this past month, I hope you were treated to the sights and sounds of the annual bird migrations, just one of the many things that I personally look forward to each fall.

November was another relatively quiet month for the Ham & "Sheez." We are getting ready for the Holiday rush of activities and of course, the NARS 20th anniversary banquet in January, so you could say we have been storing up our energy for events to come. The regular monthly meeting of the Ham & "Sheez" was held on November 28th. After meeting at the church parking lot, we drove to a nearby coffee establishment where we drank warm beverages and discussed the Ham & "Sheez" cookbook project. The template for entering recipes will be sent by email sometime this month and we will start collecting as many recipes as you would like to submit. We are hoping for "at least" five recipes per person per category. The categories will be very broad (Appetizers, Entrees, Desserts, Side Dishes, Holiday Dishes), but subject to change based on the recipes received.

We also discussed the upcoming NARS banquet and the need to nominate a Ham & "Sheez" Outstanding Member of the Year. I will be accepting nominations for this until December 20th. Please email me with the name of your nominee and why you feel that person should be named the Ham and "Sheez" of the year.

We also discussed the future of Ham & "Sheez" and reflected on past

years and projects that made this group such a special part of NARS. The January meeting will be focused on planning for the upcoming year. Please start jotting down ideas and suggestions for the meeting.

Upcoming Activities

Saturday, December 10th – The Annual Christmas Gift Exchange. Everyone mark your calendars and check your email. You should have received an invitation to the Christmas Gift Exchange the week after Thanksgiving. The party will be held at the home of Mary Tyler, starting at 5:00 pm. Mary will be making an entrée and serving beverages, so please plan to bring an appetizer or dessert for everyone to enjoy during the party. If you did not receive a copy of the invitation, please email me and I will make sure that you receive one. The "Gift" should cost \$15.00 or less and can be as simple as a Christmas ornament or decoration, but you can use your imagination. We encourage you to use your imagination.

December Ham & "Sheez" Meeting – Because of the Christmas holidays, we will not have a regularly scheduled meeting of the Ham & "Sheez" this month. I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Gift Exchange on Saturday, December 10th.

Friday, January 20th – The Annual NARS Banquet – This will be a special event this year as it will be the 20th Anniversary of NARS. The program this year will include a celebration of members and events of the past twenty years. We will have a spot on the program for our Ham & "Sheez" member of the year, so be sure to get your nominations

into me by the 20th of December.

Monday, January 30th – Monthly Ham & Sheez Meeting – This will be our planning meeting for the upcoming year. Since we will not have the need for project space and the casual atmosphere at a local coffee establishment lends well to this kind of meeting, we could plan to meet there in January. I will send an email the week before the meeting to give you directions to the alternate meeting place. Please bring your calendars and your ideas. We have already had a suggestion about resuming the Spring Arbor Gate Luncheon in April. Get those pencils sharpened and let's make some plans.

Recipe of the Month

Candied Pecans

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 egg white
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 pound pecan halves
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 250 degrees F (120 degrees C). Grease one baking sheet.
2. In a mixing bowl, whip together the egg white and water until frothy. In a separate bowl, mix together sugar, salt, and cinnamon.
3. Add pecans to egg whites; stir to coat the nuts evenly. Remove the nuts, and toss them in the sugar mixture until coated. Spread the nuts out on the prepared baking sheet.
4. Bake at 250 degrees F (120 degrees C) for 1 hour. Stir every 15 minutes.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays
Anita – N5AOK

QUA* Rick Aikman KZ5E?

I met a member today who has been in the background of NARS for a while but has recently become more involved. He is a new board member, which will definitely get him more in the mix. Rick Aikman, KZ5E, has several interesting hobbies.

Rick was born in Victoria, Texas. He and his family moved to Houston when he was 17 and he attended Springwoods and Cy-Fair High Schools.

He began working immediately out of school and in 1970 ended up with the telephone company. It has changed names several times and within the past couple of weeks switched from Southwestern Bell to AT&T. He then quoted the company line . . . "Your service will remain the same."

He was always involved with "dial tone" until five years ago when they caught on that people wanted their computers networked together. He always had an interest in computers like most of us, and was a natural fit for installing networks in businesses.

I met Rick's wife, Katie, at Curves. She was really interested in Sarge and mentioned him to Rick who said "there is a woman in NARS with a yellow lab." The next day Katie introduced herself to me. Katie is also Advanced Class Amateur Radio Operator, KJ5WE. But alas, their children, Cody, 19 and Sadie, 12 have little interest in radio.

Sarge reports that they have three dogs . . . Mixie, a chocolate lab, Buddie,

a yellow lab and Roxie, a mix. He has yet to meet them, but has probably caught their scent as we drove by on 2978.

When KZ5E was young his dad was a CB'er and that piqued his interest in radios. Rick was licensed in 1990 and then upgraded to Extra in 1992. His favorite band is 6-meters because it is relaxed and comfortable. Rick prefers to talk with somebody for a while and not be rushed by a pile-up. He estimates he probably has contacted 250 countries, but only has 50 confirmed.

He has a Kenwood TS-480, a Kenwood TS-2000 and several 2 meter HT's.

He asked if I was ready for his antenna list and when he first started I thought he must be in an area with deed restrictions . . .

160 meter inverted L
80 meter 3/4 sloper
80 meter inverted V
40 meter dipole

Until he mentioned this one. . .

Force 12 beam antenna, at 65 feet

Then he said he wasn't finished yet . . .

6 meter 7 element beam
2 meter long boom beam
70 cm long boom beam
A vertical for packet radio
2 meter 4 element beam to hit repeaters

Katie says "No more!"

DX News from page 3

6. Tunisia, 3V: 3V8A made a big play in the CQWW SSB test and was workable amongst the NA east coast and EU DX-ers. The ops will be there until October 31. Always a nice on to fetch.

7. Temotu Province, H40: Nendo Island, OC-100 in the Solomon Island group. A fairly big operation planned by the Korea DX Club from November 5-11. Six operators working all HF bands including 6m. They will have

five Yagi beams and two verticals. They will use the call sign of H40HL. Before and after Nendo they will be on Solomon, OC-047 as H40HL, also.

8. Glorioso, TO4G: The long planned operation is still "on go" after the hurricane season for March 17 through April 7, 2006. The team is made up of French forces and transport by French tactical military. This always brings up the risk of last minute postponement or cancellation. There will be eight

His favorite contact was recently when he talked with a ham in Borneo who said he was the only "Zebra" in Borneo. The Borneo ham has a web site and invites anyone to come visit him and use his shack.

The one time Katie contested with Rick, he was in the background coaching and her contact finished the exchange and then said, "Thanks, Dad!"

Both Rick and Katie enjoy motorcycles. They have a Harley and are looking forward to taking a "long-distance" trip in the near future.

Their entire family belongs to the Tomball gun club. He says his daughter Sadie is the best shot with a hand-gun.

Rick has been reading science fiction since he was a child. He has many boxes of books and would love to swap with other enthusiasts.

He also enjoys computer animation. This involves creating a model and then giving it life with texture, shading, etc. A ten second "clip" can take many hours.

Rick attributes his fun with life to his parents. They taught him the philosophy, "Just take life as it comes." Well, Rick, we at NARS are glad you have come our way.

*Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL
Ham & Sheez Reporter*

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

operators, if possible and equipment for five stations. All bands, all modes.

Thanks folks and see you next month. If there is any kind of additional information the membership would like to see in the report; kindly let me know. It will be my pleasure to include this. Please send me your DX activity reports in late December!

Tnx es 73, de Mike, K5UO

NARS at 20

A founding “father” looks back

Happy birthday, NARS!

It's great to celebrate the healthy growth and longevity of the club, especially from the perspective of a founding member.

We might say that the idea for a new radio club had roots in Connecticut. I had established a new club in Fairfield in 1974 when the ARRL was urging hams to show the FCC that our service was growing. Our frequencies depended upon it.

A radio club was the logical way to get area hams focused on licensing classes that would lead to more radio amateurs. There were many other sound reasons for a club, but this was number one.

When I moved to Houston, I found little club activity except for an inactive downtown group. In chats with neighbor Paul Frantz, WB5DBT (now W5PF), and the urging of Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, it was decided to get a group together to establish a radio club in Northwest Houston.

A steering committee met on July 27 to set things in motion. Members were Bob Welch, KE5IC; Paul Frantz, WB5DBT;

Dee Logan, W1HEO; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Dan Wells, N5IDE; Henry Freedenberg, N5HF; Dick Rousseau, KA4MFS; Bob Jahn, WA4JBV; Dick Combs, N5DRM; Kirby Van Horn, K7WOC; Dan Allan, KA5PSO; and Jim Stevenson, W5KMN.

To announce the club's formation and recruit members, the ARRL was contacted with a request for mailing labels of hams in the area.

In a letter to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, it was pointed out that the Houston suburbs, "which is where the majority of hams are, lack a significant club representation."

A copy of the letter was sent to then-West Gulf Division Director W5EDZ, noting our intention to become an ARRL affiliated club.

NARS wasted no time becoming an active club. Its first main event was Field Day 1985, held at the QTH of Dan Wells, N5IDE, with 474 contacts logged.

The first officers were elected in

September, with Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, president; Paul Frantz, WB5DBT, vice president; Dick Rousseau, KA4MFS, secretary; and Dick Combs, N5DRM, treasurer.

The board of directors included KE5IC, W1HEO, W5VHN, KD5KR, and N5HF.

As the club began, it had 25 charter members. Following a recruiting drive, the NARS roster had grown to 73 by December 31, 1985.

In his welcome letter to new members, President Ken Harlan wrote: "You are invited to come early and meet new friends. Share your views and ideas with us. Such personal contacts are a benefit of radio club participation. Assistance in training, RFI, troubleshooting and many other areas is available to members through the club. If you have a radio problem, maybe we can help."

After 20 years, it's safe to say that NARS members have been doing many things right.

"Dee" Logan, W1HEO

The 20 Years of NARS

Dear NARS members:

It's hard to believe that it was twenty years ago this month that several of us met at the electronics school on Louetta Road across the street from Kleinwood subdivision to form a new amateur radio club.

I have to admit that I was the real novice with all the highly qualified amateurs at the meeting. I still don't know how I was able to fit in and belong with such an esteemed group of operators, but I guess they needed a fall guy to be secretary!

I can tell you that I always felt that I was a member of a select group of Hams; who were always ready to be helpful and friendly and I have always appreciated it.

We had many adventures; field days, public service events, and many good meals. I especially remember the annual banquets and the Saturday breakfasts at Victors.

I will always remember the time we spent the night on Galveston Beach with an antenna stuck in the sand in order to make a good ground; however, we could never

make the new radio someone had just bought operate because the timer on it was set and unfortunately it timed out before we could make any contacts! No one, even the owner, knew what the problem was, and we ended up using my old Kenwood. Some brave soul was going to take the new radio apart and see if it could be "fixed"; luckily he did not get it apart. The Ham who owned the radio found out what the problem was when he took it to the dealer the next day. We never let him forget that!

I always enjoyed the Sierra Club Bike Hikes over the several years we helped them. One year the club even set up a simplex station and operated independently of any repeater. As I remember we had about forty members participating.

The Buffalo Bayou canoe race was always a favorite for me. I remember when Ken ran the control from his home in Spring. I am sure that we all miss Ken; he was always quite an inspiration to everyone.

And, of course there was "Mean Joe Green", our ninety-four year old senior

member who always said that any day he got up in the morning was a good day! He was quite talented; always had a good word; and appreciated by all who knew him.

There are so many great members that I could mention but I seem to have forgotten their names; I guess I am just getting old! I do want to thank all of you for supporting me during my term of President. It has been the highlight of my amateur radio career.

I know that the best memory I have of Houston was my membership in NARS and the association with such a fine group of Hams. I miss all of you and wish you the best in the future. I wish that I could be with you at this important time in NARS history; but am sorry that I will not be able to make it.

Contratulations and God Speed for another Twenty Years!

*73's
Dick Rousseau, KU4QK
(N5JZY)*

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Thomas Davis WD4EOC, Eddie Findley WB2KUI and Kenneth Miller KE5GFO.

NARS Resource List

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TBA

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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

Denny's, 7720 Louetta, at 7:30 AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

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

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