

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2005

May Meeting – Field Day Preparation

One of the topics of the May meeting will be an update and planning session for the 2005 ARRL Field Day. This year we will again be entering in class 2A. The stations will consist of SSB, CW, VHF/UHF/Satellite and Get on the Air. Station Captains will be on hand looking to fill the last remaining gaps in their operating schedules.

Come join us at the meeting on May 20 to hear more details about the event and how you may be able to help us prepare and to participate. This year we want to accomplish at least two things:

1. Have a fun event for everyone
2. Organize a strong enough effort so we have a chance to WIN.

The Ham & Sheez will be staffing the greeter's tent as well as bringing the desert for Saturday's dinner.

There is more to follow so stay tuned. If you have any questions please send one of us an email.

Michael k7lex@arrl.net
Keith nm5g@arrl.net

2005 NARS Annual Picnic



Important Dates

Friday, May 20, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, May 31, 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, May 28, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Contests

May 21–22 Baltic
May 28–29 CQ WW WPX CW
Jun 11–12 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
Jun 25–26 ARRL Field Day

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

May 18 Strack Farms
May 25 Pepperchino
Jun 1 Luby's Cafeteria
Jun 8 Jason's Deli
Jun 15 Neal's Restaurant

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

May 18 Skeeter's
May 25 Charlie's Hamburgers
Jun 1 Cafe Express
Jun 8 Chili's
Jun 15 Fuddrucker'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

May 2005

Greetings Fellow NARSians,

Thanks to Jerry Green, K5IHK, for his presentation on Direction Finding at the March meeting. I heard many very positive comments about the program – Thanks Jerry! Next month's program is on Field Day 2005.

April is the beginning of the activities for Field Day each year. Looking at the ARRL FD web site with the W5NC link, I see that T-Shirts are available for shipment starting in April and a booklet describing every detail of FD is available for download in .pdf format. And there are some new additions to FD this year. Go read Dan Henderson's (N1ND) letter to participants at the front of the booklet. Field Day is one of the oldest traditions of Amateur Radio in its finest form – extensive radio communications under simulated adverse conditions which trains Amateurs across our country for national disasters. Every Ham wants to participate in FD. Sometimes I think Hams live for FD. Well, maybe not, but it is the most popular radio event in the US and Canada each year according to the ARRL.

Field Day didn't happen for NARS last year due to inclimate weather. But we are looking forward to it this year, because the probability of bad weather this year is low due to last year – right? Well this IS Houston. But we are planning for the best anyway.

Keith Dutson is one of our new FD co-coordinators. Mike Lodge is being pulled away for reasons stated last month and Marty Fitzgerald has a conflict as well. Now, we need an additional co-coordinator to work with Keith. Yes, we have decided that the leading and planning of FD is a two man job and each person carries equal weight; ergo co-coordinators.

We are looking for people to fill the following positions (contact Keith to offer your help for these or any other job you may want to do):

- 1 Co-coordinator to work with Keith
- 2 Facilities Captain

We also need operators for each position for the 24 hour period. And we need to get started NOW folks, because FD occurs 25–26 June. This is a mere 8 weeks away and there are many things to arrange. However, with all positions filled, the event will run efficiently and with minimal effort on each person's part. I know NARS will have a winning team this year, because as the great NARS group always does, it will come through. OK, you've heard my appeal, now step up to the plate guys!! Let's go, go, go! Yea Team!

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.

VE Session Results

The VE test session held Saturday, April 23 added three new Technician Class licensees and two upgrades to Extra Class. There were five elements given and all the candidates passed. I love it when we have a perfect session.

The new Technician Class licensees are John Edward Schreiber–KE5ERM of League City; Christina Marie Wallace–KE5ERN of Spring; Stephen W. Simmons, Sr.–KE5ERO of Spring; welcome to our wonderful hobby. Congratulations are in order to Lance T. Rumfield–WD5KCX of Spring, as he upgraded from Advanced Class to Extra and to David C. Bell–W5WAZ of Magnolia, as he jumped from General Class to Extra.

My thanks to Paul Frantz–W5PF, Kirby Van Horn–K7EC, Keith Dutson–NM5G, Eddy Reynolds–K5WQG, Rick Aikman–KZ5E, Steve Smothers–W9DX and Nora Stovall–KB5FYJ; without volunteers the VE test sessions cannot happen. Good job folks.

Next month's session will be held on the 28th, I hope to see you there.

73

Norm Covey/K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager

NARS Roster Now Available with Membership Renewal

Until now, the distribution of the club roster to its members has been rather sporadic. Occasionally, a copy would be made available at one of our monthly meetings or at the annual banquet. Some members were fortunate enough to get a current copy if they attended the right meeting at the right time, but others might go for years before obtaining one.

Early February it was decided to send a roster to each membership renewal to insure a person getting at least one copy per year. The plan is to print a new listing on a quarterly basis so that the recipient ends up with a copy that's reasonably current. When you receive your copy, check your listing for any errors or changes you may have made and let me know via email or give me a call. (I'm always available except when I'm not)

Many of you have made changes in your email and/or home address over the past few months and it's important that you pass those changes on to us. The database is only as accurate as you make it. (Note to Bruce Wright, WC5CW – Bruce, your renewal notice came back twice. We know you're out there, somewhere.)

Joe – kd5kr@arrl.net

Ham and "Sheez" News

No April Showers

There weren't any "showers" to speak of in April, but we certainly had enough activities to keep us all on our toes. Whew! I'm tired and I haven't even told you about it yet.

The Bunko Party at Desi Livingston was a great success. As always, everyone had a wonderful time. I heard a rumor that the fuzzy dice were awarded to Desi this time. Before the Party was over, it was reported that the dice had already found their way to the rear-view mirror of Desi's vehicle. It is nice to know that the some traditions never "die."

The Tomball Stampin Up Club was very active this month. The regular monthly meeting was held on the 17th and then some gathered once more on the 30th to make some of their own cards using all of our new toys (stamps) and tools of the trade.

Our monthly meeting was held at Christie Richards Daughter-in-law's home, Stephanie. This was truly a wonderful evening with friends. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal – complete with an adult beverage if they preferred and most of them preferred. If that wasn't enough, we were treated to a relaxing and invigorating foot spa. There were several who opted for the full treatment. Others of us opted to play with Stephanie's 8 month-old baby. What a wonderful evening. All of the Ham and Sheez would like to say a big thank you to Stephanie and Christie for their hospitality and all the fun.

Upcoming Activities

I know that we have been a little busy in April, but May and June are going to be very hectic for the H&S.

May 7th – NARS Annual Picnic at the home of Keith Dutson. Ladies are asked to bring a batch of homemade (fresh baked if you don't have time to do them from scratch) cookies. If you

do not want to drink iced tea, you will need to bring your own cold drinks or adult beverages.

May 14th – The weekend following Mother's Day might be a good time for a ladies day out. The Ham and "Sheez" are planning a trip 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.

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.

June 3–5th – Some of the ladies will be traveling with their husbands and significant others to Ham Com in Arlington, Texas. This is one of the best things that could ever happen to a member of Ham and "Sheez". We get to see a happy smiling face on our husbands, go shopping for something we want and still see a smiling face on our husband, go out to eat at some of the best places in Arlington, and yes, we still see a smile from ear to ear on our husbands faces. I think it is all that RF and BS harnessed in one giant room. They are numb and cannot feel the money being slipped out of their pockets. Seriously ladies, you do not have to spend money to have a good time. I believe several of the ladies are already planning excursions from the Convention Center on Saturday. Some of the most fun all year is at Ham Com in Arlington. NARS has a table in the indoor flea market for the Texas QSO Party. Look for the signs and we will

see all of you there.

June 12th – The Stampin Up Club meeting will be at the home of Anita Townsend at 2:30. This will be the last time you can order some of the stamp sets from the 2005 catalog. A new 2006 catalog will be released on July 1, 2005. There sent a flyer with the retiring sets listed. Be sure to check it out.

June 25 – 26th – NARS sponsors a Field Day Event each year. This year, the ladies have been asked to help with the condiments for the BBQ dinner that is scheduled for Saturday evening. This is a family event, so bring the family and enjoy the BBQ. I am not sure of the price, but I will send that along in next month's newsletter.

June 27th – The regular monthly meeting of the Ham and "Sheez" will be held at the Presbyterian Church on Spring Cypress between Kuykendall and Stuebner–Airline.

Monthly Recipe

Old Radio Ham

1/4 cup chopped green pepper
1/4 cup chopped green onion
2 TBSP Butter
1 TBSP Flour
4 oz shredded cheese
1/4 cup mayonnaise
3 medium potatoes, cooked and diced
1 pound cooked ham diced
Dash of pepper

Cook onion and green pepper in butter until tender. Stir in flour and pepper. Add milk all at once and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Reduce heat and add cheese and mayonnaise. Stir until cheese melts. Combine potatoes and ham with sauce. Bake in a 10 X 8 inch baking dish for 1 hour at 350 degrees. Makes 6 servings.

*Happy Mother's Day,
Anita – N5AOK*

Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on April 26 at the Ponderosa Firehouse on Rolling Creek Drive. The following board members were in attendance: Lee Kinard, Mike Lodge, Cal White, Mark Tyler, Paul Frantz, Jerry Whiting, Keith Dutson, and Chuck Sanders along with the following guests: H.O. Townsend and Bill Stietenroth. Highlights of the meeting:

- Programs – Jerry Whiting reported several new confirmations resulting in the following slate of interesting programs for the remainder of the year with only one month remaining unconfirmed. If you know of someone interested in making a presentation to the club please contact any of the board members.

Month	Presenter	Topic	Status
May	Mike Lodge	Field Day	Confirmed
June	Gene Hafele	Skywarn	Confirmed
July	William Simon	Computer Forensics	Confirmed
August	Dr. Tompkins	Galapagos Islands	Confirmed
September	Fred Windisch/Paul Owen	Fire prevention/protection	Confirmed
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 has met with Keith Dutson who has agreed to step in as a co-coordinator of Field Day. Keith led the discussion of Field Day plans and reported that he is planning for four separate stations: CW, Phone, GOTA, and Satellite/VHF/UHF with the first two being all-out competitive stations and the latter two being more relaxed stations. He also reported that Tom Atkins has agreed to handle the all-important Saturday evening meal. Keith reported that Bruce Meier has agreed to be captain of the CW station and that captain's positions for the other stations are still open. The site is confirmed for the Guthrie Center on Hammerly. The board expressed appreciation to Keith for stepping in as co-Field Day coordinator. Keith will be presenting the current status of Field Day plans at the May meeting at which time it will be necessary to have all of the major positions filled in order to go forward with Field Day.

- Texas QSO Party – The final major topic of the meeting was the re-organization of the Texas QSO Party. Under the able leadership of George K5VUU and most recently of H.O. K5CX the TQP has grown to be more than one person can handle. H.O. proposed to the board, and the board approved of, a committee to run the event under the coordination of H.O. The committee consists of the following at this point:

Publicity – Norm K5OS, Rules – Bruce N1LN, Finance – Joe KD5KR, Scoring – Chuck NO5W, Awards – Vacant, Tee Shirts – Vacant, and Website Bill N5BIA. H.O. also reviewed the financial requirements of the TQP and made a proposal describing those categories for which plaque sponsorship would be solicited and plans for any unsponsored categories. The Board approved the proposed plan. If you are interested in the details or in sponsoring a plaque please contact any member of the board.

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 meeting place for 2005 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*

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Hi Gang, Well April was what I expected it to be, no sunspots worth mentioning and almost zero propagation on my favorite band 15M. Did get one lone card in this month; OJOJ Market Reef for a contact in July 04. That brought me up to 226 confirmed on Phone. The sad part is now I have little reason to hit the mailbox as that was the last new one in my log. OK enough of me.

Cal WF5W always has an interesting report.

No new ones from here, but did have an interesting talk (CW of course) with Susan onboard her 32 foot sail boat in Mexico. She is on her way to Hawaii, then on to Micronesia for a 3 year sail around rare islands. Oh yes, I almost forgot, she is doing this single handed and is 72 yrs old. A retired Army master sergeant. Check out her web page. BTW her call is W7KFI. Been working on the Sea Pumpkin antenna system; got lots of noise from a transformer at the end of the dock. But we will prevail.

That's it from here. On yes, one more thing, W5PDW found an old rusted up J-38 somewhere, brought it over, I scrubbed it down with a brass brush, took apart, greased it up, re assembled and tuned it. It's the best key I have!!!

Hey Cal, you should see my old J-37, New in the box surplus in 1951 for 99 cents.

Going on to Mike, K5UO

New band-counters this month:

1. 9G5SP 80m CW (243/80m)
2. 4L4KK 17m CW (Georgia)
3. EY7AF 30m CW
4. TT8M 30m CW
5. A6/ON5NT 17m CW
6. D4B 15m CW

Building a 2 element Yagi for 30m with the able help of N1LN's "EZNEC" software expertise. Instead of a reflector, I am going with a director. If you can't run smoke on 30m, you can run gain! If I would have had

enough parts would have gone for 3 elements: manana / zafra!
Good Luck Mike.

And Last Jim, K5JDB

Well, K5JDB had a few contacts on April. While the bands have not been great, there are always one or two signals for the picking. Had a total of 53 DX contacts logged during the month. Sent off several QSL cards, but did not receive any back yet. The most memorable contact was on 15 meters. It was ZK2QQ Niue. It may not be rare, but it ain't in east Texas, and that makes it worthy of mention. Still poking around for a way to get up a little higher in the air. Have not found just what I am looking for yet.

73 to all. Jim K5JDB

Well I guess that, it for this month. Gud DX and hope to hear you on the bands.

AI, W5ADF

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Bill Veerkamp KD5TSL and James Veerkamp KD5TPH

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
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Madison Jones W5MJ
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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:

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Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC
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ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

TBA

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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)

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Send all articles and materials for the
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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
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