

# NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

September 2005

## September Meeting – Fire Prevention

This month is national fire prevention month. We have two presenters for this meeting and they bring a wealth of information on the subject of fire prevention.

First we have two members of the Harris County Fire Marshals Office. Mr. Marshall Kramer is Chief Fire Prevention Inspector. He has been in the fire service in varying position for the past 30 years. He holds a master Peace Office License from TCLEOSE and several other degrees.

Mr. Mike Montgomery is Harris County Fire Marshal and Director of the Harris County Fire & Emergency Services Dept. Mike is Graduate of Texas A & M, Life time member of Cy-Fair VFD, deployed to NYC after 9–11.

Second Presenter is our own Paul Owen, who has been with Grinnell Fire Protection Company and its subsidiaries since 1993. Paul is a design engineer for commercial fire alarm and fire extinguishing systems of which his recent is the new Toyota Center. He will explain many of the current fire suppression systems being used today and stories about them. His company is donating two five-pound portable fire extinguishers to be given away as door prizes.

Note due to the length the meeting will start at 7:00 pm instead of the regular time, see you all there.

## NARS Beginnings

In the spring of 1985 several hams in the Northwest area were concerned by the lack of an active Amateur Radio club in this part of Houston. The Houston Amateur Radio Club had virtually ceased to operate except for a station in the Science Museum. Other clubs had started in the Southwest (BVARC) and at NASA, but there was nothing within a reasonable distance of our part of town.

In those days BC, before computers, it was difficult to determine how many hams were in any given area and how to get in touch with them. The ARRL would furnish a set of mailing labels by ZIP code if they could be convinced it was for a good cause. Dee Logan (W1HEO) managed to convince Newington and the labels were obtained.

On May 23 1985 the first steering committee meeting was held at the QTH of Dee Logan, W1HEO, in Memorial Northwest. Attending in addition to Dee were Bob Jahn, WA4JBV, Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, Dan Wells, N5IDE, Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, Bob Welch, KE5IC, Paul Frantz, KF5SB, Mike Pfeiffer, K5WIM, Dick Rousseau, KA4MFS, Dick Combs, N5DRM, Kirby Van Horn, K7WOC and Jerry Smith, W5NKZ. At this meeting a decision was made to proceed with the formation of NARS. Information was to be sent out using the mailing labels provided by the ARRL and a general meeting was scheduled at the Heathkit store on FM1960. How many remember that there was a Heathkit store on 1960?

Paul Frantz W5PF

## Important Dates

**Friday, Sep 17, 7:30 PM** – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 6:30 PM.

**Saturday, Sep 24, 8:30 AM** – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

**Tuesday, Sep 27, 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.

### Contests

Sep 17–18 QCWA Fall QP, QRP Afield  
Sep 18 NA SSB Sprint  
Sep 24–25 TX QP, CQ WW RTTY DX  
Oct 1–3 CA QP, Oceania SSB DX  
Oct 29–30 CQ WW DX SSB  
Nov 26–27 CQ WW DX CW

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Sep 14 Pepperchino  
Sep 21 Luby's Cafeteria  
Sep 28 Jason's Deli  
Oct 5 Neal's Restaurant  
Oct 12 Olde City Pub & Grill

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Sep 14 Charlie's Hamburgers  
Sep 21 Cafe Express  
Sep 28 Chili's  
Oct 5 Fuddrucker's  
Oct 12 Escalante Mexican

### 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 Victor's

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

## President's Corner

September 2005

Greetings Fellow NARSians

Our thanks to Dr. William Tompkins for his wonderful program on the Galapagos Islands and their wildlife at last month's meeting. Everyone I talked to had very positive comments. The September meeting will be given by Fred Windisch and Paul Owen on Fire Protection/Prevention and there will be door prizes. Come one, come all. See you there on the 16th.

What a month August has been! Hurricane Katrina has captivated all the media and efforts have been overwhelming from all sectors to help and support the people of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. At this point, the evacuation and local organization seems to be smoothing out. But organizing something this massive takes more than a passing thought or a day or two. Superhuman efforts have been expended to help those who have lost everything in the wind and water. The needs are still there and will continue, it seems, for several months, but things are more under control as time passes. There are so many jobs that need volunteers that we can all help support the efforts with and without radios. Food preparation and serving are primary needs. Helping to log folks in and out of the Astrodome area is a necessity to keep families informed of loved ones whereabouts. Helping displaced people to find local jobs would be of great help. Local area ministries are also in need of a helping hand. Places like NAM and local churches are doing much to support the efforts, and there are many other areas that need volunteers. NARS is a diverse group with many talents. Now would be a good time to express and exhibit those talents and help our fellow citizens. Let us each do a little in our own way. NARS always comes through!

In other news, today is 6 September 2005 and we have a new repeater on .06/.66, thanks to the efforts of Ken Harlan, KA5AKG and Bill Stietenroth, K5ZTY. It was installed today and works great. Try it out. I'm sure a few more tweaks are in store for it, but for now it is welcome relief from the squawks we have endured for a long time. Ken is to be congratulated for the time, effort and talent he has put into finding a new repeater and making a bold move to replace the old GE unit. And thanks to many others who have donated their time and talents to supporting the repeater.

As Tiny Tim once said, "God bless us everyone."

73, Lee K5AVY

## Public Service Events

*Your Radio Skills Are Needed*

It's time to sign up to help with two upcoming public service events. The first one is the annual Wings Over Houston air show at Ellington Field on October 7, 8 and 9th. The Friday show is for special needs people who can't endure the rigors of the crowd and pace of the Saturday and Sunday shows for the general public. It is about a 6 hour commitment starting at about 8:00 am. The Saturday and Sunday shows are all day events starting at about 6:00am. Christine Terrell has sent out the call to sign up to former volunteers and needs about 60 hams per day for the Saturday and Sunday shows. If you would like to volunteer or want more information, contact me or George Levandoski or go to the NARS website and click on Wings Over Houston.

The second event is the Buffalo Bayou Regatta on Saturday October 15th, which is a NARS sponsored and coordinated event. The event was flooded out last year; the bayou was raging and unsafe to be in but it looks like this year is a go. This is about a half day event and it is very entertaining. It is amazing what people will put in Buffalo Bayou to float on. To sign up for this one call Paul Franz or Rob Nixon, or if you can't find one of them, I'll get your name to them.

One other event to be thinking about is the Sun Mart Texas Trails Endurance Run on December 10th at Huntsville State Park. This can be a half day or an all day event. Sun Mart makes a nice donation to our club for doing this for them. They really want us to be there so sign up with Paul Owen and help cover this one.

*Bill, K5ZTY*

## VE Session Results

The August VE session went well. Seven Elements were administered; 1-Element 1, 2-Element 2, 2-Element 3 and 2-Element 4. Welcome to the hobby new Technician, Michael Lerman-KE5FWX of Kingwood. We gained two new Generals; Colin Perry-KE5FWY and Louis Horr, Jr.-KE5FTI both of Houston and a new Extra class; Sid Leben-KC2EE of spring. I'd like to offer my congratulations to the new licensees and those who upgraded.

My special thanks go to Paul Frantz-W5PF for running the session for me while I was out of town; good job, Paul. My enthusiastic thanks to the VE team: Cal White-WF5W, Madison Jones-W5MJ, Jim Kirk-KJ5X, Keith Dutson-NM5G and Walter Holmes-K5WH. I can't over emphasize, we can't hold these sessions without your help.

The September session will be held on the 24th and conflicts with the Texas QSO Party. I dislike asking for volunteers this early in the month but if you can let me know if you will be available for the session I will greatly appreciate it.

73

*Norm Covey/K5OS*

*NARS VE Session Manager*

# Ham and "Sheez" News

## Dog Days of Summer

As we had planned, a very large group of Ham and Sheez attended the Texas Opry Jamboree in Magnolia on Saturday the 20th. The official total was 18 people. Dinner at the Opry was an assortment of home-cooked specialties. If you did not have the squash casserole, you have no idea what you missed. Even those that don't like squash would have enjoyed it. Some of us were able to sit at the very back of the dining area at what is called the "Antiques Table." That's because we were surrounded by collectibles and memorabilia that took all of us back a few years in time. The old-time chick feeder was right above my head – appropriately placed don't you think.

The Opry was a wonderful evening of entertainment. There were several performers, but the two young girl performers (11 and 12 respectively) stole the show. Near the end of the evening, I was given an opportunity to stump the band. After racking my brain for an artist that they would probably not know, Marty and Carol Fitzgerald, W5MF, leaned over and whispered – JOE WALSH – who happens to be an amateur radio operator himself. I can't remember the tune they broke into, but it had Marty dancing in his seat. He offered to pay them to finish the song. We all went home that night having been completely and totally entertained.

The day following the Opry, the "Stampin Up" ladies met at the home of Darlene Buoy for the regular monthly card making event. Thank you so much, Darlene, for your hospitality and the chance to learn new and different ways to use the stamps.

On August 29th, we held our monthly meeting at the church where Laurie demonstrated what she had learned in a scrapbooking class the week before. After threading our needles, we were creating flowers on paper using a couple of different techniques. I was even able to do this one, so you know it was easy and actually quite fun. I know

the "Stampin Up" ladies are going to want to learn this one.

## Upcoming Activities

Saturday, September 17th – This will be the third annual Ham and Sheez Wine Tasting. For those of you who are new to the group or have never heard of it, I can assure you that this will be an evening well spent. Remember, the Ham and Sheez are known for the ability to taste and appreciate good wine from all around the world. This year, as in the years past, the wine tasting will be held at Tina and Eddie Sinclair's home. For this evening, each couple or person picks a wine and a food to serve with the wine. We start with appetizers and follow through to dessert (this is really the best part). Each couple will serve their wine with their food choice and give a brief synopsis about the wine. As far as we know, there has never been a bad bottle of wine. For those who do not care to imbibe, we always have soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages. The food alone is worth coming for. Remember, all of the Ham and Sheez members are married to NARS members or are NARS members. Wherever you find a NARS member, there will be good food within an arm's reach. Come join the fun. Tina has already sent an invitation by email. Be sure to RSVP with your choice of food and wine. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

**Sunday, September 18th** – The Stampin Up Club meeting will be at the home of Lisa Townsend at 2:30. If you can bring a snack of some kind, please let Lisa know before the day of the meeting.

**September 24th and 25th** – Ladies, this is the weekend of the Texas QSO Party. Some of the ladies actually participate in this event each year and hopefully, the gas prices will not make this an exception. Many NARS members take their HF gear and operate mobile from as many counties as they can drive to or through in the 18 hours that the contest is in effect. If you hear

any of the NARS members on the air that weekend, be sure to give them a shout on the radio.

**Monday, September 26th** – This will be the regular monthly meeting of the Ham and Sheez. The meeting will be held at the Church on Spring Cypress.

**A Personal Note** – This month will be remembered by all of us for many years to come, probably the rest of our lives. We have seen the worst disaster in American history unfold before our eyes. Fate has given us a ring-side seat, from which our perception of the things that are important will be changed forever. I know that each of you have been touched by the news and events coming from the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. I have heard of many NARS members who are very active in filling the open positions for Ham Radio Operators at the Astrodome, Reliant Center, as well as churches and shelters all over the Houston area. Our own Laurie Meier was filmed by FOX News where she had volunteered at the Astrodome this past weekend. Others have offered a helping hand in ways that we may never see with our eyes, but the victims of this disaster have felt with their hearts. I heard a report this evening of one of the Ham and Sheez who has taken some of these victims directly into their home. The disaster has brought Houston a lot of media attention, perhaps for our organizational skills or perhaps it is our ability to see that someone has a need and we jump right in to meet that need. I would like to think that any community would respond in the way we have, but I know in my heart that we are unique. Each of you who have contributed time, money, food, clothing, shelter, and prayers are the reason some of these victims will leave Houston to go back to Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama to rebuild it. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am to be a part of this club, this organization, this town, and this country.

*Best Wishes  
Anita – N5AOK*

# DX News

Thanks again to all those that have provided their input for this column for the month of August.

Sort of thin this month for DX information from the members. Maybe I will have to depend upon some bulletin data? Band conditions have really caused a decline in DX activity by the members. Even with the condition of the bands, I look for more participation as we move into autumn and the cooler weather.

Even fellow DX-er Bruce, N1LN did not burn up his hard-drive logging a lot of DX. Three SSB DX Q's on 20 meters; one of which was a new IOTA! But Bruce was busy with the state-side contest to keep the cob webs from his equipment.

That brings to mind. There has been a lot of IOTA activity this month with vacationing hams traveling afar and not-so-far. So if you IOTA-chaser haven't been searching; you are missing some nice IOTA contacts. Get with it while the 'pickings are good'! The bulletins are full of planned island hopping by, especially the Europeans.

Jim, KJ5X is offering a reward for early reports of several rare-DX operations planned: 9N, S2 and the potential upcoming KH7 and FR/G operations. Get in early before the multitudes! Jim was also a bit busy with a few IOTAs, especially the Russian group signing R0K, on Shalauova Island off the Siberian coast in the East Siberian Sea of the Artic Ocean. They have been very active with outstanding signals; like a local. They started tearing down on August 21 with rain and snow and 0 degrees C temperature! That's 32 degrees F - in August!

Another highlight Jim experienced was on August 22 with the NARS ten meter net. Jim had 21 check-ins and 12 were from other states; and not any were adjacent states. Jim; you are going to have to start an award of sorts to entice more "local-DX" to check-in. Jim

reminds the membership to tune their radios to 28,444 MHz at 8:00 PM local, to check in to the club net.

John, W5PDW had a boomer month for working special event stations and also the R0K IOTA station. The highlight was working K7C, the Navajo Code Talkers station at Window Rock, Arizona on 20 and 40 meters. That would have been interesting! But, John, how did you understand them if they were 'code-talking'? That is an interesting story of those guys during WW II. No one in the world knew the language or could break the code.

John is all set for this winter as he and WF5W did some rejuvenation work on his antenna and rotor. John promises lots of interesting reports for next month's column.

Cal, WF5W, better known as "Popeye" of the "Sea Pumpkin"; has his "K5VUU-special" mobile antenna up and working - good. Cal, like a lot of us made some passes with the VFO looking for the no-show P5/ station. I guess this guy thought that when an Asian says "yes-maybe", it means "no-probably"!

Bob, WB5IUU; new to the neighborhood up here along Highway 1488, has his tower up but no Yagi antenna, as yet. Has a TB6EM sitting there almost ready to go. In the meantime he has rigged up a Carolina Windom 80. He was on the "ready" for the P5/ station, too.

Madison, W5MJ, one of the penguins from Tomball, has got himself into a situation with his HyGain TH-7 Yagi. Seems he had it on the ground doing some refurbishing. Rigged it back up on the tower and no sooner was it up and some large bird roosted on one of the elements and rotated the element out of alignment about 45 degrees. Seems 'someone' forgot to tighten, or tighten sufficiently, the element to boom clamp. Now, that 80 pound hummer has to come down again.

Madison doesn't feel he can tilt it enough to do the work in the tower.

He said he couldn't work any DX this month as all signals sounded garbled or "out of phase". . .

For myself, K5UO: it has been a so-so month for working lots of "DX-es". Looking at the log for August:

1. Worked maybe 30 new 6 meter grids. All in this hemisphere, of course. See 50 MHz spots of our far-east stations (VE1/W1) working a few EU's!
2. J20VB 30m/CW a new band-counter (NBC).
3. T88GG 30m/CW (Martti Laine, OH2BH) NBC
4. V63NB 30m/CW NBC
5. V59SWK and V51GB 15m/CW NBC
6. ET3TK 17m/CW NBC
7. CY0AA 12m/CW NBC

Some interesting band-counter QSLs received this month:

1. 4T75O (Peru) #125 on 160 meters!
2. YK1BA (N5FF) on 17 and 40 meters/CW (# 305 on 40m!)
3. FO/F6EPY (Marq.) 40/CW
4. T8GG 17/30m/CW
5. 9G5SP #239 on 80m/CW
6. 5Z4DZ 17m/ 80m/CW (#224 on 80m!)
7. ET3TK 17m/CW
8. 5R8GZ 17m/CW
9. A6/ON5NT 17m/CW
10. V51AS 17m/CW

The second half of the battle was successful for 10 QSOs: Getting the QSL card!

The bulletins show lots of good DX operations ongoing or planned. If we only have the propagation. Let's all talk to the "DX-gods"!

That's it for this month and thank you. Work that DX! (But let me know about it.)

*73 de, Mike, K5UO*

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Condolences to Ruth Combs, XYL of Dick Combs N5DRM who became a silent key May 10, 2005

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY  
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com  
Allen Majeski WA5REJ  
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net  
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Madison Jones W5MJ  
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Larry McCain KN5Z  
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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  
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### NARS Public Information Officer:

Laurie Meier N1YXU  
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## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

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### ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

TBA

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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### Send address, phone, email and other changes to:

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### NET

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281-376-0718, kj5x@swbell.net

### WEB SITE

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Webmaster  
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### NARS REFLECTOR

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### VE SESSION (ARRL)

Manager:  
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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

Victor'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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