

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 2006

August NARS Meeting

Several members of the 9H (Malta) 2006 DXpedition will be on hand to present the story of the trip. Details of the preparations, travel, experiences with the local amateurs and operating will be discussed.

This was a very enjoyable trip for all the participants. Come share the fun and hear the stories, most of which will be true. A video edited by W5SB from the footage shot by NM5G will be shown along with some slides of the local tourist attractions. The DXpeditioners were Don N5DD, Bill K5WAF, Cal WF5W, Mike K5UO, Keith NM5G, Madison W5MJ, Steve W9DX and Paul W5PF.

Redd School LABRATS Radio Club

The school year ended with the radio club taking the exam for Technical class license. 5 students along with the parents of one of the students and Ms Lollie the science teacher participated in the exam. 4 of the students passed element 2 Technician class, Ms Lollie and one of the parents passed element 3, General class written. 1 Parent passed element 2, 3, and 4. Now all need to pass element 1, the code section.

The club is planning on building new projects in the coming year and also working on the code so that they can up grade to higher-class license. As licensed hams we are planning more activity on the air and hope to get a school club license call.

Congratulations to: Chris Brown – KE5IOR age 9; Jonathan Baer –KE5IOS age 14; Audrey LeBovidge– KE5IOT age 9; and Meghan Rapp – KE5ISW age 9.

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD



l-r Jonathan, Audrey, Meghan, Chris

Important Dates

Friday, Aug 18, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, Aug 26, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, Aug 29, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

Aug 19–20 NAQP SSB, SARTG WW RTTY

Aug 19–21 NJQP

Aug 26–27 HIQP, OHQP, YO DX HF, SCC RTTY

Aug 27 SARL HF CW

Aug 27–28 KYQP

Sep 2 Russian RTTY

Sep 2–3 All Asian SSB, RSGB SSB Field Day

Sep 23–24 TXQP, CQ WW RTTY

Oct 28–29 CQ WW SSB

Nov 25–26 CQ WW CW

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – North

Aug 23 Luby's Cafeteria

Aug 30 Jason's Deli

Sep 6 Neal's Restaurant

Sep 13 Sweet Tomatoes

Sep 20 Farm To Market Grill

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Aug 23 Cafe Express

Aug 30 Willie's Grill 290

Sep 6 Fuddruckers 290

Sep 13 Fajita Willies 290

Sep 20 Jason's Deli

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

Aug 23 DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers

Aug 30 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille

Sep 6 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet

Sep 13 Pappas Barbecue

Sep 20 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

August 2006

From: <http://www.qrz.com/ib-bin/ikonboard.cgi?act=ST&f=3&t=126103>

Numbers of US population and the number of hams at the start of each decade from 1930.

Year	Population	# Hams	Growth Rate
1930	123,202,624	19,000	
1940	132,164,569	56,000	194%
1950	151,325,798	87,000	55%
1960	179,323,175	230,000	164%
1970	203,211,926	263,918	15%
1980	226,545,805	393,353	49%
1990	248,709,873	502,677	28%
2000	281,421,906	682,240	36%
2006		657,814	-3.6%

These figures put the decline of ham operators into perspective. I am glad to be a part of NARS that contributes to increasing these numbers. A recent successful quick cram course and VE tests are helping to improve these numbers. An active club helps new hams find a purpose. In fact we are the only Special Services Club in the Houston Area. Earlier this year the only Special Service Club was located in Corpus Christie. NARS was not listed. The requirements were refined for a Special Service Club and NARS had to meet new requirements. H. O. did a great job of putting together examples of these requirements and submitting it to the ARRL to get NARS listed as a Special Service Club.

Have any of you tried some of the recipes in the Ham-N-Sheez cookbook (http://www.w5nc.org/ham_sheez/hsheez02.htm)? Mary made two desserts this past weekend. Each was good. Just ask anyone who was at K5WH 50th birthday party. Cookbooks are still available; the second edition is being put together. This is a well planned project that the Ham-N-Sheez did.

The July meeting program was presented by the group that won 1st place as multi-op mobile in '04. They covered many of the requirements that helped them win. One of the enjoyments of being mobile is entering a new county and working the pile-up. In '04 NARS team Madison, W5MJ; Bruce, WC5CW; and Mark, K5GQ came in second. Madison navigated in more than 40 counties. Many stations did follow us into different counties. This is a wonderful event that NARS sponsors. I am planning to participate this year but not as a multi-op mobile station.

Mark K5GQ

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 2006.

Following is a report from K5ZTY.

The Northwest Harris County ARES group had a general membership meeting Saturday morning July 15th at the TranStar building. There were about 30 people in attendance, up considerably from last year when attendance was about 10. The group is planning to have a general meeting about once every two months, so look for another one in September. We got a tour of the facility with a view from the upstairs radio room overlooking the huge traffic control area. Impressive. The Amateur Radio room is off to the side of the main radio room and has complete HF, VHF, and digital radio equipment for each of the four quadrants of District 14 ARES. Alan Iasaachsen, KB2WF has done a great job of updating the equipment and getting everything on line and working. The same upgrade is being done at the Houston Emergency Center on North Shepherd at Donovan. ARES is holding the August District 14 leadership meeting at that center and will get a tour of that facility also. The Texas Department of Public Safety is also in the process of buying and installing Amateur Radio gear in the local field office on Hwy. 290 near Jersey Village. The DPS is going to require hams who operate in their facility to be members of RACES so that they will be operating under the rules and regulations of an emergency decree from the governor of the state.

Another subject at the TranStar meeting was Ken Mitchell's summary of objectives met and lessons learned from our May 15th drill in the FM1960 area. Most of the stated objectives of the drill were met and the served agencies were glad to have participated in the drill. One of the lessons learned though was that we didn't do a great job of message handling and after all, message handling is the whole job of emergency communications. There is more to message handling than just talking on the radio. Paul Owen gave a good talk on proper message handling practices whether you are handling emergency messages from fire station or routine messages from a shelter, doing net control for a bike ride or working a banana stop at a walkathon. Paul speaks with the authority of having done 27 years of emergency communications with the Civil Air Patrol, 13 years as net control for the Houston Marathon and countless public service events. Some of his points were: 1. Show up with more than your HT. Bring pencil and paper and be ready to keep a log or notes. Log information should include: A. Number each message. B. time you received the message. C. Who gave you the message? D. Who is it too? E. What priority is the message? F. Do you need a reply? G. Who was it delivered to? H. What time was it delivered? All of this should be noted for your reference during the event in case you need to follow up and for later if a question comes up. 2. Speak slowly and distinctly if the person on the other end is writing this down. Imagine you writing it as you speak. 3. Make sure the receiving station acknowledges receiving the message. 4. Let the person who gave you the message to send know that it was delivered. That is called servicing the message.

It's not too early to start thinking about upcoming events. October is going to be busy. Both the Wings Over Houston air show and the Buffalo Bayou Regatta are on the weekend of October 21. Wings Over Houston starts off Friday the 20th with the special needs show for disadvantaged youngsters. It is a shortened version of the show which is over in the early afternoon. The Saturday and Sunday shows are all day events. The Buffalo Bayou Regatta is on Saturday the 21st and is a half day event. Start thinking about volunteering for one of these events now. It will be December before we know it too and the Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Run will be held in Huntsville State Park on Saturday December the 9th. This is NARS' big public service event and we need enough operators to work this one from before sun up until after dark in two shifts. Plan to volunteer for this one too.

Bill, K5ZTY

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

DX IS! Yes. . .

DX IS. . . what you make of it.

Last month we talked about overall DXing techniques. This month we want to start out with a quote from a well known contester and DXer, Roger Western, G3SXW. Roger is a world traveler on a budget. Several years ago at HamCom, Roger was the guest speaker. One of the highlight-comments he made was that it doesn't cost him an arm and a leg to make these far away trips to some DX-rare location he takes each year. He watches for airfare specials and packs light. Invariably, he will use verticals and a 100 Watt transceiver.

Back home in the UK he is a very avid DXer searching for that elusive "new one", like the rest of us. His setup at home is rather modest as is typical for a lot of UK hams due to the very small house plots and close in houses that most of the people have. As I recall, he is using a multi-band Yagi and a 40 foot tower. He is on the DXCC Honor Roll; having contacted almost all DXCC-countries. In addition, he works DXCC on individual bands to enhance his 9BDXCC (nine band DXCC). Consequently, Roger has worked both sides of the fence: as a DXer and a DXpedition traveler. He is well qualified to make these comments:

“What makes a good DXer? Of course, there is no one answer to that question. But it does bring together some of the finer qualities of man-enthusiasm even dedication, a willingness to learn and persistence; efficiency and paying attention to detail; an open-minded and enquiring, tolerant attitude accompanied often by a competitive edge. The uncertainty of propagation adds so much spice to a hobby that it is hard to appreciate in all its enriching glory until it has been experienced. But, be warned-once hooked it is a pursuit that will last a life-time. Take the opportunity to enjoy DXing and maybe also try to put something back in.”

Let's carry-on in talking about becoming a DXer:

Unfortunately, we see a lot of the real-world in our search for DX. Especially on SSB, we see rudeness in DXpedition pileups that equate to a lot of the rudeness we see “on the street”. I guess that is one reason I tend to chase DX in the CW portions of our bands as you will hear so much less of this garbage. A license test, unfortunately, does not cull out those types of individuals. But; like on the street, we somehow contend with it.

My point is that DXing. . . is competitive. You want to make contact with that 'rare one' and not spend all night doing it. In your DXing

efforts; yes, be aggressive; as you must be aggressive; but mind your manners. Do your part to not become one of those types of people that QRM the frequencies. Much like you do in your personal life.

On SSB, use a firm and bold voice; have your microphone gain level at the proper setting; speak-up but don't shout. Don't be timid in your voice. You are not whispering “sweet-nothings” in your wife's ear!

On either CW or SSB, be quick with your calls; placed at the proper times and. . .not during the report exchange, of course. Listen. . .listen and learn the DX operator's habits. Tail-end, if being accepted by the DX operator, at the correct time. If not being accepted; shelve that technique. Be quick at the key, especially if you have a long callsign! Short callsigns are one important reason DXers have “1x2” calls. Get it in. . .quick. . .and out; especially if there is a sharp operator on the other end. You don't want to still be sending your call while the DX station has already worked two different stations.

Probably tail-ending is more suited to CW rather than SSB. Use it if accepted. You may recall that last month I talked about some of these various techniques. I am not listing them again.

If your signal is not as strong as the heap that is calling or your area doesn't have the peak of propagation; move towards the sides of the heap; where you can be heard better. But if the DX op is working them right in the middle of the heap; you are in trouble with your wire and 100 watts. Come back when the propagation peak favors your area.

“Paper chasing”: Paper chasing is a pursuit enjoyed by many hams. Some chase various certificates or QSL cards issued by individual stations, e.g. commemorative stations, light houses and the like. Various clubs or associations will offer achievement certificates with space for future achievement levels. Examples would be the ARRL DXCC program; the CQ Magazine CQ-DX series or the RSGB “Islands On The Air” (IOTA) group. We have members in the club that are active DXCC, CQ DX and IOTA participants. Messr H.O. Townsend, K5CX, is our local CQ-DX representative. Messr Bob Walworth, N5ET, is our local ARRL DXCC QSL card checker.

In my mind, these certificates are measurement tools. You will often look up at that certificate and remember when you only had 50 countries, 10 zones or 150 islands and recall the circumstances at that time. They are an achievement to you and you are proud of them and the effort you put into earning them.

QSL cards are a lot the same, only you may recall that particular QSO or that particular big-deal DXpedition 15-20 years ago. You may not choose to display in your shack your QSL cards; but a certificate represents all of those QSL cards.

If I were to display my collected QSL cards; it would be my 160 meter cards. I can also appreciate DXers that have over 100 QSL's on 6 meters the same way. It isn't easy on those bands. Another option for QSLing has come about that will show real benefit in the years to come is the ARRL “Log of The World” (LoTW) program. It is growing by leaps and bounds. With some of the grief of paper-QSLing, such as determining who the QSL manager is; bad QSL-ers; “lost” mail; stamp-collectors and the ever increasing postal costs (especially in Europe); the LoTW takes all of the pain out of the process.

Briefly, the QSL process is all performed digitally via the ARRL web site. You upload your digital log data, in ADIF format, and as other stations submit (upload) their data, the matched QSO's become “QSL-ed” or confirmed. You are given credit for the matched QSO's and can use them to submit for the ARRL DXCC awards. You don't have possession of the many-times beautiful QSL cards; but you don't have the sometimes-QSL grief!

Many of the DX clusters are now showing if a spotted station is a LoTW participant. Work that station and you know you will get it confirmed. . .while you sleep! New DX operations might not show as being a participant; but most likely (or hopefully) will submit data in the near future. In the years to come, this process will show benefit.

Member DX Reports:

Not too many reports this month. I hope everyone worked the new DXCC countries for the mode and bands they wanted.

1. W5PDW. John: At the top of the heap this month is “Mr DX”, W5PDW. With 67 DX QSO's this month, John, a.k.a. “Juan Burrito”, was the most active DXer in our group. He was able to log both of the new DXCC country-counters, 4O3T, Montenegro and KH8SI, Swains Island. His first contact with 4O3T had him listening on low end of 20 meter phone band to the DXpedition and ready to pounce where 4O3T was listening, 14.220-.230. John jumped in with a perfectly timed tail-end and made the QSO with 4O3T. After it was all said and done, John looks down and in the familiar mental “rush” that happens to all of us, he had neglected to kick his amplifier in.

Continued on page 4

DX News continued from page 3

The operator at 403T, Martti Laine, OH2BH, another Mr DX gave him his report. . .and with 50 watts! John, it was your skill that did it; not your 50 watts! John also worked KH8SI on 15 meters for a new one. John received a nice plump envelope from the QSL bureau this month. Hope there were some nice 'new-ones' in there for you. According to Rick, KZ5E; John "timed-out" 20 meters the other night with a hour and 21 minute QSO with N3HQB.

2. K5OS, Norm: heard by the grapevine that Norm made QSO's with both of 403T and KH8SI, for DXCC numbers 336 and 337. Way to go Norman!

3. KU5B, Colin; Mr Contester received his bureau envelope this month with Six all-time new countries for his DXCC: HI9, PJ7, 6W, T98, Z37 and 4Z4. this brings Colin's DXCC count to 214 worked and 124 confirmed. That large disparity tells me that Colin needs to break down and buy some \$0.84 stamps and get to QSLing. At least before the QSO's get too old. This is where LoTW would probably have on-record a lot of those missing QSO's. Colin is off to Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama to start his college education. He hopes to maybe setup a bit of a station or maybe operate the school station (?). He promises to be looking for us during TQP.

4. K5CX, H.O. reports from his sprawling multi-tower, multi-mode, antenna ranchette, that several new-ones were worked this last month, including Montenegro (20 / 17m) and Swains Island (15, 17, 20, 40 and 80m). Along with C9, Mozambique. The band breakdown: 3 on 80m, 3 on 40m, 43 on 20m, 11 on 17m, 3 On 15m and 1 on 10m for 64 DX QSO's in all. Good job H.O.; especially Snagging KH8SI on 80m. But then again, it is to be expected when you have the kind of antenna farm that H.O. has to work with.

5. Bruce, N1LN/4 hopes to rig up a temporary dipole-of-sorts in the next few days. I am sure we will hear both Bruce and Laurie from their new abode in North Carolina. He will probably be chasing DX with this new monster dipole. I have heard it doesn't take much of an antenna to work European DX, even on 160 meters, from the east coast. Heck, from Texas, they are almost

half the distance - closer. Maybe your Atas-100 will do the trick? Anyway; happy new-house, folks!

6. WF5E, Cal has also set up a temporary dipole due to their upcoming house move. Cal has all of his equipment packed away for the move; But was able scrounge up enough wire for a dipole and using his new IC-7000 has made quite a few DX QSO's such as VK, YU6 and SM. And, of course, using his straight key. He has become convinced that it's not the equipment but the operator and his technique that make's the difference.

7. K5UO, Mike ('ye ole columnist): Like a lot of us, I had me share of lost sleep chasing the Swains Island group, trying to keep up with their off-the-wall following of propagation. Did manage 5 bands; both CW and SSB. But no low band except a questionable 75m SSB contact. Montenegro (403T and YU6AO) is in the log for five bands also. The op's at YU6AO, as a group, were some fine CW operators. Higher speeds and catching the calls fast and correct. Those two new ones should put me at 347 DXCC. . .with the same increase in both my CW and Phone DXCC.

Other QSO's this month that counted for band-counters: 5W1JB 15m CW, 9G5A/P 20m CW, FG5FR 6m CW.

More success in the mail box than on the bands, it seemed. Received a nice bureau envelope with a few choice QSL's in addition to direct mail: TO7C 12m CW (French Guyana), D4B* 160m CW via LoTW, CE0Z 30m CW, 3V8DLH 160m CW, 9M2AX 30m CW, C91TK 30m CW, 5J1W 30m CW, OY9JD 160m CW, IS0/K7QB 160m CW, P43JB 6m CW, V44KAI 6M. *D4B, Cape Verde Islands, West Africa: Alexander ("Alex") Teimorazov, 4L5A, from the Republic of Georgia has since torn down his outstanding mountain top contest station and is looking for another location. This was one fine operator and a superb overall station setup. Interesting to note, perhaps, is that Alex was always a top contender in the inter-Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc CW competitions that were held going back many

years; an event never held in the West. I think this is why you see so many really good CW op's coming from these countries during a contest, e.g. YU6AO Montenegro.

Notable DX News Coming Up From The Bulletins:

1. The two Montenegro stations, 403T and YU6AO still have about ten days remaining in their special operation. Also there is "Rajko", YU6DZ who operates from his home on a regular basis. YU's were always extremely active WW contests.

2. KH8SI is history, after a brief DXpedition to Swains Island. There is already talk that another group may be going there in the near future. (ed's note: Wait until winter when my Beverages are up, please.). It is an easy island to travel to; but is privately owned.

3. According to the Ohio/Penn DX Packet Cluster DX Bulletin recently; there were 196 different DXCC countries listed as being spotted during the prior week. The bands are dead? Well, not completely; but pretty wimpy.

4. Another new DXCC country possible? The Kosovo region of Serbia, an ethnic Albanian nationality, is promoting independence from Serbia. Que Sera-sera. Next thing you know is that Texas, Alaska or Hawaii might declare independence, huh?

5. Lot's and lot's of IOTA islands being put on the air as we speak with the northern hemisphere holiday season in full swing; especially Europeans.

6. Stillo Lighthouse in Poland, as SP5PB/2 will be active August 17-20 for Lighthouse-chasers.

7. TX5, Mayotte, will be active as TX5T and TX5NK August 31 to September 11. Mayotte is always a good one to catch. Work 'em!

That is it for this month! A special thank you to those that contributed information. Without your contribution, there would be no DX Report.

73,
Mike Bragassa, K5UO

VE Session Results

The results of the regular July VE session on 07/22/2006 are in.

We had nine candidates to which; 5- Element 1; 8 - Element 2 and 3 - Element 3 exams were given. Seven candidates earned a Technician license and another earned his General license.

Congratulations are in order for new Technicians;

Michael Rudd - KE5JTK - Houston

David Olson - KE5JTR - Spring
Jason Pritchard - KE5JTS - Tomball
Steven Francis - KE5JTT - Spring
Clint Alexander - KE5JTU - Magnolia
Jon Ledbetter - KE5JTV - Katy
James Stringfield - KE5JTW - Spring

One candidate passed Elements 1, 2 and 3 to earn his General license, great job;

Peter Kosmoski - KE5JTX - Spring

The volunteers for this session were, Keith Dutton-NM5G, Sarah Connell-W0HXO, Eddy Reynolds-K5WQG, H. O. Townsend-K5CX and Jim Kirk-KJ5X; my special thanks to these folks for their time and help; we simply can't do these sessions without our volunteers.

The next session will be held on 08/26/2006.

73
Norm Covey/K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager

NARS – The Right Stuff

(Recently, your Board of Directors successfully completed the renewal of the Special Service Club application with the ARRL. Clubs must submit a renewal application every two years to maintain their SSC recognition.)

You're correct. *The Right Stuff* is one of the most used, or miss-used, clichés of modern times. On the other hand, if it accurately describes the object, then it is well applied. In the case of your amateur radio club –NARS, it is perfectly applied. Here's why.

In years past, the application for *Special Service Club* recognition was limited to such things as number of members, number of voting members, and the number of ARRL members. This was a seemingly benign collection of data. Well . . . The new SSC renewal application is quite different. It's not just a numbers game anymore, the ARRL really wants to know about the health of your club, and if your club is alive and well and participating in fundamental activities.

The application consists of six areas of activity, or interest a club must be proficient in, in order to receive SSC recognition. They include:

- New Ham development and training
- Public relations
- Emergency communications
- Technical advancement
- Operating activities
- Miscellaneous activities

The list presents a radical change from the pass. OK, sooooo. . . How did your club –NARS do? Outstanding! Thanks to each one of you. Here is a sample of what the Board presented to the ARRL in its recent renewal. For us individual members, the list of things this club is into is very impressive. Here goes.

New Ham Development and Training – One day self study course resulting in 12 of 14 students getting their Technician class license. This program supported by ELMER assistance & incentives for becoming NARS members. More Self-study course plans in progress. May '06

Public Relations – 1. Members active with Hams for Hospitals (Tomball Regional, Houston Northwest, Methodist Willowbrook) 2. NARS provides public service communications for: Buffalo Bayou Regatta – October '06 (annual event); SunMart Texas Trails Endurance Run – December '06 (annual event); Texas MS150 (metro area clubs) – April '06 (annual event); and Wings Over Houston (metro area clubs) – October '06 (annual event). 3. Field Day 2006 – Announcements sent to Houston

Mayor, city newspaper, and three TV stations here in Houston. – June '06 4. Full-page article on NARS and Field Day activities published in "That Texas Magazine," (2006 June/July) an area periodical. Author K5UO **Emergency Communications** – 1. NARS Repeater is official backup for ARES District 14 emergency repeater. 2. NARS repeater is official ARES District 14 NWHC-ARES net repeater. 3. NARS has a new ARECC CCEP field examination team (K5GQ, KQ5U, N5NXS, K5OS, K5ZTY) to augment the NARS VE team. 4. ARES Presentation March '06

Technical Development – 1. APRS – September '05 – K5WH 2. FM Communications – April '04 – KD0RW 3. Home Grown State QSO Party Logging program – July '04 – NO5W 4. Weak Signal VHF Communications – August '04 – N5BA 5. Oscilloscopes – November '04 – KC5RCC 6. GPS Enabled Software for Mobile Contesting – Published May/June '06 NCJ – NO5W

Operating Activities – Club members co-ordinate or participate in various on-air operating events: Field Day (annual participation) – June '06; Club sponsored Texas QSO Party (since 1998) – September '06; Straight Key Night – Monthly during '05 – WF5W & W5PDW & Others; and Straight Key DXpedition (to Belize) – September '06 – WF5W & TDXS.

Miscellaneous Activities – 1. *Redd School Project* is a private school for pre-school and grades 1 through 9: NARS has supported an after school Ham Radio Club for the past 3 years; The Redd School club name is LABRATS: Learning About Research and Technology Through Science; The science teacher is a licensed Technician Class radio amateur and is in the process of up grading to a general class; The school has a complete HF, VHF, and UHF station on site and the school club meets 1 day a week after regular school classes; Last year we had 4 students and 2 parents pass the Technician class license with the parents going on to pass 1 element three and 1 element four. The class is now studying for the code; and We also build simple radio projects which teach the construction part of the hobby. 2. *Ham & Sheez* (NARS Women's organization 31% licensed amateur radio operators): *Handi-Hams* – Compiled and distributed literature about the organization in hospitals, clinics and rehabilitation centers throughout the Houston area; Easter baskets – assembled and distributed 100 Easter baskets full of candy, toys, and books for the families of the soldiers at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas; *Adopt-a-Platoon* – Adopted a platoon of 24 soldiers stationed in Iraq, sending small weekly communications and large monthly boxes of necessities for 11

months; Cookbook Project – produced a recipe book full of field-tested recipes from many club members to raise money for the charities we will be supporting this coming year. 3. *Introduction to Ham Radio* (June 2006): Program presented to Girl Scout Day Camp, The Woodlands, Texas, attended by 80 girls and parents. 4. *Monthly VEC Program*: VE sessions conducted 10 months each year. VEs typically conduct 2–3 additional special sessions each year. These sessions are administered through the NARS VEC's. 5. *NARS News*: Club newsletter published monthly distributed electronically and posted to the club website <http://www.w5nc.org>

Whew! I don't know about each one of you, but I'm proud to be a member. Thanks to each one of you, collectively we all define the Society, and we all promote Amateur Radio in the most positive ways possible.

Where do we go from here? Well, the two-year clock has been reset, and we members are now challenged to hold the bar high and continue these activities and promote amateur radio in the best positive way we can while enjoying the hobby we love.

How can we do this? We don't need to make any drastic changes, but we can't stop peddling either. Work from our present benchmark keeping our eyes open 1) to help those that want to join the hobby, 2) respond to the communication needs of our communities, 3) encourage every ham you meet, not a member of NARS, to be active and extend our membership to them, and 4) keep the club's open core positions filled. For example, the club Newsletter Editor, and Public Information Officer. With our club activities detailed previously, I think you can see how important filling these positions really is and what it means to the club as a whole.

We may not be the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, for example, but we have no reason to hang our heads. Your club activities put us in that league.

Congratulations everyone!

H. O. – K5CX
NARS Director 2006 – 2007

Note: NARS was chartered in 1985; on March 22, 1986 the charter members were successful in affiliating NARS with the ARRL. The following year, on February 24, 1987, NARS received its initial Special Service Club recognition. The Legend Continues!

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Bob Deaton KE5JKV and Ken Wilson KE5DFR.

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

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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, 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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