

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 2007



## August Meeting On the Road with NARS

The August program will be a double barreled extravaganza entitled "On the Road with NARS."

**Chuck NO5W** will have a pre-meeting slide show of past trips and will then give a short presentation on the upcoming Texas QSO Party.

**Paul W5PF and Cal WF5W** will then talk about their recent trip to Smuggler's Cove, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Between the TQP and BVI presentations, there will be an audience participation quiz covering past trips by NARS club members. Brush up on your NARS history and see how well you remember our Traveling Narsians.



L-to-R: Bill Frink -K5WAF, Cal White WF5W, Nancy Kott WZ8C,  
Bob Mennell -WB5IUU, Paul Frantz -W5PF

You know all of the guys. Nancy is the WorldRadio Magazine editor, and she is the FISTS US Coordinator.

**September Meeting**  
**ARRL West Gulf Division Director**  
**Coy Day - N5OK**

## Important Dates

**Friday, Aug 17, 7:30 PM** - General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, Aug 25, 8:30 AM** - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

**Tuesday, Aug 28, 7:30 PM** - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North**  
Aug 22 Sweet Tomatoes  
Aug 29 BJ's Restaurant & Brewery  
Sept 05 Casa Imperial Mexican  
Sept 12 Strack Farms  
Sept 19 Peppercchino

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West**  
Aug 22 Fajita Willies 290  
Aug 29 Jason's Deli  
Sept 05 Goode Co BBQ  
Sept 12 Skeeter's  
Sept 19 Charlie's Hamburgers

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center**  
Aug 22 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille  
Aug 29 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet  
Sept 05 Pappas Barbecue  
Sept 12 Fred's Italian Corner  
Sept 19 Dimassi's Med Buffet

**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 Road*  
*Saturdays*  
*7:30 AM*

## President's Corner

August - 2007

We are now well into the hurricane season and still no storms. That should not make us lax and we still need to be prepared, Batteries, Food, Water, and a safe place to go if necessary.

Please keep September 21st an open date. That is when ARRL'S West Gulf Division Director Coy Day N5OK will be our guest speaker for our General meeting. Look for more on this in the Future and in the next newsletter or check our web page.

I have a question? I have had several requests for the NARS shirts and Jackets. Please e-mail me if you are interested. If there is sufficient interest I then will contact the vendor for price and delivery.

[g\\_whiting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g_whiting@sbcglobal.net)

It is not too early to follow the club motto "get involved, what can I do for NARS" in 2008. There are open positions on the board, 2 Directors at Large, Secretary, Vice president. If interested please contact the Nominating committee:

H.O. Townsend K5CX or  
Marty Fitzgerald W5MF.

Lets get involved  
Jerry Whiting KB5VGD

## Public Service

*Your Radio Skills Are Needed*

**Bill Stietenroth - K5ZTY**

The Polaris District of the Boy Scouts of America put on an emergency preparedness round table here in northwest Harris County in June. Bill Rimmer, N5LYG, ARES District 14 Emergency Coordinator asked for volunteers to staff an Amateur Radio demonstration table at the event. NARS public service volunteers stepped up and put on a good display. Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD, Bill Skipper, KB5BS, Terry Myers, KQ5U, John Buoy, (Bill's little brother) K5JKB, Bill Rimmer, and I brought radios and literature and stirred up some interest from many of the attendees.

The county wide hurricane drill held on June 6th was not supposed to include a communications failure that required an Amateur Radio response but ARES jumped in anyway and activated some key emergency response sites. Transtar and Houston E.O.C were activated as well as numerous hospitals and other county agencies. NARS members were active at Northwest Medical Center and Methodist Willowbrook Hospital. Terry, KQ5U, Jerry, KB5VGD, Mark, AD5YV were at Northwest Med Center. Tom, KD5EIJ, Bill, KB5BS, Ron, W5RFI and I were at Methodist Willowbrook Hosp. We established direct VHF contacts both voice and digital between these hospitals, Harris County and Houston E.O.C.'s and E.O.C.'s in surrounding counties. It is important to have direct contact in an emergency because repeaters may be down. Also checking in to Transtar and Houston E.O.C.were: Pasadena E.O.C., Ft.Bend E.O.C., Community Response Center in Conroe, Nassau Bay E.O.C., Friendswood E.O.C., Reliant E.O.C., Galveston E.O.C., Chambers County E.O.C., Methodist Med Center, Methodist Baytown, Memorial Hospital Med

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## VE Session Results

**Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG**

**NARS VE Session Manager**

We had a total of five candidates - and they all passed!

Please welcome the latest additions to the best hobby in the world:

- Bill Stewart passed elements 2 & 3 to get his General - KE5PUU
- Jerry Seay passed element 2 for his Technician - KE5PUT
- Gloria Gochenour passed element 2 for her Technician - KE5PUR
- David Brown passed element 2 for his Technician - KE5PUQ
- Robert Dennis - K5ABN, passed element 3 to upgrade to General

Special thanks to the VEs in attendance for their time and hard work: Jim Kirk -KJ5X, Bob Walworth -N5ET, H.O. Townsend -K5CX, Mike Bragassa -K5UO, Martin Rogoff -N5GPS, Keith Dutson -NM5G, Sarah Connell -W0HXO, and John Westerlage -N5DWI.

The next session will be held on Saturday August 25.

If anyone has any questions please email me: [reynolds\\_eddy@yahoo.com](mailto:reynolds_eddy@yahoo.com)

# Redd School News

## W5LAB

### Jerry Whiting KB5VGD

Ms. Lollie Garay -KD5WZM has up graded to General class. She has applied for a club call for the LABRATS Radio club and the new call is W5LAB. The Students are looking forward to making contacts this fall with their new call. We have six or seven students that will continue from last year and we usually get a few new members after school starts.

Ms. Lollie has been accepted for an international expedition to Antarctica aboard the Icebreaker *Oden*. This expedition will start November 25, 2007 though January 9, 2008. Lollie Garay will journey across the world to participate in a unique co-operative endeavor between the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).

Along with researchers, teachers and other personnel from Sweden, and the United States, Ms. Garay will board the Swedish icebreaker *Oden* in Punta Arenas, Chile and travel to McMurdo Base in Antarctica, finally returning home via Christchurch, New Zealand.

The scientific objectives of the cruise are to collect a range of data in rarely traveled areas of the Antarctic seas and coastline, including the Bellingshausen, Amundsen, and eastern Ross Seas. An international research team will be studying the oceanography and biogeochemistry of the region while in transit to Antarctica. These studies will add to our limited knowledge of these remote corners of the Antarctic Seas and allow future researchers to expand their monitoring efforts in these regions.

Lollie teaches Earth and Space Science at Redd School in Houston, Texas, and

holds a Master of Science Teaching degree from Rice University. Her mission in teaching is to get students excited about science through active, real-time learning. She develops Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs for students, families, and teachers including after-school programs in Robotics, Engineering, Aeronautics, and Amateur Radio. Ms. Garay works with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Pre-College program, various NASA Science committees, is a Fellow with Baylor College of Medicine and the NASA MESSENGER Mission programs, and was a JASON Project XVII Teacher Argo. Ms. Garay believes polar education and public outreach are integral to creating change and developing environmental stewardship, and will use her expedition on the *Oden* to bring the science into the classroom.

## Public Service

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Center, Memorial Woodlands, St.Catherine Hospital, I-10 V.F.D.,and Houston Red Cross. And there are more sites needing Amateur Radio backup communications. There is an Amateur Radio set up at Ponderosa V.F.D. but no ham to operate it in this drill. We need more hams.

Commissioner Radick at Harris County Pct. 3 camp had asked for Amateur Radio backup communications there. Gregg, W5IDX, took the imitative and ordered and installed a first class VHF voice and digital backup radio system there. During the drill, Sharon, KC8EO, activated the station and exercised the voice and digital link between that camp, Transtar and Houston E.O.C.

Sunday, July 15th brought on the Katy Flatland Century bike ride. This ride covers four courses ranging from 33

miles to 100 miles and takes about 15 hams to cover the course that runs from Katy Mills Mall up toward Waller back to Bellville down near Sealy to Frydek to Wallis to Simonton to Brookshire to Fulshear and back to Katy Mills Mall. We used the W5BSA repeater that was recently upgraded by Haskel, W5HLM. It did a good job of covering the whole area. There were two ambulances and two first responder units covering the course along with 9 rest stops. All needed Ham radio communications. NARS members working that event included, Paul Owen, N5NXX, and his daughter Sarah, Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, Peter Wang, KF5ND, and Bill, K5ZTY. The net control operator was 17 year old Josh, KE5FGC, who is Paul's assistant net control of the Houston Marathon. Josh is getting good at handling a busy net.

## Contest Dates

Aug 18 NAQP SSB  
 Aug 18 NJQP  
 Aug 24 NCCC CW Sprint  
 Aug 25 Hawaii QP  
 Aug 25 Ohio QP  
 Aug 31 NCCC CW Sprint  
 Sept 1 All Asian DX  
 Sept 1 Russian RTTY WW  
 Sept 1 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint  
 Sept 1 RSGB SSB Field Day  
 Sept 1 IARU Region 1 Field Day  
 Sept 1 DARC 10-Meter Digital  
 Sept 4 MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint  
 Sept 4 ARS Spartan Sprint  
 Sept 8 WAE DX  
 Sept 8 Ark QP  
 Sept 8 ARRL Sept VHF QP  
 Sept 9 Tennessee QP  
 Sept 11 YLRL Howdy Days  
 Sept 14 NCCC CW Sprint  
 Sept 16 South Carolina QP  
 Sept 15 QRP Afield  
 Sept 15 Wash State Salmon Run  
 Sept 15 QCWA Fall QSO Party  
 Sept 16 North American Sprint

## Texas QSO Party 2007

### Chuck - N05W 2007 TQP Coordinator

Holy jalapeno NARSians the last few days have been hotter than a Texas chili cook-off. But I recall a couple of days a month or so ago when we had a little cool front come through. It was only a teaser of things to come but it reminded me that in only a few months fall will be here and, along with fall, a radio operating event that many operators in the club, as well as across Texas and the country look forward to each year. Of course I'm referring to the Texas QSO Party which is always the last full weekend in September. This year that means September 29-30. It's a two-day event starting at 0900 CDT on Saturday and breaking for the evening at 2100 CDT. Then it picks up again at 0900 CDT on Sunday and runs until 1500 CDT.

In case you're a new ham or have not operated the TQP in the past, the name of the event says it all.

- **Texas** - for that weekend operators and antennas across the globe are focused on Texas with the objective of contacting and exchanging information with as many Texas stations in as many different counties as possible. In 2006 there were a total of approximately 175 logs turned in containing a total of about 40,000 QSOs with 233 of the 254 Texas counties represented.
- **QSO** - valid contacts must at least include the two-way exchange of a signal report and a QTH but if you run into an ex-pat NARSian like N1LN (aka NC4KW) or a Walter of Hockenstein or just an old friend you're also encouraged to exchange a Texas howdy or a "how you been" before moving on to the next contact.

- **Party** - like all good parties the TQP is intended to be a fun event. Some folks think of it as a contest and go all out to try to win a new piece of lumber or wallpaper for the shack wall or to do better than their buddy across town, or to make some large number of contacts from a large number of counties. Others combine it with a camping or fishing trip taking their gear on the road to see what its like to operate from another county. When things get slow or the spirit moves them these folks have also been known to drop a line in the local river or the Gulf of Mexico. Others just see the TQP as a good excuse to take a nice road trip through Texas covering some rare Texas counties while testing out their mobile gear and their ability to handle pileups as they change county lines.

Whatever your orientation, and regardless of the time you can commit to operating the TQP, you'll find it to be a fun event. For those that are looking for more lumber for the shack wall we've got plaque sponsors for all of the first place finishers in each of the categories both inside and outside of Texas. We also have sponsors for a number of the second and third place plaques but could use a few more sponsors in these areas. If you are interested in sponsoring a second or third place plaque you can do so for only \$14.50. Contact the TQP Coordinator if you are interested. It's a good way to publicize the fact that you're an active radio operator.

Some of the most fun that can be experienced in the TQP is to operate as a mobile. Last year we had a total of thirty operators involved in mobile operations. If you're planning to operate mobile it's time to check out

your gear, get yourself a driver, get out the map, plan your route and then let everyone know of your plans by posting them on the website [www.txqp.org](http://www.txqp.org). It is also a good idea to post your plan on the county hunter's website [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com).

Most of the activity in the TQP is on HF but that shouldn't deter you from getting involved even if you don't currently have HF capability at your QTH. Check around to see if other members in the club might need another operator to help out in their multi-op or see if a mobile operator might be looking for a driver/co-operator.

So mark your calendars and make your plans now to participate in the 2007 Texas QSO Party. Consult the website [www.txqp.org](http://www.txqp.org) for additional details about the TQP and if you have questions please contact any of the TQP Committee members listed on the site.

Do the TQP in 2007 and show the world that ham radio is alive and well in Texas.

### TQP 2007

### September 29 & 30

## News Shorts

### From the ARRL E-Letter:

The FCC once again made clear that Part 97 "does not prohibit Amateur Radio operators who are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief from using their amateur radio bands while in a paid duty status." This changed this past December in WT Docket 04-140, the "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order (R&O).

Here is a very informative Web site for any amateurs who operate with TSA (as many Army MARS groups do now), law enforcement, etc: <<http://www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php>>

Real time information, and very useful.  
-- Les Rayburn, N1LF

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### Feedback ARES QSO Party Proposal

I presented your ARES HF QSO Party question to the South Texas section ARES Yahoo group via a one week poll. That group has 215 members, 36 of which answered the poll (17%). The poll question and results follow:

Would you support an ARES HF QSO Party over a weekend where operators would exchange call sign, signal report, county, section or state, and their ARES or emcomm titles?

NO - 6 - 16%

YES - 30 - 83%

I strongly recommend adopting the NA QSO Party contest format. Only two entry classes in that; single operator and multi-operator/two-transmitter, except no teams in this new contest, and maybe not the multi-two either. The NA QP are mode-specific with separate weekends for SSB, CW and RTTY; we need not do such, but allow all modes on the same

weekend. To me, the best parts of this format are that everyone is limited to 100 watts, and it is a 10-12 hour contest starting at noon Saturday. Perhaps different points could be awarded depending upon the person's appointment that you work; 1 point for ARES "member," 2 for AEC, 3 for EC/RO, 4 for DEC/DRO, etc. 1 point for SSB, 2 for CW or RTTY. We should provide suggested operating frequencies. <<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>>

Jerry Reimer, KK5CA  
South Texas SEC

We may have another contest weekend soon.

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### From the ARRL Letter:

ARRL Board of Directors Acts on Background Checks, Digital Issues at July Board Meeting.

A major concern at this Board meeting was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to function. The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to Memoranda of Understanding with the various served agencies.

The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks--performed by law enforcement agencies--are "generally acceptable." The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to

credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or renegotiating Memoranda of Understanding that commit the League to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers will not be required by the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports."

### NARS hosts program at Barbara Bush Library

Joe Sokolowski - KD5KR

In cooperation with the Barbara Bush Harris County Library, the Northwest Amateur Radio Society presented a short program on June 14th, introducing the public to Amateur Radio - Wireless Window to the World. This presentation was directed towards students from the surrounding areas of Northwest Houston. Each year, the public library schedules a variety of programs designed to stimulate the minds of kids while they are out of school for the summer. This was the perfect opportunity for NARS to do a little PR work and have some fun at the same time.

The presentation was but an hour in duration and consisted of the video produced by the Indian Hills Radio Club followed by a question and answer session. The attention span of teens are known to wander after a while, so keeping it short and to the point was important. While we did not exactly have a full house, there were enough attendees present to make the session worthwhile. In addition to the video, a display board was created to complement the variety of ARRL pamphlets available to those interested.

# Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome new members Frank Secor KB5VSY, Rob Riedel KE5PBM,  
John Cheatham W5BZO, Ron Blair W5WJB, and Jerry Seay.  
Also welcome back Waldo Kielkowski K5NC.

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY  
281-893-3901, [k5zty@juno.com](mailto:k5zty@juno.com)  
Allen Majeski WA5REJ  
281-353-8652, [wa5rej.tx@netzero.net](mailto:wa5rej.tx@netzero.net)  
Bill Denton W5SB  
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Madison Jones W5MJ  
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Deral Kent K5WNO  
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### Digital Modes:

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF  
281-251-4301, [fitz6@swbell.net](mailto:fitz6@swbell.net)

### VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA  
281-894-5942

### PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson NM5G 281-351-7683,  
[keith@dutson.net](mailto:keith@dutson.net)

### Building Electronics & Kits:

Mark Tyler K5GQ  
281-587-0256, [k5gq@juno.com](mailto:k5gq@juno.com)

### Interference (Basic Advice):

Terry Myers KQ5U  
281-443-6042,  
[tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net)

### Card Checking for Awards:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC  
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Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC  
281-894-5942

H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ  
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### NARS Public Information Officer:

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR  
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## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

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### VICE PRESIDENT

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Tom Adkins KD5EIJ

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### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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Send address, phone, email and other changes to:

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P. O. Box 90387  
Houston, TX 77090-0387

### NET

10M Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM, 28,444  
Coordinator: Open

### WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>  
Webmaster: Bill Buoy N5BIA  
281-370-3510, [n5bia@arrl.net](mailto:n5bia@arrl.net)

### NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.qth.net  
Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G  
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### TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W  
936-321-0053,  
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### VE SESSION (ARRL) Manager:

Eddy Reynolds K5WQG  
[eddy@k5wqg.us](mailto:eddy@k5wqg.us)

### 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  
Cypress Creek Christian Community  
Center, 6823 Cypresswood Drive

#### 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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Send all articles and materials for the newsletter to:

Editor: H. O. Townsend - K5CX  
281-376-7416 - [k5cx@arrl.net](mailto:k5cx@arrl.net)

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League  
ARRL Club No. 2120