



NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 2007

Editor's Note:

Due to a combination of unforeseen circumstances the News was unusually delayed this month and we sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

Field Day Recap

The plan for this year was to Keep It Simple. So instead of several towers and a large tent, push up poles and several smaller shelters were used. Set up began early Saturday morning and went quickly and smoothly. We set up CW, Phone, 6 meter and GOTA stations in quick time. All were on the air and running smoothly as Field Day started at 1:00PM local time.

Soon the clouds began to darken and the weather turned ominous. We learned that some heavy thunder showers were headed our way around 3:30PM. We secured as much as possible, but we were hit by 40 - 50 mph wind gusts and heavy rain. It was a mad scramble to cover and protect equipment as a couple of the shelters were blown away and the horizontal rain got into the others. We also lost the tribander for the Phone station when a guy for the push up pole failed.

After the storm passed the situation was assessed. The parking and road areas which were already slick were now even worse. We were not sure if we could get all the vehicles out due to the mud and more rain was predicted. We would have to come up with new antennas for the phone station and some new shelters. It was decided to pack up the equipment and see if we could get everyone out of the site. We did finally get everyone out of the mud and on their way home, but it took KJ5X's 4 wheel drive Tahoe to get our friend from Bedias on his way. Several participants ended up with a (free) mud bath after helping to push the stuck vehicles.

Once again we were reminded that a Field Day site in Houston has to be able to withstand heavy rains. I have an idea next year's site will have a covered pavillion and paved parking.

Paul W5PF

Our recent experience at Field Day was an experience that may have been far more beneficial than we might believe. The stated objective of the activity was to gain experience in emergency situations and under abnormal conditions. We gained some valuable experience. Should we ever be called on to enter true disaster conditions, understanding the requirements to sustain strong winds and driving rain in an exposed situation may shape our plans and preparations in ways that will facilitate our success.

Ken KA5AKG

Important Dates

Friday, June 20, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, July 28, 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, July 31, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

All Year 2007, CQDX Marathon
July 28-29 RSGB IOTA Contest
Aug. 4-5 10-10 Summer SSB
Aug. 4-5 NAQP CW
Aug. 11-12 WAE DX CW

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

July 25 Pepperchino
Aug 1 Luby's Cafeteria
Aug 8 Jason's Deli
Aug 15 Baker Street Pub
Aug 22 Sweet Tomatoes

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

July 25 Charlies Hamburgers
Aug 1 Cafe Express
Aug 8 Willies Grill 290
Aug 15 Fuddruckers 290
Aug 22 Fajita Willies

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

July 25 Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet
Aug 1 Jason's Deli
Aug 8 Buffalo Grille
Aug 15 DJ's Olde Timey Hamburgers
Aug 22 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grill

Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

11:00 AM Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport

Notice

NARS membership dues: \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

Deadline for articles to appear in next issue is the last day of this month.

BREAKFAST
at Denny's
7720 Louetta
Saturdays
7:30 AM

President's Corner

Field Day for 2007 is over. It was shortened due to the storm that blew in. In the 3-½ hours of operating we had 53 hams and guest sign in. There were some that did not, but all in all that was a good turn out. Station captains; if you haven't turned in you logs please do so. We still plan on sending in the results. That is part of being a full service club.

The up coming meeting July 20th is going to be on solar power. Our guest speaker is Dan Brech owner and president of local EPO. This should be an interesting topic. There were several stations at field day that were powered by solar power (before the storm).

Our next big event is TQP in the end of September. Look for more information in the future.

The September general meeting will be a special event for NARS. We will be hosting a multi club presentation with the West Gulf Division Director, Coy C. Day N5OK. All clubs in the area are invited to attend. Look for more information on this in the up coming Newsletters.

Enjoy the summer months, stay dry and remember this year's motto "Get involved, What can I do for Nars".

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD

Field Day Pictures de Eddy K5WQG



The usual NARS Welcome Tent and a couple of the regulars.



The Salvation Army Disaster Services Mobile Kitchen provided the coffee and cooked the hot dogs while Old Genny provided the power.



Bill has a couple newcomers on the air at the GOTA station.



The crew at the SSB station making a run before the winds came and knocked down their tribander.



So that's how Danny manages the high speed CW

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
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NARS Resource List

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PC Programming and Web Design:

Keith Dutson NM5G
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Building Electronics & Kits

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Interference (Basic Advice):

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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 7:30PM
Cypress Creek Christian Community Ctr
6823 Cypresswood Dr

Saturday Breakfast

Denny's 7720 Louetta 7:30AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30AM

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:
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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League.

ARRL Club 2120