

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 2008



April Meeting

HF Amplifiers

Our own Tom Rum -W5RUM is the featured speaker at the clubs April meeting. Tom's presentation is on HF Amplifiers. He will have the hood-up on one of the more contempary amps the Tokyo Hi-Power *HF Solid State Linear Amplifier HL2.5KFX*. This is their flagship amplifier.

Tom's presentation will include a short slide presentation about using amplifiers in general, and using "solid state" amplifiers. As you know, using a solid-state amps is a little different than using a tube-type amp!

There will be several units for people to view up-close after the presentation. Tom will also have the matching auto tuner and the new Toyko Hi-Power mobile amp.



April Meeting

Friday the 18th!

Important Dates

Friday, Apr 18, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, Apr 26, 2008 - 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Los Cosco Restaurant Apr 16th
Spring Creek Barbeque Apr 23rd
Pepperchino Apr 30
Luby's Cafeteria May 7th
Jason's Deli May 14th
Baker Street Pub and Grill May 21st

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Fajita Willies W. Little York Apr 16th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Apr 23rd
Fajita Willies W. Little York Apr 30th
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy May 7th
Skeeters May 14th
Fajita Willies W. Little York May 21st

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Pappas Barbecue Apr 16
Fred's Italian Corner Apr 23rd
New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Apr 30th
Jason's Deli May 7th
Buffalo Grille May 14th
DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers May 21st

"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
April - 2008*

Well, it seems our little "help session" can't seem get itself going at the start of the meeting (7:15-7:30)

On a given meeting night there are usually only 3-4 new hams present; and 3-4 different new hams the next month. Boy, it would be great to get ALL of you new(er) members at each meeting, together.

Having a helping session at the start is not working, though. We need some ideas, members, on how to help the new members with any radio setup, antenna setup, etc. problems they may have. My mailbox is waiting.

Part of the solution has been there all along, assuming you all do read the newsletter each month. On the back page there is a section that has been in the newsletter....forever: "NARS Resource List". This is a list of ten members who have volunteered to help any member, new or older, with various problems. They have volunteered their email address, telephone number. I'll bet they will find and answer to the problem you are having. If they don't know the solution, they can find another member who can find the solution.

...And, there it was all of the time!

Make sure you have done some research...already. With the easy availability of the internet, you can find out information about any subject.

Please make use of these help-volunteers. And, there it was all of the time!

Shortly, we will be getting serious about the June Field Day. Be ready to help your club and volunteer for a job that needs to be done during Field day. I am looking for a volunteer to be Phone/SSB team Leader and the GOTA Team Leader.

These team leaders will need operators. Get those hands up in the air members.

.Already, Colin Jenkins, KU5B, has volunteered to be CW Team Leader. To spread the workload out and have some organization I will have Bill, K5ZTY, as our Antenna Team Leader. He will design the layout of antenna's and what antenna's to be used for each team. We need to avoid any radio interference amongst the teams.

Members, we need your help. Please grab off a little bit of these jobs and spread the workload out. You receive from a club just about what you put into it. Improve your benefits.

VE Session Results

*Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager*

Here are the VE Test Session Results for Saturday, March 22nd.

We had a total of 6 candidates. Please welcome the latest addition to the hobby:

- Armando Mendoza - KE5TPZ - Technician
- Michael Stone - KE5TQA - Technician

Congratulations to the upgrades:

- Chris Brown - KE5IOR - General
- Earl Pack - KD5TSI - General
- Henry Tarver - KE5TCE - General
- Ellie Holden - W5BDE - Extra
- Lawrence Kendall - KE5TCG - Extra

Special thanks to the VEs in attendance for their time and hard work: Martin Rogoff - N5GPS, Bob Walworth - N5ET, Tom Rum - W5RUM, Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX

The next session will be held on Saturday, April 26th at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market St. & S. Cherry St.

Parking is in the rear (south side) of the building.

The entrance is on the S. Cherry St. (west) side of the building.

April Meeting

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DX NEWS

"For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print"

Mike Bragassa - K5UO
NARS DX Editor.

DX...IS !

DX IS what you make of it!

Many thanks for the responses to my forever-request for DX, etc. information.

The big DX thing this last 30-45 days has been several high profile DXpeditions. All of these followed the very great VP6DX DXpedition which was a hard act to follow. That aside, 9X0R Rwanda, 5T5DC, Mauritania, TX5C Clipperton Island and even our own home-grown group at 5J0E San Andreas Island were very active only recently. I heard numerous members in the chase for a contact.

NARS not be a DX club, per se; but let me tell you there are more Dxr-members than you would think.

All of the above groups were active all-bands and all-modes, even RTTY. This was a good opportunity for a relatively new DXer to log some band and mode counters. Even though you might not be interested in 5 band DXCC; or better yet, 9-band DXCC, today, you never know how your interests will change; and they do change.

Sometimes these rare locations only get activated every 10 years or so.. Get 'em now!

Members Activity:

1. Colin, KU5B's month of March had some nice 'new band country' additions:

- TR8CA, Gabon-40m CW
- TX5C, Clipperton-10, 15, 20m: CW/SSB, 12m SSB, 40m CW
- D2NX, Angola- 20m CW
- 9X0R, Rwanda- 20m SSB
- 5T5DC, Mauritania-20m CW, 40m CW/SSB
- H44MS, Solomon Islds-15m SSB

- CE0Z/DL2AH, Juan-Fernandez Isl-10m SSB

Thanks a lot, Colin, and keep up the good DX efforts! Start working those band/mode-counters...now, to reap the benefit in the future.

2. John ("Juan"), W5PDW, reports from deep in the piney woods, that the DX gods have been good to him this past month. Worked the TDXS locals at 5J0E, San Andreas Isl. On 20 and 40m SSB. (Ed's note: The 5J0E QSO's are on the LoTW already; thanks to their QSL manager, Paul, W5PF.)

John also worked TX5C, Clipperton Isl. on 10/ 15 m. SSB; 5T5DC on 10/ 15m SSB; HQ8R Swan Island (IOTA) on 40/ 15m SSB and 9X0R Rwanda on 15 SSB. John, totally, logged for March, about 145 DX contacts. He worked 14 DX countries on 160 meters with his "Chicken Wire Special". Business was good and had fun jumping into the pileups, he reports.

John also reports receiving his FJ/OH2AM QSL card for St Barthemely Island. He also reports that he is standing by on "go" for any local DXpedition that needs a photographer. His satchel is packed and waiting!

"PDW" had another new discovery! He discovered a use for another mysterious knob on his Icom 775-DSP. These new radios are that way, John. Not like the Atlas 210X with three knobs!

3. N1LN, a.k.a. NC4KW, Bruce, our "Right Coast" correspondent reports that tower and antenna construction is going along very well. He is almost "there". He has squeezed in some time to keep his DXCC band/mode efforts going after too long a period with no antenna's. With temporary antenna's here and there, Bruce reports:

9X0R, Rwanda: 80CW, 40SSB/CW, 30CW and 17/20SSB. 5T5DC, Mauritania: 160, 20 CW; 80/40SSB; 80/15CW. TX5C, Clipperton: 40/80/160CW. XU7ACY, Cambodia: 20CW

(ed: Nice from east coast); BA1RB, China: 20CW; BD1NNI, China: 20SSB; D2NX, Angola: 12/20CW (ed: 12m: Nice!); 5X1NH, Uganda: 40CW; SY8JZ, Greece: 80CW; VQ9LA, Chagos: 160CW (ed: A GOOD one on 160m!)

All-in-all, on 160m he has moved from 121 DXCC entities to 137.

4. Mike, K5UO, Le columnist du newsletter, like all DXers was in the chase for band-mode counters with the recent abundance of DXpeditions, e.g. 5T5DC, 9X0R, TX5C, et all. Now sitting at 170 DX entities worked on 160m; 268 worked on 80m and a new chase has started: RTTY. After all of these years I have bit the bullet and started RTTY.

It seems that digital modes like RTTY have become very popular worldwide. The big Dxpeditons are incorporating RTTY in their plans.

Three weeks RTTY active and 56 DXCC entities worked. Best DXCC entity worked: R1FJT Franz Joseph Land!

DX Happenings:

1. 6W, Senegal: Active by six Swedish operators will be two stations April3-14, SSB, CW and digi modes.

2. 9N7JO, Nepal, LA7JO, all bands/modes, until June 30th. QSL to Stig's Thailand address. This area has been difficult in this phase of the sunspot cycle.

3. Canada, VC2VQ. A special call during April, by the Club Radio Amateur de Quebec. (www.crag.qc.ca) 400 year anniversary of Quebec City. All Quebec Province hams can use VG2 or VX2 prefixes during this celebration. QSL to VE2CQ.

4. Bosnia & Herzegovina, formerly "T9" is now "E7" as in E7A-E7Z prefix.

NARS Website Updates

Bill Bouy - NSBIA

NARS Webmaster

The NARS website is moving to a new server. We have been testing the new server for the past few months and are now ready to make the move permanent. The new link to the NARS website is <http://www.w5nc.net>. Please update your Favorites bookmarks. For the next few months, you will be automatically redirected to the new location, but when the present hosting contract expires, NARS will not renew it.

You will not notice any immediate difference in the appearance or operation of the website. The principal benefit from the change is that we now have improved administrative control of the site as well as support for new features.

The first new feature we have added is an improved club membership database. With the old server, the roster was a static list that could be as much as three months out of date. With the new hosting service, we have the necessary

features on the server to support an on-line database. We can make select information from the club membership database directly available via the internet. The membership expiration information you get from the website is the most current information available. When Joe updates his records, that information is instantly available on the website.

We are also improving the security of that information. With the old list, the email address field was altered in a way obvious to a human reader but not necessarily to an email harvest program. At least that was the way it is supposed to work. While a simple character swap may have been enough to discourage spammers in the past, harvesting the addresses is a trivial exercise today.

In the new membership list, the callsign field is a link to QRZ.com. When you click the link, the QRZ.com page will open in a new window or tab with the information about that call displayed. Why QRZ? Two reasons. The first reason is that it is up to you whether you

want to list an email address and which one you want to make publicly available. The second is that the email address shown would be difficult for spammers to harvest. And third, this is the address information available on-line through the FCC.

There is also a link to a membership information update request on the club officers and members page.

If you change any of your registration information such as callsign, street address, phone numbers, or email addresses, please use this form to advise us of the change. Please get in the habit of using this form to update your information because this form is the first step of an improved update notification method I am working on.

This is the first of several planned additions and enhancements to make w5nc.net better serve the needs of the club. Bookmark the club web page and check back often to stay abreast of club activities.

DX (cont)

5. A7 - Qatar: Bill, NM7H (YI9WF), intends to return to Qatar in early April as A7/G0MKT through middle of June. Bill prefers CW on 40 through 6 m, using SSB and PSK now and then. QSL to NM7H direct or via bureau. (ed note: I knew him from my Casper Wyoming days.)

6. YK Roger/G3SXW, Nigel/G3TXF, Fred/G4BWP, Lionel/G5LP and Rob/GM3YT will operate CW only as YK9G from Damascus, Syria on 9-15 April. Two stations with amplifiers will be QRV full-time. The team will have antennas for all bands (160-10m), but 40-17 meters are likely to provide most openings. They will transmit on

frequencies ending in '3' (always listen up 1-2+ KHz) and will concentrate on the US West Coast whenever propagation permits, even though Damascus is somewhat blocked in that direction. QSL via G3TXF (direct, bureau, LotW and e-mail for bureau reply). The web page for the expedition is at www.yk9g.com.

KD5KR hosts laminating service at April meeting

Once a year I drag my equipment down to a NARS meeting and offer my services for those who may have need of documents that require laminating. If you have something that you need to save for posterity, such as your FCC

license or social security card, April is the time to get it done. This offer may not be repeated for another twelve months and is free to NARS members exclusively. I can laminate documents business card size up to 8-1/2 x 10, but

please, keep it reasonable in quantity, unless, of course, you have a fist full of Abe Lincoln's and are ready to make me an offer I can't refuse. (Oh yeah, Dude, we can work somethin' out, like, in milliseconds...)

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
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Digital Modes:

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PC Programming and Operations:

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keith@dutson.net

Building Electronics & Kits:

Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com

Interference (Basic Advice):

Terry Myers KQ5U
281-443-6042,
tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net

Card Checking for Awards:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC
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Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC
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H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ
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NARS Public Information Officer:

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
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NARS Information

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Send address, phone, email and other
changes to:

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

NETS

10-Meter Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM,
28.444 MHz Coordinator: Open

2-Meter Wedneaday Night: 8:00 PM,
146.06/66 MHz, Coordinator; Jerry
KB5VGD

WEB SITE

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

NARS REFLECTOR

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TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W
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VE SESSION (ARRL) Manager:

Eddy Reynolds K5WQG
reynolds_eddy@yahoo.com

REPEATERS (KA5AKG)

2-m: 146.06/146.66 MHz Tone: 141.3
70 cm: 444.375/449.375 MHz 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)

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