

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 2008



August Meeting

Texas QSO Party and a Rummage Through a Mobile Contester's Toolkit

It's August again, and time to get ready to take part in the 2008 running of the Texas QSO Party.

In the August program we'll talk briefly about the upcoming TQP including What, When, Where it is, and how you can get involved. Then we'll follow that with a general discussion on mobile operation and in particular mobile contesting. The "vehicle" for this discussion will be a rummage through the mobile toolkit of NO5W as Chuck prepares to put his mobile station back together following a long summer hiatus from mobile contesting. The rummage will include a brief discussion of mobile antennas of several varieties -resonators, screwdrivers, ham sticks- mounting devices and controllers. Other things that might be found in the toolkit include: radios and mobile radio mounts, ground straps, high-tech night vision aids, aids for the driver, power distribution, auxiliary batteries and power gates, USB port expanders, WinKeys, Palm Keys, Car Keys, GPS, laptops, laptop power supplies, operating desks, software for the mobile contester, and the all important box to contain some of this stuff so its not floating around in the vehicle.

Because of time constraints it'll be a quick tour. And, although it will be oriented toward mobile contesting, even if you're mostly interested in mobile rag chewing you should find something of interest and perhaps an idea or two for your mobile setup. Veteran mobile ops should come prepared to share their knowledge base of mobile hints and kinks. Novice mobile ops and mobile op wannabees should come prepared to ask questions of the veterans. .



Important Dates

Friday, August 15, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, August 23rd, 2008 - 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Spring Creek Barbeque Aug 13th
Pepperchino Aug 20th
Luby's Cafeteria Aug 27th
Jason's Deli Sept 3rd
Baker Street Pub and Grill Sept 10th
Sweet Tomatoes Sept 17th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Fajita Willies W. Little York Aug 13th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Aug 20th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Aug 27th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Sept 3rd
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Sept 10th
Skeeters Sept 17th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Prima Pasta Aug 13th
New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Aug 20th
Jason's Deli Aug 27th
Buffalo Grille Sept 3rd
DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers Sept 10th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Sept 17th

"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 - 2008

Get ready, get set, GO!

The Texas QSO Party is almost upon us. So get your mobile setup ready and tested to run the roads and put out some counties. Save up your sheckles...now... for the added fuel expense; it's a luxury you can budget and later enjoy! Don't come up in September saying you can't afford the fuel.

Maybe get together with one or more members and "go mobile". All can pitch into the fuel budget...and all can do some operating while mobile. Maybe get one of the newer hams to go with you to split driving, operating and ...the fuel expenses. This would make for some good 'newbie' experience.

Incidentally we probably have more old-timer mobiles than any Houston club. Get hold of one of these guys if you're having a problem getting your mobile setup.

If you can't go mobile, please participate from your home station. Maybe get several members together to run a single fixed station chasing Texas mobiles. Keep one callsign going all of the time with 2, 3 or 4 operators.

Whether it be mobile or fixed, please give some thought to buddying up for TQP. It's fun and you will run across a lot of fellow hams that you know already or will soon, some day. Just like old 'home week'.

For the near future and perhaps for a long time to come, we are going with the "why go outside, we are the pro's" concept for our monthly meetings. We have a lot of talent amongst our fellow members. Talent that can be introduced to other members. I'm not talking about...just...training for our newer ham's, but trainingor introduction to some of us old timers.

VE Session Results

Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

Here are the Saturday, July 26th VE Test Session Results:

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

- Denise "DD" Drexler - KE5VSZ - Technician
- Jesse Pendergrass - KE5VSY - Technician
- Darron Morrell - KE5VSX - Technician

Congratulations to the upgrades:

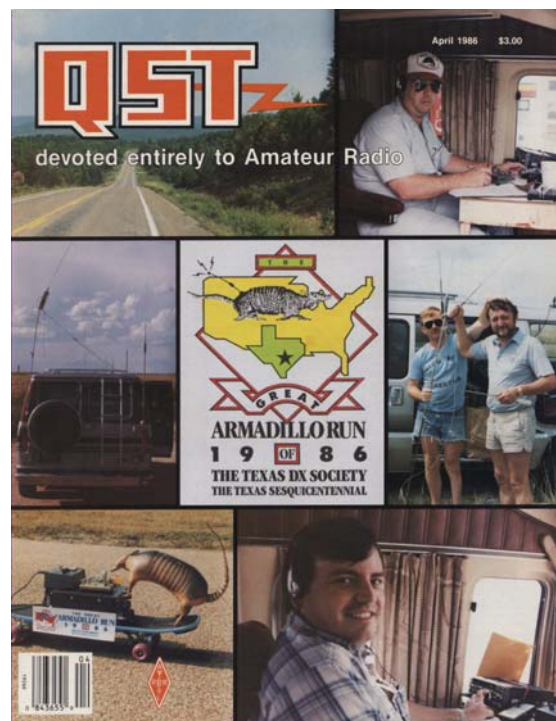
- Jerry Seay - KE5PUT - Passed element 4 for Extra
- James Summerford - N0LHN, who passed both element 3 and 4 for Extra

Special thanks to the VEs in attendance for their time and hard work:

- Keith Dutton - NM5G
- Chet Farley - KG6YF
- Jim Kirk - KJ5X
- Martin Rogoff - N5GPS
- Tom Rum - W5RUM
- H. O. Townsend - K5CX

The next session will be held on Saturday, August 23rd 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.



Around the Circuit

Mike Bragassa - K5UO
President's Column (cont)

It appears that there is a fair number of older ham's that are not fully familiar or have hands-on experience with Log Of The World (LOTW). How about some of the digital modes: same thing. All in all, there is a wealth of subjects that make for good club programs.

This will be a two-part project: One, we will need volunteers to teach subjects.

You may be asked and please respond positively. And for the benefit of our newer members, we need your attendance at our meetings. I feel that the newer ham attendance is...lacking. Folks, we are trying to help and make it an enjoyable experience. Please give us your ideas...and your participation.

As we approach officer nomination month in September, please give some thought to new officers for your club for

next year. What can you do to help; to give balance? Who do you know that would be a good candidate for an office in 2009 or beyond?

You get out of something what you put into it. Sure, this is a cute old saying, but you know what: It's very true.

Tnx es 73 de Mike, K5UO

NN3SI - QRT Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History ARS

H. O. Townsend - K5CX
Newsletter Editor

From *QRZed dot COM*: NN3SI went on the air from the Smithsonian Institute's - National Museum of History and Technology in 1976.

For most of the three-million visitors to the Museum annually, during the 32-years of operation, it was the first and possibly the only amateur radio station that they had every seen. The volunteer control operators of NN3SI were quick to point out to them the value of amateur radio as a national resource for emergency communications, trained operators, technicians and engineers as well as an outstanding hobby.

NN3SI was originally located in the exhibition called A Nation of Nations. It helped celebrate the 1976 Bi-Centennial of our

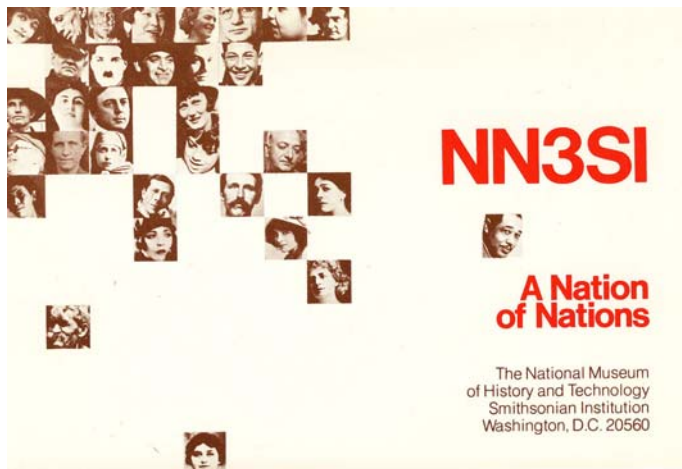
Country. The Federal Communications Commission co-operated with the Smithsonian by issuing call sign NN3SI, an unusual one for the time. On July 31, 2008, NN3SI ceased operation from the Museum for an indefinite closure of the station. A QSL card is available for previous two-way contacts made with NN3SI.

I think the whole point is that we cannot stand to lose a single icon such as NN3SI.

My station back then consisted of a Swan 350 loaned to me by Mike -N5MS, no amp, my Mosley Classic 33, mounted at 40 on a single piece steel tower strapped to our chimney.

The thrill of busting a state-side pile-up from Oklahoma was like a 5-year old reaching for a large bag of M & M's.

73 - H. O.



HO
Tx for the
QSO Ray WA4CLQ
73
AA4SI

A Nation of Nations
Exhibit Center
Smithsonian Institution

2346 Louise Lane
Norman Okla

Confirming Contact

Radio	Date	GMT
WA5MLT	DEC 30 77	1755
MHZ	Mode	RST
21310	SSB	59
		Watts
		150

73071

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome to our newest members:

Bob Norris KE5UIP, Steve Mueller KE5UIS, Tim Ford KD5ITM, Harry Mallery KE5TCF, Doug Lewis KE5UXF.

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
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net
Madison Jones W5MJ
281-350-4330, w5mj@hal-pc.org
Deral Kent K5WNO
281-548-7476, k5wno@juno.com

Digital Modes:

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281-251-4301, fitz6@swbell.net

VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA
281-894-5942

PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson NM5G 281-351-7683,
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
281-292-2221, rwalworth@charter.net

Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC
281-894-5942

H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

NARS Information

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Mike Bragassa K5UO
936-273-4010
bragassa@consolidated.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Owen N5NXS
281-894-7758
n5nxs@flash.net

SECRETARY

Chuck Sanders NO5W
936-273-6930,
no5w@consolidated.net

TREASURER

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

DIRECTORS

Brian Derx N5BA
281-894-5942
n5ba@qsl.net

Joe Chambers KF5AT

281-825-1634
jmchambers@myway.com

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF

281-251-4301, fitz6@swbell.net

Tom Adkins KD5EIJ

281-447-4347, tom_sts@hotmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

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

NARS@mailman.qth.net
Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W
936-273-6930, no5w@consolidated.net

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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281-376-7416 - k5cx@arrl.net

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American Radio Relay League
ARRL Club No. 2120