

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 2008



December

Show - N - Tell

A big part of our ham radio activity is volunteering for public service events. Many opportunities are available for the new as well as the experienced ham if you just know where to look. Our guest speaker this month will be Mike Hardwick of the MS150 fame.

Well folks it's show-n-tell time again. No guest speakers are required this month's meeting and that's because you're the star of this show. We want to see your homebrew gear or kit projects of any sort. It doesn't matter how simple or complicated it may be we're interested. Home brewing and kit building was once a big part of ham radio. Some of the old timers in our club can remember converting surplus military equipment for use in the ham bands or scavenging old television sets for the transformers and sweep tubes.



Military ARC-5

The fine art of operating ORP lends itself well to the art of homebrewing as many tried and proven designs are available for a minimal investment.



This is the famous

Tuna-Tin-2

Featuring
Charlie the Tuna
on the front

If you think making contacts on the local repeaters is problematic at times try being rockbound with only 1 watt to play with. If you have any of this gear, bring it to the meeting so we can all appreciate it.

Important Dates

Friday, December 19, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, January 24th, 2009
- 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Luby's Cafeteria Dec 17th
Jason's Deli Dec 24th
Baker Street Pub and Grill Dec 31st
Sweet Tomatoes Jan 7th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery Jan 14th
Marco's Jan 21st

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Fajita Willies W. Little York Dec 17th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Dec 24th
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Dec 31st
Skeeters Jan 7th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jan 14th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jan 21st

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Dec 17
Prima Pasta Dec 24
Jason's Deli Dec 31
Buffalo Grille Jan 7
DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers Jan 14
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Jan 21

"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 newsletter is the last day of this month.

BREAKFAST

at Denny's

7720 Louetta Road

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

December - 2008

Our new officers for 2009 were elected this past week at our monthly meeting.

1. Vice-President: Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ, replacing Paul Owen, N5NXS, who automatically becomes President for 2009.

2. Secretary: Larry Kendall, K5END, replaces Chuck Sanders, NO5W, whose term will run-out this year. We thank Chuck for a fine job as secretary.

3. Director: Chet Farley, KG5YF, replacing Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ.

4. Director: Brian Derx, N5BA, who won re-election.

5. Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, Treasurer / Administrator, who won re-election.

Going forward for another term-year are:

1. Director: Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF

2. Director: Joe Chambers, KF5AT

Please give your support to this new team during this coming year.

Speaking of this coming year and mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter this month: Please do not forget your clubs annual January banquet coming up January 16, 2009 at the Wyndehaven Terrace. Please get your reservation ticket payment in ASAP.

The annual NARS-Salvation Army Bell-ringer commitment was held Saturday, November 29 at the two entry doors of Wal-Mart on Highway 249 and Spring-Cypress Road. From all reports a blast was had by all participants. Most of us were in uniform this year with our Santa Claus hat's on. The people passing by were very respectful and cheerful to us and most put a little something in the Salvation Army bucket. With maybe some hesitation by most of us when all of this began last year has turned into a real fun-thing. I think it is the happiness shown by the people passing by. Thanks to those that participated in the event. This was coordinated with the Salvation Army by Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD as thanks for the Salvation Army's onsite presence and chow-wagon at our annual Field Day.

VE Session Results

*Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager*

Since normal test session dates conflict with Thanksgiving and Christmas, the next session will not be until next year. It will be on Saturday, Jan 24th 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.

Also, the fee for 2009 will increase from \$14 to \$15.

The rules concerning multiple elements and repeating failed elements will remain the same - you will be able to take multiple elements for the same amount, and repeat exams for the same element at the same test session will require paying the \$15 fee again.

*Mike Bragassa - K5UO
President's Column (cont)*

Special Announcement!

This months meeting on December 19 will be our annual Show-N-Tell program. This takes participation by you, the members, to put together a little 5-10 minute display of something you have built, developed or whatever. If you think about it, drop Tom, KD5EIJ or myself an email letting us know you have something to Show and Tell. We all will be looking forward to your project. If you need any type of audio-visual equipment, please let Tom Atkins or myself know in advance.

DX Tip of the season!

This time of year is the time for radio contests. There are numerous contests available every weekend and for almost every mode whether it be CW, RTTY or SSB..

For those new to DXing or aspiring to work DX, this is the time of year to get into contesting. You can do it without submitting any results. You need them as new countries and they need you for points.

Usually, the contests start at 0:00 (UTC-Saturday) Friday evening or about 6:00 PM local time and run until the same time Sunday evening. Other contests may have a different start and finish time. Go to the ARRL or CQ Magazine contest sections and see what is coming up. That is almost every weekend. Just this last weekend (Nov 29-30) I was able to contact 40 countries on my single band effort on 80 meters in the CQ WW CW contest.

This has got to be the best way to dramatically and quickly improve your DXCC country count!

Go gettem'

73 de Mike, K5UO

2009 NARS Banquet Announcements

Paul Owen- N5NXS **NARS Vice-President**

This year we are doing some different things at the banquet. No, we still will give out the awards to some very deserving members and make some bad jokes during the meal. The dinner menu will be a little different. It will be from the Italian menu for chicken and pasta. I hope most will approve of this change.

Mark Sloan from the Harris County Office of Emergency Management will be the guest speaker. Mark was the right hand man during the Ike Hurricane recovery for Judge Emmet. He was also in charge of the CERT program when it started under Judge Eckels. Then there will be some great singing by a barber shop quartet call The Quorum. They are a local group that sings in

competition events and should not be missed. I just did not want our NARS Pickers, have to work for another banquet in a row for there meal. They do work very hard at keeping up there skills during the off season but maybe we can get them to play at the some times annual NARS Picnic.

Joe Sokolowsky - KD5KR

Another year has passed and we are fast approaching the NARS Annual Awards Banquet. This event marks the twenty-third year that NARS has been in existence. Clubs come and go with time, but it's satisfying to know that NARS with its 180 plus members is still a healthy and vibrant organization after all these years. It is only fitting that we celebrate, once again, our good fortune by gathering together to enjoy good eats, good conversation with our companions and to recognize the accomplishments of those who have worked so hard to keep NARS what it is today.

In order for us to have a party, we need to know who will be attending, and that's where you come in. As usual, reservations are limited, so you need to get your name on the list as soon as possible. Here are the details:

When: Friday, January 16, 2009. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Wyndehaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Road, about ½ mile south of FM 1960.

Cost: \$20.00 per person. Banquet will be buffet of an Italian flavor. (New for 2009!) Adult refreshments available at additional cost.

One problem we had to address was the way we handled the reservations and

payment. Previously, we were burdened with a number of reservations that promised to pay at the door but never showed up. Unfortunately, NARS had to pay for those "no-shows." This year we must insist that payment accompany your reservations. No money will be collected at the door. Cancellations and refunds will be honored up to seven days prior the banquet date. Once we give Wyndehaven Terrace the final count, that's it. You're locked in! Your understanding is appreciated.

Reservations can be made by mailing in your check with the names of those wishing to attend, to NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston 77290-0387. It may seem early, but this annual event is only a few weeks away.

Merry Christmas

NARS Rings the Bell for Salvation Army

Joe Sokolowsky - KD5KR

NARS came out in force to assist the Salvation Army in their annual fund raising campaign. Sixteen of our members volunteered their time on Saturday, November 29th and manned

the collection buckets at Wal-Mart on US 249 and Spring Cypress Road. The results aren't in yet, but we were hoping to beat last year's collection amount of \$1132. Ken Scott, Northwest Corp. Red Kettle coordinator, will be giving us a report in the near future as to whether

we achieved our goal for this year. Last year's event turned out to be the largest collection that the Army has ever collected in the area and was again coordinated by Jerry Whiting KB5VGD.

Thanks to all that participated in this worthy cause.



Happy New Year

2008 Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs

Paul Owen- N5NXS
NARS Vice-President

Some of us got an early start at the Friday night banquet at the Sheraton Hotel on JFK. I saw Bill Stietenroth and XYL, Tom Atkins, Kyle Atkins, Ray Clutts, Joe Sokolowski, Jerry Whiting, Mark Bayern and Eddy Reynolds. It was a very good dinner and they got to go through the Sunmart stuff and fill a big bag with gloves, poncho, note book, shirts and hats. Saturday's weather for this year's race was a little cooler but the temperature at the start of the race was in the low 30's. Thank goodness for the hot coco. It got warm for a couple of hours in the early afternoon and then the clouds started to roll in which made the temperature go back down. This made the runs go very smooth and the runners finished early. The morning crew was Bill K5ZTY, Jeff KE5FGA, Jerry KB5VGD, Kevin K5WTF, Larry K5END, Mark AD5SS, Mark K5GQ, Paul N5NXS, Ray N5VRT, Rob KD5BXZ, Terry KQ5U, Tom KD5EIJ and Kyle KE5SWK. We met at the Wells Fargo Bank on North Freeway at

5am and left a little late because some where slow in getting up so early. We then headed for Huntsville State Park to provide communications for the Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs, an ultra marathon on foot trails for approximately 800 runners. There were two races, one was 50 miles long and the other was 50 Kilometers. There are some serious runners out there and then some that walk the last lap. We manned 6 aid stations while the runners made their way on the 12.5 mile loop around Lake Raven. Some used hand held radios and some used their mobile radios in there cars.

The afternoon crew was Bob N5ET, Eddy K5WQG and Joe KD5KR. They all had lunch at the main tent and then headed out to their stations. With the weather being so good we did not have many of the slip and slid injuries that we usually see at these races. I saw the usual number of runners that had to see the doctor at the main lodge this year. All were treated and limped away with their chins and ankles held high.

I want to thank all my fellow Hams for volunteering their time and equipment. This event would not get the support it needs if it were not for some of our fellow club members to step up the task. Pat them on the back and say well done. I would like to say thank you to Keith and Rob for loaning me the antenna support poles and 2M vertical antenna. And, a big thanks to Tom, Kyle and Ray who stayed with me till 5pm which was past their end of shift. Eddy was at the last station which closed around 6:30pm. I think Kevin did another fine job being net control station with Rob as backup net control.

I talked to Dan Miller, Sunmart coordinator and Roger Soler, Sunmart Race Director. They were extremely happy with our support for this year's event and expressed their appreciation for our support. They definitely want us back next year so mark your calendars for a Saturday in December 2009 for the Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs. You too can build many wonderful memories of a great time with some great Ham buddies.

Think: Snow Blower

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome to new member: Stan Polak KE5WNJ; and an upgrade to General: Chris Brown KE5IOR

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
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Deral Kent K5WNO
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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

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND

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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

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)

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
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