

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 2008



July Meeting

QSLing

The topic of July's meeting will be the art of QSLing and how to be successful in your attempts to confirm your QSO with that rare DX station. It's not always as easy as you would think but there are some tricks that will make your efforts fruitful. H.O. Townsend K5CX will give a short talk about postage requirements for various overseas countries. Our own resident card checker Bob Walworth N5ET will help you complete your cards correctly and submit them for verification. Brian Drex N5BA will explain how to access some of the electronic media such as Logbook of the World (LoTW) and exchange QSL cards electronically.



And last but not least Mike K5UO Bragassa will give us tell us about the many awards we can earn as we collect all these wonderful cards from around the world.



Our August meeting will be devoted to the Texas QSO Party. Chuck NO5W and others will tell us about the many mobile antenna types and their installation requirements.

Important Dates

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

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

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North
Baker Street Pub and Grill Jul 16th
Sweet Tomatoes Jul 23rd
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery Jul 30th
Marco's Aug 6th
Spring Creek Barbeque Aug 13th
Pepperchino Aug 20st

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jul 16th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jul 23th
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Jun 30th
Skeeters Aug 6th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Aug 13th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Aug 20th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center
DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers Jul 16th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Jul 23rd
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Jul 30th
Pappas Barbecue Aug 6th
Prima Pasta Aug 13th
New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Aug 20th

"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

July - 2008

Well, Field Day 2008 has just finished and we are thinking of ways to improve for next year. It was a great FD effort and the participation of all the members is appreciated. It takes this kind of participation to make these efforts work. It's too much for just a few to do. Speaking for our board of directors: Thank you!

Field Day is an emergency preparedness exercise. So expect problems as they did happen. Fix them, learn from them and then move on.

Sure we had our problems and band conditions did not help at all. Remember, though; if it is so easy we would not be doing it, right?

I have talked to operators involved in other FD operations and they also had very bad band conditions and couldn't get any QSO rate going. In one instance in North Carolina the CW FD operator made 280 Q's in 9.5 hours or 29.5 Q/hour. Sounds familiar...

They tell me that the sunspot cycle is or should be on the upturn. 'Bout time!

Irregardless of band conditions, I was very impressed with the final-final member turnout at the Step-By-Step School FD site. It makes the FD Coordinators job so much easier. Examples: Ken, KA5AKG, our power-czar was on site ...a lot. Either operating, visiting (The best part!) or tending to the generator. Same for Bill, K5ZTY. Zed was either involved in our ongoing antenna/coax problems, operating a station, assisting an operator....or visiting. Jerry, KB5VGD, our informal-Deputy FD Coordinator was there a tremendous amount of time seeing that things were running smooth, running our very successful 'tech-school' for extra points or negotiating with the hot dog wagon personnel run by the Salvation Army. Right off the bat, we learned that the Salvation Army would not be present as much as we thought. Jerry got a satisfactory solution going.

There evolved a middle-of-the-night 'feed-treat' when Keith, NM5G, showed up with his renowned baked sweet roles. They were a tad bit late due to a short unplanned snooze by Keith. You would be tired too, with the hours Keith put in to FD. With being the SSB Team Captain, operating and chasing down antenna problems it was a full plate for anyone!

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NARS Field Day 2008

Chuck Sanders- NO5W

FD Reporter

QSOs and QSO Points

- CW QSOs: 819 (10/15/20/40) = (74/87/245/413)
 - PH QSOs: 322 (10/15/20/40) = (3/62/209/48)
 - GOTA QSOs: 96 (10/15/20/40/80) = (63/11/0/21/1)
 - VHF QSOs: 7 (all on 6M)
 - SAT QSOs: 4 (2 SSB on A07 and 1 each FM on SO50 and AO51)
 - QSO Points: $819 \times 2 + (322+96+7+4) = 2067$
 - QSO Points with Power Bonus = $2 \times 2067 = 4134$
- Bonus Points Total = 1370

- 100% Emergency Power = 200
- Media Publicity = 100
- Public Location = 100
- Public Info. Table = 100
- Message to SCM = 0
- Message Handling = 0
- Satellite QSO = 100
- Alternate Power = 100
- W1AW Bulletin = 100
- Educational Activity = 100 (see list below)
- Visit by Govt Official = 100
- Visit by Agency Rep. = 100
- GOTA Bonus = $60 \times 2 = 120$
- Web Submission = 50
- Youth Participation = $5 \times 20 = 100$

Total Points = $4134 + 1370 = 5504$

Thanks to the following team captains/leads:

- Mike Bragassa K5UO - Overall Coordination
- Colin Jenkins KU5B - CW Station
- Keith Dutson NM5G - SSB Station
- Paul Owen N5NXS - GOTA Station
- Marty Fitzgerald W5MF - VHF and Satellite
- Jerry Whiting KB5VGD - Publicity and Educational Activity
- Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY - Antennas
- Ken Harlan KA5AKG - Emergency Generator

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Around the Circuit

Mike Bragassa - K5UO President's Column (cont)

The other team captains, Colin, KU5B, the CW Captain and Paul, N5NXX, the GOTA Captain, both spent a...lot...of time at their stations. Thanks guys!

Also, a big thank you goes to Marti, K5MF and Walter, K5WH, for their satellite efforts garnering NARS some bonus points for that type of communications. We even made contact with the TDXS FD site, maybe three land-miles away via a 400 mile (+/-) satellite communication path. Talk about long distance comms. A special thanks goes to Chuck, NO5W, Mr Mobile QSO party man. Chuck modified his QSO Party software "CQ/X" for FD use. Chuck was present at the site...a...lot, doing some operating and helping the operator coming on duty to get started in CQ/X

A mention needs to go to Cal, WF5W for the use of his trailer mounted tower

and antenna setup. That is the way to go! Wish we had a couple of those available.

Our first FD Tech-School (We will find a better name some day.) coordinated by Jerry, KB5VGD, I felt was a tremendous success. Besides the additional FD points we gained, this is something we have been trying to do at our monthly meetings for a long time. There is a wealth of knowledge in this club to help both the very new ham and some of us...older hams. Think about what you Mr Member can contribute along these lines and let our Program-Czar, Tom, KD5EIJ, know what you would suggest or, better yet, what you can offer to demonstrate in a knowledge session.

As regards our FD Tech-School, I would like to thank the teachers or lecturers: Bob, N5ET (QSLing, LoTW, DXCC), Larry, K5END (Grounding), Ken, KE5DFR (20-40m antenna), Chet, KG5YF (Soldering PL-259's). We may

try to incorporate some of these into a club monthly meeting program...

Have I missed anyone? With so many participating I could have an apologize ahead of time.

We could have used more operators. The team captains spent a lot of time operating because of no one to fill certain time slots and not necessarily the middle of the night slots. Think about it members; could you have helped out there? You missed a lot of fellowship.

Going forward: What can we do to improve? Think about it and let's talk a few minutes at the next meeting. If you will not be at the next meeting please email me with your idea or "constructive criticism". I welcome any and all criticism.....as long as it is constructive. Key word being 'constructive'.

Again, thanks for great Field Day 2008!

NARS Field Day 2008 (cont)

Also a special thanks to the Emergency Disaster Services of the Salvation Army for providing the food and to the Jerry Green Step by Step School for allowing use of the site. Paul Owen also deserves special thanks for his excellent coaching of the GOTA operators. Thanks also to the following Educational Activity presenters and to Jerry Whiting for organizing this activity.

- Chet Farley KG5YF - Soldering PL-259s
- Larry Kendall K5END - Grounding Stations & Mobile Rigs
- Bob Walworth NE5T - QSLing
- KE5DFR- Building 20/40 Meter Antennas



Field Day Pictures



Field Day Pictures



Field Day Pictures



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
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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

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281-447-4347, tom_sts@hotmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
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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)

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