

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2008



May Meeting

Virgil Stamps - K500R

Virgil has just started handling the "SunLinQ 25 Watt Solar Panel." It is a very portable, fabric covered and folds up, back-pack capable solar panel, 1.5 amps/ current; 12 volts output. It is a very capable charger for the back-pack enthusiast.

Virgil has another very popular item, the Super Antennas YP3 (3-element Yagi), a "Multi-Band Rotatable Dipole" covering 40m up to 2m. It can be used on 60 and 80 meters with an accessory coil. Of course, this item is developed for the portable back-packer.



NARS Assists in Second Merit Badge Clinic

For the second time this year, NARS participated in the Boy Scouts of America merit badge clinic. On Saturday May 3rd, the 2008 Rising Star Merit Badge Clinic was held at the LDS Cypress Stake Center. This was an opportunity for scouts from all over Harris County to work and receive a merit badge. NARS members, Ray Clutts N5VRT, group leader, Tom Atkins KD5EIJ, and Jerry Whiting KB5VGD assisted. There were 11 boys that went through the radio merit badge course and are on their way to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Important Dates

Friday, May 16, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 24, 2008 - 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Jason's Deli May 14th
Baker Street Pub and Grill May 21st
Sweet Tomatoes May 28th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery Jun 4th
Los Cusco Restaurant Jun 11th
Spring Creek Barbeque Jun 18th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Skeeters May 14th
Fajita Willies W. Little York May 21st
Fajita Willies W. Little York May 28th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jun 4th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jun 11th
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Jun 18th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Buffalo Grille May 14th
DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers May 21st
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille May 28th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Jun 4th
Pappas Barbecue Jun 11th
Fred's Italian Corner Jun 18th

"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
May - 2008*

Nary a response with a suggestion, idea, or a possible solution regarding how to better serve the new members who may be stymied with something regarding ham radio.

I did say "better serve" didn't I? We don't want to exclude the club volunteers listed on the last page of the newsletter. Perhaps we cannot do better than that?

Are you new (and newer) members asking for help and using this service? If not, then what may be preventing you from "getting on the air"? Don't be bashful, please; ask up!

Field Day is soon approaching. Please set your schedule for June 28, 29, the last full weekend of June, for the annual ARRL Field Day.

Location is the rear of the "Step-By-Step School" at 1119 South Cherry Street in SE quadrant of Tomball, Texas.

Team captains have been appointed. New and newer members, of course, please let these team captains know that you want to operate one of the stations. They are looking...now... for operators to pull a few hours time at the key or microphone making contacts with other Field Day stations. This is not a contest in the normal sense, so please do not be hesitant to volunteer.

We will have the CW station headed up by Colin Jenkins, KU5B. There will be Keith Dutson, NM5G, heading up the SSB/phone station. Last but not at all least, is the "GOTA" station, headed by Bill Skipper, KB5BS and Paul Owen, N5NXS.

Now the GOTA station MUST have new operators or not be active at all. The GOTA stations are FOR the newer hams, and no one else, to gain some radio experience. The GOTA captains can only serve as "control operators" for the station. They must be present but cannot operate. Only you newer operators may operate a GOTA station.

This year, in addition to a high-frequency (HF) station, a GOTA station operator may operate a VHF station looking for Field day contacts. (The HF and VHF stations may not be active at the same time.)

A newly licensed amateur (Since Field day last year) may operate the GOTA station regardless of license class. (Note: An upgrade is not the same as a new license.)

See page 3 *President's*

VE Session Results

*Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager*

Saturday, April 26th VE Test Session Results:

We had a total of 9 candidates. Please welcome the latest additions to the hobby:

Milam "Steve" Mueller - KE5UIS - Technician Robert; Norris - KE5UIP - Technician; Christopher Rollwitz - KE5UIQ - Technician; Francis Stone - KE5UIR - General (passed both elements 2 & 3).

Congratulations to the upgrades:

- Charles Mulraney - KE5THV - General
- James Kelly - KD5KHT - General
- Thomas Clarkson - KE5TUJ - General
- Chester Farley - KG5YF - Extra
- Harry Mallery - KE5TCF - Extra

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

- Keith Dutson - NM5G
- Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX
- Jim Kirk - KJ5X
- Martin Rogoff - N5GPS

The next VE session will be held on Saturday, May 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.

Please note that because of Field Day, there will be no test session in June.

Visit

the NARS website

www.w5nc.net

Around the Circuit

Mike Bragassa - K5UO President's Column (cont)

Bill and Paul need operators...any license class....and they need to know ahead of time so that the GOTA station stays as active as possible throughout the weekend event. They don't want 25 operators at a given moment and then zero at another moment. Let them know NOW that you want to operate the GOTA station and negotiate the time, etc. Contact Bill Skipper at kb5bs[at]yahoo.com and Paul Owen at paul.owen[at]flash.net. (Use "@" in place of "[at]") Please, please do not forget or wait until FD weekend! Do it now!

Even the phone and CW stations are open to new operators. Contact Colin, KU5B, at ku5b[at]arrl.net or Keith, NM5G at kdutson[at]sbcglobal.net and tell them you want to operate.

Additionally we have the expertise of Bill, W5ZTY, who will be our Field Day Antenna Czar. He will pre-plan and coordinate what type of antennas and where they will be placed on the site. This will make better use of the available land space and avoid inter-station interference. We will need as many club members at the site before Field day starts to set up the site complete with antennas and operation tables.

We also will need lots of help when the event is over on Sunday at 4:00PM in the afternoon. All members, regardless of whether you operated or not, are asked to help in both the setup and the tear down phases.

Field Day, a long time ago (yes!) was my first taste of a 'real ham radio' as a novice at the local FD operation where I lived at the time. It was neat, is all I can say!

C'mon new guys, Field Day is an emergency preparedness exercise for all of the club members. But for you newer guys it is a real opportunity to operate a modern HF transceiver....with 'unrestricted' antennas, too!

Hope to see everyone there!

John Ellis - W5PDW



Cinco de Mayo was special for our very own John Ellis -W5PDW. Keith NM5G (left) presented John W5PDW with a framed set of cutouts from the *Tomball Tribune* proclaiming John as the **Tomball Ambassador of the Year**.

Field Day 2008

This year, June 28, 29, we will have the ARRL Field Day at **“The Step By Step School” at 1119 South Cherry Street, Tomball, Texas 77375**. We will be in the pavilion around the right side at the rear of the property. Cherry Street crosses Main Street (Hwy. 2920) on the east side of Tomball. If you are coming north on Hwy. 249, turn east on Theis Lane at the street at the north side of WalMart. This street takes you to Cherry Street, where you will turn left. This location is courtesy of Jerry Green, K5IHK, owner of the private school.

Hopefully, this site, under the pavilion, will serve us well in the event of bad weather. It’s still roughing it without being inside a building. Please see “Parking” below.

NARS will begin setup Saturday morning at a time to be announced. Tear down begins promptly at the close of the event. As a club, as many as possible need to be in attendance to put up the antennas and to take them down. Please be there at appropriate times. Let’s all pitch in; do our part and make it easier on your fellow members.

Our plans are to have three stations and maybe one more:

- 1 CW station, headed up by Colin Jenkins, **KU5B**
- 2 SSB station headed up by Keith Dutson, **NM5G**
- 3 “GOTA” station headed up by Paul Owen, **N5NXS** and Bill Skipper, **KB5BS**.
- 4 As yet unnamed is a satellite station and team captain.
- 5 Other than antenna’s; each team captain must provide transceiver, key/microphones/ headphones. notebook computer (log keeping) lamps, fans and the like. The CW computer must be setup for both iambic and keyboard keying.

Logs, in digital format will be kept by each station and consolidated at the end of the event to be submitted electronically (“points!”) to the ARRL. Unless someone has a better idea or reason, we will probably use N3FJP logging program.

We will need tables, chairs, lamps and fans for the operators. See what you can loan and please mark your equipment with your callsign.

This year the GOTA station can operate either HF or VHF, but not at the same time. The GOTA station can only be operated by unlicensed guests with a control operator (team captain) or a newly licensed operator. “Newly” is defined as licensed the first time since Field Day 2007. New operators are asked and encouraged to contact KB5BS or N5NXS to arrange an operating time ahead of time.

We are also asking all members to help solicit newly licensed operators or just-interested folks to visit the GOTA station. No license required.

All of these team captains are looking for volunteer operators to man the stations around the clock. Please, please contact the team captains listed above well ahead of time to arrange a time slot.

Jerry Whiting, our Public Information Officer will have a partially unmanned information table on site. We hope to have brochures on the ARRL and NARS. Jerry will also solicit visits by local “politico’s” and emergency people e.g. Red Cross. These count for additional points!

One other “captain” has been named. Bill Stietenroth, K5ZTY, will be the “Czar of Antennas”. Bill will make the decisions on what antenna goes where to make best use of the property and to avoid inter-station interference. Cal, WF5W will be loaning his trailer/tower/antenna for one of the stations.

Of course, Czar of Electricity is Ken Harlan; KA5AKG with his trusty generator will be present during the exercise.

The Salvation Army has agreed to provide and man their food trailer at the site. So we should have hot dogs and soft drinks “24/7”. Our obligation, like last year was to provide one day bell-ringer collection duty prior to Christmas at a nearby store. Everyone that did this really enjoyed the experience. “It was fun!”

Mr Green does ask that if there is rain to not park on the grass, but to stay on the road or park at the front of the school. We don’t want the luxury of pulling stuck vehicles out of the mud as happened last year. We also don’t want to damage the school property.

Any ideas or suggestions the membership may have can be sent to me at your convenience.

73 de Mike Bragassa, K5UO



Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome to our newest members: Don Heidbrier KD5QHC and Keith Troutman KE5TGE.

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

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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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