

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 2009



January

Annual NARS Banquet

Most veteran NARS members know that January's club meeting comes in the form of our annual banquet.

Banquet 2009 will be held on Friday January 16th at the Wyndehaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Road, about 1/2 mile south of FM 1960. The cost is still a nominal \$20.00 per person. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and we hope to wind things up by 9 p.m.

You can mail your check to NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston 77290-0387. Walk-ins are welcome. Please contact Joe KD5KR at 281-353-2196!



This year **Mr. Mark Sloan** from the "Harris County Office of Emergency Management" will be the featured speaker.

We hope everyone enjoys the food, fellowship, our guest speaker, and the entertainment.

"The Quorum," will be the entertainment for the evening.

Houston Amateur Radio Supply Manufacturer's Day

George DiLetto of Houston Amateur Radio Supply will be hosting his annual Manufacturer's Day open house on Saturday, January 17th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For those who have attended this event previously know that the hot dogs, chips and drinks (soft, that is,) are out of this world, and the price is zilch, zero, nada!

But that isn't all. Numerous drawings will be held throughout the day, and many items sold at the store will be at special prices. No reasonable offer will be refused, but of course, only George will determine what's reasonable... If you have something ham related to sell, you're welcome to set up shop in the parking lot. Your trash could be someone else's treasure.

January 17th

267 Cypresswood Drive
Exit 68, at I-45 North
West side of I-45 (near the Super Target store)
Need more info?
Phone HARS: 281 355-7373

Important Dates

Friday, January 16, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting is our annual banquet this month. See this issue for details.

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

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery Jan 14th
Marco's Jan 21st
Spring Creek Barbeque Jan 28th
Pei Wei Asian Diner Feb 4th
Luby's Cafeteria Feb 11th
Jason's Deli Feb 18th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jan 14th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jan 21st
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jan 28th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Feb 4th
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Feb 11th
Skeeters Feb 18th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center
DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers Jan 14
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Jan 21
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Jan 28th
Pappas Barbecue Feb 4th
Morningside Thai Feb 11t
New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Feb 18

"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

January - 2008

Dear Fellow members: A very healthy and wealthy 2009 for each and everyone of you and your family.

As you are aware we have new officers coming on board for 2009. Official swearing in will be at our January banquet at Wyndehaven. You have made your reservation, surely?

For any that may have missed the officers for 2009 are

- President: Paul Owen, N5NXS
- Vice-president: Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ
- Treasurer: Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
- Secretary: Larry Kendall, K5END
- Director: Chet Farley, KG5YF
- Director: Brian Derx, N5BA
- Director: Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF
- Director: Joe Chambers, KF5AT
- Public Information Officer: Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR

Please lend your support to these capable officers during 2009!

In the background are the much appreciated efforts of:

- NARS Web site: Bill Buoy, N5BIA
- NARS Newsletter, H.O. Townsend, K5CX
- NARS Reflector: Keith Dutson, NM5G
- NARS repeater: Ken Harlan, KA5AKG
- NARS ARRL Volunteer Examiner, Eddy Reynolds. K5WQG and his cohorts.
- Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD, the Redd School Amateur Radio Club.
- Chuck Sanders, NO5W, The NARS sponsored Texas QSO Party

That is a lot of people listed that are helping your club to move forward. What can you do? Think about it.

VE Session Notice

Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

The next session will be 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.

Remember, 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)

Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ, who will continue as Program Director during 2009 has done an outstanding job in providing quality programs for the membership.

And, Tom is not stopping there. He has some good ideas for 2009. Some of them will have your name on them as participants. We are trying to make use of capable members who can enlighten us on various subjects within amateur radio. Please offer to Tom your services in presenting a subject.

For starters, we need experts willing to present and discuss various digital modes, like APRS, Skywarn and EchoLink. Talk to Tom, KD5EIJ and help take some of us out of the dark-age!

Another subject could be Steve Niles, N5EN's experiences with HPSDR or High Performance Software Developed Radio for receivers and transmitters. Especially, interesting to myself and others is weak signal receiving. You can't work them if you can't hear them. Talk about coming out of the dark ages! Maybe, Steve's efforts will be far enough along to show the members how this concept works.

Talk about weak signal reception! I sure could use one of those HPSDR's to be able to hear the Italian DXpedition to West Bank (Not the Gaza Strip) of Palestine. E44M has been on all week (weak).

That's it for this month. This is my final newsletter for my term as president. May I wish you well.

73 de Mike, K5UO

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267 Cypresswood Drive
Spring, TX 77388

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281-355-7373
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Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Inc.
George DiLetto, KD5ORW
President

www.houstonamateurradio.com

E-Mail: houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net

Around the Circuit

Paul Owen- N5NXS **NARS 2009 President**

It's been a shocking end to 2008. The scandals lead to financial market melt down which leads to mortgage industries bubble to burst. Let's all work together to see that none of it affects our club and look for better times ahead.

It just seems like yesterday that I was serving on the board in 1996 as Vice-President. Now my third time as VP leads to me being your President for 2009. I will not make any promises, but I will state that this club will weather the world's news just fine. We have so many members having fun making ham radio a hobby and yet we still have what it

takes to attract the quality of members that we have in this club. The ham radio we use today has to compete with all the other newer technologies that the younger generation is growing up with, and was only in comic books in my day. But we have something that iPods and cell phones don't have and that is the common bonds of making that first contact or that new country. We work towards mastering Morse code as a second language. We share our radio skills and antenna knowledge with other members. We're ready when we get that call to be of service to our community. We have a great membership and it will be my privilege to serve as your club President.

Joining me on the board will be Larry Kendall, K5END as secretary and serving as directors will be Chet Farley, KG5YF and Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF who will be serving a second two year term as director. Returning to serve on the board will be Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ as Vice President, Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR as Treasurer and club Administrator, Joe Chambers, KF5AT and Brian Derx, N5BA as Directors. I would like to thank Chuck Sanders, NO5W for his 5 years of service as Secretary and look forward to his continued service as NARS TQP coordinator. Please let them know what you want to see happen this year.

Tom Atkins - KD5EIJ **NARS 2009 Vice-President**



As of January 1st we have a clean slate and will begin scheduling meeting programs for the coming year. We have a few subjects slated for discussion already and we're searching for more. Some topics such as logging software can be scheduled to coincide with field day activities. This will allow our operators to become familiar with the logging programs used at field day before we actually have to use it.

We've not had a SkyWarn class in a few years and we hope that will happen in February or March depending on the availability of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration instructors. You storm chaser types will love that one. Another

subject you've expressed interest in is PC to transceiver interface. Controlling your radio with a home computer sounds interesting to me and I hope you'll enjoy that one also. A few of you have asked for some info on



Echo Link and APRS methods and equipment. That one sounds complicated to me but people who use Echo Link say it's simple. We may have to stretch those two topics over two meetings but I think they will be worthwhile discussions.

Again the 2009 calendar is still open and as the saying goes nothing is written in stone. If you have a particular subject that you think will be of interest to the club let us know and we'll try to incorporate it into our schedule.

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS would like to extend its condolences to Bob Walworth N5ET on the passing of Linda KE5TF SK.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
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Madison Jones W5MJ
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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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Chet Farley KG5YF

281-931-8413, cfarley@comcast.net

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 Wednesday Night: 8:00 PM,
146.06/66 MHz, Coordinator; Jerry
KB5VGD

WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>
Web master: 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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Send all articles and materials for the
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Editor: H. O. Townsend - K5CX
281-376-7416 - k5cx@arrl.net

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American Radio Relay League
ARRL Club No. 2120