

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 2009



July Meeting

Power Line Noise

The topic of discussion for our July club meeting will be power line noise. What I'm about to show you now is a quotation from the ARRL web page and is available for reading at your leisure.

"Virtually all power-line noise, originating from utility company equipment, is caused by a spark or arcing across some power-line related hardware. Typical culprits include insufficient and inadequate hardware spacing such as a gap between a ground wire and a staple.

Electric utility companies are often blamed for and even victimized by noise they do not cause and are not responsible to fix. This can be especially true when the customer owned noise source generates noise similar in sound to true power-line noise. Light dimmers, for example, are often mistaken for power-line noise, especially by an untrained ear. Customer owned doorbell transformers are also notorious and often found to be the source of an RFI problem.

The characteristic raspy buzz or frying sound is often the first and most obvious clue. It is typically a broad banded type of interference starting at the low end of the radio spectrum. Power-line noise is usually, but not always, stronger on lower frequencies. It occurs continuously across each band, up through the spectrum to some upper frequency where it will taper off. If the noise is not continuous across all of a ham band, or repeats at some interval as you tune up in frequency, you probably do not have power-line noise. The frequency at which power-line noise diminishes can also provide an important clue as to its proximity. The closer the source is, the higher the frequency at which it can be received. If it affects VHF and UHF, the source is relatively close by. If it drops off just above or around the AM broadcast band, it may be located some distance away -- perhaps several miles.

Once you have verified the problem is most likely a true power-line noise, and that it is not coming from a source internal to your home, contact your utility's customer service department. " -ARRL

In addition to your local phone book, customer service phone numbers are included on most power company websites.

Tom
KD5EIJ

Important Dates

Friday, July 17th, 7:30 PM

General Membership meeting,
Cypress Creek Christian Community Cntr,
6823 Cypresswood Drive

Saturday, July 23th, 8:30 AM

VE License Exam Session
Tomball Community Center
S. Cherry & Market streets
(just South of Main)

Tuesday, July 28th, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Spring Creek Barbeque Jul 15th
Pei Wei Asian Diner Jul 22nd
Luby's Cafeteria Jul 29th
Jason's Deli Aug 5th
Baker Street Pub and Grill Aug 12th
Sweet Tomatoes Aug 19th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Fajita Willies W. Little York Jul 15th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jul 22nd
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jul 29nd
Jason's Deli Aug 5th
Skeeter's Mesquite Grill Aug 12th
Café Express Aug 19th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Jul 15th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Jul 22nd
Pappas Barbecue Jul 29th
Morningside Thai Aug 5th
Prima Pasta Aug 12th
Jason's Deli Aug 19th

Tail Draggers Lunch Bunch

11:00 am, Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport

Notice: NARS membership dues are \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary.

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

July - 2009

The NARS annual ARRL Field Day is now in the history book. I was hoping that more of our members would come out to the new field day site at Burroughs Park. Unfortunately Mother Nature took another swipe at us and had the heat turned way up on Saturday. I have to say, I had my doubts that I could make it for more than the 24 hours in the heat we had at the park. There was very few of the general public that came to visit with us. I'm sure the record heat was a factor for a lot of members that decided not to come out to the field day site even to attend the dinner at 6 PM. I don't think it got below 90 degrees till 11 PM. The attendance this year was down but the few that came out put on a great show all weekend. We did have a special visitor from the ARRL, who is the Director of the West Gulf Division. Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, came out to the site and stayed to listen and talk to our members for well over an hour. I was able to stay and help the over night crew keep putting the contacts in the log. It was fun to watch Marty and Chuck slug it out though the night.

I want to thank the Field Day Team, Larry Kendall, K5END, requested the site, Ken Wilson, KE5DFR, FD Chairman; Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF, SSB Captain; Colin Jenkins, KU5B, CW Captain; Peter Brown, KE5IOV and his son Chris, KE5IOR, GOTA Captain; Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, welcome table, Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD, for getting the Salvation Army to cook the hot dogs and Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ, for the very good diner he cooked Saturday night. I also want to thank all the members that were able to come out to visit or work one of the stations.

Do you have a topic to pass on to a director at the next meeting, lunch or breakfast? Would you like to volunteer to do a program? Please let us know what you would like to see at the monthly meetings.

VE Session Notice

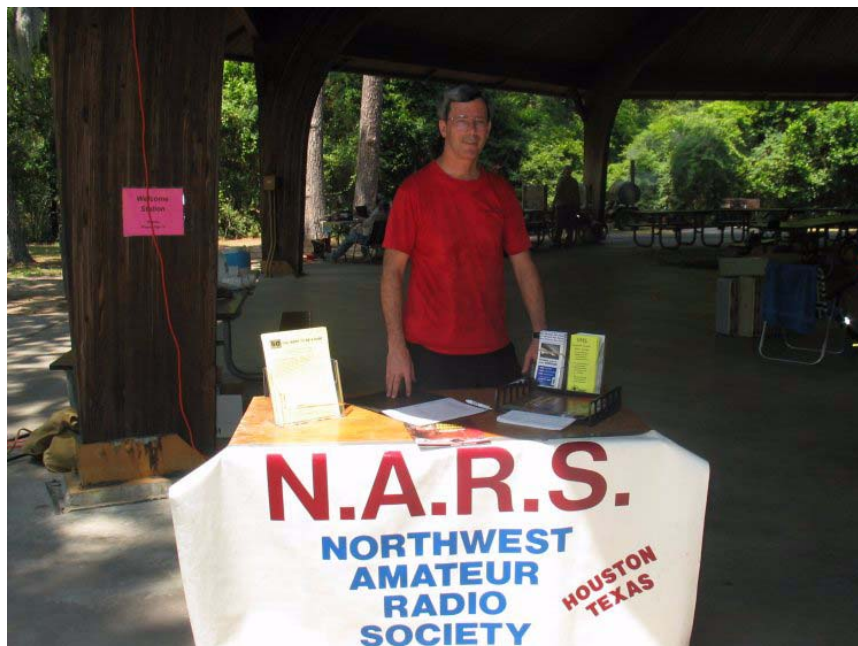
Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

The July test session will be July 25th. 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.

NARS FD Photos

A collection - *H. O. - K5CX*



NARS President Paul Owen - N5NXS.

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Spring, TX 77388

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Around the Circuit

NARS FD Photos (cont)



Paul N5NXX, Ken KE5DFR, and ARRL West Gulf Director Dr. David Woolweaver N5RAV



Chuck - CW captin NO5W



L-R: Chris KE5IOR, Sal. Army, Peter KE5IOV



NARS VP - Tom KD5EIJ



Jim KJ5X



Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome new members Mike Allen (waiting on callsign), and Ralph DiGuillio KF5AHC.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
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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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281-931-8413, 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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
the Northwest Amateur Radio Society
Send all articles and materials for the
newsletter to:

Editor: H. O. Townsend - K5CX
281-376-7416 - k5cx@arrl.net

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
Special Service Club affiliated with the
American Radio Relay League
ARRL Club No. 2120