

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 2009



March Meeting

Echo Link

Wikipedia defines *Echo Link* as follows:

“EchoLink is a computer program that runs under Microsoft Windows to allow radio amateurs to communicate with one another using Voice over IP (VoIP) technology on the internet for at least part of the path between them”.



All that sounds fairly complicated, and I'm not sure how all that works but that doesn't matter. We're luck enough to have available to us Mr. Walter Holmes K5WH who does. Walter will present a “how to” program detailing all that is required to establish an EchoLink connection via our home computer and our 2 meter radios. We should have enough equipment available to do a real time demonstration and possibly make a few contacts. Walter is also active in AMSAT, TCAPS, and several other amateur radio activities

and he can answer most any questions you may have about those activities also.

This program will help our members who work the MS150 cross-country bicycle race better understand how our 2 meter radios are able to call net control from La Grange. Even more interesting to me is how we can use our 2 meter radios to call most any State in the lower 48. Come and listen to Walter's program and ask all the questions you want. And don't forget the pre-meeting dinner at Hasta La Pasta.

Annual Picnic Planned

Date: Saturday, May 2nd

Time: 11:00AM until 4:00PM

Location: 24415 Deep Meadow Dr, Tomball

Food: BBQ and side dishes from Rib Tickler, home made desserts

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Bring your own chairs and cokes (iced tea provided).

Come join the NARS crowd for good eats, games and plenty of eyeball QSOs. Horseback rides will be available for kids and daring adults.

Important Dates

Friday, March 20, 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, March 28th, 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, March 31th, 7:30 PM

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Marco's Mar 18th
Spring Creek Barbeque Mar 25th
Pei Wei Asian Diner Apr 1st
Luby's Cafeteria Apr 8th
Jason's Deli Apr 15th
Baker Street Pub and Grill Apr 22nd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Fajita Willies W. Little York Mar 18th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Mar 25th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Apr 1st
Fajita Willies W. Little York Apr 8th
Jason's Dei Katy Fwy Apr 15th
Skeeter's Mesquite Grill Apr 22nd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers Mar 18th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Mar 25th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Apr 1st
Pappas Barbecue Apr 8th
Morningside Thai Apr 15
New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Apr 22

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 March - 2008

Dear February's meeting was well attended by our members and some non members. Paul Lewis from the National Weather Center put on a Skywarn Training program. It could be very useful to know what the storm clouds will be doing in the next five minutes. I think Mr. Lewis did a great job.

I hope you got to the Greater Houston Hamfest or helped Paul Frantz out at the Buffalo Bayou Regatta. Coming up in April is the Belton Swap meeting and the BP MS150 bike ride. I have been working the bike ride as a SAG (Special Assistance Group) driver for the last 3 years. It is not that hard to do but is a big commitment for a very full two day activity. This year I have added driving a van for the training rides the bike riders do in the weeks before the ride to Austin. The SAG coordinator is giving new van drivers hands on training behind the wheel of the 15 passenger vans we use. The next van training ride is March 21. If you don't want drive a van, ask Mike Hardwick were he could use some help. You won't regret it.

The board is in the planning stage for Field Day '09. We have visited some alternative sites and we will pick one very soon. We also need some of our members that have not volunteered in the past to be in leadership positions for field day. We need to have new members step up and try their hand at putting one on. You won't be alone in your effort. It will take a team to plan and execute an event like field day.

I am also looking forward to the NARS Picnic that will be held at Keith's, NM5G home. Maybe the NARS Pickers will have a jam session and we can all cheer them on to keep on picking. Please see the article in this edition and reserve the weekend now.

VE Session Notice

Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, Feb 28th VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

We 1 candidate. Congratulations to the upgrade:

Robert Efird - KD5VJV - Passed Element 3 for General

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

- Sarah Connell - W0HXO - Keith Dutson - NM5G
- Chet Farley - KG5YF - Paul Frantz - W5PF
- Jerry Seay - KE5PUT - Bob Walworth - N5ET

The next session will be held on Saturday, Mar 28th 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.

Saturday, Feb 23rd VE Test Session Results at Rice U.

We had a total of 15 candidates - all passed.

The result was 14 Technicians:

Adam Atanas - KE5ZPI (Adam is 10 yrs old) Nancy Fiegel - KE5ZPJ Gregory Adragna - KE5ZPK Molly Nipper - KE5ZPL Charles Jacoby - KE5ZPM Lauren Cleaves - KJ4KAH Jonathan Stanley - KE5ZPN Peiyu Tian - KE5ZPO Mausami Patel - KJ4KAI Richard Achord Jr. - KE5ZPP Ian Feldman - KC9PFB Eastman Landry - KE5ZPQ Candice Flowers - KE5ZPR Michael Slovich III - KD8KHQ

And 1 General:

James Doty III - KE5ZPZ

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

- Keith Dutson - NM5G
- Gregg Erlenbusch - W5IDX
- Bob Walworth - N5ET

We were one VE short - Tom Rum (W5RUM) was called in to work at the last minute, but things went well. We were treated to brownies during the session, and Pat Reiff supplied the great refreshments afterword. Thanks Pat!

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Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Inc.
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President

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2008 Banquet Photos



Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS would like to welcome.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

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Digital Modes:

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VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA
281-894-5942

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Keith Dutson NM5G 281-351-7683,
keith@dutson.net

Building Electronics & Kits:

Mark Tyler K5GQ
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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
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H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ
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Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
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NARS Information

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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 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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