

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2009



May Meeting

Computer Control Your Radio

When I'm looking forward to the May and June NARS meetings for a couple of reasons. I've always thought it would be fun to control my Yaesu FT 920 with my computer. Don't ask me why someone with minimal computer skills would develop such an interest, but I have. I'm not sure if there are any advantages or disadvantages to using such methods, but I'll bet Bill Buoy N5BIA knows. That's why we've enlisted Bill to show us how it's done. Bill fabricates a small interconnect device and some simple cabling that allows the radio to send information to the computer and display all functions on your computer screen. From there you can point and click to change frequency or just turn up the volume. How cool is that. Bill will be available for a short while after the meeting to show you some other devices he's developed for ham radio. This should be an interesting meeting. Join us on May 15, 2009 and gain a little knowledge.

Let Jerry KD5VGD know if you can join us for the pre-meeting dinner and he'll be happy to save a seat for you. C U there. Tom - KD5EIJ

ARRL

Field Day 2009

June 27th & 28th

See site map on page 4

Important Dates

Friday, May 15, 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, May 23th, 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, May 26th, 7:30 PM

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Marco's May 13th
Spring Creek Barbeque May 20th
Pei Wei Asian Diner May 27th
Luby's Cafeteria Jun 3rd
Jason's Deli Jun 10th
Baker Street Pub and Grill Jun 17th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Fajita Willies W. Little York May 13th
Fajita Willies W. Little York May 20th
Fajita Willies W. Little York May 27th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Jun 3rd
Jason's Deli Katy Fwy Jun 10th
Skeeter's Mesquite Grill Jun 17rd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers May 13th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille May 20th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet May 27th
Pappas Barbecue June 3rd
Morningside Thai June 10th
Prima Pasta June 17th

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 May - 2009

We had a great April meeting program from Larry Kendal about sun spots. He spent a lot of time putting together a power point program that everyone enjoyed.

The BP MS150 bike ride is over and it was very different. The ride officials cancelled the first day for the first time in 25 years of the ride. We were able to sleep in on Saturday but I got up and went to NARS breakfast. We met at the park and ride and went over to the Omni Hotel to transport about 120 riders from Austin to the 2nd day start in La Grange. The ride continued on Sunday and went well. Chris and I moved about 70 riders along the route.

The board is moving ahead with field day plans. We are still looking for help from NARS members. Some of our core group will be at another field day site so we need to have some new faces helping out. So far we have the field day coordinator, SSB and CW station Captain's. I met with some of the board members at the park before the NARS Picnic. We surveyed the area to see where we could plant some towers and string a dipole or two. If you have a fishing pole, you might want to bring it to field day. After you use it to put some string in the trees, you could go catch some fish. We will have more information in the June issue.

We had a good crowd at the NARS Picnic. It was held at Keith's, NM5G, home the first weekend. The weather was just starting to get hot in the late afternoon. After the NARS Pickers put on a fine show, Keith gave us a tour of the new barn.

VE Session Notice

Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, Apr 25th VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

We had 4 candidates.

- Robert Kendall - KE5WUP - (Larry's dad) passed element 3 for General
- Victor Barney - KE5YYK - passed element 4 for Extra

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

- Keith Dutton - NM5G
- Tom Rum - W5RUM
- Jerry Seay - KE5PUT
- Bob Walworth - N5ET

The next session will be held on Saturday, May 23rd at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market St. & S. Cherry St.

Note There will NOT be a test session in June because of Field Day.

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.

Cypress Creek Fire Station 24 open house - May 30th

Greencreek @ Perry Road

Saturday, May 30, 2009 10 am - 3 pm

Exit 68, I-45 North
267 Cypresswood Drive
Spring, TX 77388

800-471-7373
281-355-7373
Fax: 281-355-8007

Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Inc.
George DiLetto, KD5ORW
President

www.houstonamateurradio.com

E-Mail: houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net

Around the Circuit

Redd School's Ms Lollie goes to Sea again

Last year Ms Lollie KD5WZM went to Antarctica, this year she is going to the north Atlantic. The mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea (TAS) program is to give teachers a clearer insight into our ocean planet, a greater understanding of maritime work and studies, and to increase their level of environmental literacy by fostering an interdisciplinary research experience. Since its inception in 1990, the program has enabled more than 500 teachers to gain first-hand experience of science and life at sea.

The program provides a unique environment for learning and teaching by sending kindergarten through college-level teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. Indeed, the greatest payoff of NOAA's Teacher at Sea program is the enthusiasm for learning more about our ocean planet generated between teachers and students.

Ms Lollie will be boarding the ship R.V. Sharp May 9th and cruise the east coast (TAS Sea scallop Survey) till May 21st. We have heard that there is a SSB radio on board and are in the

process of making arrangements to see if we can make contact. This information will not be available till after the ship is at sea and then at the discretion of the captain. Because of Homeland Security reasons NOAA ship schedules are controlled.

More info on this can be found at <http://teachersatsea.noaa.gov>

E-mail Lollie at lgsciencelab@gmail.com

Jerry Whiting K5VGD

NARS Director Position is Filled

Joe Chambers, KF5AT, announced at the March board meeting that he would not be able to attend board meetings for the rest of his term. The board had to call a special election at the April meeting to fill the position. We had three members nominated that would like to serve out the remainder of the Joe's term. The members elected Martin Rogoff, N5GPS. He has been a NARS member for a couple of years and this will be his first time on our board. Please wish him well when you see Martin at the next meeting.

Houston Representative Introduces Amateur Radio Bill in Congress

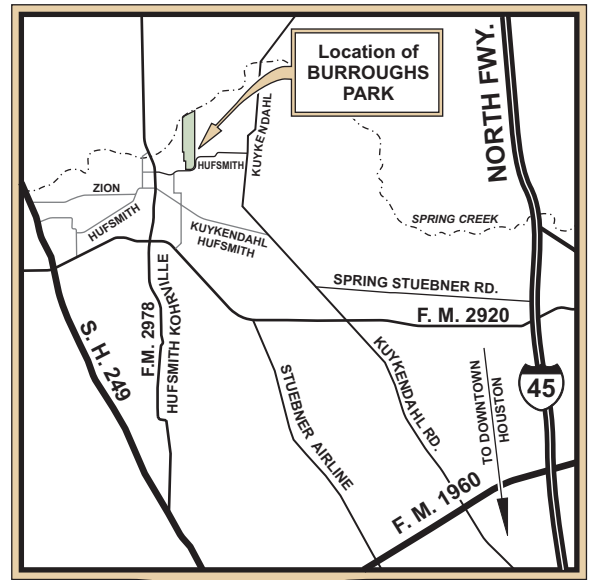
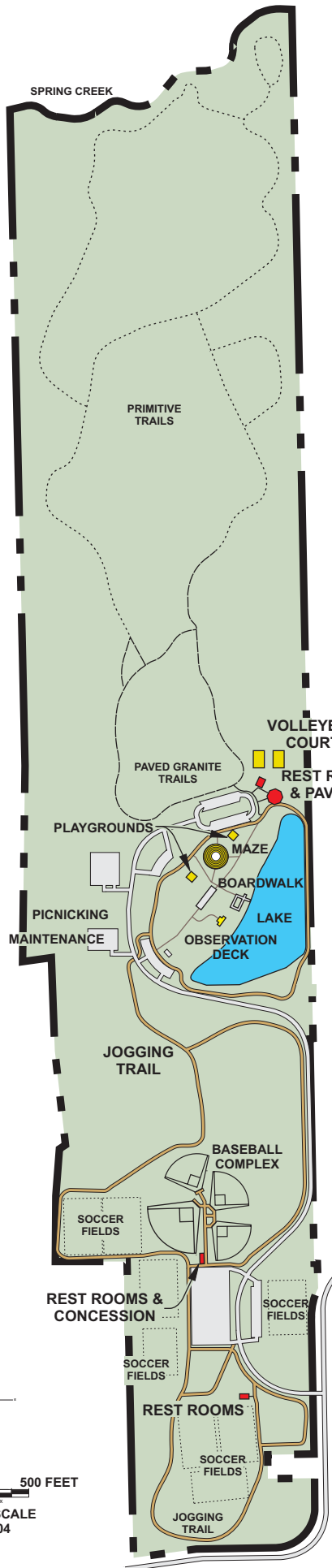
On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

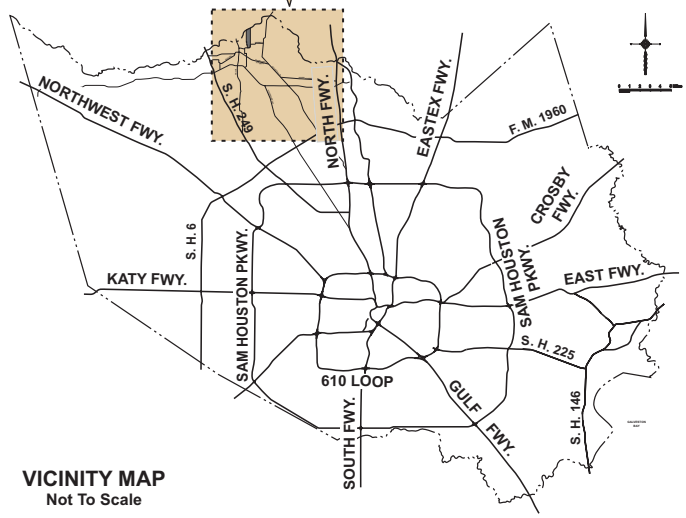
The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the five original co-sponsors for their support of Amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill offers."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee -- who recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."



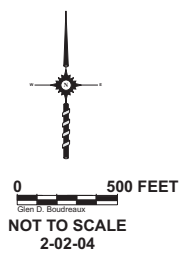
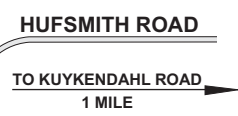
INSERT MAP
Not To Scale



VICINITY MAP
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HARRIS COUNTY
PRECINCT 4
ROY CAMPBELL
BURROUGHS PARK
9738 HUFSMITH ROAD
JERRY EVERSOLE
COMMISSIONER



Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS would like to welcome new members.

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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Marty Fitzgerald W5MF

281-251-4301, fitz6@swbell.net

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)

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