

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

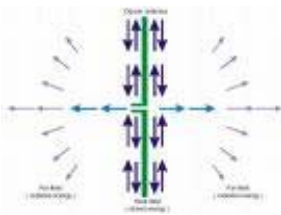
Houston, Texas

November 2009

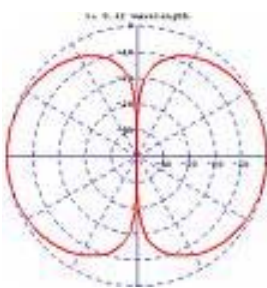


November Meeting

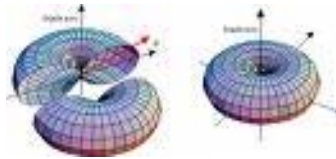
W5RH and Wire Antennas



Don't forget this month's meeting will feature none other than Rick Heller W5RH from the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. Rick has a lot of experience with practical wire and stealth antennas that he will be happy to share with us. I've had recent contact with Rick and he's actually looking forward to attending our meeting. Let's all give Rick a hearty welcome. Introduce yourself and make our featured guest feel welcome.



If you've never used a wire antenna that you designed and fabricated; you owe it to yourself to give it a try. It adds a whole new dimension to ham radio. Some folks, like me, will tell you there is no substitute for a good Long Wire or Inverted V antenna. Rick can tell you how to fit an 80M dipole into a postage stamp size lot and hide it from your neighborhood



restriction committee. Come to the NARS meeting on the third Friday of November and learn how and why wire antennas work. Next thing you know you'll be making your own open feed line.

December is traditionally show and tell month. Not many people homebrew anymore but we've had some interesting projects show up at the December meeting. I've been working on a multi-band balcony antenna. I know Larry has a device that allows him to send code via his 2M HT to the NARS Repeater. What have you got to show off? Bring it and let's see your creative side.

Election of NARS 2010 Officers

The election of the NARS 2010 officers takes place at the November meeting. Vice President Tom Atkins KD5EIJ is the incoming new President. Marty Fitzgerald W5MF and Brian Derx N5BA continue their two year term as directors.

The club needs to elect a new Vice President, two directors for two year terms, Secretary, and Treasurer/Administrator. Nominations so far include Larry Kendall K5END as Secretary, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR as Treasurer/Administrator, Martin Rogoff N5GPS as a two term director. The Vice President and a director positions need to be filled.

If you would like to join us and help with the inner workings of NARS please either call me or send me an email. - Marty W5MF 281 251 4301 - fitz6@swbell.net

Important Dates

Friday, November 20th, 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, January 23rd, 2010 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, November 24th, 7:30 PM

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Luby's Cafeteria Nov 18th
Jason's Deli Nov 25th
Baker Street Pub and Grill Dec 2nd
Sweet Tomatoes Dec 9th
BJ's Dec 16th
Marco's Dec 23rd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Fajita Willies W. Little York Nov 18th
Jason's Deli Nov 25th
Skeeter's Mesquite Grill Dec 2nd
Café Express Dec 9th
Princes Hamburger Dec 16th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Dec 23rd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Pappas Bar-B-Q Nov 18th
Morningside Thai Nov 25th
Prima Pasta Dec 2nd
Jason's Deli Dec 9th
Buffalo Grille Dec 16th
Southwell's Hamburger Grill Dec 23rd

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

November - 2009

It's that time of year to elect some new club officers. Please see announcement of candidates for office that we will vote on at the November meeting. I will call for some nominations from the floor so it's not too late to have a chance to serve on the board. It really hasn't been all that bad for me to serve as the VP and then President for the past two years. I had a lot of good help and most of the board is returning to serve another year.

At last month's meeting I showed some of my pictures that I took while on the Bike around the Bay. It was a great success for the Galveston Bay Foundation. We had 456 riders and I only had to pick up three riders on the first day. I got to see the area that was hard hit by Hurricane Ike and I did see some signs of re-building that were going on. Day two was a little different since the north wind picked up and I had to pick up about twenty riders. We ran into a little rain along the way but everyone made it to the finish before the 5pm deadline.

We have two public service activities the first weekend in December. Jerry Whiting has a list of volunteers for the bell ringers. No radio needed for this one but it is a great activity for the club. The other activity will be the replacement for the Sunmart. The runners have lost their major sponsor but want to continue the runs. It will be called the Texas Trails Runs. See my article in this issue.

This meeting will be a good one to attend to learn about different kinds of wire antennas. Easy to design and to install in places that need some invisible antennas.

It's not too early to reserve a few seats for the NARS banquet in January. See Joe's announcement in this issue.

VE Session Notice

Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, October 24th VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

We had 1 candidate. Anthony Herrington - KC5RAO - who upgraded from tech to general.

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

- Keith Dutson - NM5G
- Sarah Connell - W0HXO
- Martin Rogoff - N5GPS
- Jerry Seay - KE5PUT
- Bob Walworth - N5ET

The next session will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market St. & S. Cherry St.

2009 Texas Trail Runs Call for Volunteers

I need volunteers for Saturday December 5, 2009. This event will replace the Sunmart runs at Huntsville State Park. Rogar Solar has picked a new race director, Bart Childers, to handle running the event. The running world did not want to lose this event so they will put on the event but with different race sponsors. There will be a 50K and a 12.5 mile runs with a 10 hour time limit for the 50K. The race begins at 7am, so the finish will be at 5pm. Looks like we should run two shifts. So please check your calendars and sign up for some public service. Send me an email or call if you want to sign up. Paul, N5NXXS, paul.owen@flash.net, 281-894-7758

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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

Texas QSO Party 2009: A Recap Based on Logs Received

Chuck/N05W

Texas QSO Party Coordinator

The party's over, the logs are in, soapbox comments have been written, and it's time to start grading the logs to determine the winners of those fine Texas QSO Party plaques and certificates. The grading process will start soon, once any additional paper logs postmarked prior to the October 31 deadline have been received and entered into the database. While waiting for all of the logs to come in I've been building a QSO database containing all of the QSOs reported in each log. Of course what good is a database unless you start asking it questions to see what interesting facts/trivia you can glean from all that data. I thought I'd use this issue of the NARS Newsletter to pass along some of the results and to give you an indication of how the party went.

Participation – Of course the main objective of any party, the Texas QSO Party included, is to get a lot of folks together, to have fun, meet old friends, and make some new ones. Participation both inside and outside of Texas is what makes the QSO party fun for all participants. More players, more QSOs, more counties, more fun, and of course more good publicity for NARS. So one of the first things to look at when reviewing how the party went is participation. It would be great if everyone attending the party would file a log but that just doesn't happen. From the logs submitted I can see indication of operators that made 100 or more contacts but still failed to submit a log -- that's disappointing but it happens.

Regardless of that, one of the most reliable methods of measuring participation is in the number of logs submitted and the number of QSOs in those logs. By this measure the 2009 Texas QSO Party was very successful

with 289 logs submitted containing a total of around 65,000 QSO records. This represents an approximate 26% increase over 2008 in both the number of logs and the number of QSO records. To put this level of participation into perspective note that the number of logs submitted in the 2008 California QSO Party, the most popular state QSO party in terms of logs received, was 735. So by that measure the Texas QSO Party is medium-sized but growing and it appears there are enough potential participants out there to fuel plenty of additional growth.

Clubs help spread the word about the Texas QSO Party so it was good to receive logs from a large number of clubs both inside and outside of the state. In addition to logs from NARS, we received logs from the following clubs: Austin QRP Club, Brazoria County ARES, Brazos Valley ARC, Buena Suereta el Radio Societe, Central Texas DX and Contest Club, DX and Contest Club, El Paso ARC, Ellis County ARC, Hays-Caldwell ARC, Heart of Texas DX Society, Houston QRP Group, Midland ARC, Nacogdoches ARC, North Texas Contest Club, Panhandle ARC, Richardson Wireless Klub, South Texas DX and Contest Club, Southwest Dallas County ARC, Sun City ARC, Texas DX Society, Tri-County ARC, Tyler ARC, and Williamson County ARC. These clubs will be competing for the Club Aggregate Trophy that is currently held by the Central Texas DX and Contest Club.

NARS was well-represented in the logs submitted. Thanks to the following operators who took time out of their schedules to help put the Texas QSO Party on the air: K5CX, K5END, K5RLK, K5SEE, KB5VGD, KD2KW, KE5DFR, KK5LO, N5BE,

N5BIA, N5EN, N5NXS, N5TM, NM5G, NO5W, W5MF, and W5PDW.

Although there is no competition between out-of-state clubs many were represented and noted on the submitted log forms including: Alabama Contest Group, Arizona Outlaws Contest Club, Bavarian Contest Club, Central Germany Contest Club, Contest Club Ontario, Contest Group of Quebec, Florida Contest Group, Frankford Radio Club, Goshen ARC, Gwinnett ARS, Louisiana Contest Group, Mad River RC, Minnesota Wireless Association, Northern California Contest Club, Northern Lights Radio Society, Oklahoma DX Association, Potomac Valley Radio Club, Radio Amateurs of Erie, Rhein Rohr DX Association, Society of Midwest Contesters, Southeast Contest Club, South Jersey DX Association, Sportsman Paradise ARC, Tennessee Contest Group, Thumb Area Contesters, Utah DX Association, Vashon-Maury RC, Weekend Warriors, and the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.

County Coverage - One of the primary goals, stated or otherwise, of every state QSO party is to activate each of the counties in the state. The Texas party is no different except that it has a whole bunch (254) of counties spread across a whole lot of real estate and in some of the big west Texas counties you could drive a good part of a morning or an afternoon just to get across one or two of them. Add in the fact that many counties have only a very small population of normal folks and even fewer, maybe zero, hams and you can see that it's essential to recruit some mobile operators to travel around the state activating counties.

Texas QSO Party 2009: (cont)

So each year around late August or early September its time to start beating the bushes for mobile operators requesting their flight plans for posting on the web so everyone can see what level of activity to expect and what rare counties might be appearing that will interest the county hunters and other participants. I had a good indication that this year was going to be a tough one to meet the activate-all-counties goal when about one hour after sending out the "beating the bushes" email to mobile operators from 2008 I received the following replies back from several of the mobiles that had each put on over 30 counties in 2008:

- "Hi, Chuck, time for another TxQP? Unfortunately the college where I'm a professor is having its 100 year celebration and wouldn't you know the main celebration is going to be on the TxQP weekend – look for me next year, hope to give you a few QSOs from home"
- "Wow, Chuck, my XYL's high school class is having it's 50th reunion this year and wouldn't you know its on the weekend of the TxQP – look for us again next year, hope to give you a few QSOs from Rhode Island"
- "Geez, Chuck, the County Hunters are having a 20 year reunion in Tennessee this year and wouldn't you know, its Hope to work some of the gang from Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi on the return trip home. Have a good TxQP".

Those emails represented a loss of about 100 counties so there was definitely some recruiting to be done.

However good news followed with a note from K5YAA, Jerry from near Tulsa, that he would be coming down to run counties in northeast Texas, some of the very counties left vacant by the County Hunter reunion. Scanning the 3830 reports from the Kansas QSO Party I spotted an entertaining one from

Rob, K0RU near Kansas City, describing how much fun he had running mobile in the KSQP. A quick note to Rob suggesting that he could have some more of that kind of fun a month later in the TxQP was answered in a few days with "Wow, Chuck, that's a long way to go to run as a rover -- I'm gonna do it!".

Things were looking up around TxQP Headquarters since Rob's operation would fill a good bit of the gap left by the 100 year college celebration. Thanks to both K5YAA and K0RU for making the trip, having fun, making a lot of QSOs, covering their counties, and posting interesting soapbox comments on their experiences on 3830 – see K5YAA and K0RU .

Well we continued beating the bushes right up until a few days before the party and with only a day or two to go we had commitments for all 254 counties to be on the air with 33 mobiles signed up involving about 45 ham radio operators when you count drivers and co-operators. Unfortunately an unexpected work commitment forced the cancellation of one mobile that was going to the valley so once again, as in the last few years, several of the counties in the valley (Brooks, Maverick, Refugio, Starr) were not activated.

Thanks to the following 33 mobiles who activated a total of 513 counties resulting in 234 unique counties on the air:

NO5W(39), KK5LO(36), K5UN(27), N5NA(25), K5MRA(24), KJ5UY(23), KC5FHG(23), K0RU(23), N5UV(22), KB6OJE(22), K6JAK(22), K5ITO(22), K5YAA(22), K5WAF(19), KA5GIL(19), KK5W(17), WB9NUL(13), K5NOT(12), KE5LQ(12), K5END(12), K5RAU(12), N5TM(10), KG5U(9), KD2KW(8), KY5S(6), N3BB(6), KU5B(5), WC5D(5), N5BE(5), W5ETJ(4), WB0TEV(4), W5WX(3), WB5LJO(2).

Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of counties each station activated. We were glad to see the following known TxQP first-time-mobiles in the above group: KC5FHG, K6JAK, K5ITO, KA5GIL, KK5W(opsKK2Z and KD5QPX), K5END, N5TM, and W5ETJ.

Without drivers and/or co-operators most of the above mobile operations would never get to their first county line so a big thank you to the following operators that we know about that participated as either a driver or a co-operator: K5WNO, K5OT, W5ZL, K5AKS, W5PF, K5RLK, NX5M, KE5MS, KD5TIM, KK2Z, KD5QPX, and W9UCW.

Here's some results from the database showing how we did overall on county coverage:

Most Active Counties – Harris, Dallas, Williamson, Burleson, Gillespie, Brewster

Inactive Counties – Archer, Brooks, Maverick, Refugio, Starr

Hourly Activity:

- During the first hour of the party there were 98 counties on the air
- The maximum number of counties on the air in any given hour was 110 in hour beginning 2000 UTC Saturday
- The minimum number of counties on the air in any given hour was 85 in hour beginning 0100 UTC Sunday – the last hour of the Saturday session.
- The average number of counties on the air in a hour was 96 -- a steady serving of almost 100 counties
- New counties appeared in all but one hour and that was the hour beginning 0100 UTC Sunday – the last hour of the Saturday session

Texas QSO Party 2009: (cont)

- Besides the first hour, the hour(s) when the most new counties appeared were the hours beginning 1500 and 1600 UTC Saturday with 20 new counties each.
- A total of 249 counties were on the air at some point with 2 new ones, Crane and Haskell, appearing in the last hour of the party.
- If you were looking for newly appearing counties on Sunday N5NA was the station to track as Alan put a new West Texas county on the air in each of the six Sunday hours.

Activity from Outside of Texas – A total of 161 of the 289 logs were submitted by stations outside of Texas with 9 of the logs from DX and the remainder from the US(140) and Canada (12) . All US states were active with the most activity coming from California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, and Michigan and the least active states being Vermont, Hawaii, Nebraska, Alaska, and South Dakota.

A fair amount of DX activity, primarily from Europe, was also noted in the database: DL3DXX, DL5AWI, CU2JT, HK3Q, SP5SA, F1JKJ, F5IN,

MD0CCE, SM7ZDI, DL4FN, HA8IB, DM3ZF, UT5UIA, DL3XM, OK1VD, OQ5M, EI9JU, OH5Z, UA3AGW, DL1EZ, OK1APV, I1POR, LY3BY, OX3XR, SK3W, 5X1DF, DL3YAF, DL9LM, OH4A, RZ3FW, XE2EX, and JW5X. That's a good start and as sunspot conditions improve over the next few years you'll have an opportunity to work even more DX.

In summary it was another successful Texas QSO Party. We're showing steady growth with good participation inside and outside of Texas but with a lot of room and potential for further growth. Make plans to join in the action in 2010.

Annual Awards Banquet Scheduled for January 15th!

Another year is coming to a close. 2010 is but six weeks away and the NARS Awards Banquet is soon after. This will mark the 24th year that NARS has been in existence. It's only fitting that we celebrate, once again, our good fortune by gathering together to enjoy good eats, pleasant conversation with our companions and guests, and to recognize the accomplishments of those who have worked so hard to keep NARS what it is today.

It is especially important this year for our membership to support this event. Our contract with Wyndehaven Terrace obligates us to have a minimum of one hundred guests in

attendance. At the 2009 banquet we had but 76 attend, resulting in NARS having to pick up the cost of the deficit. Unless we meet our contracted attendance for 2010, I fear that the Wyndehaven facility may no longer be a viable choice for our Annual Awards event.

Look for another facility that can meet our needs? We did just that last year and found that there were plenty of offers, but at twice or more the price! One place wanted \$1000 just for the use of their facility, and we would have to arrange for the catering ourselves! Wyndehaven has over the years given us the best bang for our buck, but unfortunately, the

attendance requirement is becoming more difficult for NARS to meet.

Our plans are to keep the cost of \$20 per person, as in the past. For that, you get a nice buffet meal, great desserts, and ambience that fits the occasion. We're still deciding on a variety of menu offers and will announce our decision at a later date.

We urge you to please consider your attendance for 2010. Send in your check to NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston, TX 77290-0387 and indicate names of those attending. Do it now. NARS needs your support!

Welcome

New member Kevin Milazzo K1KIK

NARS Resource List

General Help:

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NETS

10-Meter Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM,
28.444 MHz

2-Mtr Wed. Night: 8:00 PM, 146.06/66
Coordinator; Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
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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*
section)

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