

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 2010



August Meeting

Texas QSO Party September 25-26

NARSians and other readers of the NARS News it's time once again to make plans and start getting ready for the Texas QSO Party, which will be at its usual date and time on the last full weekend in September.. This year we've introduced some new categories for those that would like to operate phone only. We've added Texas Single Op Phone Only, Texas Mobile Op Phone Only, and Non-Texas Single Op Phone Only. The mixed mode categories are still there for those that wish to operate both SSB and CW and the CW only as well as the QRP categories have also been retained.

If you're planning to operate from home we will publish your plans on the web as we've done in the past. To be included on the web send me the county you will be operating from and whether you will be Phone Only, CW Only, or Mixed mode.

If you are planning to go mobile, this year we will have the capability of publishing planned routes and APRS tracks on the Google county overlay maps that we've used in the past. This will show the track you plan to take and, if you have APRS capability, it will show where you are along that planned track. All of this will be presented on the county overlay maps that we've used in the past. So if you're planning to operate mobile please send me the following:

- a list of your planned counties in the order you plan to cover them
- your APRS call sign if you plan to have APRS capability.
- a Google map description of your planned route

This QSO Party Route Definition document gives a step-by-step procedure for creating the Google map description referenced in the last bullet. This procedure will create a small text file describing your planned route that you can then email to no5w@consolidated.net.

To insure that your information gets posted to the web please send it to me no later than September 18.

Once again NARS and many other clubs across the state will be attempting to put all 254 counties on the air during the TQP weekend. Last year we activated all but five. With your help this year we could activate the whole enchilada! If you have any questions feel free to contact me at the email address given above.

Important Dates

Friday, August 20th, 7:30 PM

Monthly Club Meeting,
Cypress Creek Christian Community Cntr,
6823 Cypresswood Drive

Saturday, August 28th, 2010 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, August 31st, 7:30 PM

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Pei Wei Asian Diner - Aug 18th
Wunsche Brothers Cafe & Saloon - Aug 25th
Jason's Deli - Sep 1st
Baker St. - Sep 8th
Sweet Tomatoes - Sep 15th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - Sep 22nd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Please contact **Mark Tyler K5GQ** for details.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - Aug 18th
Pappas Barbecue - Aug 25th
Morningside Thai - Sep 1st
Pronto Cucininio - Sep 8th
Jason's Deli - Sep 15th
Buffalo Grille - Sep 22nd

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

August - 2010

For the past several years the Northwest Amateur Radio Society hosted an annual banquet and awards dinner at the Windhaven Banquet Room on Cutten Road. The facility is certainly adequate and the food is palatable. All things considered it was a good value for the club and our members. I personally enjoyed the formal setting at Windhaven and think we will be hard pressed to find another facility that will match. But find a replacement we must. At this point in time attendance to our dinner banquet has diminished to the point that Windhaven has outgrown us. The minimum requirement of 100 attendees has become almost impossible to accomplish. NARS is required to pay out of our funds the difference between the actual meals consumed and the 100 meals prepared. Over the past 3 or so years this has slowly become a burden. The Board of Directors discussed this situation on several occasions and reluctantly decided to move our annual gathering to another venue. We've investigated several establishments and think that Wunsche Brothers in Old Town Spring is our best choice. If you know of a better place please attend our next Directors meeting and voice your opinion. Any suggested venues will be investigated but if none are offered it's a done deal with Wunsche Brothers.



VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson - NM5G
NARS VE Session Manager

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

We had 3 test candidates.

- element 2 tests given: 2; passed 1
- element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

- Larry Boyd - new tech
- Frank Allen KF5HAI - upgrade to extra

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

- Jerry Seay KE5PUT
- Martin Rogoff N5GPS
- Bob Walworth N5ET

Thanks also to Maria Rogoff for helping with administrative tasks.

The next session will be held Saturday, August 28 at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market St. & S. Cherry St. Official address is 221 Market St.

Parking is in the rear (south side) of the building. Use the entrance on the S. Cherry St. (west) side of the building.

VE's are invited to meet for breakfast at Denny's in Tomball, 14010 FM 2920, 281-290-7035, at 7:00AM.

Wednesday
Lunch Bunch - North
August 25th
Wunsche Brothers Cafe & Saloon

103 Midway Street
Spring, TX - (281) 350-1902

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

Partnerships in Radio

Lollie Garay KD5WZM
LABRATS Radio Club W5LAB
Redd School

A few years back an article in the QST Magazine (January & March 2004) featured our LABRATS Radio Club and the first contact made by our first licensed student, a 10 year old. At the time, the LABRATS (Learning ABOUT Research And Technology Through Science) Afterschool program had two components: the Radio Club and a Critter Docent Program. Through the years the LABRATS Program has evolved and now includes not only the amateur Radio club, but also Robotics & Engineering, Aeronautics, and Girl Science. Since its inception in 2004, the radio club has licensed 7 students (ages 10-12) and 5 adults; and certified 4 in Morse code. While these numbers appear small, they do not speak to the interest and enthusiasm enjoyed by all who have participated in our activities. Learning Morse Code, basics of electronics and circuitry, building oscillators and crystal radios, and learning radio protocol through on-the-air chats has provided students with tangible experiences that has developed new knowledge and respect for amateur radio - important in this new era of technology!

The success of our radio club is the direct result of our partnership with the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS) and the mentors who have volunteered their time and expertise through the years. When I created this afterschool program I did not anticipate the degree of support we would receive from the amateur radio community. Jerry Whiting (KB5VGD) has been our mentor and liaison with NARS for three years and has established our club as an on-going project for the organization. He has attended weekly club meetings, developed a summer Radio Chat program, and helped teach a basic electronics class for camp students.

Our most recent project was the construction of Regen radios, made possible through a generous donation by NARS and student contributions. Two elementary and 3 middle school students spent Friday afternoons for 7 weeks building Regen radios from scratch under the supervision and guidance of five NARS volunteers! The highlight of the project was undoubtedly learning how to solder. Some days the haze from the soldering was so thick, we had to turn on fans and open doors - but it never fazed the enthusiasm of the group!! In fact,

I'd be hard pressed to say who was having more fun: the mentors or mentees?



Capt. (Jim) Kirk KJ5X, and Noah assemble the circuitry.



Our youngest enthusiast, Brennan, concentrates on his soldering while mom and mentors Jerry Seay KE5PUT and Bob Walworth N5ET look on. -- *Continued on the next page*

Wednesday
Lunch Bunch - North
August 25th
Wunsche Brothers Cafe & Saloon

103 Midway Street
Spring, TX - (281) 350-1902

Partnerships in Radio ...cont



Terry Myers KQ5U guides Rachel on the wiring connections.



Mrs. Lollie KD5WGM looks on as mentor Jerry explains the next step to Braeden.



Jerry Whiting KB5VGD and Tyler look over the diagrams in the manual.



Mission Accomplished!

There are so many ways that you can impact student learning. As a teacher I understand that the best resources are people with life experiences to share. I have learned so much from my mentors and have found that teaming up with them gives my students the professional expertise and technological knowledge of experienced Hams. Partnerships in education benefit everyone who participates. Thanks to all in the NARS community who have helped to make OUR partnership successful!

2010 Texas QSO Party
2010 Texas QSO Party

Around the Circuit

The Woodlands '10 for Texas' 10 mile run Saturday October 9th, 6:45AM - Noon start



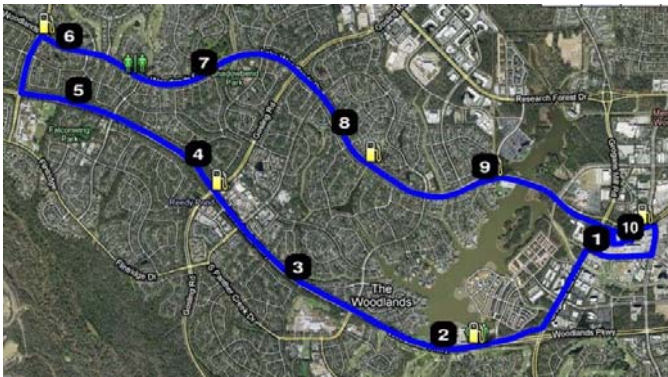
.This year the popular '10 for Texas' 10 mile run will be taking place using roads in The Woodlands on Saturday, October the 9th, and we need all the help we can get!!

This is a great community event. It is charitable, with the funds earned by this event being poured

back into supporting community benefiting programs in and around The Woodlands.

Previous experience with this event has been that the participants of this event are very mindful and expressive of their appreciation for us being on the course, keeping an eye on their progress, and any need for assistance.

Volunteers will receive an event Tee-Shirt and free food and liquid refreshment (ie: Free Beer for those that want it). Visit <http://www.woodlands-event-comms.info/10forTexas/> for more information and to sign up. Register early to secure your choice in tee-shirt size. For any other queries, please email Peter Belbin at ke5stl@gmail.com.



Field Day 2010 A few More Comments... - a commentary

Joe Sokolowski - KD5KR

The July issue of the NARS News summarized the field day operations quite well, and we all thought it was one of NARS's best yet. A lot of work went into the planning and operation of this event, and needless to say, that rascal "Murphy" kept his distance throughout the weekend. We did, however, neglect to mention the support received from some of those who donated their services, equipment, and time in assuring a successful field day operation.

Over the past three years, the Salvation Army along with a crew headed up by Kelvin (Scotty) Scott KE5NPD made available their Disaster Response vehicle and provided the bottled water, ice and the use of their numerous coolers for the Saturday activity. They also made sure we had a hot dog or two to hold us over while Chef Tom Atkins KD5EIJ tended to the briskets and sausages on the Barbie.

Did you notice the solar power array used for the alternate power bonus points? They were on loan from the Tideland Signal Corporation. What a slick operation that was! Once again, all our soft drinks were donated by Larry Overton, Store Director of Garland's Food Fair on FM 1960.

Oh, much of the food was provided by one of our members. He preferred to remain anonymous, and KD5EIJ made me swear on a stack of NARS newsletters not to divulge the donor, so, don't even ask!

Larry, K5END acknowledged the support of many of our NARS members, so I won't go into detail there, except to say that Field Day just doesn't happen. It's success depends on so many of our membership to make it work. It also means getting the support of the public. This is where our strength lies. Field Day 2011 is just around the corner. Time to get cracking!

2010 Texas QSO Party
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Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome new member Burwell (B.J.) Caron.

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
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

Bob Walworth N5ET - WAZ
281-292-2221, rwalworth@charter.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

NARS Information

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Tom Atkins KD5EIJ
281-447-4347
tom_sts@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

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

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n5ba@qsl.net
Martin Rogoff N5GPS
281-890-4538
n5gps.tx@gmail.com

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281-251-4301,
fitz6@swbell.net

Jerry Seay, KE5PUT
281-376-2810,
jjsea@hal-pc.org

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

2-Mtr Wed. Night: 8:00 PM, 146.06/66
Coordinator; Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.net>
Web master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
281-370-3510, n5bia@arrl.net

NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.gth.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:

Keith Dutson NM5G
keith@dutson.net

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)

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281-376-7416 - k5cx@arrl.net

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