

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 2010



March Meeting

YN2EA DXpedition to Granada, Nicaragua

Come to the NARS general membership meeting Friday, March 19, 7:30 to see a presentation of photos and video clips of the March 4-9 trip to Nicaragua by Cal White WF5W, Mike Bragassa K5UO, Doug Seyler WB5TKI and Keith Dutson NM5G. This team entered the ARRL International DX Phone contest as station YN2EA and did very well, currently ranked in the top 10 of scores posted on the 3830 reflector.

See more detail on the TDXS web site, <http://www.tdxs.net/>. Select DXpeditions on left links column, and scroll down.

Keith NM5G/YN2MG



Important Dates

Friday, March 19th, 7:30 PM

Annual Awards banquet,
Cypress Creek Christian Community Cntr,
6823 Cypresswood Drive

Saturday, March 27th, 2010 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, March 30th, 7:30 PM

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Jason's Deli Mar 17th
Baker St. Mar 24th
Sweet Tomatoes Mar 31st
BJ's Apr 7th
Marco's Apr 14th
Spring Creek Barbeque Apr 21st

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Los Arcos (West at Beltway) Mar 17th
Los Arcos (West at Beltway) Mar 24th
Los Arcos (West at Beltway) Mar 31st
Los Arcos (West at Beltway) Apr 7th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Apr 14th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Apr 21st

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Morningside Thai Mar 17th
Pappas Barbecue Mar 24th
Jason's Deli Mar 31st
Buffalo Grille Apr 7th
Southwell's Hamburger Grill Apr 14th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Apr 21st

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 - 2010

I heard a lot of favorable comments from our membership after last months club meeting.

I think everyone enjoyed Jeff's program and insight into the various Amateur Radio service organizations. I honestly knew little about them but now feel more confident about making a decision to join the ARES group. I'll use this forum to publically thank Jeff and the other representatives from ARES for taking the time to address our group. Also thank you Keith for your part in scheduling such an interesting event. Good job guys.

Larry K5END and I had an opportunity to fill in for Chuck NO5W at the Greater Houston Hamfest. We sat at the Texas QSO Party table and answered various questions about how, when, and where. Several folks stopped by specifically to see Chuck and chat with him in person. It seems Chuck and the QSO party have developed a following. That's all the more reason for NARS to support Chuck in his efforts to grow the QSO Party.

As most of you are aware our newsletter editor H.O. K5CX is making plans to move to North Texas soon. That means NARS will be looking for a replacement newsletter editor sooner rather than later. The board of directors has spoken to a few reluctant individuals and will certainly consider anyone who will volunteer their services. If you think you would like to tackle that sort of job let us know soon.

Remember folks, the Board of Directors meeting is open to any and all members of NARS. If you've ever wondered how we come to some of the decisions we make, attend a meeting sometime. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the Ponderosa Fire Station.

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson - NM5G
NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, February 27th VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

Congratulations to:

- Stan Romney KF5FJM - new tech
- Sonia Lightsey KF5FGS - new tech
- Randall Harbaugh KF5FGT - new general (passed elements 2 and 3)

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

- Eddy Reynolds K5WQG
- Norm Covey K5OS
- Sarah Connell W0HXO
- Martin Rogoff N5GPS
- Jerry Seay KE5PUT
- Bob Walworth N5ET

The next session will be held on Saturday, February 20th 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 2010 is \$15.

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

Where Does All the Money Go?

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
Treasurer & Admin. Secretary

Every so often we get enquiries concerning the solvency of NARS. How much of a bang does a member get for his \$20 dues each year? Has the economy had any impact on NARS as a club? Are we financially sound, or should we apply for some of that stimulus money Washington is passing out? I must admit, the Board of Directors has been rather lax in keeping the membership informed of our finances. Hopefully, I can shed some light on what it takes to run an organization of 150 plus members each year. Let's take a look at what our typical operation costs are each year:

Annual Expenditures:

- Meeting site rent \$352
- Liability Insurance \$320
- P.O. Box Rent \$ 56
- Annual Banquet \$500
- Field Day \$150
- Redd School sponsorship \$100
- TQP Awards \$100
- Misc. Donations \$75
- Admin costs* \$550

Total: \$2203

* Admin costs. Day by day operation. Without going into minute details, let's just say this covers secretarial services which includes mailing out renewal notices, brochures,

laminating supplies, copy expense, paper, toner, printer ink, lots of postage, and a bevy of other stuff used in correspondence and record keeping.

Keep in mind, the above expenditures vary from year to year. It's not unlike your personal household budget, which tends to go up each year and seldom goes down. Now, let's talk income.

Annual income: 150 members @ \$20 = \$3000

Hey! It looks like we get to bank about \$800 after all is paid. Uh, well, that's if every one of our members renews each year. Many do, and a few don't. We lose some on one end and gain a few new members on another. Has the fragile economy effected NARS? Sure. Our membership has dropped from 200 to about 150 over the past eighteen months. It happens. It could be worse. To cut overhead, we now distribute our monthly newsletter via email or website. We saved about 90 cents a copy with that move alone! Acquiring our own web site also helped.

Currently, we have just under \$6000 in the bank. That sounds like a lot, and it is, but having a buffer guarantees our being able to ride out the future and its surprises. Did you notice that our membership fee of \$20 hasn't changed in fourteen years? How many organizations can say that?

Hope this answers some of the questions you might have about NARS and its finances. We hope to include in future editions of the NARS News a brief summary of our monthly Treasurer's Report. Our board meeting is held the last Tuesday of each month and is open to any member wishing to voice his opinion on issues of concern.

TQP 2010

It's hard to believe but it's time again for the annual TQP promotional tour at hamfests around Texas. This year, as well as last, the tour kicked off with the BVARC-Greater Houston event. Unfortunately I had another commitment that came up on that weekend and Tom KD5EIJ and Larry K5END stepped up to help out -- thanks guys. From the picture it looks like they had some interested customers, probably entertained by one of Tom's tall tales of TQP and "did you hear the one about ...". Next on the tour is HamCom in Plano in June followed by Austin Summerfest in early August, both excellent hamfests. If you get to either of them be sure to drop by the TQP booth.

Chuck N05W - TQP Coordinator



Annual NARS Buffalo Bayou Regatta Event

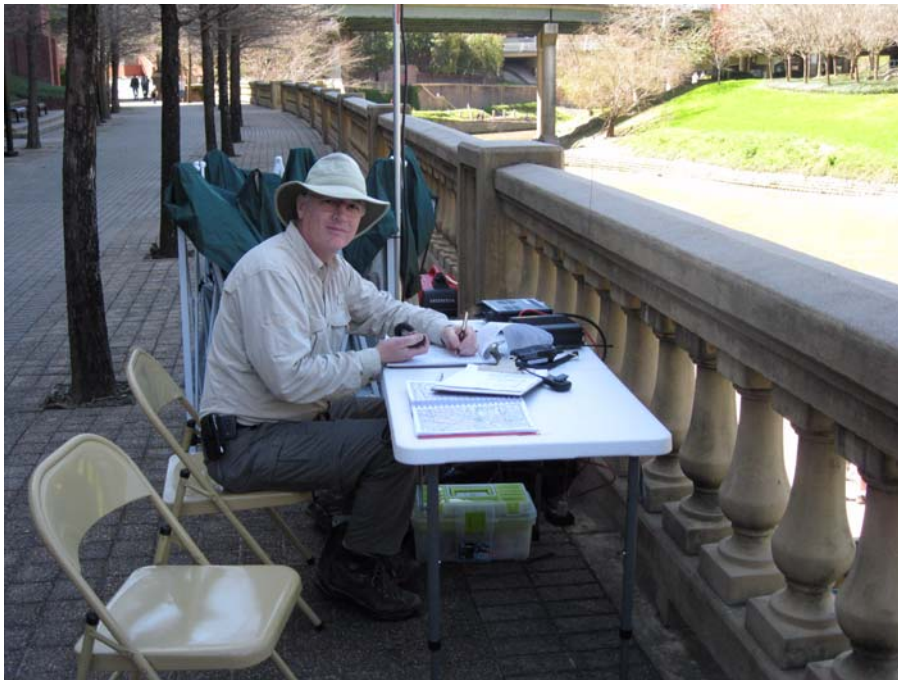
The 2010 Buffalo Bayou Regatta was held Saturday, March 13. The team and positions this year include the following:

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Start/Finish Line Help; Jim Kirk KJ5X, Voss Road; Larry Mousseau KF5ENR, Chimney Rock; Tom Atkins KD5EIJ, Woodway/610; Kyle Atkins KE5SWJ, Woodway/610; Jim McClain KD5WVE, Bayou Bend; Ken Wilson KE5DFR, Shepherd; David White W5DCW, Waugh; Dale Martin KG5U, Montrose; Keith Dutson NM5G, Sabine; Matt Woodruff KA5YYD, Finish Line - Net Control; Mark Janzer K5MGJ, Sweep Boat; and Angela Batiz, Sweep Boat.

Thanks to all of these volunteers for a superb job this year. The event set a new record with 400 boats entered.

Trudi Smith, Director of PR and Events, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, expressed her appreciation to me for our efforts.

Keith NM5G
Coordinator



Top: Matt Woodruff KA5YYD Net control. **Bottom:** Mark Janzer K5MGJ and Angela Batiz acting as a "sweep boat."



Welcome

New members.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
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281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
Bill Denton W5SB
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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 - CQ 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

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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Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
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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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
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Send all articles and materials for the
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Editor: H. O. Townsend - K5CX
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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
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American Radio Relay League
ARRL Club No. 2120