

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2010



May Meeting

Field Day

ARRL FD 2010 is June 26 & 27, and the NARS BOD and the FD team have been working, planning, organizing, drawing, spreadsheeting, searching, discussing, arguing, resolving, sharing, repairing, allocating, begging, powerpointing and preparing for FD since January. We'll have NARS FD 2010 at Burroughs Park, 9738 Huffsmith Road in Harris County. In theory, FD is an emergency preparedness exercise to evaluate and develop our



skills and assets as Amateur radio responders. In practice, Field Day is a lot of fun and a time to get together. The ARRL describes FD as "a non-contest contest." Be sure to attend the NARS meeting on May 21 and see the FD Planning Program. This article will get you familiar with what, why and how NARS will exercise FD 2010.

(see *Field Day* on page 3)

NARS to Hold Class on Morse

After much discussion and even more procrastination we are pleased to announce that NARS will sponsor a code class. This will be a beginner's class and prior knowledge of Morse Code is not necessary. We are planning to hold class on Monday and Thursday nights from 7PM to 8:30PM beginning June 7th. It will take approximately 4 weeks to complete the course and by end of June you should have sufficient knowledge to make on air contacts. We have limited space available so reserve your seat early.

Tom - KD5EIJ (Tom_STS@Hotmail.com)

Important Dates

Friday, May 21st, 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, May 22nd, 2010 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, May 25th, 7:30 PM

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Baker St. May 19th
Sweet Tomatoes May 26th
BJ's Jun 2nd
Marco's Jun 9th
Spring Creek Barbeque Jun 16th
Pei Wei Asian Diner Jun 23rd

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Los Arcos (West at Beltway) - May 19th
Contact **Mark Tyler K5GQ** for details

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Pronto Cucinino - May 19th
Jason's Deli May 26th
Buffalo Grille Jun 2nd
Southwell's Hamburger Grill Jun 9th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Jun 16th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Jun 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

May - 2010

This year's MS 150 came off without a hitch. Rain threatened to cause problems in the early morning hours but dissipated as the day wore on. Most of the cyclist managed to keep themselves safe and serious injuries we held to an absolute minimum.

Only a few NARS regulars participated in this year's event and I'd like to see that change. We have many talented operators and should be more involved than we are. A club the size of NARS shouldn't have a problem rounding up a half dozen volunteers for a worthwhile event like the MS 150.

Maybe our level of interest is tied to the solar cycles. Who knows, we've had great years in the past but as of late our interest seems to be waning slightly. Even our once glorious NARS repeater is mostly silent. In fact one of our members recently installed a radio in his new car and couldn't find anyone to talk to. Let's help him out and do what we can to rejuvenate the "information" repeater. Jerry KB5VGD holds an on air meeting every Wednesday night at 8:00 PM. Let's join Jerry for a quick check in and information exchange.

Our club is finically sound and carries a large roster with many dues paying members but it takes more than that to have a successful organization. We need you to be involved. And as luck would have it Field Day is just around the corner. We are in need of operators for the Side Band and CW Stations. You will see more and more request for volunteers and equipment on the club reflector as the day draws near. Step up and be counted. Even if you don't want to operate there's plenty of work to be done.

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson - NM5G
NARS VE Session Manager

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

We had 13 candidates.

- element 2 tests given: 11; passed 8
- element 3 tests given: 4; passed 3

Congratulations to the following:

- Michael Harris - new tech
- Douglas Wilson - new tech
- Jeffrey Callaway - new tech
- David Pedini - new tech
- Randall Gurnsey - new tech
- Igor Davydov - new tech
- Justin Villalobos - new tech
- Javier Tellez - upgrade to general
- Cecile Blake KF5FZC - upgrade to general
- William Wheelles - new general

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

- Jerry Seay KE5PUT
- Martin Rogoff N5GPS
- Bill Frink K5WAF

The next session will be held Saturday, May 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, 221 Market St., 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	800-471-7373
267 Cypresswood Drive	281-355-7373
Spring, TX 77388	Fax: 281-355-8007

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

www.houstonamateurradio.com

E-Mail: houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net

Field Day

These are the primary objectives for this year's FD.

- High visibility to the public during operations to generate interest in NARS and Amateur radio
- Demonstration of Amateur radio and its asset potential to public officials
- An augmented GOTA operation schedule to allow potential hams to get a taste of HF
- Maximum possible antenna system efficiency and performance
- Use of alternate power source (solar)
- A competitive FD result
- Fun!

A wise and successful project manager has said, "get the right person for the job, get that person the things needed to get the job done, and then get out of the way." The NARS FD 2010 strategy is based on this principle and the project tasks are grouped and cut like an apple pie, with experienced, capable leaders (I'd say they all qualify as Elmers) who have stepped up to the task for each slice. As FD Coordinator I am extraordinarily pleased with the teams and their respective results. These amateurs are nothing short of pro.

These are your FD Officers for 2010 and their email addresses.



CW Station Captain Chuck Sanders
NO5W no5w@consolidated.net



"FONE" Station Captain
Keith Dutson NM5G
kdutson@sbcglobal.net



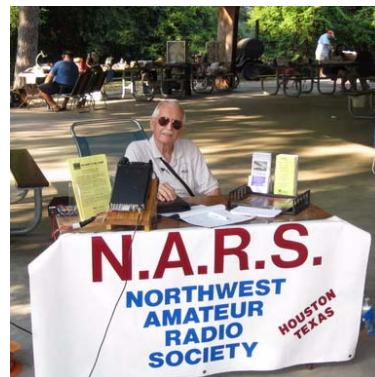
GOTA Captain Paul Owen N5NXS
n5nxs@flash.net

Stan Polak K5STZ k5stz@att.net is the VHF Captain. Stan will double as the Satellite Captain. Stan is quite knowledgeable and experienced in Amateur satellite operation and NARS is fortunate to have him on the project. (Photo of Stan is forthcoming. He's currently looking skyward and smiling for the next satellite photo. We've had one bird pass already, but Stan blinked in that photo.)



Antenna Captain Jerry Seay KE5PUT
ijseay@hal-pc.org

The Power Captain is Ken Wilson
KE5DFR ke5dfr@sbcglobal.net
(Sorry, Ken. I didn't have a photo of you.)



Public Information Officer and FD Project
Advisor Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
kd5kr@juno.com



Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ is in charge
of...stand-up comedy?
tom_sts@hotmail.com

Field Day

Now is the time to contact the station Captains to sign up for your time to operate during FD. Please contact these guys right away and sign up. Each Captain will format the schedule for his station, so be sure to know what time and for how long you will be operating. **Again, we are counting on club members for participation.**

The GOTA Station is great to have for a number of reasons. It is a chance for non-hams to use an HF radio and make contacts to faraway places. Consider this analogy: I remember long ago when a friend set up a humdinger telescope for us to get a good look at Saturn. What I saw in the eyepiece was breathtaking. Although I'd seen pictures of Saturn, I'd never really had a good look at it with my own eyes. Of course I got into Astronomy after that. Who wouldn't? Now consider the feeling you had when you made your first HF or DX contact. The feeling of hearing ones call sign come back in a pile up makes it all worthwhile, and the GOTA station is a fast track to get a taste of this. The GOTA station also provides several ways to score extra FD points. It would appear the ARRL is encouraging GOTA operation. (Ya think?)

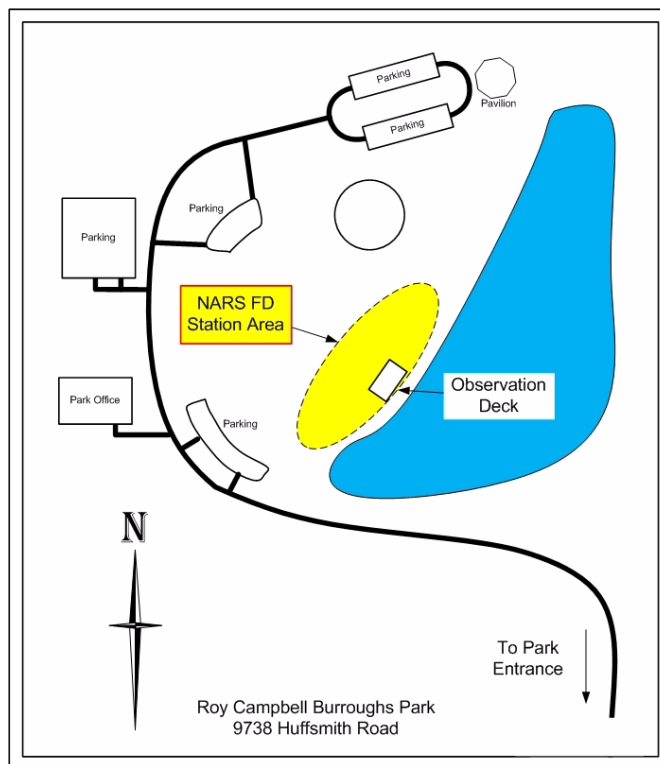
Paul N5NXS will be assisted by volunteers Peter Brown, KE5IOV and Chris Brown, KE5IOU. These guys are experienced GOTA team leaders and we are fortunate to have them. This year we have an active campaign to recruit GOTA operators, and we need your help to fill the schedule. If you know someone who is interested in Amateur radio, contact the GOTA team and reserve a time! For you new or inactive hams, you can work the GOTA station too.

John Ellis ,W5PDW plans to be our FD photographer. He could probably use some help with equipment and ladders. Contact John if you'd like to help him out.

The FD rules allow us to begin set up on location at 13:00 local on Friday, June 25, and we have permission from the Parks department to do so. Think about how nice it will be to begin FD operation on Saturday without the effects of heat stress from having set the antennas and stations up earlier the same day!

We need any and all volunteers to meet us at Burroughs Park, 9738 Huffsmith Road, beginning at 1:00 PM Friday to help with the set up. PLEASE make your intentions known so that we have an idea of how much help we can

count on. Contact the team Captain of your choice or the FD Coordinator. Volunteers will need work gloves and protection from insects and sunburn. Anyone working around the wire launchers (which is pretty much everyone, considering the range of those things) will need eye protection.



One priority for FD is to maximize antenna performance. Jerry's team has been preparing, repairing and testing these systems since early February. His team is responsible for providing all the antenna systems for all the stations. The SSB and CW HF stations will be separated by several hundred feet and the antennas will be placed away from large metal structures. The Parks department will allow us to set up two towers and use the trees for wire antennas. Jerry, KE5PUT has assembled an excellent task force, enlisting Terry Myers, KQ5U, Mark Dubay, W5MMX, Brad Nelson, WD5GNI and others to set up an impressive antenna farm. This is a huge job and your help is needed for set up and take down.

Field Day

One condition imposed on NARS by the Parks Department is to have uninterrupted supervision of the areas around the towers—for obvious safety reasons. Therefore, once the towers are set up we will need volunteers to monitor the tower and guying areas.

This arduous task requires an OM to sit in a chair, in the shade, lean back, sip a cool beverage and try to outdo the tall tale just told by the other OM sitting nearby. The most difficult part of a tower monitor's job will be to stay awake! Contact Jerry KE5PUT or the FD Coordinator to volunteer as a tower monitor. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it. Step up (sit down, actually) and be a hero!

Ken, KE5DFR will need help loading, unloading and setting up the generators, plus help to monitor and refuel as needed. Because the stations will be spread out there will be two generating stations. Each generator will have a standby generator to take over when it is time to refuel. This prevents having to refuel a hot engine, or worse, refueling on the fly. If you can help, please contact Ken or the FD Coordinator.

Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, sunburn and lightning are often overlooked when

considering safety. At the NARS General Meeting on May 21 we will include an overview of signs and symptoms for heat related illness, plus a discussion of FD policy and instructions on how to seek shelter from lightning. Heat stroke and lightning are life-or-death matters, and every participant at FD will need to be informed how to recognize and respond to these dangers. Recommended personal items are sunscreen, insect repellent, cool/loose/light clothing and some sort of bandana, small towel or washcloth.

A safety briefing will be held at Burroughs Park shortly before 13:00 local when we begin set up on Friday. As the FD Coordinator I encourage strongly the use of eye protection for everyone during set up and take down. Consider the risk vs. gain of "not" wearing eye protection. The risk for permanent damage and loss of sight is significant and, well...I can't really think of any gain or advantage to not wearing safety glasses.

The FD team voted unanimously to arrange for an unseasonably cool weekend and no rain forecast for FD. The agreement to ensure this result has

been redlined and is currently under negotiation. Please note that you will feel MUCH better and cooler if you drink more water and less "soda."

Updates, changes, calls for things needed and other announcements will be posted to the Reflector as needed. To volunteer or ask questions regarding your participation contact the Captains responsible for the activities in which you plan to participate (you do plan to participate, don't you?) For general questions about NARS FD 2010 send an email to the NARS FD 2010 Coordinator (that's "me") at narsfd2010@att.net. For the official ARRL FD Packet and Rules, see <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>

Special thanks to the NARS BOD, the FD Officers, Matt Woodruff KA5YYD, Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, Dan Henderson N1ND, H.O. Townsend K5CX, Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD, Harris County Parks Department, Tami Kendall "YL/K5END" and many others (whose names I forgot to mention but still appreciate nonetheless) for their guidance, contribution and assistance in various ways on this FD project. Now go and sign up to operate and help!

Larry Kendall K5END

Bob Walworth - N5ET New CQ Card Checker

Bob Walworth N5ET is the new CQ Magazine WAZ card checker for the Houston metro-area. Bob's contact information is listed on the back of this newsletter!
Keep him busy!

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS would like to extend its condolences to the family of Larry Kendall K5END on the passing of their daughter Staci Caldwell.

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

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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 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