

# NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

November 2010



## November Meeting

### *Fire Safety in The Home and How Amateur Radio Works with The Fire Department and EMS*

This month General meeting topic will be a presentation by Ponderosa Fire Chief Fred Windisch. He will be discussing fire safety in the home and how Ham radio fits in with the fire department and EMS in the northwest part of Harris County.

Fred Windisch serves as the Fire Chief of the Ponderosa FD in north Harris County. Ponderosa serves 50,000 people in a 13 square mile area. Fred is retired from Shell Oil's research division after 30 years and was the facility's fire chief. Fred worked his last 13 years in the Health, Safety and Environment department. Chief Windisch recently chose not to run for re-election to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs after 11 years, and he still serves on the IAFC's Volunteer and Combination Officers Section Board of Directors. He has been a member of Ponderosa FD since 1975. Fred co-authored a book A Leadership Guide for Combination Fire Departments and has written numerous articles related to leading volunteer and combination agencies.

This should be a very interesting meeting.

### *Saturday Nov. 20th*

The FM 1960 Area Emergency Communication Center was formed and began operation in 1984 at the Sugar Pine Lane location. At this time 8 departments owned this till 1996 when Cypress Creek EMS bought out the remaining 7 department shares. It was decided that the Sugar Pine out grew its capacity and a new facility was built from the ground up. This is now located on Five Forks just off Stubener Airline and went on line in April 29th 2010. It houses a full ham station plus all of the other communication equipment and has a 200 foot tower.

Nars has made arrangements to visit the location on Saturday Nov. 20th at 9:00 am after the Nars Saturday breakfast at Denny's. Come and see how the new EMS system works.

## Important Dates

### **Friday, November 19th, 7:30 PM**

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

### **Saturday, November 27th, 2010 8:30 AM**

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

### **Tuesday, November 30th, 7:30 PM**

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

### **Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North**

BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - Nov 17th  
Marco's Mexican Restaurant - Nov 24th  
Spring Creek Barbeque - Dec 1st  
Pei Wei Asian Diner - Dec 8th  
Cafe Express - Dec 15th  
Jason's Deli - Dec 22nd

### **Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West**

Please contact Mark Tyler K5GQ for details.

### **Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center**

Buffalo Grille - 17th  
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Nov 24th  
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille - Dec 1st  
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - Dec 8th  
Pappas Barbecue - Dec 15th  
Morningside Thai - Dec 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

November - 2010

As we approach the end of the calendar year 2010 the BOD is responsible for nominating a new slate of officers and directors. This may sound like a relatively easy task but believe me when I say it's not. This year's nomination committee chairman is Jerry Seay and he's having a difficult time finding a qualified candidate for the vice presidents position. I'm sure he'll have that chair filled by the November meeting but if you're even remotely interested in helping the club's board of directors please contact Jerry before the meeting on November 19, 2010.

Another topic of discussion in last months BOD meeting was the clubs fiscal stability. Our bank balance stays about the same year round and has remained steady for a few years now. We've not had a fund raiser in several years so we are dependent on our membership dues for our support. This emphasizes the importance of paying our dues on time. Director Keith Dutson reports he's had numerous requests from our membership for an accounting of our finances. At his request our secretary Joe Sokolowski will begin posting the clubs expenditures in our newsletter so our membership will know where our money goes. Keep an eye on the newsletter for Joe's column. If you have more than a casual interest you can always attend a BOD meeting and review the budget with us.

Congratulations to one and all for your efforts during the 2010 Field Day activities. Preliminary reports show W5NC placing high in the rankings for Texas. Good job Larry and team captains Keith and Collin. Successful events like Field Day don't happen by themselves. It takes hard work, planning and dedicated leadership from folks like you.

# VE Session Notice

**Keith Dutson - NM5G**  
**NARS VE Session Manager**

Saturday, October 23 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

There was one test candidate:

- element 2 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

- Michael Hvasta - new Tech

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

- Mike Bragassa K5UO
- Jim Kirk KJ5X
- Sarah Connell W2AOV
- Paul Frantz W5PF

The next session will be held Saturday, November 27 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.

## 2010 Texas Trail Runs

I need volunteers for Saturday December 11, 2010. This event has replaced the Sunmart runs at Huntsville State Park. Roger Solar will sponsor the race again and Bart Childers will be the race director. 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. We will run two shifts again. You will need to have a handy talkie with extra battery packs. So please check your calendars and sign up for some public service. Send email to [paul.owen@flash.net](mailto:paul.owen@flash.net).

Thanks es 73,  
Paul N5NKS  
[paul.owen@flash.net](mailto:paul.owen@flash.net)  
281-894-7758

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	
<a href="http://www.houstonamateurradio.com">www.houstonamateurradio.com</a>	
<b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net">houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net</a>	

## **NARS & Salvation Army Red Kettles**

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome -- funding the project.

Where would the money come from? How could he find the funds to fulfill his commitment of feeding 1,000 of the city's poorest individuals on Christmas Day. As he pondered the issue, his thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

Six years later, the kettle idea spread from the west coast to the Boston area. That year, the combined effort nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy. In 1901, kettle contributions in New York City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square Garden, a custom that continued for many years. Today in the U.S., The Salvation Army assists more than four-and-a-half million people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas time periods.

This is the 4th year that NARS has rung the bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettles. Our location is the Wal Mart store at Spring Cypress & 249, December 4th, 10 am to 5 pm in 1 hour shifts. Public contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten. This year we have all of the time spots fill except the emergency back ups for reasons that a volunteer can't make it. I have openings for 2 persons to fill this requirement. If you can fill this position then please send me a e-mail at [g\\_whiting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g_whiting@sbcglobal.net)

## ***Highlites of the NARS October Board Meeting***

Joe KD5KR presented the Treasurer's Report and noted the following disbursements were issued as per approval of the board:

Donation to the QSL Net (NARS Reflector) \$100 and \$25 to the Ham Radio Promotion Project, of which NARS is a participating member. Post Office box rental was renewed for the year at \$56, and a \$200 deposit was issued to the Wunsche Bros. Café for the Awards Banquet in January of 2011.

Jerry Seay KE5PUT summarized the list of those running for board positions in November and noted that the position of Vice President is still in need of a candidate.

Announcements for the coming Awards Banquet were made and an agenda was outlined.

Vice President Keith NM5G, announced that a November VE session was scheduled for this year to accommodate an influx of applicants. He also pointed out that the December meeting would consist of the annual Show-n-Tell program and encouraged the membership to submit their latest projects before the membership.

Those members interested in the financial and general operation of NARS are urged to attend board meetings held the last Tuesday of each month. Your participation and recommendations are always welcome.

# *Annual Awards Banquet Scheduled for January 21, 2011*

Another year has passed and we are fast approaching the NARS Annual Awards Banquet. This event marks the 25'th year that NARS has been in existence. Clubs come and go with time, but it is satisfying to know that NARS with its 170 plus members is still a healthy and vibrant organization after all these years. It is only fitting that we celebrate, once again, our good fortune by gathering together to enjoy good eats, good conversation, and recognize the accomplishments of those who worked so hard to keep NARS what it is today.

Here are the details:

Where: Wunsche Bros Cafe, 103 Midway, Old Town Spring

- **When:** Friday evening January 21st, 2011 - 6:30 to 9 pm.
- **Cost:** \$24.00 per person
- **Adult beverages:** Available at additional cost.
- **Menu:** Country Style Buffet consisting of chicken fried steak, fried chicken, veggies, beer bread, salad and dessert.

Inflation once again has caught up with us. Due to the increase in costs of services, we had to raise the price by four dollars. Last year's banquet was great, but the cost, plus minimum attendance requirements made it necessary to discontinue our relationship with Wyndehaven Terrace. Wunsche Bros Cafe offered us a reasonable price and gave NARS exclusive use of their facilities for that evening. Those of you that have dined at this historical site in the past can agree that the quality of food is excellent.

We urge you to please consider your attendance for 2011. Send in your check to NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston, TX 77290-0387. Advanced reservations only. No money will be collected at the door. Cancellations will be honored for up to two weeks prior the event. Once we give them a head count, we're locked in.

## *Banquet Update*

A review of our reservation listing for the Annual NARS Awards Banquet for 2011 indicates that we now have 25 individuals signed up for this gala event. That places us at about 30% booking, and it's only mid-November. It's rather

early for many of us to commit to attending this event, but I urge you not to procrastinate until the last moment.

January 21st will be upon us before you know it.. Our maximum allowable count for this banquet is eighty-five, and if history is correct, you could be on the "outside looking in."

Look at what you'll be missing!

- Dinner at the famous Wunsche Bros. Café,
- outstanding entertainment by the NARS Pickers, straight from Las Vegas, I'm told. (The Greyhound bus couldn't get out town soon enough due to an unpaid bar bill of \$1478.50. Something about a check that didn't clear, but other than that, they were a huge success, according to the District Attorney. Hey, come on now, you were expecting the Blues Bros, maybe?) Then there's meeting some of those seldom seen companions that only show up for this exciting venue.

Sign up now, while it's fresh in your mind. Twenty-four bucks American, will insure a spot somewhere up front!

Bring your wife or significant other. This is a respectful joint!

## **Have You Renewed Your Membership Lately?**

I bet some of you didn't realize that you had forgotten to renew your membership in Houston's largest and most vibrant fraternal organization, the **Northwest Amateur Radio Society**. We at NARS typically send you a notice that your membership is about to expire, and a month later you might get another reminder. If you haven't responded by then, we figure that you're either not interested, or you've reached room temperature and have gone SK.

Part of the excitement is sharing your interests with others. Clubs like NARS offer much in helping you be a better ham. Have a problem with an antenna? Someone nearby is bound to have a fix. Need help getting your tower up? There are always a few that will offer to give you a hand. But really, where else can you find a source for technical information and problem solving that's so readily available when you need it? NARS, of course.

Annual dues are still twenty bucks, American, and haven't increased in many years, but administrative costs continue to soar. We need your renewals to keep NARS vibrant. It costs us about 75 cents to send a renewal notice. If we could do away with that "second notice," it would help keep the overhead down. Get back into it! The coffee is still strong, meetings end on time, and the tall tales never fail to entertain. Not sure when you are due? Check the NARS website and click on Membership. There you'll find your renewal date.

# Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY  
281-893-3901, [k5zty@juno.com](mailto:k5zty@juno.com)

Allen Majeski WA5REJ  
281-353-8652, [wa5rej.tx@netzero.net](mailto:wa5rej.tx@netzero.net)

Bill Denton W5SB  
281-469-8331, [w5sb@arrl.net](mailto:w5sb@arrl.net)

Deral Kent K5WNO  
281-548-7476, [k5wno@juno.com](mailto:k5wno@juno.com)

**Digital Modes:**  
Marty Fitzgerald W5MF  
281-251-4301, [fitz6@swebell.net](mailto:fitz6@swebell.net)

### VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA  
281-894-5942

### PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson NM5G 281-351-7683,  
[keith@dutson.net](mailto:keith@dutson.net)

### Building Electronics & Kits:

Mark Tyler K5GQ  
281-587-0256, [k5gq@juno.com](mailto:k5gq@juno.com)

### Interference (Basic Advice):

Terry Myers KQ5U  
281-443-6042,  
[tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net)

### Card Checking for Awards:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC  
281-292-2221, [rwalworth@charter.net](mailto:rwalworth@charter.net)

Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC  
281-894-5942

Bob Walworth N5ET - WAZ  
281-292-2221, [rwalworth@charter.net](mailto:rwalworth@charter.net)

**NARS Public Information Officer:**  
Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR  
281-353-2196, [kd5kr@arrl.net](mailto:kd5kr@arrl.net)

## PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Tom Atkins KD5EIJ  
281-447-4347  
[tom\\_sts@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_sts@hotmail.com)

## VICE PRESIDENT

Keith Dutson NM5G  
281-351-7683  
[keith@dutson.net](mailto:keith@dutson.net)

## SECRETARY

Larry Kendall  
281-256-1883, [K5END@arrl.net](mailto:K5END@arrl.net)

## TREASURER

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR  
281-353-2196, [kd5kr@arrl.net](mailto:kd5kr@arrl.net)

## DIRECTORS

Brian Derx N5BA  
281-894-5942  
[n5ba@qsl.net](mailto:n5ba@qsl.net)

Martin Rogoff N5GPS  
281-890-4538  
[n5gps.tx@gmail.com](mailto:n5gps.tx@gmail.com)

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF  
281-251-4301,  
[fitz6@swebell.net](mailto:fitz6@swebell.net)

Jerry Seay, KE5PUT  
281-376-2810,  
[jisea@hal-pc.org](mailto:jisea@hal-pc.org)

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR  
281-353-2196, [kd5kr@arrl.net](mailto: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](mailto:g_whiting@sbcglobal.net)

## WEB SITE

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

## NARS REFLECTOR

[NARS@mailman.qth.net](mailto:NARS@mailman.qth.net)

Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G  
281-351-7683, [keith@dutson.net](mailto:keith@dutson.net)

## TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W  
936-273-6930, [no5w@consolidated.net](mailto:no5w@consolidated.net)

## VE SESSION (ARRL) Manager:

Keith Dutson NM5G  
[keith@dutson.net](mailto: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](mailto:k5cx@arrl.net)

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