

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 2011



August Meeting

Texas QSO Party September 24-25, 2011

It's been promoted at the BVARC Hamfest, presented at Ham Com, and jaw-boned at Austin Summerfest but it's about time to finish up the promoting and jaw-boning and to get ready to hit the road in that annual QSO Texstravaganza known far and wide as a great weekend of radio fun called the Texas QSO Party. It's sponsored, of course, by your own Northwest Amateur Radio Society – NARS.

Just to back up that “far and wide” claim here's a little quote from a letter I received from a regular TQP participant from over in the Southeastern part of the country: “My two clubs sponsor the state QSO party for our state and we all regard you Longhorns as the gold standard of putting on a great one. We have a lot less dirt to cover but do have a lot of counties, second only to Texas, and really appreciate the hard work that you guys put into the TQP”. I'm sure he was using Longhorns in a generic sense and has high regard for Aggies, Red Raiders, Cougars, Owls, and all the other Texans.

Here's another quote by a non-Texan, this one from the 3830 reflector. It pretty much sums up the 2010 TQP:



“I think the bar has been raised several notches on this one. This was the best QSO party ever in my experience, as far as active mobiles and multipliers are concerned. There were so many mobile rovers with excellent operators that it was impossible to keep up with all county changes. There was no time for breaks! All in all, it was 18 hours of fun.”

Wow its time to finish up the promoting and jaw-boning and start making plans to uphold that gold standard and to make sure we keep that bar high and even raise it some more! So 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 will be continuing with the rules and categories from 2010 which can be found on the website at <http://www.txqp.net>. (see page 4)

Important Dates

Friday, August 19th, 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, August 27rd, 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, August 30th, 7:30 PM

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

Lunch Bunch - North

Sweet Tomatoes - Aug 17th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - Aug 24th
Gianna Italian Kitchen - Aug 31st
Spring Creek Barbeque - Sept 7th
Pei Wei Asian Diner - Sept 14th
Cafe Express - Sept 21st

Lunch Bunch - West

Please contact Mark Tyler K5GQ for details.

Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Jason's Deli - Aug 17th
Buffalo Grille - Aug 24th
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Aug 31st
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille - Sept 7th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - Sept 14th
Pappas Barbecue - Sept 21st

Taildraggers 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

Summerfest

What does one do during the dog days of summer? It's really too hot to do any amateur radio activities outside, and not much fun inside.

I decided to attend the Austin Summerfest. I got a table to sell raffle tickets. Then I decided to take along some items I need to sell.

The trip to Austin was delightful. I left Tomball Friday at 12:30PM after lunch, and headed out FM2920 toward Waller. My Garmin Nuvi guided me along the route through Hempstead, Brenham, Giddings and Bastrop to the Airport Marriott on I35 in Austin. I arrived about 3:30PM with plenty of time to check in and get pre-registration badge and table assignment.

By 5:00PM my table was set up, but buyers were not allowed in until 6:00PM. I was amazed at the amount of shopping displayed by the other table vendors. It was almost as if the table area had been opened early. The fellow with two tables on my left was all over the place picking up good bargains. On my right was a couple, the Tiptons, from Edna. He was getting out of ham radio and selling just about everything, including a Glen Martin Engineering hazer for Rohn 25. I enjoyed talking with the couple during the entire time we were selling our stuff.

As time passed, I began to sell some of my items. Past NARS President Walter Hock KK5LO came by and bought some raffle tickets. He was there selling stuff with a fellow ham from Hondo. They had both a table and tailgate slot outside with towers and antennas. I also saw Bob Walworth N5ET, plus some friends from CTDXCC (Central Texas DX and Contest Club). These are the guys that have won the last several TQP club aggregate titles. The trophy is covered with their name.

(see page 3)

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson NM5G, NARS VE Session Manager

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

We had 7 test candidates taking 7 tests.

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

Congratulations to:

- Eugene Dorcas - new tech
- Jon Rawson - new tech
- Michael Hvasta KF5IUM - upgrade to general
- Terry Schultz KF5LRF - upgrade to general
- Carey Birmingham KF5LMK - upgrade to extra
- Bruce Francis N5WRN - upgrade to extra
- Roger Moore KF5LVI - upgrade to extra

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

- Martin Rogoff N5GPS
- Jerry Seay KE5PUT
- Mike Bragassa K5UO
- Sarah Connell W2AOV
- David Schornak N1IB

Thanks also to Ron Horton KF5LFL and XYL Sheree KF5LMJ for helping with paperwork.

This is the first time I can recall, during my tenure as a VE, there were more upgrades than new hams.

The next session will be held Saturday, August 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.

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	

Around the Circuit

President's Corner (cont)

I sold another set of raffle tickets to one of the reps from Flex Radio who was wearing a nice suit and tie. Later, when we were about to close for the evening, I went to the Hotel restaurant and got a nice sandwich and drink. Then it was off to bed.

Next morning at 6:00AM I went to the hospitality suite where I found famous Round Rock orange doughnuts, fresh fruit and coffee. It was a great way to begin the day and talk to some new ham friends. The Tiptons were also there.

I took a spare doughnut and cup of coffee down to the table. The doors opened at 8:00AM and there was a real flood of hams. Soon I had sold almost everything on my table. About the only things left were one Vibroplex dual paddle key (brought two to sell), one set of headphones, and a TEN-TEC mic cable for Heil headsets. I also saw past NARS President Lee Kinard K5AVY, Mike Hance K5NZ and Madison Jones W5MJ. So many people came by, I must be forgetting someone. What a great way to see old friends!

Tom Atkins KD5EIJ came by and helped sell more raffle tickets. He also took over my table so I could go listen to George DeMontroind NR5M talk about re-building his superstation near Hempstead. I found he can now work ALL bands and all modes, not just HF SSB and CW. This includes several EME arrays and microwave dishes. All told he has 14 towers.

After NR5M's talk I went back to the table, packed up and was about to leave when one fellow asked if I had sold the last Vibroplex. I told him I had already packed it. He said he didn't have the cash, so I brought it home.

The trip home was also interesting. When I was west of Hempstead I looked to the northeast and saw some of NR5M's towers. That is an impressive sight! I am planning to attend Summerfest every year from now on. Anyone want to tag along and share the gas and hotel expense?

Special Event Station K5B – Plano Balloon Festival

September 16, 2011 – September 18, 2011 – Plano, Texas Celebrating the 31st annual Plano Balloon Festival, members of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) and area amateur radio operators will be QRV as K5B during the festival. Frequencies plus or minus QRM: 7.255, 14.255, 21.355 and on the club repeater, WD5ERD on 147.180 + PL 107.2 and via Echolink at K5PRK. QSL with SASE to K5PRK .

More information formation will be available on our website at www.k5prk.net/, [AE5NO Ron]

July 2011 Board Highlights

Keith NM5G, President, reviewed the raffle progress and plans for ticket sales at Summerfest to continue the positive results.

The Treasurer's Report and previous meeting minutes were presented and approved by the Board.

The board is continuing with plans for the January 2012 banquet.

The club property inventory is complete along with storage locations.

A report for another successful VE session was filed.

The list of meeting programs is complete.

A Redd school update was presented including the estate sales intended to raise money for ham projects.

Newsletter ads will be accepted from members desiring to sell equipment. Ads should be submitted to Keith.

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.

Around the Circuit II

Texas QSO Party (cont)

If you're planning to operate from a fixed station 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 and the days you plan to be on the air.



If you're planning to go mobile, this year we will continue to publish 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. 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 and the days of operation
- your APRS call sign if you plan to have APRS capability.
- a Google map description of your planned route

Regarding the last bullet item this QSO Party Route Definition document gives a step-by-step procedure for creating the Google map. This procedure will create a small text file describing your planned route that you can then email to no5w@consolidated.net for installation on the web. To insure that your information gets posted to the web please send it to me no later than September 17. Examples from previous years

can be found on the Route Plans page of <http://www.no5w.com>. A few photos from the 2010 TQP are shown below.



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 two – Somervell and Willacy. 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.



There'll be one more chance to catch the TQP promoting and jaw-boning at the NARS club meeting this Friday so come prepared with any questions and comments.

73/Chuck/NO5W

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome new member Gene Dorcas KF5MCT, and returning member Rick Aikman K5ZE!

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
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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

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

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Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF
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Tom Hoherd, KK5YU
281 370-2941,
kk5yu@att.net

Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD
281 583-5588
g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

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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