

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 2011



December Meeting

Annual Show & Tell

December is Show and Tell month. So far, Steve Niles will bring three projects, Redd School will bring one project, a visitor last meeting will bring his working robot, and there are three others that have mentioned that they will bring something of interest. Sounds like a good meeting in the making.

Don't Forget Our Raffle

The club is selling tickets for an HT - 72SD Kenwood dual channel radio with built in GPS. Tickets are ten to the book @ \$1 each ticket and when you buy a whole book you get two tickets as a bonus. The drawing will be held at the annual banquet scheduled for January 20th, 2012.

2012 Club Officers Set

New club officers set for the 2012 include: President Jerry Seay - KE5PUT, Vice-President Tom King - WK5DX, Secretary Martin Rogoff - N5GPS, Treasurer Sheree Horton - KF5LMJ, and Directors Tom Atkins - KD5EIJ, Tom Hoherd - KK5YU, Ron Horton - KF5LFL, and Mike Shulz - K5TRI. Congratulations to all!

Annual Awards Banquet Scheduled for January 20th!

Here are the details:

- **Where:** The County Line of Houston, 13850 Cutten Road, Houston
- **When:** Friday, January 20th 7 to 9 p.m. (Dinner served at 7:30 p.m.)
- **Cost:** \$24.00 per person (No, we don't do PayPal.)
- **Cash bar** available on site

see page 3 for more information

Important Dates

Friday, December 16th, 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, January 28th, 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, December 27th, 7:30 PM

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

Lunch Bunch - North

BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - Dec 14th
Gianna Italian Kitchen - Dec 21st
Spring Creek Barbeque Dec - 28th
Pei Wei Asian Diner Jan - 4th
Cafe Express - Jan 11th
Jason's Deli - Jan 18th

Lunch Bunch - West

Please contact Mark Tyler K5GQ for details.

Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Buffalo Grille - Dec 14th
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Dec 21st
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille - Dec 28th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - Jan 4th
Pappas Barbecue - Jan 11th
Morningside Thai - Jan 18th

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

Coming Christmas

Christmas is a time to consider others. Those celebrating a religion other than Christianity during the holidays usually join in the Christmas tradition.

Of course, the favorite type of consideration is presents under the Christmas tree. Just about every ham loves to get something for amateur radio. However, few family members really know what to get, so money is always a good choice.

Years ago I heard a song performed by The Kingston Trio. Remember them? My father treated me to one of their performances in Houston back in the 60's in downtown Houston.

Many will remember songs like Tom Dooley, Everglades, Scotch and Soda, and Greenback Dollar. But the song I remember most is Desert Pete. It is a story about an old gold prospector who leaves a note in a baking powder can beside an old water pump in the desert. Here are the lyrics that I remember the most.

"This pump is old," the note began, "but she works. So give'er a try. I put a new sucker washer in 'er. You may find the leather dry.

(chorus)

You've got to prime the pump. You must have faith and believe. You've got to give of yourself 'fore you're worthy to receive.

Drink all the water you can hold. Wash your face cool your feet. Leave the bottle full for others. Thank you kindly, Desert Pete.

Yeah, you'll have to prime the pump, work that handle like there's a fire. Under the rock you'll find some water left there in a bitter's jar. Now there's just enough to prime it with, so don't you go drinkin' first. Just pour it in and pump like mad and, buddy, you'll quench your thirst.

see page 3

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson NM5G - NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, November 26 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

We had 4 test candidates taking 4 tests.

- element 2 tests given: 3; passed 3
- element 3 tests given: none
- element 4 tests given: 1; passed 0

Congratulations to:

- Blanche Runyon - new tech
- Brendon Flower - new tech
- George Paxon Jr - new tech

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

- Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
- Paul Frantz W5PF
- Ron Horton KF5LFL
- Mike Bragassa K5UO

The next session will be held Saturday, January 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.

Merry
Christmas

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.

www.houstonamateurradio.com
E-Mail: houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net

Around the Circuit

President's Corner (cont)

In those words are several lessons in life. I really like the part about giving of yourself. As amateur radio operators we have many opportunities to give of ourselves. Last month I talked about public service including Salvation Army bell ringers, the Texas Trails Endurance Runs and the Chevron Houston Marathon. Thanks to those who volunteered and to those who will volunteer for future events.

During the November general membership meeting the following officers were elected:

Tom King WK5DX, VP

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ, Treasurer

Michael Schultz K5TRI, Director

Ron Horton KF5LFL, Director

Please join me in welcoming these new officers.

Thanks to Chuck Sanders NO5W for presenting the results of TQP 2011. Thanks also to George Edwards K5VUU for an excellent presentation of his home-brew screwdriver antenna.

I hope to see you at the December show-and tell meeting.

Have a merry Christmas!

Awards NARS Banquet

Another year is coming to a close. 2012 is but four weeks away and the NARS Awards Banquet is soon after. This will mark the 26th year that NARS has been in existence. It's only fitting that we celebrate, once again, our good fortune by gathering together to enjoy good eats, pleasant conversation with our companions and guests, and to recognize the accomplishments of those who have worked so hard to keep NARS what it is today.

But wait, there's more! This year, the Awards Banquet 2012 will be held at The County Line Bar-B-Q. How about great Texas cooking? OMG! You can't beat their Chicken, beef ribs, brisket, and baby-back pork ribs. Peppered turkey breast & sausage? Yeah, they do that too. Throw in some homemade potato salad, cole-slaw, beans, homemade bread, and you got yourself a one fine meal. But wait, there's still more! No long winded speakers, just award presentations, some really cool door prizes to add to the excitement, and finally, a musical

interlude courtesy of the "NARS Pickers" to wind up the evening.

Ok. Here are the details:

- Where: The County Line of Houston, 13850 Cutten Road, Houston
- When: Friday, January 20th 7 to 9 p.m. (Dinner served at 7:30 p.m.)
- Cost: \$24.00 per person (No, we don't do PayPal.)
- Cash bar available on site.

We urge you to please consider your attendance to this classy bash. Send in your check to NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston, TX 77290-0387 and indicate names of those attending. Advanced reservations only. No money will be collected at the door. Cancellations will be honored for up to ten days prior the event. Once we give them a head count, we're locked in. Do it now. NARS needs your support!

2011 Salvation Army Bell Ringing

This is the 5th year annual event for Salvation Army Bell Ringing by the members of Northwest Amateur Radio Society. The weather was good and the rain did not come till late in the evening.



This is a fun event and a worthwhile one in that it put the monies to good use for Christmas by providing food and presents for the needy. In the 7 hours that the 14 members worked we collected \$772.68. The picture is the shift change of Joe Sokolowski KD5KR to Deral Kent W5WNO.

DIY ... by Tom King - WK5DX

This month's project is the K1EL WinKeyer USB. This kit uses the K1EL WinKey2 chip and operates in both stand-alone and radio controlled modes. It has 4 memory slots to store CW messages via 4 pushbuttons on top of the unit.

Tools:

- Small Phillips screwdriver
- Dykes
- Soldering station

Construction:

I ordered my kit from K1EL's web site , <http://www.k1el.com> , and it arrived via USPS in just 2 days. I inserted the included mini-cd and opened the instruction manual and, following the directions,

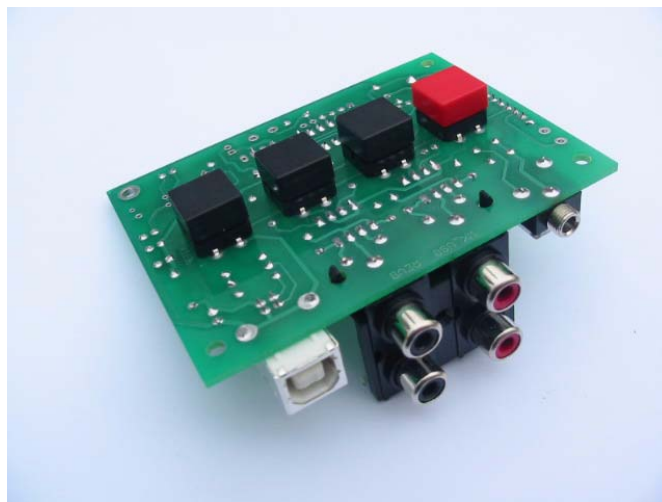


I checked the parts to make sure the count was right, and started right in by inserting all 18 resistors into the printed circuit board, soldering them in place and trimming the leads.



Next I placed the capacitors and soldered the IC holders on the circuit board. The next step was soldering the battery pack and

code speed potentiometer on the circuit board. Then the USB connector and other connectors onto the back side of the circuit board. All that was left to do was to check out my work and close up the keyer.



Check Out:

First I downloaded the included testbed programs to my PC and went through the checkout procedure. The winkeyer USB worked without having to re-solder any of the parts. Now all that was left to do was to check it out to see if it worked with my logging program. N1MM recognized the WinKeyer USB and I was able to send code via my F-keys! Just in time for CQ WW CW!

Conclusion:

This is a great first time project. This kit is very professional and easy to put together. The kit arrives quickly at a reasonable price (\$79) and performs as advertised. The programs (WIN OS) and manual (PDF) are excellent and easy to follow.



Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
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Allen Majeski WA5REJ
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Bill Denton W5SB
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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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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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Send all articles and materials for the
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281-376-7416 - k5cx@arrl.net

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American Radio Relay League
ARRL Club No. 2120