

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 2011



## June Meeting

### 3Y0X

## DXpedition to Peter I



This month's NARS general membership meeting, Friday, June 17 is the 3Y0X video from Peter I Island. This is an interesting and exciting account of the 2006 operation from near the south pole.

The 21 team members completed over 86,000 QSOs.

More people have flown in outer space ..

than have set foot on Peter I Island! [You will enjoy the movie!](#)

## ARRL Field Day 2011

This years ARRL sponsored FD is set for June 25th and the 26th. For details, please see the May edition of NARS News, or contact Larry Kendall - K5END. Further, please see the club's website locate the NARS Field Day 2011 Flyer, with an inset map to Burroughs Park. Feel free to print and distribute. Email Larry or any of the team Captains with questions about Field Day 2011. [See page 3 for a listing of the various captains.](#)

## Walter R. Rooney Phd. W5VHN SK

Dick was born in Lynn, Mass. His family then settled in Malden, Mass., north of Boston, Where he graduated from high school.

Dick served for six years in the U. S. Navy and then left to attend Georgia Tech, where he received a degree in Electrical Engineering. "Doc", received his PhD in Business at American University in Washington, D.C and began his professional career.

In December of 2003 Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL, our Ham & Sheez Reporter interviewed Dick for her QUA column. Please read further for a reprint of that interview.

## Important Dates

**Friday, June 17th, 7:30 PM**

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

**Saturday, July 23rd, 2010 8:30 AM**

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

**Tuesday, June 28th, 7:30 PM**

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

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North**

Baker St. - June 15th  
Sweet Tomatoes - June 22nd  
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - June 29th  
Nona's Italian Grill - July 6th  
Spring Creek Barbeque - July 13th  
Pei Wei Asian Diner - July 20th

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West**

Please contact Mark Tyler K5GQ for details.

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center**

Pronto Cucinino - June 15th  
Jason's Deli - June 22nd  
Buffalo Grille - June 29th  
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - July 6th  
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille - July 13th  
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - July 20th

**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

June 2011

Going to HamCom has become an annual tradition for me. My first was in 1994 when it was held in Arlington at the Civic Center, across from the Ball Park, where the Texas Rangers play their home games. I have missed only two since then. About four years ago it moved to Plano Centre, about 20 miles north of Dallas.

So, what is it that keeps me coming back. I think the answer is slightly different each year. That is because of the very nature of our ham radio hobby, which is constant change. I will share the main highlights of HamCom 2011.

Each year there is new equipment available from various vendors. I like to see and touch the new rigs, amplifiers, meters, tuners, power supplies, CW keyers, antennas, antenna switches, and many other pieces of equipment on display. This is definitely a big draw for me.

Next is the lineup of speakers and demonstrations held in the various conference rooms at the Centre. There are often two that I want to see, scheduled at the same time. Decisions, decisions.

Then there are the people I see each year and get to renew old conversations, then bring up new topics. There are also new folks to meet and start a new friendship.

Finally, there is the W5DXCC Dinner, organized by the Lone Star DX Association (LSDXA). This year there were 250 attendees, an all-time record. Here is a quote from the LSDXA web site:

“Our speaker will be DX Hall of Fame’r Don Greenbaum, N1DG who will tell of the hardy team that recently activated Signy Island in the South Orkney group. We will also be treated to brief remarks from Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL President and Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel for the FCC Enforcement Bureau.”  
See page 3

## VE Session Notice

*Keith Dutson NM5G, NARS VE Session Manager*

Saturday, May 28 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

We had 15 test candidates taking 20 tests.

- element 2 tests given: 8; passed 8
- element 3 tests given: 7; passed 5
- element 4 tests given: 5; passed 3

Congratulations to:

- Ian Roberts - new tech
- Roy Henderson - new tech
- Richard Fuller - new tech
- Sarah Lundy - new tech
- Sarah Brown - new tech
- Richard Horton - new tech
- Erich Burrer - new tech
- Randy Corliss - new general

Alvie Stiefer KD5NHY - upgrade to general; Michael Schulz KF5KWD - upgrade to general; Michael Davis KC5OFM - upgrade to general; Stephen Simmons Sr KE5ERO - upgrade to general; Michael Hebert KD5DFB - upgrade to extra; Chris Brown KE5IOR - upgrade to extra; Eliabeth Madry KE5IOU - upgrade to extra.

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

- Paul Frantz W5PF
- Martin Rogoff N5GPS
- Jerry Seay KE5PUT
- Mike Bragassa K5UO
- Ken Mitchell KD2KW

There will be no session in June because of Field Day.

The next session will be held Saturday, July 23 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
<b>Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Inc.</b>	
George DiLetto, KD5ORW President	
www.houstonamateurradio.com	
<b>E-Mail:</b> houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net	

## Around the Circuit

### President's Corner (cont)

Kay was there because the ARRL national convention was held at HamCom this year.

After the DX dinner, several of us went to a local restaurant/bar for more conversation. I cannot remember all who were there, but Mike Hance K5NZ was sitting to my left, Dave Sumner K1ZZ was on the right, Tim Duffy K3LR was directly across the table, and Don Greenbaum N1DG was next to Tim. I learned a lot during the next hour. Also, Tim got me to

promise to attend his Contest University at Dayton next year. That will be my first trip to Hamvention.

During Friday and Saturday when I was not too tied up, I spent time at the Texas QSO Party booth with Chuck Sanders NO5W. I was selling raffle tickets for the Kenwood D72 handi-talkie that NARS will be awarding to a lucky winner of a drawing to be held at the 2012 NARS Awards Banquet.

I still have more raffle tickets for sale. I hope to have them available at all future meetings and get-togethers. See you then.

## NARS / ARRL Field Day 2011 Captains

Here are your NARS W5NC Team Captains for ARRL FD 2011

- Phone Captain: Keith Dutson-NM5G
- VHF/UHF/Satellite Captain: Stan Polak-K5STZ
- GOTA Co-Captain: Paul Owen-N5NXS
- GOTA Co-Captain: Peter Brown-KE5IOV
- GOTA Co-Captain: Chris Brown-KE5IOR
- Antenna Captain: Jerry Seay-KE5PUT
- Tower Captain: Bob Mennel-WB5IUU
- Public Relations Captain: Joe Sokolowski-KD5KR
- Score Entry Captain: Chuck Sanders-NO5W
- AC Generator Captain: Ken Wilson-KE5DFR
- AC Facilities Captain: Ken Harlan-KA5AKG
- Served Agency & Hydration Captain: Jerry Whiting
- Food Captain: "Captain Food" Tom-KD5EIJ
- Coordinator, CW Captain & Solar Power: Larry Kendall-K5END
- Mary Ellen & Jerry Whiting at the finish line



# QUA\* Dick Rooney W5VHN?

Until my latest conversation with a NARS member I thought my dad was involved at the very beginning of computers, in the mid-50's (before I was born, in case you were calculating!) But, I just talked with W5VHN and he was in the really early stages in the late 40's. And he has some fun stories. Dick Rooney, his friends call him "Doc", may be NARS' oldest member at 84. I'm sure if I have misstated someone will let me know – here's his story.

Dick was born in Lynn, Mass. His family then settled in Malden, Mass., north of Boston, Where he graduated from high school. While living in the New England area he taught snow skiing and was even involved with a team from Austria teaching a new method of parallel called Arlborg, which rivaled the Swiss methods. The team was used to teach a troop of skiers during the war.

Speaking of methods, his grandfather was a professor and developed a method of penmanship which challenged Gregg. He concedes that Gregg won, because we have never heard of his grandfather.

Dick, he doesn't become "Doc" for a few more years, then joined the Navy. He was lying on the beach in Key West, Florida when war was declared. He went to sea where for starters he saw the Missouri get hit by Kamikaze pilots.

His boat was an LFT which was for communications and sat low in the water. There was a new technology, called fire controlled radar, being tested on a neighboring ship. The machine gun would follow the Kamikaze, but it sighted his ship and swept the deck. One of Dick's friends was hit and he was as mad as a hornet because he was hit by friendly fire. This friend was an Electrician's Mate and created an electro magnet to pull the shrapnel out of the wounded.

Dick was chief radioman and had a team of 40 working during a typhoon. Some were very sea-sick. Dick asked an especially bad case if he wanted to leave. He croaked "No," then threw up again in his helmet and kept going.

Dick served for six years and then left to attend Georgia Tech, where he received a degree in Electrical Engineering. There he met his wife of 56 years, at a dance. Her name is Anne. They both love gardening, she concentrates on roses.

Together they had three girls and one boy and now have five grandchildren and even two great-grand-children. Three of their children live in the Houston area. One daughter remained in Tennessee.

"Doc", received his PhD in Business at American University in Washington, D.C and began his professional career. He worked for several years with the government in Washington, D.C. and various locations around New England.

One of his favorite stories is about a computer "storage" system consisting of six 25 foot mercury filled tubes with cylinders at each end. The signal would be sent through the mercury.

Another problem was the reel-to-reel tapes. They moved so fast that when they stopped to reverse directions they would break. So they tried a tube with air flow to dampen the effect. It didn't work very well.

At one point his delay was a roll of coax! And one time he flew to Sylvania's plant to test each Dipole for its front to back ratio because they needed it to be very high.

Doc left his government position and worked with ITT in New Jersey and then from there back to Georgia where he was Director of Science and Technology Commission of Georgia. His initial responsibility was to win the bid for a facility to be built in Georgia. In this endeavor he met Hubert Humphrey during Governor Maddox's term to present his proposal. The site was put in Miami, but their group was one of the first to use "space technology" for commercial endeavors.

He went from there to Lockheed in Atlanta and was involved with the design of the C5A. They used a computer program to design the plane; what happens if you change the wing, make the tail larger, etc. When the bottom fell out of the aeronautics industry Lockheed went from approximately 35,000 employees to 5,000 in one week. Doc was one of the casualties. He then accepted a professorship at Emory University and from there to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. For five years he taught the MBA program to Nuclear Engineers who were unemployed.

His final move was to the University of Houston to become the Chairman of their newly established Business Program. He retired from this position in 1986.

When I asked W5VHN about his radio equipment he said, "It's old.", but it must still work well because he has "somewhere around" 340 countries. And, can anyone match this? Satellite DXCC confirmed about three or four years ago! His one disappointment is that as he was moving around the country and changing call signs (he's had one in all!), he threw away the QSL cards.)

Oh, yeah, the equipment; an ICOM and a 34 foot tower in the front yard (there are too many power lines in the back), with a tri-bander and all the necessary satellite gear.

He has made so many contacts that few stand out as special, but he talked many times on voice, CW and satellite with a ham in Japan who always says for instance, "This is the 18th time we have talked". He has his picture climbing his tower.

His son has his license with the call KC5VHN, purely by the luck of the draw! It kept W5VHN from getting one of those vanity calls. He qualified to do so when he became an Extra the "old" way testing at better than 20 wpm. In fact Doc has his First Class Commercial license and also a First Class Telephone/Telegraph license received in Honolulu around 1943. The only way to get this is if you have served at least one year at sea.

"Doc" and Anne have been involved in the community in various ways over the years since retirement began. Enough that the North Spring area in which they live named a park after him, "Doc" Rooney Community Park. Franny and I will have to have Michael take us over for a visit!

When I asked him to sum up his life he said he "wouldn't change a damn thing. I had a good education and career, wonderful family and friends." "Doc", we can only hope that when we are 84 we will be able to say the same.

*Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL  
Ham & Sheez Reporter*

\* QUA: "Q" signal meaning "Have you news of . . . ?"



# 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  
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Deral Kent K5WNO  
281-548-7476, [k5wno@juno.com](mailto:k5wno@juno.com)  
Digital Modes:  
Marty Fitzgerald W5MF  
281-251-4301, [fitz6@swbell.net](mailto:fitz6@swbell.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)

## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Keith Dutson, NM5G  
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### VICE PRESIDENT

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### TREASURER

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### DIRECTORS

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Tom Hoherd, KK5YU  
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Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD  
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### 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.gth.net](mailto:NARS@mailman.gth.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)

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