

# NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

November 2011



## November Meeting

### *NO5W & NM5G 2011 TQP Entry*

*and*

### *Mr. Screwdriver Antenna, K5VUU*

This month we are bringing a bonus program to finish our programs for 2011. It will be a two part session with Chuck, NO5W, and Keith, NM5G, providing stats and video of their TQP efforts. This is not a complete program because the data logs for all contestants have until the end of Nov. to get them in. Still, we will get a meaty bit of info and a good feel of the trip.

The second part is close to home. George, K5VUU, will present a detailed presentation of how he builds his screw driver antenna. He will bring examples and a break down of the antenna to show us its internal parts.

There are some NARS members that own one of George's antennae. Perhaps we could get an owners report at the meeting????!!

It has been a good year for our programs. Lots of interest and participation.

*November 30th is the  
Entry Deadline for the 2011  
TQP Logs*

*December Meeting is  
Show & Tell*

## Important Dates

### Friday, November 18th, 7:30 PM

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

### Saturday, November 26th, 8:30 AM

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

### Tuesday, November 29th, 7:30 PM

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

### Lunch Bunch - North

Cafe Express - Nov 16th  
Jason's Deli - Nov 23rd  
Baker St. - Nov 30th  
Sweet Tomatoes - Dec 7th  
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - Dec 14th  
Gianna Italian Kitchen - Dec 21st

### Lunch Bunch - West

Please contact Mark Tyler K5GQ for details.

### Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Pappas Barbecue - Nov 16th  
Morningside Thai - Nov 23rd  
Pronto Cucinino - Nov 30th  
Jason's Deli - Dec 7th  
Buffalo Grille Dec 14th  
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Dec 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

Coming up are three excellent opportunities to perform public service.

For the past several years NARS has provided Salvation Army bell ringers at the Wal-Mart located at 249 and Spring Cypress. This year the date is Saturday, December 3rd. I am signed up again this year. It is always a joy to see the many kids that drop a dollar or two in the donation bucket. And I am always surprised how many folks give large bills (\$5, \$10 and \$20). Contact Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, email [g\\_whiting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g_whiting@sbcglobal.net), if you can take a one-hour slot.

Another event sponsored by NARS is the Texas Trails Endurance Runs (50K and 12.5 miles), held at Sam Houston State Park, south of Huntsville. The date is Saturday, December 10th. Contact Paul Owen N5NXS, email [n5nxs@flash.net](mailto:n5nxs@flash.net), if you can help.

The third public service event is the Chevron Houston Marathon held at George R Brown Convention Center each January. NARS has provided support for this event for several years. Paul Owen N5NXS has been course net operator for many years. I have served as his backup for the past three years. Contact Paul for more information.

Remember to vote this month. Last month I listed the candidates for VP and the two open Director positions. Again, these candidates are expected to be present during the NARS general membership meeting this month. If you would like to join these fine folks in running for office, please let someone know so they can nominate you during the meeting.

Thanks to Walter Holmes K5WH for an excellent and informative presentation on amateur radio digital modes at the October meeting. A big attraction for me was the recorded sounds he made of the various modes in operation. If you were not present, you missed a great opportunity to learn how to work digital stations.

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## VE Session Notice

### Keith Dutson NM5G - NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, October 22 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center

We had 4 test candidates taking 5 tests.

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

Congratulations to:

- Eric Runyon KF5MXE - upgrade to General
- Kevin Guggenheim - new Tech
- Eldon Roehl KF5MXD - upgrade to General
- Sandra Brueckner - new Tech

Thanks to the VEs in attendance:

- Bob Walworth N5ET
- Jerry Seay KE5PUT
- Terry Myers KQ5U
- Mike Bragassa K5UO
- Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
- Ron Horton KF5LFL
- Sarah Connell W2AOV
- Ken Mitchell KD2KW

The next session will be held Saturday, November 26 at 8:30AM at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market Street and South Cherry Street. Official address is 221 Market Street.

Parking is in the rear of the building. Use the entrance on the south side bordered by Fannin Street

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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](http://www.houstonamateurradio.com)

**E-Mail:** [houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net](mailto:houstonamateurradio@prodigy.net)

## Around the Circuit

### President's Corner (cont)

This month Chuck Sanders NO5W will have more results of the 2011 Texas QSO Party. After his presentation, I will show some photos and video of our mobile operation. If there is time remaining, George Edwards K5VUU will share information about his home-brew screwdriver antenna. I have seen one of these, and it looks factory-made to me.

Make your plans now to attend the December show-and tell meeting. If you have a project to share, please contact Jerry Seay, email [jiseay@hal-pc.org](mailto:jiseay@hal-pc.org). Also, there may be a silent auction of items that are brought to the meeting for sale. Details will be announced on the reflector when available.

Best wishes for the Thanksgiving holidays.  
73, Keith Dutson NM5G

### You Don't See Bargains Like This Anymore

The last increase in membership dues was back in the late '90's. when we increased the amount to \$20.00. Inflation sneaked up on us in small increments then as it does now, but the overall effect can be painful.

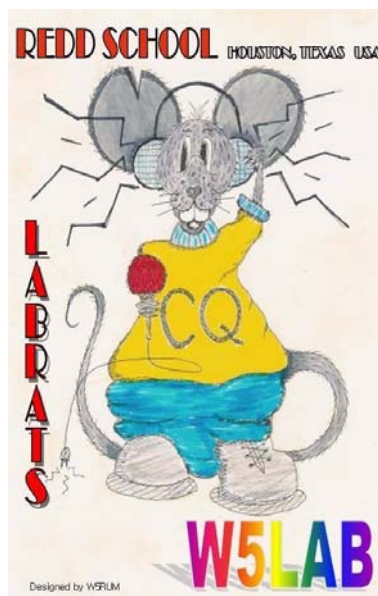
No, NARS is not contemplating an increase in dues. What we are looking at is cutting expenses without compromising our charter. Operating expenses can place a strain on anyone's budget. Remember when the NARS News went electronic? Many of us thought a hard copy was the only way to keep its membership informed. We saved a ton of money by eliminating printing and postage costs, going to e-mail and utilizing our web site more efficiently. Now, except for a few hard copy mail-outs to some that have limited avenues of communication, the change has worked quite well.

But postage costs continue to raise its ugly head. Come January 2012, the first class stamp increases to 46 cents. Membership renewals are now our biggest postage cost. Each month a renewal notice is sent out to members on their membership anniversary date. Why not try e-mail? Well, it works for newsletters and general communication, but most folks tend to minimize the importance in paying a bill received via electronic media. It's easy to forget once you shut down your computer or smart phone. Direct mail seems to work better, for now. However, acknowledging a renewal is important too. You now receive the latest copy of the NARS membership roster and a notice thanking you for your

continued support. Here's where we think we can save a few bucks. Where possible, your renewal will be acknowledged via e-mail with the membership roster attached. If you have difficulty in receiving attachments or prefer a hard copy of the membership roster, please let us know and we'll get one out to you.

### Redd School LABRATS Radio Club 2012

The new school year has begun and the LABRATS Radio / Electronics Club is setting a new direction with middle school students who want to learn about radio and electronics.



The students in this group chose this program as an elective, part of their regular school instruction.. They were required to sign a school contract promising to follow rules to complete this course safely as they perform activities on electrical theory; circuitry and learning skills such as soldering.

Our first building project is a Code practice Oscillator and the start of learning the Morse Code (CW). Oh

yes there will be a test! The students will also get airtime on the club radio station W5LAB and learn the fundamentals of making a contact with other hams.

The station has a 2 element Yagi for 10m, 15 m, & 20m, 40m inverted V, and a 2m vertical, all about 25 feet up.

Our club name is LABRATS (Learning ABOUT Research And Technology through Science), and the Radio component has been an integral part of this umbrella project since 2004 when Mrs. "Lollie" Garay started the program.

Science Teacher Ms. Lollie KD5WZM is the trustee of the club W5LAB

Elmer's are Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, Terry Myers KQ5U & NARS W5NC

# Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome new members Martin Samson KF5MNK and Bob Hardie W5UQ.

## 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@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  
281-351-7683  
[keith@dutson.net](mailto:keith@dutson.net)

### VICE PRESIDENT

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

### SECRETARY

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

### TREASURER

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

### DIRECTORS

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

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

Tom Hoherd, KK5YU  
281 370-2941,  
[kk5yu@att.net](mailto:kk5yu@att.net)

Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD  
281 583-5588  
[g\\_whiting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g_whiting@sbcglobal.net)

### 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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American Radio Relay League  
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