

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

September 2011



September Meeting

A Young HAM's First Contest

Skip Ferguson, K5AWC, will bring this month's club meeting.

In 1959 the Navy designated Skip a P2V, Neptune aircrew radio operator. He became a Ham in 2007 and upgraded to General and to Extra in 2008.

Skip retired in 1980 as a Navy Chief Petty Officer. He then worked for IBM's Federal Systems Division as a Systems Engineer and retired in 1998. He is currently employed by Blinn College as a Professor of Computer Science.

The shack is a customized 12 x 7 trailer with a 7 ft. ceiling. Radios are: FT-897, FT-857, FT-817, and FT-350. Antennas are Buddipole, fixed band verticals and multiple wire launching methods.



Skip will also report on the June QSO Party 2011. K5AWC and KF5DSP traveled with the Fourlanders VHF/UHF/Microwave Contest Team to Mile High Campground atop Soco Bald, NC. (EM85jm)



This is Jason, KF5DSP, My grandson. He has been a Technician since 2008. 7th Grade Home Schooled.

Depending on the length of the primary program, a book review of the ARRL publication *Antenna Towers for Radio Amateurs*, by Don Daso K4ZA may also be presented.

Important Dates

Friday, September 16th, 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, September 24th, 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, September 27th, 7:30 PM

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

Lunch Bunch - North

Pei Wei Asian Diner - Sept 14th
Cafe Express - Sept 21st
Jason's Deli - Sept 28th
Baker St. Oct 5th
Sweet Tomatoes - Oct 12th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - Oct 19th

Lunch Bunch - West

Please contact Mark Tyler K5GQ for details.

Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - Sept 14th
Pappas Barbecue - Sept 21st
Morningside Thai - Sep 28th
Pronto Cucinino - Oct 5th
Jason's Deli - Oct 12th
Buffalo Grille - Oct 19th

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

TQP

It's time to talk up the 2011 Texas QSO Party.

First, the dates and times are Saturday, September 24, 9:00AM through 9:00PM, and Sunday, September 25, 9:00AM through 3:00PM, local time. This is translated from what is stated on the web site at: <http://txqp.net/>. On the home page you can find all of the particulars under the Rules link under Main Menu.

This year I will once again be driving Chuck's SUV while he operates CW using his NO5W call sign. Different from 2010, I will also be operating phone using my NM5G call sign. We will use the same radio and antenna. Therefore, I will be operating only when we are stopped and he is done with his CW contacts for the particular county. See our planned route at: txqp.net/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77.

Chuck will be using his mobile APRS station to broadcast our position as we go. If your station is equipped with APRS, be sure to listen for our beacon broadcasts. If you have a map tied to APRS, you will see us travel in real time. Most of our route has APRS repeaters along the way.

So what is it like to experience TQP? From the mobiles' perspective, it is controlled chaos. Each time we cross a county line, there is a big pile-up of callers wanting to log a contact with us in that county. If we will be in the county at least 15 minutes, there is no need to slow down as most callers will be successful in contacting us. However, if we have only a short distance to the next county line, we will pull over at a spot with plenty of room to get out of the traffic, and handle the pile-up. Then it's off again to the next county.

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson NM5G, NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, August 27 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center:

We had 5 test candidates taking 7 tests.

- element 2 tests given: 3; passed 3
- element 3 tests given: 3; passed 1
- element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

- Brian Laing - new tech
- Frederick Painter - new tech
- Michael Wilson - new tech
- Eugene Dorcas KF5MCT - upgrade to general Henry Berry - upgrade to extra

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

- Martin Rogoff N5GPS
- Mike Bragassa K5UO
- Sarah Connell W2AOV

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

The next session will be held Saturday, September 24 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. Sarah Connell will be the session manager.

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

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Around the Circuit

President's Corner -cont

TQP ...

One interesting aspect of operation is a portable/mobile station located at the intersection of multiple counties. That station may give contacts for each county. Rule 9 gives the particulars:

“If a Texas Mobile and/or a Portable Station is on a county line or junction between 2 or more Texas Counties - A SEPARATE QSO AND COMPLETE EXCHANGE MUST BE MADE AND LOGGED FOR EACH COUNTY LISTED AS WORKED. You can't count or log a QSO that you didn't make!”

This makes the operator really busy!

If you operate from home, you will likely track mobile stations and call them when in a new county. It's best to use a radio with band-stacking registers so you can track three or four frequencies with the push of a button.

Traditionally, 20 meters is used during daylight hours into the late evening. At some point most stations switch to 40 meters during night time. There is also an RTTY contest during the weekend, so CW operators should avoid the RTTY portion of the 40 meter band. RTTY stations rarely participate in TQP.

Last year we tried to make contacts on 15 and 10 meters during mid-morning and mid-afternoon times, respectively. We heard stations on these bands, but none were TQP participants. I hope some will try these bands this year. Remember that you may work a station on each band for QSO count, so there will be more points scored is you work two or more bands at a time.

There are several logging programs that can aid the TQP participant in handling county changes. In my opinion, the best is NO5W's CQ/X. It is a bit of work to download and install all of the components, but well worth the time and effort. Get it from: www.no5w.com/. The price is FREE (my favorite four letter word).

In summary, I invite everyone to work TQP this year. NARS is proud to sponsor this wonderful contest. We are also fortunate to have such a dedicated coordinator, Chuck Sanders NO5W. Chuck reports he has received many comments from veteran contesters across the nation comparing TQP favorably to California and other renowned QSO parties.

One last note; most are aware of the severe fires causing losses suffered by residents of the tri-county area of Montgomery, Waller and Grimes counties. Tomball Fire Department is helping with collection and distribution of supplies needed by firefighters and evacuees. The NARS Board decided to contribute \$100 to TFD to help offset their expenses. The donation will be made this week.

An inside look at NARS

Many of our 140 plus members are marginally aware of what it takes to run an organization such as NARS on a day to day basis. NARS was first formed back in 1985. We had about twenty five or so charter members at that time, and although forming a club requires a certain amount of business savvy, it didn't take much to keep our membership informed of its activities.

As with any business, clubs have to operate on a business scale. A Constitution and By-laws are developed outlining the club's goals, and a board of directors is formed to see that those goals and business practices are conducted in a legal and ethical manner. Our needs and obligations were small back in '85, but as we continued to grow, so did the need for more complex methods of doing business. Try opening a checking or savings account these days. If you're doing it on a personal basis, it's bad enough. If you're a business or organization such as NARS, you have to meet various Federal requirements in addition to those of the bank. And each year we as a "Non-profit" organization must report a change in board member positions, submit driver license info, employment, SS number, etc, etc. It seems to get more complex each year. It's not an easy task keeping a club as ours running well.

Around the Circuit

An Inside Look at NARS -cont

The Board has to schedule the monthly programs, develop Field Day operations each year, maintain a variety of club owned equipment, see that the bills get paid, see that the newsletter gets out on schedule, run the monthly V.E Exam program and public service activities, etc, etc....

Enter the Administrative Secretary. This appointed position was created to take the pressure off many of our board members that are still gainfully employed and have difficulty in accomplishing tasks during the normal work day. The Admin Secretary, usually a retired person with absolutely nothing else to do with his time, (ahem...) does the post office runs, makes the bank deposits, processes membership renewals, keeps the club's data base updated, sees to it that we have a place to meet each month, maintains financial records. Let's see now, what did I leave out? Oh, distributes monthly newsletters, fields a variety of phone call enquiries, maintains the club's historical file, track the annual banquet and TX QSO Party finances, mail out membership rosters, and makes name tags for new members.... The beat goes on!

So, you see? There's a lot more that goes on behind the scenes than the casual observer realizes. There's a bee-hive of activity, but it works!

And now for a political announcement: Elections coming up in November for a new vice president and two board member openings. It takes a dedicated group of individuals to run an organization such as NARS. Taking a turn as a board member can be fun and enlightening. You attend board meetings each month and assist in voicing your ideas on how to better the operations of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Here's the chance to

bring your ideas to the table. You can help make a difference!

K5CX Tower Project ... The saga Continues

Editor's note: Please find the first installment in the July 2011 NARS News.

As first reported, the Rohn 45G tower bases have been poured and by now, they have thoroughly cured. So, guy-post holes must be readied for the 80-foot tower.



As you can see in the photo, Anita and I were very fortunate to have *Chuck NO5W* stop by and dig one of the three holes. Of course, the hole was done to Chuck's precise measurements!

As Chuck drove away, I found the silver bullet and the following note: NARSians: When in the vicinity of Naples, TX be sure to stop by H.O.'s QTH, but be prepared to do some work:>). And don't forget to ask for a spud-gun demo.

BTW, we are accepting offers for the digging of the two remaining holes!

Around the Circuit



Greetings "NARSIANS"

It is time once again for the Wings Over Houston Airshow. This is the 27th Annual Show and many of you have been volunteering at this event for many years. Please consider putting your radio license to "Public Use" once again this year. We have many positions open for Wings Over Houston Veteran Communicators and those of you who have considered volunteering but as of yet are still on the fence. We have positions that require sitting, riding in a golf cart, walking, and to those of you who have bicycled in various events like the MS-150, we have bicycle mobile positions available.

Please contact me at KD5AYF@SBCGLOBAL.NET to volunteer and I will immediately get you up to speed on the protocols required for this great event.

To volunteer you must be an Amateur Radio Operator of at least 18 yrs of age. For those who have not reached this milestone in your lives, you must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian who is in his or her majority also a licensed Ham. You will need a 2-meter HT, a dual band HT is helpful but not required. We work off of a repeater for this event and you can use low power in most situations. Batteries (AA) are supplied if you have a alkaline pack and you will be fed and well taken care of for the duration of the show.

I look forward to seeing many of you in October. The Wings Over Houston Airshow will take place at Ellington

Airport on October 14th (Special Airshow), 15th and 16th. You will need to make yourselves available for the entire weekend if at all possible. Your day will start early and end late (6am through 6-7 pm) on Saturday and Sunday. To those who are able to volunteer for Friday's Special Airshow we ask that you arrive at Ellington by 8am. The "Special Show" is generally complete by 11am.

Many Thanks for your attention...This is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of one of the largest ham Radio supported events in Houston. to get a bit more information about the show, please check out the website www.wingsoverhouston.com

73,
George Levandoski, KD5AYF
Wings Over Houston Staff,
Amateur Radio Communications

***Wings Over Houston Airshow
Ellington Airport
October 14th (Special Airshow), 15th and 16th***

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome new members.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
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
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VICE PRESIDENT

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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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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
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