

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 2013



April Meeting

The Portable Ham

The NARS General Membership Meeting April 19, 2013 will feature our own Skip Ferguson. His presentation, "The Portable Ham" will focus on portable operations. Skip has put together a portable Ham Shack beginning with a 12 x 7 x 7 cargo trailer. Come join us and learn the details of how Skip goes portable including his solar cell and battery power system.

Soldering Class

Are you looking to be a bit handier in life, but don't know where to start? How about soldering?

By taking the library's introductory soldering class, you'll be taking the first steps in learning a skill that could come in handy.

The class is free and will be taught by members of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. The focus will be on electrical soldering. Participants fifteen years of age and older are invited to join. We will meet in the Earl Elliott Room.

- **Date:** Monday May 6th 2013
- **Start Time:** 6:00 PM
- **End Time:** 8:30 PM
- **Library:** Barbara Bush @ Cypress Creek Branch Library
- **Location:** Earl Elliott Room (Foyer)

Important Dates

Friday, April 19th, 7:30 PM

Monthly club meeting.

Saturday, April 27th, 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, April 30th, 2013 7:30 PM

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

Lunch Bunch - North

Baker St. - Apr 17th
Sweet Tomatoes - Apr 24th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - May 1st
Gianna Italian Kitchen - May 8th
Spring Creek Barbeque - May 15th
Pei Wei Asian Diner - May 22nd

Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Apr 17th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille - Apr 24th
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - May 1st
Pappas Barbecue - May 8th
Pronto Cucinino - May 15th

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

April already!?! Wow! Lots of cool events coming up in the next few months.

The Texas State Parks On The Air contest got a good start this month and I can see where the rules need to be changed and more promotion would be beneficial. Next year's contest should be even better than this year's.

We have been asked to provide communications for the Salvation Army emergency activity in May. The board will take that up at the next meeting, but it sounds like a good event that NARS should be involved in. The Salvation Army supports us at Field Day and this would be a great way for NARS to reciprocate.

Speaking of Field Day, the board has decided that we will continue our participation in this ARRL activity. We will participate as a 1A operation along with a GOTA station.

If you would like to operate CW on 40 Meters on Saturday night please contact one of your Board of Directors. Ron Horton has volunteered to be the SSB Captain; we need a CW Captain.

Stay tuned for an update on the June meeting location, there might be a change.

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson NM5G - NARS VE Session Manager

Saturday, February 23 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center

We had 3 candidates taking 3 tests.

- Element 2 tests given: 1; passed 1
- Element 3 tests given: 2; passed 2
- Element 4 tests given: 0; passed 0

Congratulations to:

- Orville Jolly KD5BNG - upgrade to general
- Bryan Patrick - new technician
- Ronald Sperry KJ4RQN - upgrade to general

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

- Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
- Ron Horton KF5LFL
- Sarah Jane Connell W2AOV
- Mike Bragassa K5UO
- Skip Ferguson K5AWC
- Martin Rogoff N5GPS (acting session manager)

The next session will be held Saturday, March 23 at 8:30AM at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market and South Cherry Streets.

Official address is 221 Market Street. Let me know if you would like to serve at this session. Thanks.

Anyone who wants to observe and/or participate in a session is always welcome. Just let me know if you want to learn more about becoming a volunteer examiner.

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

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.

David McCombs, NA5CW Owner

www.houstonamateurradiosupply.com

E-Mail: houstonamateurradio@sbcglobal.net

Around the Circuit

You don't see many 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 2013, 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.

H44IOTA DXPEDITION

1 June - 16 July
2013

Pacific 3C Project
(Connect – Coordinate – Communicate)



*A NARS exclusive! Announcing a new IOTA DXpedition.
Please see <http://www.h44iota.com> for details.*

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Please welcome new member Jack Kauffman KF5QMC.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

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

Tom King, WK5DX
281-370-3528,
tom.s.king@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Horton, KF5LFL
281-890-4038,
ron.horton@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY

Martin Rogoff, N5GPS
281-890-4538
n5gps.tx@gmail.com

TREASURER

Sheree Horton, KF5LMJ
281-890-4038
shereehorton@sbcglobal.net

DIRECTORS

Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ
281-447-4347
tom_sts@hotmail.com

Sheree Horton, KF5LMJ
281-890-4038
shereehorton@sbcglobal.net

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

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196
kd5kr@arrl.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

Co-Coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W
936-273-6930,
no5w@consolidated.net

Co-Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Send all articles and materials for the newsletter to:

Editor: H. O. Townsend - K5CX
281-376-7416 - k5cx@arrl.net

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League
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