

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 2013



December

K5ZTY - Uncle Zedd Memorial Show and Tell

The December club meeting is set aside for show-n-tell. In fact it is now known as the K5ZTY - Uncle Zedd Memorial Show-n-Tell. Bill loved building things, and anyone privileged enough to be invited to his shop prior to retirement can a-test to same! So dust off your latest home brew project, and in Bill's honor, tell us all about it!

Annual NARS Banquet

We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday and shared time with your relatives and friends.

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us and we have disposed of the leftovers, it is time to reflect on the coming festivities before us, the coveted Awards Banquet.

Mark your calendar on January 17th, 2014 as a reminder to attend the Annual Awards banquet.

- **When:** Friday, January 17th, 2014
- **Where:** Westador Club House, 71315 Cali Drive, Houston. just one block north of the Houston NW Medical Center.
- **Menu:** Lasagna or Chicken Fettuccine, Brownie or cookie, Ice tea, coffee.
- **Cost:** \$18 per person.

There will be door prizes and who knows what else? No cash bar this year.

Mail in your check to: NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston, 77290-0387 Please indicate who will be attending.

The Baton Changes Hands

As of January 1st, your new Newsletter Editor will be Mr. Joe Sokolowski KD5KR. For me, it has been a privilege serving the Club in this capacity for the past seven plus years. Most of all, thanks to those of you who have submitted articles. You make the make the Newsletter stand taller than all of the others! - 73 H. O. / K5CX

Important Dates

Friday, December 20th, 7:30 PM
Monthly club meeting.

Saturday, January 25th, 8:30 AM
VE License Exam Session
Tomball Community Center
S. Cherry & Market streets
(just South of Main)

Tuesday, December 30th, 2014, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Dr.

Lunch Bunch - North

Gianna Italian Kitchen - Dec 18th
Merry Christmas - See ya Jan 8th
Happy New Year - See ya Jan 8th
Spring Creek Barbeque - Jan 8th
Pei Wei Asian Diner - Jan 15th
Panera Bread - Jan 22nd

Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Pronto Cucinino - Dec 18th
Merry Christmas - See ya Jan 8
Happy New Year - See ya Jan 8
Jason's Deli - Jan 8th
Buffalo Grille - Jan 15th
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Jan 22nd

Taildraggers Lunch Bunch

Monday's, 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 Column

As I sit down to write this, my final President's Corner, I pause to reflect on the year comming to a close and take some time to look into the future. We've had a good year adding new members, participating in community events and our sponsored contests are growing in participation by Hams around the country. The Texas QSO Party activated all but one county this year and had the most entries than in years past. I can see a day when TQP takes the lead from California as the largest QSO Party on the air. The new Texas State Parks on the Air contest got a good start this year activating about a quarter of the State Parks. I'm hoping that 2014 will see even more parks activated. If you get the chance this coming April to activate a State Park you should do so it's a fun contest and a great way to get ready for Field Day in June. Speaking of Field Day, we could sure use more operators this year as we are moving to a new site and will concentrate on the 'contest' aspect of this event.

Events that saw participation by NARS members were the running and biking events like the Texas 150 from Houston to Austin, the major marathons, The Buffalo Bayou Regatta, and the Huntsville Texas Trail Endurance Runs. Thanks to all who participated in these events. It just helps keep hams in the public eye when it comes to communications.

I'd like to address the attendance at the club meetings. It seems that the same faces show up each month and I'm very glad to see all of you who do come every month. However, I'd like to see more members at our meetings. I know that there are some great programs on T.V. and cable, but I'd like to know what would bring more of you to the monthly meeting. Ron has done a good job finding interesting presentations this year, but what sort of presentations would get you out of your house and to the club meeting once a month?

(cont page 3)

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson NM5G - NARS VE Session Manager

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

We had 5 candidates taking 8 tests.

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

Congratulations to:

- Samual Mitschke - new Technician
- Darrell Harcourt - new Technician
- Gail Phillips - new Technician
- Charles Washington - new General
- Eric Miller KF5YWG - upgrade to Extra

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

- Skip Ferguson K5LRR, acting session mgr
- Ron Horton KF5LFL
- Louis Cabezas K3BQ
- Martin Rogoff N5GPS
- Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
- Sarah Connell W0AOV
- Terry Myers KQ5U
- Mike Bowen N8ILU

***** THERE IS NO SESSION IN DECEMBER *****

The next session will be held Saturday, January 25 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.

Parking is in the rear of the building. Use the entrance on the east side bordered by Cherry Street.

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.

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

President's Column (cont)

If the club is not providing you with stimulating information or activities, then the club is failing you and no one wants that. Please let the board of director's know what you would like to see at the next club meeting.

Remember that the NARS Awards Banquet is January 17th and the tickets are only \$18 each, reduced from last year.

The location is : Westidor Club House, 71315 Cali Drive, Houston. just one block north of the Houston NW Medical Center.

Door prizes, contest awards and the introduction of new Board members are scheduled. Come on out and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food.

One World Trade Center U.S. Tallest Building

Amateur Radio Newsline

A decision has been made that will give New York City the honor of hosting the tallest building in the United States. This after it was decided that it's very top is not just an antenna support. Amateur Radio Newsline contributor, Cheryl Lasek, K9BIK, reports:

We don't know if there will ever be a ham radio repeater located at the still under construction One World Trade Center in New York City, but it will be the nation's tallest building when it opens next year. This according to a decision by the Chicago based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat which said that its decision hinged on whether the tower's mast was a spire, which counts in height measurements, or an antenna, which doesn't.

Anthony Wood is the executive director of the architectural evaluation group. In issuing the decision he said that even though the cladding was taken off the new buildings spire, one can still see that it is an architectural element and not just a plain steel mast from which to hang antenna or satellite dishes.

Currently Chicago's Willis Tower, which used to be known as the Sears Tower is considered as the tallest building in the United States. Completed in 1974 it was once the world's tallest building at 1,451 feet tall. That was eclipsed when Dubai opened its Burj Khalifa which stands at 2,717 feet tall. One World Trade Center is height locked in at a symbolic 1,776 feet high.

While its management of One World Trade Center hopes to lure many of the broadcasters that moved back to other sites after the 9/11 al-Quida terror attack that felled the original World Trade Center twin towers, so far no major entity has made up its mind on such a move. Each site has its own advantages and disadvantages so it is not simply a technical, business or operational choice but a

combination of the three. Add to that the long-term leases at current broadcast sites such as the Empire State Building, the costs involved in such a move along with uncertainty over the FCC's repacking of the television band and it's easy to understand why many are reticent to commit to such a transmitter relocation.

NARS Ring the Bell for Salvation Army



November 30th was the 7th year annual event for Salvation Army bell ringers by the members of the Northwest Amateur Society. We teamed up at our local Wal-Mart and toughed it out for a full eight hours. The weather was good and what rain was forecasted never came to pass. 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. The photo shows Ron Horton KF5LFL who just relieved Joe Sokolowski KD5KR at the end of his shift.

The report from Major Carr was the amount that was donated was \$718.89. Again many thanks to the following members that helped to make this a success that it was, A very special thanks to Ron Horton who took over for me as I was out of the country having Fun. CU again next year, Bob Walworth N5ET, Jim Kirk KJ5X, Dario Vargas KD5RGG, Keith Dutson NM5G, Jim Blackburn WB5AW, Jackie Blackburn XYL, Ken Harlan KA5AKG, Mike Bragassa K5UO, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Jerry Seay KE5PUT, Martin Rogoff N5GPS, Ron Horton KF5LFL, Ed Reynolds K5WQG, and Closing Captain, Cal White WF5W.

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

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
ARRL Club No. 2120