

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 2013



July Meeting

Introduction to Storm Spotting

Ron Horton will be presenting an introduction to storm spotting. The presentation will cover the basics of weather safety, storm types and provide a list of internet links and printed resources. This presentation does not certify participants to become Skywarn® (or any other organization's) Storm Spotters. Our aim is to introduce our members and guests to the Skywarn® and other programs concerning storm safety and reporting and encourage them to take the training available. See you at the meeting!

Rev. Joe Chambers - KF5AT (sk)

We have just been informed that Rev. Joe Chambers KF5AT, 76, was killed tragically on Friday, July 12 in a head-on car collision just north of Trinity, Texas. Rev. Chambers was the associate priest at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Tomball. A memorial service is pending there. Please keep Joe's wife Carol and the Chambers family in your prayers as well as the family of the other victim.

Father Joe was a past director of NARS. He recently worked the Buffalo Bayou Regatta. He was an active county hunter - Member of MARAC - Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club. Father Joe was proud to have worked all 3077 USA counties, TWICE!, and was well on his way to the third trip. As mentioned, he enjoyed and was an active HF mobile operator. NARS will miss his contribution to our hobby, and the club.

Logging Software In The Shack

By Tom King, WK5DX

We just have to accept it – computers in the ham shack are here to stay; and what better use to put your computer to but controlling your radio(s) and logging your QSOs? So, what should you look for in your logging software?

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Important Dates

Friday, July 19th, 7:30 PM

Monthly club meeting.

Saturday, July 27th, 8:30 AM

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

Tuesday, July 30th, 2013 7:30 PM

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

Lunch Bunch - North

Pei Wei Asian Diner - Jul 17th
Panera Bread - Jul 24th
Jason's Deli - Jul 31st
Baker St. - Aug 7th
Sweet Tomatoes - Aug 14th
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - Aug 21st

Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Buffalo Grille - Jul 17th
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Jul 24th
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille - July 31st
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - Aug 7th
Pappas Barbecue - Aug 14th
Pronto Cucinino - Aug 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 00newsletter is the last day of this month.

BREAKFAST

at Denny's

7720 Louetta Road

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

It is with regret that I announce the resignation of H.O. Townsend as the editor of the NARS Newsletter. His resignation will be effective Dec. 31, 2013. H.O. has served the club in several capacities and done them all equally well. Some of his duties have been,

- Club Webmaster after Walter KK5LO,
- Club President ('99),
- Served on the Board of Directors,
- Wrote the DX column for two years after the Ole' Timer passed,
- Picked up the CQ Magazine WAZ Card Checker duties for the club after the Ole' Timer Passed,
- Won the design contest for the club logo,
- TQP Coordinator for four – five seasons,
- Newsletter Editor

H.O. and Anita plan to keep their membership active for some time. H.O. has served the club well and we wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

I am so happy that our new member drive is going so well. We have added several new members and many of them are new hams or are returning to hobby. Please be sure you extend a welcome to all our new members. Come to the meeting early so you can get an eyeball QSO and get to know them and make them feel that they made the right decision in joining our club.

I do believe the old quote - "If you're not moving forward, you're moving backward." To that end the Board has authorized me to form a Contest Committee to help NARS members learn and compete in contests, help NARS sponsored contest coordinators, and organize the annual NARS Field Day event. The committee will meet once a quarter (4 times per year).

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267 Cypresswood Drive
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Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Inc.

David McCombs, NA5CW Owner

www.houstonamateurradiosupply.com

E-Mail: houstonamateurradio@sbcglobal.net

VE Session Notice

Keith Dutson NM5G - NARS VE Session Manager

Monday, July 8 Special VE Test Session Results at Hooks Airport

We had 1 candidate taking 1 test.

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

Congratulations to:

- Adam Pettus - new technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

- Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
- Ron Horton KF5LFL
- Mike Bragassa K5UO

This was a special session requested by Adam. He works in a job that makes it difficult to attend a regular session. He lives in Louisiana and is visiting a relative in our area, and this is only time he had free. We were glad to be able to give him the test following the regular tail-draggers Monday luncheon at Hooks.

The next session will be held Saturday, July 27 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 south side bordered by Fannin 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.

... President's Column continued

The committee will be responsible for choosing the contests in which NARS members will have friendly competition with other NARS members, organizing the Field Day event, and supporting the two contest coordinators both TQP and TSPOTA. The committee will also write or make changes in the rules of the NARS sponsored contests; the committee will make all judgments on contest entries.

The purpose is not only to be a rule making body, but to mentor new contesters within the club. So, if you would like to be on this committee, please e-mail me at wk5dx@arrl.net.

I would like to extend an offer to anyone who loves DX-ing to write a DX column for the NARS newsletter. We have been without a column for at least two years and I'd like to see it come back.

I would also like a newsletter article from the perspective of the new ham. So, any new ham that would like to write a column for the newsletter contact me at the above email address.

Around the Circuit

Logging Software In The Shack (cont)

By Tom King, WK5DX

There are three types of loggers I use; 1)Daily logging, 2)Contest logging, and 3)Net logging. Each type of logger has its own set of features, but you should be on the lookout for the following at a minimum:

- Rig Control via RS-232.
- Provides full support for the ADIF (Amateur Data Interchange File) and Cabrillo formats.
- Automatic Dupe Checking.
- Packet/Telnet DX Cluster support.
- CW Keyboard
- A full function CW keyboard which works under Windows.
- Support for WinKey
- User programmable memories accessed using function keys.
- Adjustable weighting and visual transmit buffer.
- Uses interfaces to serial and parallel ports.
- Buttons available to send stored CW messages using the mouse
- WAV/mp3 file support
- User programmable memories accessed using function keys.
- Uses soundcard interfaces such as SignalLink or RigRunner
- Buttons available to send stored WAV/mp3 messages using the mouse
- QSL Management
- LoTW, eQSL, paper (design and print).
- Import and Export
- ADIF (Amateur Data Interchange File) and Cabrillo.
- Award tracking.
- Maps and Distance.
- Automatic Callbook Lookup.
- Rotor Controller.

So, what loggers do I use? For daily logging I like N3FJP's AC Logger. The software is simple to use, interfaces to most radios that I know of for frequency/band info, and is easy to move to a

new computer when necessary. Equipment requirements are very modest – you don't need the latest and greatest hardware to run it. It reads commonly used file formats from other programs for contest log import and exports the commonly used exchange formats.

Scott has developed contest-specific programs for most contests. These typically export the contest entry files, ready for submission. If you keep all your contacts in a single master log, export from the contest program and import into the master log.

Where it makes sense to do so, Scott has built networking awareness into the programs to enable logging of one master computer from multiple contestants. This would be good for a field day setup, for example.

Cost is very reasonable for the entire suite of programs (< \$50) and is good for all subsequent updates/upgrades.

For contests, it is N1MM Logger.

- Designed for contesting
- Free
- Well supported
- Comprehensive documentation
- Frequent updates to keep up with contest rules
- Designed to minimize keystrokes needed in a contest
- Supports ALL contests
- Export to Cabrillo and ADIF
- Store macros (voice, CW and data), execute with function keys
- Don't need a mouse to navigate
- Can be networked for multi/multi operation.
- Gives real time scoring, dupe checks, scoresummary
- Use for S&P or Running.
- Supports CW and Voice keyers
- Interfaces with FLdigi and MMTTY for digital contesting.

For Mobile Contesting – CQ/X by NO5W

CQ/X is an amateur radio contest logging program developed specifically for the mobile operator in state QSO parties with emphasis on fully integrating GPS devices and mapping information into the planning, operating, and post-contest phases of these types of contests.

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Around the Circuit

Logging Software In The Shack (cont)

Those serious about contesting should take a detailed look at CQ/X for their logging program.

For Net Control I like Net Logger. NetLogger is a logging program that can use the internet to transmit check-in information to other users of NetLogger. Net participants that are “monitoring” the net with NetLogger receive updated information every twenty seconds. NetLogger also has features designed to make logging check-ins easier. For instance, if you use a callbook program like QRZ!, HamCall, Sam Database, or Radio Amateur Callbook, information like name, city and state can be filled-in for you automatically. There is also a “Club Profile” feature that enables you to store and automatically display station information not found in a callbook database, like OMISS number, 10-10 number, VIP status, etc.

Other features of NetLogger include support for importing/exporting data in ADIF and CSV format, a built in contact

database that supports complex searching, automatic entry of UTC, date and time when logging contacts, viewing of upcoming net schedules on-line, ability to post your own net schedule, ability to send a list of check-ins to an email reflector, ability to print QSL labels, mailing labels and contacts, plus many other features.

Alternatively I use nLogger from Alpine Soft.

EHam has some good reviews of logging software. Check them out and pick one you like.

Mac users will appreciate Aether (Logger) by Andrew Madsen. Aether is available for purchase for \$39.

Aether is a ham radio logging application for Mac OS X. Aether includes tools to quickly and easily log QSOs while on the air, as well as organize, search and track your QSOs later. Aether was designed for Mac OS X, and has the same kind of clean, intuitive, friendly interface you’ve come to expect on the Mac.

No matter your preference, try some of the logging programs and choose the one that fits you best.

NARS Contest Calendar

3rd Quarter 2013

July 2013

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 13 to 1200Z, Jul 14
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 20 to 0600Z, Jul 21
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 27 to 1200Z, Jul 28

August 2013

North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 3 to 0600Z, Aug 4
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 10 to 2359Z, Aug 11
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 17 to 0600Z, Aug 18

September 2013

WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 14 to 2359Z, Sep 15
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 28 to 2000Z, Sep 29

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS sends its condolences to the Chambers family with the passing of Father Joe -KF5AT.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
Bill Denton W5SB
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Deral Kent K5WNO
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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

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
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Send address, phone, email and other
changes to:

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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)

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American Radio Relay League
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