

# NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

September 2013



## September

### “Everything You Always Wanted to Know about the Texas QSO Party” (TQP)

Co-Coordinator Keith Dutson will be making a presentation on the upcoming TQP contest, with tips on planning routes for those who want to go mobile and for those who want to follow the mobile operators for those multipliers. If you've never participated in TQP this is a great opportunity to learn what it's all about and how much fun it can be. If you're an experienced contester this is a good time to meet some of the friendly competition or find a mobile partner and see how many of the 254 counties you can drive through (at legal speed limits) in the weekend. See you there!

### The Big Prize



### Important Dates

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

**Saturday, September 21st, 8:30 AM**  
VE License Exam Session  
Tomball Community Center  
S. Cherry & Market streets  
(just South of Main)

**Tuesday, September 24th, 2013, 7:30 PM**  
Board of Directors meeting  
Ponderosa Fire Station  
17061 Rolling Creek drive.

**Lunch Bunch - North**  
Panera Bread - Sept 18th  
Jason's Deli - Sept 25th  
Baker St. - Oct 2nd  
Sweet Tomatoes - Oct 9th  
BJ's Restaurant & Brewery - 16th  
Gianna Italian Kitchen - Oct 23rd

**Lunch Bunch - Medical Center**  
Southwell's Hamburger Grill - Sept 18th  
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille - Sep 25th  
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet - Oct 2nd  
Pappas Barbecue - Oct 9th  
Morningside Thai - Oct 16th  
Pronto Cucinino - Oct 23rd

**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

September is here and it's time for all NARS-ians to get mobile and activate as many counties as they can. The last missive I received from Chuck, NO5W, was that we still had a few rare ones open for the taking. Also, there are open counties around some major population centers that could be activated as well. So check the NARS reflector and get Chuck's message and find a county or 2 or 3 that you can activate. Let's make this year the year all Texas counties are activated for the QSO Party.

The 146.66 repeater is still undergoing maintenance, but is active and seems to be fairly noise free. Hopefully we will have the new antenna installed before year end.

November is election month. We need you to be on the Board of Directors. If you would like to be part of this body and have a greater impact on the direction of NARS then here is your chance. Let any member of the Board know that you would like to place your name on the ballot and we will be happy to add your name for one of the open positions. Open positions are: Vice President (one year term), Director (two year term). Two Directors and one V.P. are needed.

The "Uncle ZED" Memorial Show and Tell is coming up and we need your help in lining up some presentations. So we are calling on all the home-brewers to submit their favorite projects for the show and tell meeting in December. Please contact Ron, KF5LFL with your project info.

## VE Session Notice

**Keith Dutson NM5G - NARS VE Session Manager**

Saturday, August 24 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center

We had 7 candidates taking 12 tests.

- Element 2 tests given: 4; passed 4
- Element 3 tests given: 5; passed 2
- Element 4 tests given: 3; passed 1

Congratulations to:

- Paul Marrott KX7VIC - upgrade to General
- Shawn Richardson K5FEW - upgrade to Extra
- Mark Smiley KF5WRE - upgrade to General
- Brian Bush - new General
- Henry Malinski - new Technician
- Joshua Hyde - new Technician
- Frank Payne - new Technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

- Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
- Ron Horton KF5LFL
- Skip Gerguson K5LRR
- Stephne Protz KA5AWD
- Mike Bragassa K5UO
- Louis Cabezas K3BQ
- Martin Rogoff N5GPS

The next session will be held Saturday, September 28 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.

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.

Exit 68, I-45 North  
267 Cypresswood Drive  
Spring, TX 77388

800-471-7373  
281-355-7373  
Fax: 281-355-8007

**Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Inc.**

*David McCombs, NA5CW Owner*

[www.houstonamateurradiosupply.com](http://www.houstonamateurradiosupply.com)

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

## Around the Circuit

### *Everyone in the world on-line by 2020?*

*Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Public Relations*

Do you believe that Chairman Eric Schmidt, a Google exec says that everyone in the world will be on-line by the end of the decade? Amateur Radio Newslines Cheryl Lasek, K9BIK, has the rest of this rather interesting prediction.

On Saturday April 13th Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt stated on his Google Plus blog that for every person online, there are two who are not. He went on to add that by the end of the decade, he predicted that everyone on Earth will be connected by 2020. A day later, Schmidt added, and we quote, "Think about how great the internet is now with 2 billion users. Now think about how amazing it will be when 5 billion come online in a decade."

But can Schmidt's prediction come true? As pointed out in one news article, Google itself supports a project called Geeks Without Frontiers. This is described as a nonprofit group that donates computers and related wireless access technology to poor areas around the world. The organization's current focus is to bring such wireless access to parts of Mexico, Central America and Africa. These are regions without any traditional form of wired Internet access.

Also, back in 2011 Geeks Without Frontiers announced that it has developed its own low cost open source WiFi software. At that time it said that by driving down the cost of metropolitan and village scale WiFi networks, millions more people will be able to reap the economic and social benefits of significantly lower cost Internet service. The rise of mobile access expected to play a role. In parts of Africa it's reported that more people have access to a mobile phone than have electricity.

So, will every man, woman and child be on line by 2020? There is no way to be certain but Google leaders rarely make predictions that they know won't come true. So the bottom line is, don't rule this one out. And, if it does happen, it will likely be thanks to WiFi which is in itself nothing more than a form of digital two-way radio.

### *TQP from The Boss*

Only 23 more to go!. After several new announced plans we have 18 mobiles and 30 fixed stations signed up, now covering 231 of the 254 counties.

Check out the map at [http://www.no5w.com/TQP2013\\_AnnouncedCoverage.html](http://www.no5w.com/TQP2013_AnnouncedCoverage.html) to see what's still not covered. All of the remaining ones are within 100 miles of at least one of the following population centers. Here they are:

- Amarillo - Collingsworth, Childress, Motley, Floyd, Hale, Bailey, Parmer, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Donley, Armstrong
- Austin - Travis, Hays
- Dallas - Parker
- Harlingen - Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, Starr, Jim Hogg, Zapata, Webb
- Houston -
- Lubbock - Cottle, Motley, Floyd, Hale, Bailey, Parmer, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Donley, Armstrong
- San Antonio - Hays, Travis

Take a look and see if any of those are within your reach and if you are able to put one or more of them on the air let me know and I'll add your plan to the web site.

Of course feel free to forward this to your friends and reflectors.

I count 54 unique counties in the above, quite a few of the remaining 74.

Take a look and see if any of those are within your reach and if so let me know and I'll add your plan to the web site.

Of course feel free to forward this to your friends and reflectors.

73/Chuck/NO5W

# Contesting

## *September 2013*

ARRL September VHF Contest  
1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16

Texas QSO Party  
1400Z, Sep 28 to 2000Z, Sep 29

## *October 2013*

Oceania DX Contest, Phone  
0000, Oct 5 to 0800Z, Oct 6

Oceania DX Contest, CW  
0800Z, Oct 12 to 0800Z, Oct 13

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB  
0000Z, Oct 26 to 2400Z, Oct 27

## *November 2013*

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW  
2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB  
2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW  
0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24

## *December 2013*

ARRL 160-Meter Contest  
2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8

ARRL 10-Meter Contest  
0000Z, Dec 14 to 2359Z, Dec 15

# Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

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

Tom King, WK5DX  
281-370-3528,  
[tom.s.king@gmail.com](mailto:tom.s.king@gmail.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Horton, KF5LFL  
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[ron.horton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ron.horton@sbcglobal.net)

### SECRETARY

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### TREASURER

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### DIRECTORS

Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ  
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Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR  
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### 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

Co-Coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W  
936-273-6930,  
[no5w@consolidated.net](mailto:no5w@consolidated.net)

Co-Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G  
281-351-7683, [keith@dutson.net](mailto:keith@dutson.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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