



April 2014

Important Dates

Monthly club meeting:
Third Friday of each month, 7:30 pm.
Cypress Creek Christian Community Ctr.
6823 Cypresswood Drive

Saturday, April 26, 2014 8:30 am.
VE License Exam Session
Tomball Community Center
S. Cherry & Market Streets
(just south of Main)

Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 pm.
Board of Directors Meeting
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive

Lunch Break—North

B.J's Restaurant & Brewery, April 16
Gianna Italian Kitchen, April 23
Spring Creek BBQ, April 30
Pei Wei Asian Diner, May 7
Panera Bread, May 14
Jason Deli, May 21

Lunch Break—Medical Center

Morningside Thai, April 16
Pronto Cucinino, Apr 23
Jason's Deli, April 30
Buffalo Grille, May 7
Southwest Hamburger Grill, May 14

Tail Dragger's Lunch Bunch -
Mondays, 11 am.
Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airdrome

Notice: NARS membership dues are \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary date.

Deadline for articles to appear in the following newsletter are the last day of each month .

**Breakfast
at Denny's
7720 Louetta Road
Saturdays 7 am.**

NARS NEWS

*The Northwest Amateur Radio Society
an ARRL Special Services Club #2120*

E-mail by Ham Radio

Back by popular demand, George Edwards will present "Email Via Ham Radio – Using Winlink (VHF) and Winmor (HF)" at the April 25 NARS General Meeting. His presentation will consist of a power point presentation on local and distant Gateways, the Radio Mail Servers (RMS), Common Mail Servers (CMS) and Internet connections. George will also bring his "to go" Digital set up for a "show and tell" on portable and/or mobile operations. See you there!

April meeting rescheduled for Friday the 25th.

Of course you knew that.... But, just in case you just returned from a three month tour of the Orient and missed our subtle reminders, we had to reschedule the April meeting due to a conflict with the Easter week activities at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center.

For My Money . . .

. . "The only thing worth discussion from here on out is **FIELD DAY**. You can jabber on about anything else you want, but all I want to hear about is Field Day. Just about anything you could want in ham radio is included in the Field Day activities. It's an emergency communications drill, a field exercise, a contest, a social event, an ICS exercise, a hands-on gear and antenna workshop. It covers just about every band and every mode used in amateur radio. If you are a tech, this is chance to get on HF and talk to the world. If you're a contest pro, come show us what you're made of. If you are an out of practice brass pounder, some of our OF's will be more than happy to have your company at the CW station. If you have a lot of skill come on down and put your skill to work. If don't have any talent, this is a great chance to learn. We have a place for everybody, no matter what your skill (or lack of skill) level is. We need operators; Phone, CW, data modes, or whatever. No general license? No problem. We will provide you a control operator. Don't want to operate? OK! We need loggers to record the contacts. We need support people. We need everyone. Come, bring a tent and sleeping bag and spend the whole weekend if you want or just a couple of hours. We need your help operating or unrolling coaxial cable feed lines. It doesn't matter, we have a job for everyone. "

Editor's note: This is a reprint of an article submitted by Tom Atkins KD5EIJ sometime back. We thought it was worth repeating. It reminds us how Field Day can only be a success if Narsians make it a team effort. This year, be a participant instead of a no-show.

President's corner

If you haven't participated in the Centennial QSO Party yet, I would encourage everyone to check out the details and rules on the ARRL website (www.arrl.org) as well as the tips and hints. This is a great opportunity to practice both contest and DX skills.

And speaking of contest skills, if you are a Rookie (Licensed within the past 3 years) there is a special contest called Rookie Roundup. April 20, 2014 will be a phone contest. If you don't have an HF rig yet, ask an Elmer to help you out. This event encourages both Rookie and non-Rookies to participate. Again, full details, rules, and hints & tips can be found at the ARRL website.

Having participated in these events will have you ready for Field Day, so be sure to contact Tom King (WK5DX) to volunteer to help out NARS. We always need help putting up and taking down antennas, several hundred feet of coax, etc. We also need both phone and CW operators.

We would also like to have someone help run some extra information stations or demos. If you have a special interest in any area of Amateur Radio we'd love to have you share it...the demonstrations can be as simple as a free standing poster presentation or a short lecture/hands on workshop. If you would like to help out by creating or staffing please contact me by email at ron.horton88@gmail.com or by phone at (713)299-7013. Demos could include a soldering workshop, making coax connections, using an antenna analyzer, etc.

73's to all
Ron Horton

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, President

www.houstonamateurradiosupply.com

HAM HAPPENINGS:

OHIO RADIO CLUB TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

The Parma Radio Club in Parma, Ohio will be conducting its Second Annual Earth Day Special Event Station on Saturday, April 19th. Operating from a historic urban farm, the club's Earth Day Special Event station, W8PRC will be on 40, 20, and 15 meters SSB near the bottom of each General segment. A beautiful special QSL card will be available.

Earth Day is intended to encourage everyone to be mindful of our magnificent planet. Other clubs and individual hams are urged to celebrate in this unique way and join with more than 500 million people in 192 countries in observing this very special remembrance each year.

While the actual date for Earth Day in the United States is April 22nd, schools and other groups celebrate a week or more prior to the actual day. More information is posted on the club's web site at parmaradioclub.webs.com (K8CMD)

INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY -

APRIL 26

Saturday April 26th is when stations around the world will be on the air to celebrate International Marconi Day. This is a once a year opportunity to make contact with historic Marconi locations around the world and to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on the April 25th 1874.

At airtime, over 20 Marconi related sites have confirmed that they will be on board this year's celebration. These include the historic GB4IMD at Poldhu in Cornwall, England along with VO1AA on Signal Hill in St. Johns, Newfoundland, and W2MRC at Monmouth Junction n New Jersey. All stations planning to participate are urged to register in advance. Full details are at www.gb4imd.com.



Redd School

Academic Excellence with a HEART!

Northwest Amateur Radio Society March 25, 2014
Board of Directors

Two years ago the LABRATS Robotics & Engineering Team from Redd School earned an invitation to compete in the First Lego League North American Open Tournament that was held in California. That trip was made possible through an ambitious fund-raising campaign and corporate donations. Since then, both student and parental enthusiasm has fueled the growth of our science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies both in the classroom and in after-school clubs. The number of students working in robotics and engineering projects has increased significantly. As a result, more students are expressing interest in STEM-related career fields!

This year the LABRATS Robotics team won the prestigious Champions Award at their Qualifying Tournament, awarded for overall achievement in research, teamwork, and robotic game. Their accomplishment makes them eligible to represent the FLL South Texas Region at the First Lego League International Open to be held in Toronto, Canada, June 4-7, 2014.

Your support would not only help to send the team to the competition, but would also demonstrate your commitment to inspiring the next generation of engineers. We hope you will consider making a tax -exempt donation for our team through our sponsor *Educational Excellence in America*. Information on how to donate online can be found on our sponsor's website at www.edexam.org. Or, checks can be made payable to "*Educational Excellence in America*", Re: *LABRATS Robotics*, and mailed to:
PO Box 90267
Houston TX 77290

Alternatively, checks can be made out to Redd School and mailed to:
4820 Strack Rd.
Houston, TX 77069
We hope to meet our goal of raising \$8700.00 by mid - May, 2014.
We appreciate your support!

Lollie Garay
LABRATS Coach
Redd School
281 440 1106
lgsciencelab@gmail.com

Editor's note:

NARS has donated \$50 towards this worthy project. As most of you know, over the years, NARS has supported the Redd School by exposing many of its students to amateur radio. Your donation, however small can help the LABRATS in their quest toward further scientific achievement.

Saturday, March 22 VE Test Session results at Tomball Community Center.

We had 5 candidates taking 6 tests:
Element 2 tests given, 5, passed 5
Element 3 tests given, 1, passed 0

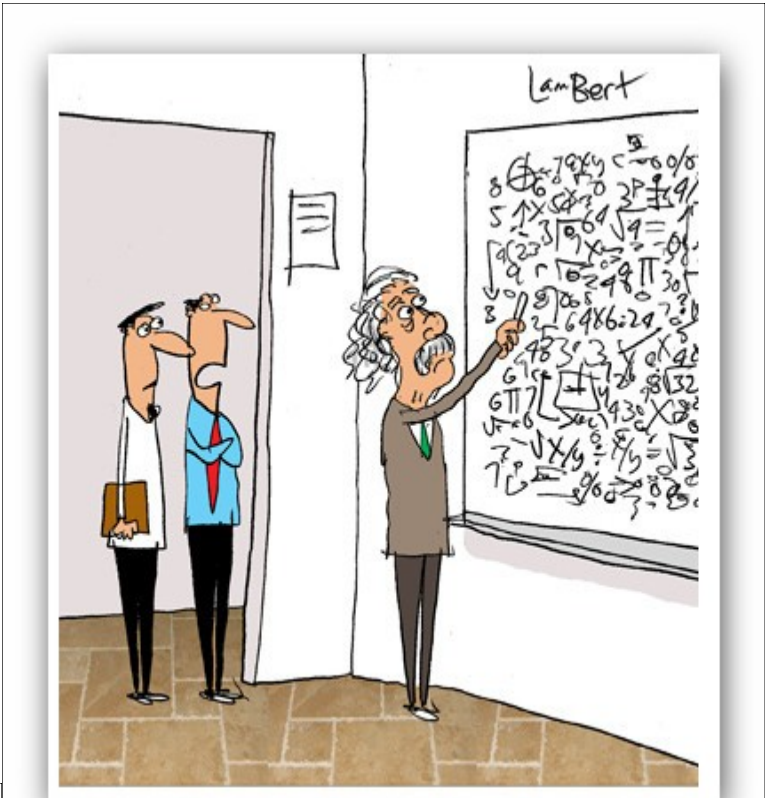
Congratulations to the following new Technicians:

- Bradley Cox
- John Lester
- Jeffrey Bohl
- Will Chaney
- Michael Panico

The next session will be held Saturday, April 26 at 8:30 am. At the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market & Cherry Sts. Official address is 221 Market St. Let me know if you would like to serve at this session. Parking is in the rear of the building. Use entrance on the east side bordered by Cherry St.

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

Keith Dutsom NM5G
NARS VE Session Manager
keith1@dutsom.net



"This has nothing to do with relativity. He's trying to figure out how to program his transceiver..."

My Top 5 Contesting Tips!

Tom King WK5DX

Read the contest rules.

You think I'm kidding? I'm not. One of the things on my checklist to take with me on DXpeditions for contesting is a paper copy of the rules.

It amazes me, too, that every time I take the rules with me and read through them, I find out something new about the contest that I didn't know. Even big contests like CQ WW or a big ARRL contest — the rules vary.

Besides, we never remember exactly how the multipliers are counted or how the points are exactly constructed or where the log is to be submitted. We think we remember, but the truth of the matter is that we don't.

Reviewing the rules before the contest is always a good idea. Weird. But, a good thing to do.

Create a contest goal.

The more time you spend in a contest, the harder it becomes. Why? Well, there is the effort of copying all those signals in the midst of all the contest noise. Sitting in the chair (or standing) operating takes focus and concentration. And, let's face it, operating at 3 AM is tough on anyone.

A goal for the contest operation can offer you the "reason for operating" when the operating gets tough. By having a goal, the operating becomes more than just the next contact. The goal helps sustain you during the contest.

Here's a little help...[VE1ZA 2014 Contest Dashboard](#)

Have an operating plan.

If you plan on spending a significant amount of time in a specific contest, particularly contests that are a full 48-hours long or ones that require certain times off, it's a great idea to create an operating plan for the contest.

Having a contest plan is useful in five ways:

Plan the operating/off time. Whether you need to take time off because of the contest rules or want to take time off because of a 48-hour contest, having a plan for the contest will tell you when to take off the time.

Plan band changes. Sometimes we are so caught up in the contest — or are so tired from operating — we forget that other bands are opening. For example, at the low end of the sunspot cycle, you might forget that EU opening on 40-meters starts at 3 PM local time on the east coast of the United States.

Plan propagation openings. In the middle of the contest, it's easy to forget while running Europe that long path to Australia is open as well. Having a propagation reminder will help you check other antenna directions at the right time.

Planning gives you a comparison to current operating.

All contest plans, someone said, are valid until the first QSO. The idea of a plan is not that it needs to be strictly followed, but gives you a comparison so that you can contrast current operating reality with that of something that makes sense. In the midst of battle, it's hard to know if you're doing the right thing. But if your contest plan says to check 15-meters, you can and know that it was set up to help you succeed. If 15-meters isn't open, that is OK; you just did a reality check against a plan.

A plan gives you two data points for the next contest.

The plan you had and the reality you experienced. From this, you can create a better plan for the next contest.

Contest plans aren't for every contest. But they are a great help for the right contests.

Test Equipment Before Contest.

You know something won't work, don't you? Even when you were on the air last night? Yeah, it breaks.

What should you test? Here's a checklist for what to test before a contest:

Each antenna on each band. Somehow, the SWR always goes up before a contest.

Each rotor. For some reason, they won't turn the day of a contest.

Each radio can receive. Make sure the radio can hear signals on the band.

Each radio can transmit. With an SWR that makes sense.

Each computer. Make sure the software comes up and can see the radios and rotors.

Each macro. Make sure your CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK messages work as advertised with your function keys, including transmitting.

Each sound card. Make sure the levels of the sound card are set correctly and work with the radios.

Testing is so boring. But much better to find out that the 80-meter vertical doesn't work in the daylight than finding out in the heat of battle when it is dark outside.

Send in your log.

It may seem obvious that if you participate in a contest that you should send your log, usually electronically, to the contest sponsors. But many hams don't, and that's a shame.

The reason for not sending in the log varied, but all the reasons come down to two basic themes: not enough contacts to warrant turning in a log and not having the time.

With the advent of electronic submission of logs, I now dismiss the "not enough time" arguments out of hand. Electronically submitting your log takes less than ten minutes. While there are sometimes issues with the 'robots' that accept your submission, most of the time electronic submission is simple and fast.

is important for the contest — it's only three contacts, so who cares? — or not thinking that it matters to the contest committee.

But sending in your log is significant for several reasons:

Logs are used to cross reference other logs to validate contacts. Your three or three hundred contacts are thrown into the mix and help the contest sponsors validate what happened in the contest.

Your log reduces the “uniques” count in other logs. If all you do is go into the contest and work ten stations without submitting a log, you created ten “uniques” for other stations. Uniques, while not taking away points, are a flag to contest sponsors. By submitting your log, you validate those contacts and reduce the “uniques” in the contest.

You may win an award. There are many examples of logs submitted in some categories that are unique and your 300 contacts will win for that division. You may not feel it's deserved...but the paper on the wall will give you bragging rights.

Completion of the contest. Sending in the log closes out the contest portion of your participation. Closed loops are a good thing.

Sending in your log after the contest is the right thing to do. Even if you have ten contacts and think they mean nothing, send in the log and help the sponsors validate what happened during the contest. Every contact counts — and the way it counts is by sending in the log.

1.865, 3.810, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, 50.135 MHz. Exchange: RS(T), S/P/C or GA county. Logs due: May 15. Rules
Yuri Gagarin DX Contest--CW, from Apr 12, 2100Z to Apr 13, 2100Z . Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Exchange: RST, ITU Zone. Logs due: May 14. Rules

International Vintage Contest--Phone,CW, from Apr 13, 1200Z to Apr 13, 1800Z. Bands (MHz): 3.5,7. Exchange: RS(T), grid square. Logs due: May 30. Rules

Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon--CW, from Apr 13, 1200Z to Apr 14, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50. Exchange: RST, QTH, name, member nr if member. Logs due: 5 days. Rules

VHF Spring Sprints--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 15, 7 PM to Apr 15, 11 PM. Bands (MHz): 222. Exchange: Grid square (6-character preferred). Logs due: 14 days. Rules

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 17, 0001Z to Apr 22, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. See website. Exchange: ARLHS number or serial, name, S/P/C. Logs due: 12 days. Rules

Holyland DX Contest--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 18, 2100Z to Apr 19, 2100Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Exchange: RS(T), serial or Israel district. Logs due: May 31. Rules

TARA Skirmish Dig Pfx Contest--Digital, from Apr 19, 0000Z to Apr 19, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50. Exchange: Name, prefix. Logs due: May 17. Rules

ES Open HF Championship--Phone,CW, from Apr 19, 0500Z to Apr 19, 0859Z . Bands (MHz): 3.5,7. Exchange: RS(T), serial, dupes OK once/hour. Logs due: May 10. Rules

Worked All Provinces of China--Phone,CW, from Apr 19, 0600Z to Apr 20, 0559Z. Bands (MHz): 3.5-28. Exchange: RS(T) and serial or province abbreviation. Logs due: 7 days. Rules

CQMM DX Contest--CW, from Apr 19, 1200Z to Apr 20, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 3.5-28. Exchange: RST, continent, and category. Logs due: Jun 30. Rules

EU Spring Sprints--Phone, from Apr 19, 1600Z to Apr 19, 1959Z . Bands (MHz): 3.5-14. 3.730, 7.050, 14.250 MHz. Exchange: Both call signs, serial, name. Logs due: 15 days. Rules

Michigan QSO Party--Phone,CW, from Apr 19, 1600Z to Apr 20, 0400Z . Bands (MHz): 3.5-28. CW 45 kHz from band edge,Phone 3.825, 7.200, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450 MHz. Exchange: Serial and MI county or S/P/C. Logs due: 30 days. Rules

EA QRP Contest--CW, from Apr 19, 1700Z to Apr 20, 1300Z . Bands (MHz): 3.5-28. Exchange: RST, category, M if EA QRP member. Logs due: 30 days. Rules

Nebraska QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 19, 1800Z to Apr 20, 1800Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, 144, CW 1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge,Nov/Tech--10 kHz above band edge; Phone--1.915, 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.465, 146.460 MHz. Exchange: RS(T), NE county or S/P/C. Logs due: May 31. Rules

North Dakota QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 19, 1800Z to Apr 20, 1800Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50,144, CW 1.850, 3.550, 3705, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; Phone 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.270, 21.350, 28.450; VHF+/Digital per band plan. Exchange: RST and ND county or S/P/C. Logs due: May 15. Rules

Ontario QSO Party--Phone,CW, from Apr 19, 1800Z - See website. Multiple time periods. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, 144, CW 30 kHz above band edge; Phone 1.870, 3.735, 3.860, 7.070, 7.260, 14.130, 14.265, 21.260, 28.360; VHF-SSB: 50.130, 52.540, 144.205, 146.550 MHz. Exchange: RS(T), S/P/C or Ontario QTH. Logs due: May 18. Rules

Feld-Hell New Member Sprint--Digital, from Apr 19, 2000Z to Apr 19, 2200Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, Monthly on 3rd Saturday. Exchange: RST, S/P/C, Feld-Hell member nr. Logs due: 7 days. Rules

YU DX Contest--CW, from Apr 19, 2100Z - See website. Multiple time periods. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Exchange: RST and ITU zone. Logs due: 30 days. Rules

ARRL Rookie Roundup--Phone, from Apr 20, 1800Z to Apr 20, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 3.5-28. Exchange: Both calls, name, check, S/P XE# or "DX". Logs due: See web. Rules

Run For the Bacon--CW, from Apr 21, 0200Z to Apr 21, 0400Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Monthly on 3rd Sunday night (local). Exchange: RST, S/P/C, Flying Pig nr or power. Rules

Contest Corner

(This should keep you busy for awhile!)

HF CONTESTS

NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint--CW, from Apr 9, 0030Z to Apr 9, 0230Z. Bands (MHz): 3.5-14. Monthly on 2nd Tuesday or 3rd Wednesday local time (alternating). Exchange: RST, S/P/C, and NAQCC mbr nr or power. Logs due: 4 days. Rules
CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Tests--CW, from Apr 9, 1300Z - See website. Multiple time periods. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Twice monthly on 2nd and 4th Wed, 28 to 38 kHz above band edge. Exchange: Name, member number or S/P/C. Logs due: 2 days. Rules

EU Spring Sprints--CW, from Apr 12, 1600Z to Apr 12, 1959Z . Bands (MHz): 3.5-14. 3.550, 7.025, 14.040 MHz. Exchange: Both call signs, serial, name. Logs due: 15 days. Rules

Japan International DX Contest--CW, from Apr 12, 0700Z to Apr 13, 1300Z . Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Exchange: RST, JA prefecture or CQ Zone. Logs due: 30 days. Rules

New Mexico QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 12, 1400Z to Apr 13, 0200Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, CW-1.82, 3.55, 7.045, 14.05, 21.05, 28.05, 50.095; SSB-1.85, 3.815, 7.26, 14.28, 21.38, 28.38, 50.13 MHz. Exchange: Call sign, name, and NM county or S/P/C. Logs due: Apr 30. Rules

Georgia QSO Party--Phone,CW, from Apr 12, 1800Z - See website. Multiple time periods. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, CW 1.815, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.095; Phone

Low Power Spring Sprint--CW, from Apr 21, 1400Z to Apr 21, 2000Z . Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Exchange: RST, grid square, power category. Logs due: 30 days. Rules

VHF+ CONTESTS

VHF Spring Sprints--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 15, 7 PM to Apr 15, 11 PM. Bands (MHz): 222. Exchange: Grid square (6-character preferred). Logs due: 14 days. Rules

New Mexico QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 12, 1400Z to Apr 13, 0200Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, CW-1.82, 3.55, 7.045, 14.05, 21.05, 28.05, 50.095; SSB-1.85, 3.815, 7.26, 14.28, 21.38, 28.38, 50.13 MHz. Exchange: Call sign, name, and NM county or S/P/C. Logs due: Apr 30. Rules

Georgia QSO Party--Phone,CW, from Apr 12, 1800Z - See website. Multiple time periods. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, CW 1.815, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.095; Phone 1.865, 3.810, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, 50.135 MHz. Exchange: RS(T), S/P/C or GA county. Logs due: May 15. Rules

Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon--CW, from Apr 13, 1200Z to Apr 14, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50. Exchange: RST, QTH, name, member nr if member. Logs due: 5 days. Rules

TARA Skirmish Dig Pfx Contest--Digital, from Apr 19, 0000Z to Apr 19, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50. Exchange: Name, prefix. Logs due: May 17. Rules

Nebraska QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 19, 1800Z to Apr 20, 1800Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, 144, CW 1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge,Nov/Tech--10 kHz above band edge; Phone--1.915, 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.465, 146.460 MHz. Exchange: RS(T), NE county or S/P/C. Logs due: May 31. Rules

North Dakota QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Apr 19, 1800Z to Apr 20, 1800Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50,144, CW 1.850, 3.550, 3705, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; Phone 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.270, 21.350, 28.450; VHF+/Digital per band plan. Exchange: RST and ND county or S/P/C. Logs due: May 15. Rules

Ontario QSO Party--Phone,CW, from Apr 19, 1800Z - See website. Multiple time periods. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, 144, CW 30 kHz above band edge; Phone 1.870, 3.735, 3.860, 7.070, 7.260, 14.130, 14.265, 21.260, 28.360; VHF-SSB: 50.130, 52.540, 144.205, 146.550 MHz. Exchange: RS(T), S/P/C or Ontario QTH. Logs due: May 18. Rules

Feld-Hell New Member Sprint--Digital, from Apr 19, 2000Z to Apr 19, 2200Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50, Monthly on 3rd Saturday. Exchange: RST, S/P/C, Feld-Hell member nr. Logs due: 7 days. Rules

The ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB is Sunday, April 20!

The ARRL Rookie Roundup returns to SSB on Sunday, April 20. The event gets underway at 1800 UTC and continues through 2359 UTC. In the Rookie Roundup, a "Rookie" is any radio amateur licensed within the current calendar year or in the previous two calendar years, regardless of license class. Operators exchange the call sign of the station they're working plus their own call sign, first name, two-digit number of the year first licensed, and state, Canadian province, Mexican call area, or "DX."

The goal of Rookie Roundup is to encourage newly licensed operators in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators are encouraged to participate and help new operators — either on the air or in person.

This is a terrific opportunity for new operators to get on the air and learn contesting skills. Old Timers may want to consider opening up their stations to rookies and serving as a contesting mentor. The more operators on the air, the more fun the Roundup will be for everyone.

Review the rules before the event, and get familiar with logging and log submission processes too. Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read "HF Contesting – Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions." The next Rookie Roundup is the RTTY event on the third Sunday of August.

Faster, and Slower, than the Speed of Light.

Albert Einstein taught us that the speed of light is constant at 186,282 miles per second. An unbending law of nature, right? Wrong!

For years diligent lab scientists have sped up and greatly slowed down the components of light. They have actually made light travel many times faster than the "speed of light." And they've decelerated light to a plodding pace that wouldn't merit a speeding ticket.

At New York's University of Rochester in 2006, scientists led by optics professor Robert Boyd fired a laser into an optical glass fiber. The fiber had been laced with the rare metal erbium, which amplified the signal it produced – by a lot. Before the entire pulse even entered the fiber, part of it appeared at the fiber's end and then raced backward faster than the speed of light. The process was attributed to the erbium, which gave extra energy to the light. Professor Boyd said, with some understatement, "Awesome, Dude!"

The University of Rochester team has also taken the opposite tack and slowed down light. In 2003, Boyd's crew shone a green laser through a tiny ruby in an attempt to saturate the chromium atoms that give the gem its reddish tint. When a second laser zapped the jewel, its light slowed to 127 miles per hour, which is 5.2 millions times slower than the light of the first laser. In 1999, scientists at Harvard slowed laser light to 38 mph, a speed slower than the legal vehicular limit on most interstates. They did this by shooting a laser through matter that was super cooled to 459 deg, below zero – a temperature at which atoms, or particles of light, practically freeze in their tracks

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

New members, Lester Mignerey Jr. KB0MEF & Paul Pacier KS5PUD
Best wishes for full recovery of Paul Owen N5NXS, Cal White WF5W,
Jerry Seay KE5PUT & Terry Myers KQ5U after major surgical procedures.

NARS Resource list

General help:

Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281 353-8652 wa5rej.tx@netzero.net

Deral Kent K5WNO
281 548-7476 k5wno@juno.com

Digital modes:

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281 251-4301 fitz6@swball.net

VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA
281 251-4301

PC Programming & Ops:

Keith Dutson NM5G
281 351-7683 keith@dutson.net

Building Electronics & kits:

Mark Tyler K5GQ
281 587-0256 k5gq@juno.com

Interface (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 Info. Officer

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

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281 370-0934
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Meetings

Monthly General Membership 3rd. Friday
each month (except January) at 7:30 pm.
Cypress Creek Christian Community Ctr.
6823 Cypresswood Drive

Saturday Breakfast

Denny's 7720 Louetta Rd. 7 am.

Wednesday Lunch-11 am.

Various places. Info on front page.

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Editor, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, 281 353-2196 kd5kr@arrl.net Deadline for articles to appear in the next newsletter is the last day of
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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Services Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, ARRL Club No. 2120.