



# NARS NEWS

August 2014

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

## Important Dates

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

Saturday, Aug 23, 2014 8:30 am.  
VE License Exam Session  
Tomball Community Center  
S. Cherry & Market Streets  
(just south of Main)

Tuesday, Aug 26, 7:30 pm.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Ponderosa Fire Station  
17061 Rolling Creek Drive

### Lunch Break—North

Gianna Italian Kitchen Aug 6  
Spring Creek BBQ Aug 13  
Pei Wei Asian Diner, Aug 20  
Panera Bread, Aug 27  
Jason Deli, Sept 3  
Sweet Tomatoes, Sept 10  
BJ's Restaurant, Sept 17

### Lunch Break—Medical Center

Pronto Cucinino Aug 13  
Jason's Deli, Aug 20  
Buffalo Grille, Aug 27  
Southwell's Hamburger Grill, Sept 3  
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille, Sept 10  
Silver Palace Chinese Buff. Sept 17

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

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

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

## “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!

### **But wait, there's more!**

“And, you don't have to pay for the shipping & handling.”

Part two of this month's program will be featuring Brad Nelson WD5GNI, and his “assistant” Ron Horton KF5LFL. If you've experienced a lack of joy in installing a PL-259 to a non-cooperating coax cable, these guys will show you how the experts do it, and in far less time than it takes a person to come up with a new four-letter word for “Dang!”

**Texas QSO Party.... The prize. Go for it!**



## **President's corner -**

I've noticed the back to school signs and ads. Summer vacation is almost over. Soon schools will re-open their doors and students will once again pursue their education. Some will become excited over the possibilities they discover in learning new things and setting new goals. Some will continue to ask when they will ever use this information and teachers will continue to answer, "On Friday's Test".

Ok, I've been on summer vacation a little longer than the rest of the kids. It's time to get ready to go back to school. I've picked up a few items and set my goals. I am delving into the digital modes of amateur radio this semester. I am also continuing to learn how to spell "E" and "T" in Morse Code. I may even tackle "A" this semester too. Of course I'm always taking a course in how to produce smoke and flames using only a soldering iron and electronic components. I've moved up to the variable temperature soldering station...more heat = more smoke & flames...cool. So why all of the activity you may ask. I remembered why I got into the amateur radio hobby in the first place. I love to ask questions and I like to meet people. I figured there must be at least several million questions I can ask and there are about 3 million hams worldwide so I can ask the same question over and over and no one gets bored.

So, what special project will you be tackling next? What skill will you develop or improve? Do you still have questions? Do you need help? Do you just want to share your experiences? If so, welcome to the club. Post a question on the reflector or join us at a meeting. What was it about amateur radio that initially caught your interest? I'm willing to bet the magic is still there.

73's to all.

*Ron Horton KF5LFL*

## **In tribute to the late Mr. Larry Lange.**

You may not realize it, but we might not have iPhones, iPods, iPads or Apple Computers if a very good and humble man hadn't stepped up to the plate for Steve Jobs and other boys in his neighborhood! That good man was Larry Lange. Mr. Lange was an engineer at Hewlett-Packard. An amateur radio operator and electronics enthusiast, Larry took the time to share something he was interested in with the kids in his community. His unselfish efforts helped launch the careers of Steve Jobs and many others.

You might say that Larry was a kind of Professor Know-How to Steve and the other boys in his neighborhood. Steve Jobs, later in his life, spoke of the experience he and his friends gained working alongside Mr. Lange building Heathkits: "It gave me a tremendous level of self-confidence, that through exploration and learning, one could understand seemingly very complex things in one's environment."

If you ever wanted evidence of the power of a person to have a positive influence in the lives of a boy or girl, and in a bigger sense, the world, Steve Jobs and the story of Larry Lang is a solid example. Freely contributing their time and energy towards this cause and inspired by the real life story of Larry Lang, the men and women of the Technology Learning Center understand the pivotal roles they may play in inspiring a lifetime of learning among young people.

This story was posted in tribute to Mr. Lange. Sadly, Mr. Lange passed on July 26, 2014. We are thankful he was such an amazing influence on Mr. Jobs. I sure know I'd be lost without my Apple technology!

*Thanks to Patrick N. Snyder for contributing to this story*

## **NARS 2 meter net temporarily moved to another frequency....**

In the past, the NARS 2 meter Net was being held on the 146.66/06 repeater but due to a variety of problems, (antenna and equipment,) our repeater had been down more than up, to say the least. Many of you have "commented on the reliability" of our site, and the solution to our problems is now being studied by a committee as we speak.

Until further notice, the Texas DX Society has graciously allowed us to conduct our Wednesday night Net on their repeater. Please configure your equipment for: 147.36/96, Tone: 100 and check into the NARS net each Wednesday at 8 pm.



## Recap of July's program -

For those who missed the July meeting, our featured speakers were Lollie Garay KD5WZM and Dr. Pat Rieff W5TAR.

Lollie Garay made a presentation of the Redd School's trip to Canada for the LEGO Robotics & Engineering contest. Briefly, the contest consisted of a robot game, a skit, and a judges' question session where the kids had to describe what research they had performed, conclusions, etc. The kind did extremely well and were invited back.

NARS has been sponsoring and mentoring students in building a variety of electronic kits and attaining their amateur radio license over the past years. In addition, the Redd School also formed their very own club and call sign, W5LAB. Members are now known as "Labrats."

Miss Lollie, staff member, was motivated to get her own call sign KD5WZM just to "keep up with the kids!"

Dr. Pat Rieff W5TAR, a physicist at Rice University and a member of NARS, fielded questions about the sun's role in the aurora's geomagnetic storms, etc. The subject was so well received that Dr. Pat was asked to return in the near future and give a more lengthy program on this subject.



Lollie Garay, Redd School



Dr. Pat Rieff fielding questions from the members.

## Sunday, July 27 VE Special Test Session Results at Tomball Fire Department Station 1

This was for the technician class held July 26 and 27.

We had 15 candidates taking 27 tests.  
Element 2 tests given: 15; passed 10  
Element 3 tests given: 7; passed 0  
Element 4 tests given: 0; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Raphael Wilson - new Technician  
Jaleel Khalaf - new Technician  
Kara Mettlen - new Technician  
Dawn Elliott - new Technician

Kevin Lee - new Technician  
Mary K Maxwell - new Technician  
Lubo Jakab - new Technician  
Richard Cearley - new Technician  
Josh Austin - new Technician  
Daniel Parker - new Technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ  
Skip Ferguson K5LLR  
Ron Horton KF5LFL  
Mike Bragassa K5UO  
Carl Warfield KA5MEI

The next monthly session will be held Saturday, August 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.

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.

73, Keith Dutson NM5G

## LARGEST COLLINS RADIO AM SHORT-WAVE TRANSMITTER SAVED FROM EXTINCTION

A historic radio transmitter has been saved from the scrapheap thanks to three organizations who worked diligently to preserve it. Amateur Radio Newsline's Skeeter Nash, N5ASH, has the story with a happy ending:

The announced transfer of the Voice of America broadcasting station in Delano California to the General Services Administration for disposal had potentially sealed the fate of the last complete Collins Model 821A-1 250,000 watt High Frequency Autotune transmitters in the world.

Meantime the Collins Collectors Association and the Antique Wireless Association had formalized an alliance named the Collins Radio Heritage Group. Hearing of the potential loss of the transmitter the latter working in cooperation with members of the Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association began campaigning to save some of the significant historical artifacts related to the Delano Voice of America transmitter site.

In December of 2013 a proposal was submitted to the Voice of America and the Government Services Administration to recover, preserve and display the transmitter and the studio control console from the Delano site. This past May the proposal was approved and recovery began. The effort was recently completed with the transmitter, studio board and other associated remote gear being removed and shipped to the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield New York where they will be displayed.

## RADIO POLICY: US COMMITTEE FINDINGS CHALLENGE CONTINUING SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS.

The United States Broadcasting Board of Governors has released a specially prepared report assessing current and projected use of shortwave radio. This, as a platform for targeted programming by U.S. international media.

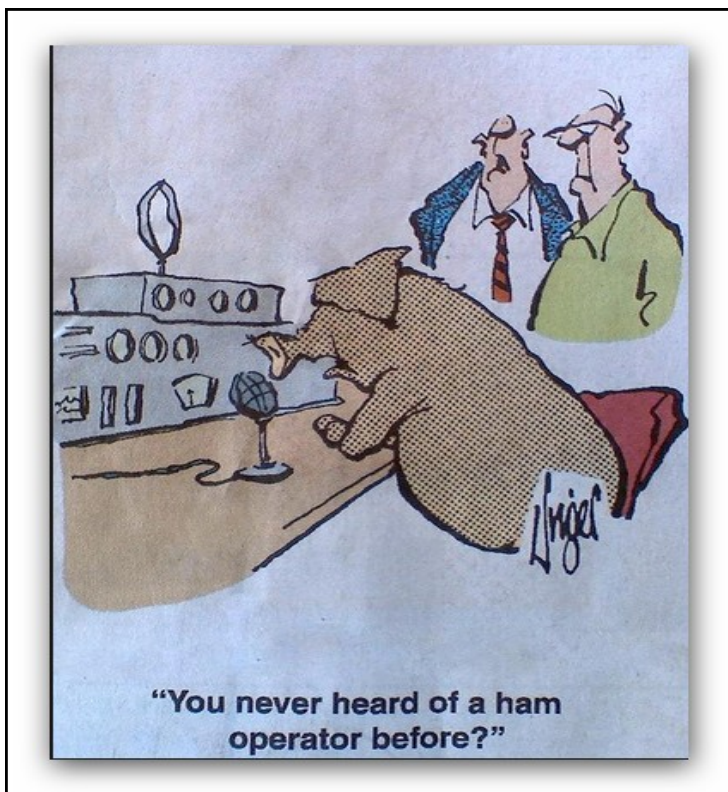
According to the report, United States international media must optimize delivery by audience and market. While there is still a critical need for shortwave in certain key countries, but it is a medium of marginal and continuously declining impact in most markets. Even in countries with currently significant levels of shortwave usage, audiences will migrate to other platforms as they become more accessible.

The report goes on to note Shortwave users generally have viable alternative means of accessing content from the United States. As such, top target demographic audiences are unlikely to use shortwave exclusively or at all. It also found no evidence that shortwave usage increases during crises. Rather, in these instances target audiences continue to use their existing platforms or seek out anti censorship tools including online firewall circumvention, private chat software, flash drives, and DVDs to access content.

The report goes on to note that Shortwave transmission is a relatively expensive platform to operate and maintain. It also says that Digital Shortwave such as Digital Radio Mondiale is not likely to become an established mass media distribution method in enough of the Broadcast Board of Governors current or future markets to justify the costs. As such, the committee supports almost all of the shortwave broadcast reductions previously approved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors under sequestration and the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating Plan.

However, given current situations in Ukraine and other nearby states with large Russian-speaking populations, the Committee recommends revising the Operating Plan and ensuring that shortwave broadcasts to Russia and the Caucasus be continued at current levels, subject to reevaluation during Fiscal Year 2016's budget formulation processes.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Skeeter Nash, N5ASH,



## HOUSTON AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY, INC.

HAM | CB | COMMERCIAL | DIGITAL SCANNERS | ELECTRONICS  
RETAIL | REPAIR | CONSIGNMENT | INSTALLATION

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

**Dave McCombs, NA5CW**

Owner

281-355-7373  
[contact@harsradio.com](mailto:contact@harsradio.com)

2558 E. FM 1960 Rd.  
Houston, TX 77073

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members, Michael Panico KG5BBJ, Nick Marianos KG5BVC,  
George Trimm KG5BYE, Kate Trimm KG5BYD, Bryan Trimm KG5BYC  
Mike Schreckenbach KF5OTH, John Parmalee K5VGM, & Brian Bush W5XBB

## 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  
281 516-1466 keith1@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 Info. Officer

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

## NARS Information

### President & Board Chairman

Ron Horton KF5LFL  
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### Administrative & General Info.

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Send changes in address, phone, or email to:  
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Houston, TX 77290-0387

### Nets

2 meter Wed. 8 pm. 146.66/06 Tone 141.3  
Coordinator: Jerry Whiting KB5VGD  
g\_whiting@sbcglobal.net

### Web site

URL: <http://www.w5nc.net>  
Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BA  
281 370-3510 n5bia@arrl.net

### NARS Reflector

NARS@mailman.qth.net  
Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G  
281 516-1466 keith1@dutson.net

### Texas QSO Party

Co-coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W  
832 657-4832  
no5w.chuck@gmail.com

Co-coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G  
281 516-1466 keith1@dutson.net

### VE Session (ARRL) Manager

Keith Dutson NM5G  
281 516-1466 keith1@dutson.net

### 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.

**NARS News** is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Send all articles and materials for the newsletter to:  
Editor, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, 281 353-2196 kd5kr@arrl.net Deadline for articles to appear in the next newsletter is the last day of  
each month.

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Services Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, ARRL Club No. 2120.