



NARS NEWS

December 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

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

VE License Exam:
NO exam session in December!

Lunch Break—North

Gianna's Italian Kitchen Dec 3
Spring Creek BBQ Dec 10
Pei Wei Asian Diner Dec 17
Panera Bread (Dec 24 Pending)
Jason Deli (Dec 31 Pending)
Baker St. Pub Jan 7, 2015

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Pronto Cucinino Dec 3
Jason's Deli Dec 10
Buffalo Grille Dec 17
Southwell's Hamburger Grill Dec 24 ?
Marco's Mexican Bar Dec 31 ?
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Jan 7,
2015

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.

K5ZTY (sk) Show-n-Tell Night! Friday, Dec. 19th

Our last general meeting of the year is upon us, and it is the meeting each year that we have reserved for *Show and Tell*. This is a great place to bring your pet project to our meeting and demonstrate it and tell us about the challenges you encountered and how you managed them.

Consider this a general call to all members of NARS to submit your Show and Tell to Ron Horton, outgoing President of NARS 2014. He will need to know what you will need to support your presentation, eg., tables, projectors, power cords, etc. We will stay flexible on the order of presentations.

Annual NARS Banquet Friday, January 16th.

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 16th, 2015 as a reminder to attend the Annual Awards banquet. Catering will be provided by Pappa's BBQ.

- **When:** Friday, January 16th, 2015
- **Where:** Westador Club House, 17715 Cali Drive, Houston. just one block north of the Houston NW Medical Center.
- **Menu:** Beef Brisket, Link Sausage, BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Beans, TX Sliced bread, Iced tea.
- **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 names of those attending.

Doors open at 6 p.m., buffet dinner served at 7:15 p.m.

See map on page 4.

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



2014 Salvation Army Bell Ringing!

This makes the 8th year for the Salvation Army bell ringing by the members of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. This is a fun event and a worthwhile one in that it put the monies collected to good use for Christmas by providing food and presents for the needy.

Ron Horton KF5LFL, pictured above, was one of fourteen members who donated one hour to man the two entrances of the Wal-Mart located at US 249 & Spring Cypress Rd. The weather was just outstanding and the customers must have been in a generous mood because the buckets were jammed full at the end of the day.

Event Coordinator, Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, managed to enlist the necessary volunteers insuring another successful public service activity.

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ARRL The national association for
Amateur Radio
CENTENNIAL
Advancing the Art and Science of Radio—Since 1914

Saturday, November 22 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Fire Station #1

We had 9 candidates taking 15 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 7; passed 7
Element 3 tests given: 6; passed 3
Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 1

Congratulations to:

Jameson Wendell - new Technician
Joseph Lamond - new General
Paul McNearney - new Technician
Van Williams - new Technician
Creighton Brown - new Technician
Jack Paylor - new Technician
Laura Norton KG5BOO - upgrade to Extra
John Batey III - new General
Nicholas Tew KG5ESN - upgrade to General

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS (acting session mgr)
Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
Skip Ferguson K5LLR
Mike Bragassa K5UO
Michael Bowen N8ILU
Ron Horton KF5LFL

The next monthly session will be held **Saturday, January 24** at 8:30AM at Tomball Fire Station #1, located at the corner of Rudel Drive and Quinn Street. Official address is 1200 Rudel Dr. Parking is on both sides of the building. Be certain that you DO NOT PARK in any of the driveways for the fire trucks.

Let me know if you would like to serve at this session. Thanks.

THERE IS NO SESSION PLANNED FOR DECEMBER!

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
NARS VE Session Manager

NARS 2 meter net

Held every Wednesday night at 8 pm. We will be temporarily using the Texas DX Society's repeater until ours is back in operation. Please configure your equipment for 147.36/96, Tone: 100. All are welcome, members or not!

All you need to know about batteries, Part 2.

Last month we left you with Bill Sturgeon making some improvements on the Voltaic pile, enabling it to last much longer. Wouldn't you know it, sooner or later someone decides that he can further improve on his design. No frog legs for him, unless they're grilled on the Barbie! Along comes....

John Daniell (1790-1845)

John Daniell began experiments in 1835 in an attempt to improve the Voltaic battery with its problem of being unsteady and as a weak source of electrical current. His experiments soon led to remarkable results. In 1836, he invented a primary cell in which hydrogen was eliminated in the generation of the electricity. Daniell had solved the problem of polarization. In his laboratory he had learned to alloy the zinc with mercury. His version was the first battery that produced a constant reliable source of electrical current

over a long period of time.

To make the Daniell cell, a copper plate is placed at the bottom of a glass jar. Copper sulfate solution is poured over the plate to half-fill the jar. Then a zinc plate is hung in the jar as shown and a zinc sulfate solution poured very carefully into the jar. Copper sulfate is denser than zinc sulfate, so the zinc sulfate "floats" on top of the copper sulfate.

Gaston Planté (1834-1889)

In 1859 Planté began experiments that resulted in construction of a battery for the storage of electrical energy; his first model contained two sheets of lead, separated by rubber strips, rolled into a spiral, and immersed in a solution containing about 10 percent sulfuric acid.

A year later he presented a battery to the Academy of Sciences consisting of nine of the elements described above, housed in a protective box with the terminals connected in parallel. His battery could deliver remarkably large currents.



Initial capacity was quite limited since the positive plate had little active material available for reaction. About 1881, Faure and others developed batteries using a paste of lead s for the positive plate active materials. This allowed much quicker formation and better plate efficiency than the solid Planté plate.

Although the rudiments of the flooded lead-acid battery date back to the 1880's, there has been a continuing stream of improvements in the materials of construction and the manufacturing and formation processes. Since many of the problems with flooded lead-acid batteries involved electrolyte leakage, many attempts have been made to eliminate free acid in the battery.

Georges Leclanché (1839-1882)

In 1866, Georges Leclanche, patented a new system, which was immediately successful. In the space of two years, twenty thousand of his cells were being used in the telegraph system. Leclanche's original cell was assembled in a porous pot. The positive electrode consisted of crushed manganese dioxide with a little carbon mixed in. The negative pole was a zinc rod. The cathode was packed into the pot, and a carbon rod was inserted to act as a current collector. The anode or zinc rod and the pot were then immersed in an ammonium chloride solution. The liquid acted as the electrolyte, readily seeping through the porous cup and making contact with the cathode material. Leclanche's "wet" cell (as it was popularly referred to) became the forerunner to the world's first widely used battery, the zinc carbon cell.

The Leclanche cell was used extensively for telegraphy, signaling and electric bell work; and for most work where intermittent current is required and where it is essential that the battery should require very little attention. The cell proved very useful in the early years of the telephone, before power was centralized in the exchanges, every telephone needed to have its own source of electricity. The battery was hidden inside a wooden box, often fixed with the telephone on the wall. It proved less suitable as conversations lengthened, and for long-distance calls. In a prolonged call, the start might be fine, but the conclusion could well be inaudible, as the battery ran down. However, the Leclanche was to some extent self-recharging, thanks to the chemicals inside it reacting with the surrounding air and before too long the telephone would be ready for action again.

These guys are really on to something. But wait, there's more! The Leclanche cell was quite heavy and prone to breakage, but steadily improved over the years. Enter into the foray is Carl Gassner (1887) who's about to bring us into the "early-modern era". More on this in the January issue.

NARS in rewind....

The year 2002

Many of us "old timers" recall the musings of one of our members, Bill Denton, W5SB. Bill and his wife Marian KB5SGV are still Narsian's in good standing, although no longer active in the amateur radio arena. Bill had a station that was to "die for" back then and he enjoyed having members come over and make use of his shack for many events. Bill brought a variety of talents to NARS and one of them was writing about his many experiences while on the air. While going through our historical achieves, I came across this article that is worth sharing.

Joe Sokolowski - Editor

Subject: [NARS] VP8 Saga

January 31st, 2002

Since I am not really a DX'er, I decided if I was going to run with the "In Crowd," I would have to at least make an attempt at the VP8. Since I couldn't play golf today and it was cold and rainy, I didn't have anything better to do, so I turned on the DX cluster monitor. There he was, spotted on 28.475 listening up 5. Setting up the split on the FT1000D is a piece of cake. I plugged in the head sets turned on dual receive. Didn't hear anything on .475. Sounded like an empty frequency until I heard the frequency police come on a say in a very vulgar voice, "He's listening up you idiot". Sure enough he was right. Turned over to the split frequency and there they were, in full bellow.

At that point I decided that this may take a while, so I went into the kitchen and made a couple of sandwiches, a bowl of chips and 6 Diet Cokes. Oh, and some Excredin that I was going to need listening to the mob.

Well, I decided turn on the Titan, a little power would help, and pre-set the load and tune to 10 meters to give me a little boost. I turned down the power on the 1000D so I wouldn't blow the 3CX800's out of their sockets. I was ready. I listened to .475 and nothing. I switched throughout the four beams on the tower and on the 1ow KT34XA, there he was about "S"0. Since I had no idea where VP8 is, I switched up to the C4XL at 175' and started rotating to the south and at about 90 deg. he popped up to about S-3.

"That's HIM". I wonder how long this was going to take. I had plenty of food, it was 50 degrees, windy and raining out. What else does a retired guy have to do? With my foot shaking on the foot switch, I waited my turn. He worked a W8, then a 9 and I took my chance and pushed the pedal....."Whiskey 5 Sugar Baker" I said in a squeaky voice. Sounded like I was going back through puberty. "Whiskey 5 Sugar Baker....S and 9". That was me. "5 and 9 in Texas." I choked. "I did it" !! "But wait", I gave him the wrong report. He was only 5 and 3. What will I do now? I guess I will have to explain it to him when I send him a card.....oops.....don't have any cards.

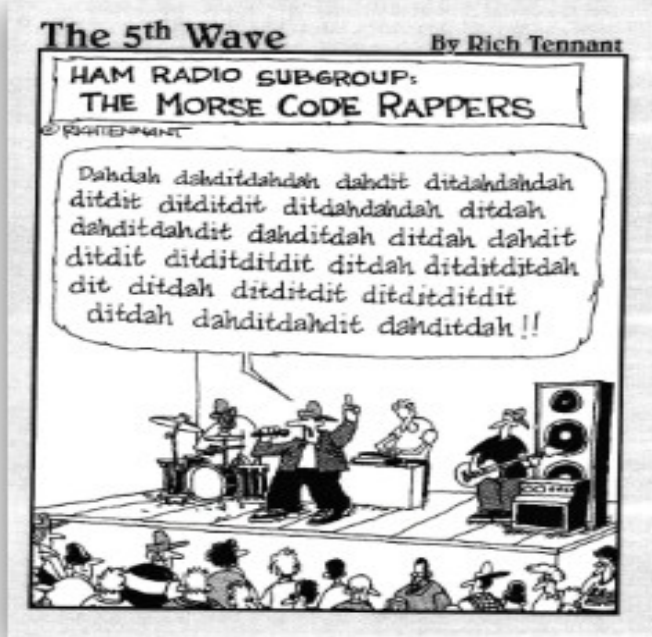
As I put him in the log, I didn't remember the amp kicking on when I made the call. A close inspection of the Titan still showed the operate switch in the standby mode and my 1000D was turned down to about 40 watts. **I had worked the dreaded VP8 on QRP!**

Now what am I going to do with all this food? Think I will take a nap after all this excitement....



Westador Club House
17715 Cali Drive, Houston TX 77090

*May your Holidays be wrapped in joy
and your New Year filled with hope!*



Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members,
James Dubois, Hugh Wayne Campbell.
We note with regret the passing of former member, B. Frank Secor KB5VSY , 1998 - 2007,.

NARS Resource list

General help:

Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281 528-0673 wa5rej@yahoo.com

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
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Nets

2 meter Wed. 8 pm. 147.36/96, tone 100
(Courtesy of Texas DX Society)
Coordinator: Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Web site

URL: <http://www.w5nc.net>
Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
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NARS Reflector

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

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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.