



NARS NEWS

January 2014

Important Dates

Monthly club meeting:
Third Friday of each month, 7:30 pm.

Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:30 am.
VE License Exam Session
Tomball Community Center
S. Cherry & Market Streets
(just south of Main)

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:30 pm.
Board of Directors Meeting
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive

Lunch Break—North

Jan 8— Spring Creek Barbeque
Jan 15—Pei Wei Asian Diner
Jan 22—Panera Bread

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Lunch Break—Medical Center

Jan 8—Jason Deli
Jan 15—Buffalo Grille
Jan 22—Southwest's Hamburger Grill
Jan 29—Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
Feb 5—Silver Palace Chinese Buffett

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Tail Dragger's Lunch Bunch—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 the month.

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

Awards Banquet 2014 January 17th

Most veteran NARS members know that January's club meeting comes in the form of our annual banquet. The Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, January 17, at the Westador Club House, 17715 Cali Drive, Houston, about three or four blocks north of the Houston NW Medical Center. See map on page 3 for further details. While the cutoff date is Monday, January 13th, we have reserved a few extra seats for those last minute procrastinators. Email Joe KD5KR at kd5kr@juno.com if you've made that final decision to attend. I may be able to accommodate you. I know I said that no money will be collected at the door, but if you really have a good excuse, slip me a check under the table and we'll and we'll see what can be done. (I was raised in Chicago, ya know...) The cost is \$18.00 per person. Doors open at 7 p.m. Dinner served about 7:30 pm. In addition to the awards, we will have several door prizes as we go through the program. We hope to be done by 9 pm.

Houston Amateur Radio Supply to host Open House January 18th.

David McCombs K5FNG of the Houston Amateur Radio Supply will be hosting his annual Open House Day on Saturday, January 18. from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Those who have attended this event in the past know that the hot dogs, chips and sodas he provides are just what we need on a brisk Saturday morning. The store will be featuring several items at reduces prices and will offer door prizes on an hourly basis.

You are invited to set up your "tailgate flea market" in the parking lot as usual. Get there early for the prime locations, Bring your best stuff for sale or swap. That item you no longer have use for could be just what some other guy is looking for.

267 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, 77388
Exit 68 at I-45 North (West side of I-45 near the Super Target Store)

Need more info? Call HARS at 281 355 7373

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

K5ZTY Show-n-Tell 2013

Recap.

The December Show & Tell program honoring our beloved member, Bill Stietenroth, brought something new this year in home brew projects. Peter Brown KE5IOV presented his Laser X-Y Plotter creation using an Adrino circuit along with a few junk box components to project a variety of images. Egad! Mirrors, mini speakers, a laser source, and who know what else, all blended together to give birth to a prototype of unknown expectations. Hmm, a device to amuse children, a death ray, maybe? (Gasp...) We need to watch this guy very carefully. Sarah Brown KF5LFK, followed up with a simple but breath-taking mini Christmas tree using an assortment of LED's, reminding us that even small and inexpensive projects can entertain and educate.

Brad Nelson WD5GNI, brought back memories of the past with his Knightkit Space Commander regen. receiver. He also showed off his precision frequency standard, a project still in the making. He then ended his presentation describing an antenna filter that failed in an unexpected manner due to excessive moisture, and his miraculous cure in prolonging the life of this device.

And finally, Skip Ferguson K5LLR wrapped up the program showing off a device that enables one to create a long wire antenna without the neighbors being aware of his sinister intentions. He got the idea from his days of yore flying in a PBY and trailing a long wire behind the aircraft. While that sounded like high tech at the time, we didn't bother reminding him that back in WW-1 they were using the same scheme using Zeppelins and bi-planes. Oh well, if it works, don't mess with it....



Peter Brown KE5IOV

6 METERS COMES TO ALL IN NEW ZEALAND

Hams in New Zealand now have access to the entire 6 meter band. This after the last analogue television broadcast transmitter was switched off on November 30th. Amateur-Radio Newline's Jim Meachen, L2BHF, has the details.--

Vaughan Henderson ZL1VH is the president of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters NZART which is this nation's national amateur Radio society. Writing in the December 6th issue of NZART's bi-weekly e-newsletter HQ Infoline, he says that from midnight on December 6th, ZL hams had permission to operate on the 6 meter band with the full legal power limit of 1 kilowatt.

ZL1VH notes that he has been told that some amateurs were waiting for an official notice from New Zealand telecommunications regulator Radio Spectrum Management but this will not be forthcoming. But in a conversation he had on December 5th with the Radio Spectrum Licensing Manager he received confirmation that the whole of the 6 meter band is now available to New Zealand hams so to go out and make good use of it.

For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, down-under in Nelson, New Zealand.

Some "not so famous" quotes...

"Electricity originates inside clouds. There it forms into lightning, which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in big ovens called generators turns back into electricity.... Where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which passes through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a "circuit."

..... *Dave Barry*

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Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Inc.
David McCombs NA5CW, President

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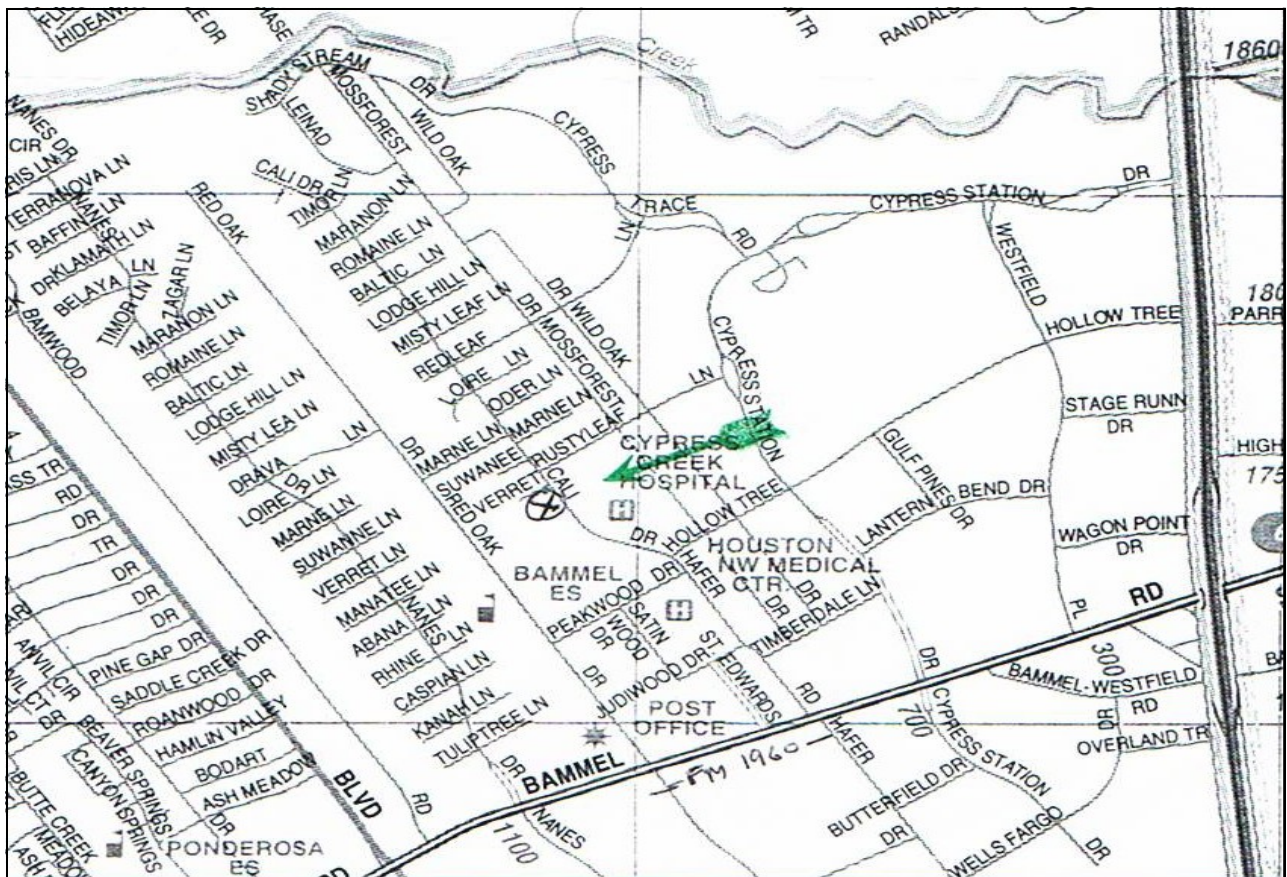
President's Column

Tom King WK5DX

As I sit down to write this, my final President's Corner, I pause to reflect on the year coming to a close and take some time to look into the future. We've had a good year adding new members, participating in community events and our sponsored contests are growing in participation by Hams around the country. The Texas QSO Party activated all but one county this year and had the most entries than in years past. I can see a day when TQP takes the lead from California as the largest QSO Party on the air. The new Texas State Parks on the Air contest got a good start this year activating about a quarter of the State Parks. I'm hoping that 2014 will see even more parks activated. If you get the chance this coming April to activate a State Park you should do so it's a fun contest and a great way to get ready for Field Day in June. Speaking of Field Day, we could sure use more operators this year as we are moving to a new site and will concentrate on the 'contest' aspect of this event.

Events that saw participation by NARS members were the running and biking events like the Texas 150 from Houston to Austin, the major marathons, The Buffalo Bayou Regatta, and the Huntsville Texas Trail Endurance Runs. Thanks to all who participated in these events. It just helps keep hams in the public eye when it comes to communications. I'd like to address the attendance at the club meetings. It seems that the same faces show up each month and I'm very glad to see all of you who do come every month. However, I'd like to see more members at our meetings. I know that there are some great programs on T.V. and cable, but I'd like to know what would bring more of you to the monthly meeting. Ron has done a good job finding interesting presentations this year, but what sort of presentations would get you out of your house and to the club meeting once a month?

If the club is not providing you with stimulating information or activities, then the club is failing you and no one wants that. Please let the board of director's know what you would like to see at the next club meeting. Remember that the NARS Awards Banquet is January 17th and the tickets are only \$18 each, reduced from last year. The location is : Westador Club House, 17715 Cali Drive, Houston. just 1/8th mile north of the Houston NW Medical Center. Door prizes, contest awards and the introduction of new Board members are scheduled. Come on out and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food.



**Banquet site: 17715 Cali Drive—aprox. 1/8th mile north of FM 1960
Clubhouse will be on your left (West side)**

Buffalo Bayou Regatta Ham Radio Connections

Many NARS members have participated in the annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta, an event held to raise funds for the continual cleanup efforts on the famous Houston waterway.

During the August 2013 NARS General Membership Meeting, Mike Allen W5KDH surprised me with presentation of the book *Buffalo Bayou – An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings*.

I first met Mike before he became a ham. He was a student of the first Ham Radio Class in Northwest Houston, held at Lone Star College - University Park, with five classes on Jan 22, 29; Feb 5, 12, 19; 2013. Mike passed his exam with flying colors and became W5KDH.

I invited Mike to join the 2013 Buffalo Bayou Regatta team of volunteers. He accepted and was paired with Mark Tyler K5GQ at Bayou Bend (Westcott). After the Regatta he became involved with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, organizer of the Regatta. He obtained a copy of the book, signed by author Louis F. Aulbach, and gave it to me.

Aulbach is like me, a native Houstonian. What started as a 100 page river guide of Buffalo Bayou turned out to be a tome of the rich history of development along the famous waterway with almost 600 pages of stories and more than 200 pages of reference and index listings. For me, it has added a new perspective of the Buffalo Bayou Regatta event for which NARS hams have provided important communications.

The following were volunteers for 2013:

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR - San Felipe (start)
Jim Kirk KJ5X and Ron Horton KF5LFL - Voss Road
Skip Ferguson K5LLR, Jason Fink KF5DSP and Robert Fink KF5IRC - Chimney Rock
Tom Hoherd KK5YU and Carolyn - Woodway/610
Mark Tyler K5GQ and Mike Allen W5KDH – Westcott (Bayou Bend)
Joe Chambers KF5AT (SK) and Carol - Montrose

Carl Hacker WC5WM and Jerry Whiting KB5VGD - Preston Street Bridge (net control)
Mark Janzer K5MGJ - Broom Boat
Matt Woodruff KA5YYD and Will - Sweep 1
Rob Nixon KD5BXZ – Photographer

These folks provided good coverage of the event from the indicated positions. Information was passed from net control to race director Trudi Smith as the boats passed each cross street. The sweep boats reported problems encountered by Regatta participants.

Back to the book, it begins with a story of the headwaters of Buffalo Bayou, which is located at the junction of the Willow Fork and Cane Island Branch that is located on the north side of the Kingsland Boulevard crossing of the bayou. Both of these lesser waterways flow under Interstate 10, just west of the Katy Mills Mall. From here, the bayou flows 65 miles in an easterly direction to the mouth of the San Jacinto River at Lynchburg. The fascinating story of Houston is found along the way.

The Regatta begins at the San Felipe bridge and ends at the Preston Street bridge. This is a small but highly significant portion of the bayou. Each checkpoint along this route has a rich history as told in the book. I plan to read it again at a slow pace, so I will have some details to relate to each volunteer for this year's event.

The next Buffalo Bayou Regatta is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2014. A notice will go out in February asking last year's folks if they want to do it again, and whether they want a new position. In addition, I will need coverage at the Waugh Street Bridge. Two persons for each checkpoint are desired, so that one can concentrate on sighting and reporting boat numbers while the other communicates with net control. Hope to see you there!

73, Keith Dutson NM5G
Coordinator, 2014 Buffalo Bayou Regatta Ham Radio Communications
keith1@dutson.net



Keith Dutson NM5G & Mike Allen W5KDH

VE Session Notice

The year 2014 will begin a new series of VE sessions and will commence on Saturday, January 25 at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market and South Cherry Streets. The official address is 221 Market St. Let me know if you would like to serve at this session.

Parking is at the rear of the building. Use the entrance on the east side bordered by So. Cherry St.

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

Keith Dutson NM5G—NARS VE Session Manager
keith1@dutson.net

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

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
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Nets

2 meter Wed. 8 pm. 146.06/66 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

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Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
281 351-7683 keith1@dutson.net

Texas QSO Party

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

Co-coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
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keith@dutson.net

VE Session (ARRL) Manager

Keith Dutson NM5G
keith1@dutson.net

Meetings

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

Saturday Breakfast

Denny's 7720 Louetta Rd. 7 am.

Wednesday Lunch—11:30 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.