



NARS NEWS

June 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, July 26, 2014 8:30 am.
(No session in June due to Field Day)
VE License Exam Session
Tomball Community Center
S. Cherry & Market Streets
(just south of Main)

Tuesday, June 24, 7:30 pm.
Board of Directors Meeting
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive

Lunch Break—North

Jason Deli, May 21
Baker Street May 28
Sweet Tomatoes June 4
BJ's Restaurant June 11
Gianna Italian Kitchen June 18
Spring Creek BBQ June 25

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Southwest Hamburger Grill, May 14
Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille May 21
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet May 28
Pappas BBQ June 4
Morningside Thai June 11
Pronto Cucinino June 18

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.

Finalizing Field Day Operations

This months program on Friday, June 20th will involve finalizing our plans for Field Day on June 28 and 29. Tom King will be showing a few views of past Field Day operations and will attempt to outline what is involved in the preparing, operating and the disassembly of an event this size. For new licensed Hams, here's your chance to be part of the excitement in being part of Field Day, ARRL's major exercise of the year.

Farewell, my friend....

A commentary on page 5



*H.O. Townsend K5CX/SK
12.27.1944 - 05.30.2014*

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

H.A.R.S. undergoing major changes....

Howdy Folks! We are happy to announce that we will soon be moving to a bigger better location! Our new location is three times the size of our current space, has a much larger parking lot, and is only a few miles down the road from our current location. Contracts are signed and we are ready to start renovating! Our old location will remain open during renovations, so if you need an antenna or to drop off a repair, you can still swing on in. We will be having a grand opening party/tailgate as soon as we are up and running at the new location. We will keep everyone posted on upcoming dates and events. Check with us here on this site and on our Facebook page for progress reports.

Our New Location Will Be Located in the Country Side Village Shopping Center 2558 FM1960 E – Houston, TX 77038

Houston Amateur Radio Supply is changing our name! To better fit the services we provide, we are changing our name to **Lone Star Radio & Electronics**. We still carry all your favorite amateur radio gear along with an expanded inventory in Radio Parts, CB, Marine and Commercial Radios, Digital Police Scanners and other small electronics. Please take a look around our site and familiarize yourself with our products and services.

We have a Facebook Page that we post to regularly. If you are interested in used gear, we post photos of our consignment items on our Facebook page. You do NOT have to be a Facebook member to view our page! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Houston-Amateur-Radio-Supply-Inc/142029575842636?ref=hl>

We also have an online store! Our store is currently a work in progress. Right now it is incomplete and functioning only as a catalog, however we are working diligently to get it up and running as a live purchasing site. Keep checking in. lonestarradioelectronics.net

We want to thank our customers for all of the support they have given us over the past few years. Without you we would not be able to move and improve! We hope you will continue to make us your communications store!

- HARS /Lone Star Radio STAFF

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

We had 10 candidates taking 14 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 6; passed 6
Element 3 tests given: 6; passed 1
Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 2

Congratulations to:

Andrew Wienecke - new Technician
Dorothy McCann - new Technician
Paul Buck - new Technician
Freddie Laird KF5UDK - upgrade to General
James Glenn, Jr - new Technician
Bradley Cox KG5BBN - upgrade to Extra
Kevan Granat - new Technician
Timothy Rose - new Technician
George Mercurio KG5BVD - upgrade to Extra

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
Ron Horton KF5LFL
Martin Rogoff N5GPS
Sarah Connell W2AOV
Mike Bragassa K5UO
Skip Ferguson K5LLR
Michael Bowden N8ILU

The next session will be held Saturday, July 26 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.

THERE IS NO SESSION PLANNED FOR JUNE BECAUSE OF FIELD DAY.

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
NARS VE Session Manager

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

What does Field Day Mean to You?

A chance to operate in one of the most popular ARRL Contests?

A time to practice operating in emergency conditions?

Or is Field Day a social event, a time to visit with members you haven't seen in a while?

I'd like each of you to answer these questions for yourselves. Those answers will determine the way NARS approaches future RRLField Days.

Contesting is one of the great activities of Amateur Radio. It boosts your technical knowledge and improves your radio operating skills—helping make you a better Amateur. Field Day is the most popular contest that ARRL sponsors. With more than 30,000 Hams participating each year. The stated goal of the ARRL Field Day event is "To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions."

If ARRL didn't mean for Field Day to be a contest why would they make this the primary objective of the event? Why would they design the rules to include many different types of operations? Why would ARRL require logs for each entry? And, why would ARRL publish the results of the contest?

If emergency preparedness was the main goal then why don't we set up on Saturday morning, make a few contacts, take the antennas down, put the radios away and call it a day? ARRL gives participants the leeway to set up on Friday and operate for 24 of the 26 hours the event runs.

As far as social events go it is my belief that whenever two hams get together there is bound to be some food, drinks, and conversation. I fell into contesting at my first Field Day and had a blast. Of course I had to get over "mike fright" and my code speed was around 8wpm, but I got the contesting bug and haven't looked back. I suppose that's why I love Field Day. When there are more than 2 stations and enough operators to go around, your BIC (Butt In Chair) time can be reduced so that you can enjoy the other aspects of Field Day like Saturday dinner, educational programs, and just visiting with other club members and visitors to the Field Day site. Plus, if you have good contest operators at each station the Q-rate goes up. When the Q-rate goes up so does the club score.

In past Field Day events NARS place or won the Section and/or Division top honors. I'd like to NARS do that again in the future. What we need is a core group of members that are interested in contesting that we can pull good operators from for future Field Day events. I'd like to see a NARS contesting group that meets to help each other gain contesting skills and knowledge so that their enjoyment of this aspect of our hobby grows. A Yahoo Group has already been set up just for this. You may join this group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NARS_DX_Contest_SIG/info If you are new to contesting or an avid tester I'd like to hear from you. You may reach me at wk5dx@arrl.net.

CONTEST CALENDAR

June 2014

ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 3
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest 1700Z-1800Z, Jun 5 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jun 5 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 5 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jun 5 (Dig)
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jun 6
+ 10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest 0001Z, Jun 7 to 2359Z, Jun 8
+ VK Shires Contest 0600Z, Jun 7 to 0600Z, Jun 8
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0600Z-0629Z, Jun 7 and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 7 and 0700Z-0729Z, Jun 7 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 7

+ SEANET Contest 1200Z, Jun 7 to 1200Z, Jun 8
+ Alabama QSO Party 1600Z, Jun 7 to 0400Z, Jun 8
+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 11
+ Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB 1100Z-1300Z, Jun 14
Portugal Day Contest 1200Z, Jun 14 to 1159Z, Jun 15
+ GACW WWSA CW DX Contest 1500Z, Jun 14 to 1500Z, Jun 15
+ REF DDFM 6m Contest 1600Z, Jun 14 to 1600Z, Jun 15
+ ARRL June VHF Contest 1800Z, Jun 14 to 0300Z, Jun 16
+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 19
+ All Asian DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Jun 21 to 2400Z, Jun 22
+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Jun 21 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jun 21 (432)
+ Kid's Day Contest 1800Z-2359Z, Jun 21
+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB 1200Z, Jun 28 to 1200Z, Jun 29
+ Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest 1200Z, Jun 28 to 1200Z, Jun 29
+ ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 28 to 2100Z, Jun 29

ARRL Announces Free Exam Review Website:

The ARRL has launched a new online resource that allows users to take randomly generated practice exams using questions from the actual examination question pool. ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio <http://www.arrl.org/examreview> is free, and users do not need to be ARRL members. The only requirement is that users must first set up a site login (this is a different and separate login from your ARRL website user registration).

"The ARRL's online Exam Review <http://www.arrl.org/examreview> is designed to help license examination candidates review their progress as they study," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "As you complete a chapter or section of a license manual, you can turn to the online program to review all of the related questions taken directly from the examination question pool. After answering each question -- right or wrong -- the correct answer is shown, and a page reference to the license manual is displayed for further review."

Inderbitzen said that when you're close to completing your study, you can take as many practice exams as you like. "The practice exams can be taken on-screen or printed. You won't have any surprises on exam day!" he added.

Inderbitzen said users are encouraged to share feedback and suggestions for improvement with the development team, using the online feedback form <http://www.arrl.org/exam-review-for-ham-radio> linked from the Exam Review site. ARRL Exam Review was designed for ARRL by DHF Systems, the creator of ARRL's TravelPlus for Repeaters <https://www.arrl.org/shop/TravelPlus-for-Repeaters-CD-ROM> software.

Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, pointed out some of ARRL Exam Review features that are intended to help Amateur Radio instructors and schoolteachers. "Instructors have a new online resource at their fingertips," she said. "They can print practice exams anytime and encourage students to review between classes. The site is also mobile-browser friendly, so it can be used on a laptop, tablet, or smartphone, at home or in the classroom."

While ARRL Exam Review is being introduced with the new, third edition of the popular Technician study guide, The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual-3rd-Edition/>, the site also supports practice examinations for General and Amateur Extra. An updated Technician class examination question pool becomes effective July 1, and Exam Review will automatically transition to the new question pool on that date.

Source: The ARRL Letter

President's corner....

First, just a quick note to those wanting to take license tests, although NARS will not be offering a test session in June there are several other sessions in the greater Houston area. Check the ARRL License Session information for details. Also remember that the current Technician Question Pool changes on July 1, 2014.

With Field Day fast approaching the fond memories of the few field days I had participated in fill my thoughts...the oppressive South Texas Heat, the constant battle to stay hydrated, last minute antenna repairs, making trips to retrieve what we forgot to bring, fighting mosquitoes, reloading or updating logging software at the last minute, waiting anxiously for the zero hour and the official start of the event, making the last minute run to the gas station...fuel for the generator, looking for the flashlight at 2 am when the generator needs more fuel, etc. Yes, I did say fond memories. Like many other hobbies it is not the flawless operations that we remember. It is the things that did not go as planned that we remember the most. The fondness comes as we remember our friends who in those times of need were there. We enjoyed working through the obstacles together because we were not alone. I am looking forward to another successful year at field day. Of course I would like to see NARS do well...make lots of contacts, obtain lots of bonus points, etc.

But I also measure our success in enjoying the efforts. Being there when someone new to the hobby makes their first contact at the GOTA station, being there when someone works their first pileup. I also enjoy seeing the pictures from each field day and remembering the obstacles we overcame that year. I also like to remember that this is a practice run for emergency operations... a time to test and improve my skills. In a true emergency you may only make one contact...but if that one contact saves a life it was worth all of the effort and failures during practice. Hope to see YOU at Field Day.

Ron Horton KF5LFL



H.O. Townsend, K5CX/SK

by Carol & Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF

H.O. Townsend, my best friend, was an amateur radio operator or HAM. His call sign was K5CX or as he would say, Kilowatt Five Charles X-ray. We met many years ago with common interests in HAM radio. His wife Anita and my wife became the best of friends and our relationship grew through the years. If a week went by that we didn't talk to each other, one of us would always call the other to make sure all was well.

He was very involved with many HAM radio club activities. He was a lifetime member of the Amateur Radio Relay League and was an Assistant Director, West Gulf Division of the American Radio Relay League. He belonged to the Northwest Amateur Radio Society or NARS radio club since 1996. He wrote countless articles for the NARS newsletter, was web master, Texas QSO coordinator, NARS Director, and was the NARS newsletter editor.

His passion as a HAM was to make contact and confirm as many different countries as possible. This involved many late nights and early AM contacts with other stations around the world. He spent countless hours sending post cards called QSL cards to other stations confirming the contacts and asking them to do the same. For these efforts, he has received several honors. He was most proud of his DX Century Club (DXCC) awards in which he had 346 countries confirmed and was on the honor roll for this achievement.

He also liked to participate in HAM radio contests. These contests have various rules, but are usually based on trying to make as many contacts as possible within a certain time frame. One such contest, The Texas QSO party, he participated in, and was also the administrator. One of the categories is to be a mobile station and drive through as many counties as possible and make as many contacts as possible in a weekend. H.O. won many awards for this, although he could never quite capture first place. Finally one year, he decided to drive the truck, and have his wife, Anita, make the contacts on the radio. She won first place that year, and he was proud to be her driver. He told me that if he knew that was the way to win, he would have done that years ago. H.O. liked to joke like that. He loved to make a joke or a comment, and then sit back and watch the reaction, usually with a little smile on his face.

H.O. and Anita moved away from the greater Houston area a few years ago and moved back to Mt. Pleasant, Texas, which was where he grew up, and his parents currently live. He wanted to get back to his roots, and really enjoyed HAM radio from his new location. His station was top of the line and he made many enjoyable contacts. H.O. was a retired software designer and manager for BMC and he served his country in the United States Army. H.O., will be dearly missed by all of us in the HAM community, friends, and family. As they would say on the radio, 73's and 88's which mean goodbye and love and kisses.

He is survived by his wife, Anita Townsend of Naples, Texas; his parents, Howard and Carrie Townsend of Mount Pleasant, Texas; a daughter, Judy Ann Higgins and her husband Richard Higgins, Jr.; two sons, Howard "Chip" Osbourne Townsend II and his wife Alecia Jeannie, Robert Allen Townsend and his wife Melanie Ann; one sister, Ann Payne of Kirbyville, Texas; and grandchildren, Tad, Montana, Savannah, Macey, Tres, Brett, Ben, Howie, Cordelia, and Nora.

The family request that memorials be made to the ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT. 06111-1494.

Amazing Texas!

Need to be cheered up?

Happy, Texas 79042
Pep, Texas 79353
Smiley, Texas 78159
Paradise, Texas 76073
Rainbow, Texas 76077
Sweet Home, Texas 77987
Comfort, Texas 78013
Friendship, Texas 76530

Want something to eat?

Bacon, Texas 76301
Noodle, Texas 79536
Oatmeal, Texas 78605
Turkey, Texas 79261
Trout, Texas 75789
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
Salty, Texas 76567

Love the Sun?

Sun City, Texas 78628
Sunrise, Texas 76661
Sunset, Texas 76270
Sundown, Texas 79372
Sunray, Texas 79086
Sunny Side, Texas 77423

Why travel to other cities?

Texas as them all!

Detroit, Texas 75436
Colorado City, Texas 79512
Cleveland, Texas 77327
Dayton, Texas 77535
Denver City, Texas 79323
Klondike, Texas 75448
Nevada, Texas 75173
Memphis, Texas 79245
Miami, Texas 79059
Boston, Texas 75570

Feel like traveling outside the country? Don't bother buying a plane ticket!

Athens, Texas 75751
Canadian, Texas 79014
China, Texas 77613
Egypt, Texas 77436
Ireland, Texas 76538
Turkey, Texas 79261
London, Texas 76854
New London, Texas 75682
Paris, Texas 75460

No need to travel to Washington D.C.

Whitehouse, Texas 75791

We even have a city named after our planet!

Earth, Texas 79031

And a city named after our State!

Texas City, Texas 77590

Cold?

Blanket, Texas 76432
Winters, Texas

Exhausted?

Energy, Texas 76452

For the kids...

Kermit, Texas 79745
Elmo, Texas 75118
Nemo, Texas 76070
Tarzan, Texas 79783
Winnie, Texas 77665
Sylvester, Texas 79560

And our favorites....

Cut n Shoot, Texas
Gun Barrell City, Texas
Hoop And Holler, Texas
Ding Dong, Texas and, of course,
Muleshoe, Texas
Dime Box, Texas

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members, Randy Handley KC6WYH, William (Billy) Sargent
& returning member, Larry Lockhart K5LBL.

We note with regret the passing of a long time member of NARS, H.O. Townsend, K5CX/SK

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 keith1@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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281 353-2196
kd5kr@arrl.net

Send changes in address, phone, or email to:
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P.O. Box 90387
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.