



NARS NEWS

May 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, 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

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.

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

Featured Speaker For the Northwest Amateur Radio Society May 16th Meeting



Stephen Lee

Stephen is a Resident Agent in the Houston Office of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. The FCC field offices are responsible for enforcing federal laws, international treaties regarding communications, and the Commission's Rules. Additionally, field agents respond to problems involving radio interference; and provide assistance to federal, state and local government agencies. Stephen has an electrical engineering degree from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas; and has worked for the FCC for 30 years. In his spare time Stephen is an avid motorcycle rider, visiting scenic country roads and historical sites throughout Texas.



President's corner -

Spring has sprung and summer is fast approaching. It looked like the end of the drought, but we are again behind in rainfall. Maybe if everyone turns on their sprinkler systems and washes their cars we'll get the rain we need...we can repair the flood damage later. To all of those attending the Dayton Hamvention this year, have a safe trip and a good time.

And speaking of conventions remember the Plano Hamfest is June 14, 15 this year so make your plans now...the reminder in next month's Presidents Corner will be too late. Last year at this time we were experiencing issues with the antenna for the 2 meter repeater. We finally did get those issues resolved and again had great service. This year it seems the repeater itself is acting up... is this carry over from a year with 13 in it (2013)? Regardless of the cause it is a reminder of how well amateur radio works. We have been allowed the use of other repeaters for our Wednesday night nets and a few of the public service events...a credit to the willingness of the ham community to help others in need.

Field Day will also be upon us soon. Tom King needs to hear from anyone willing to help out at Field Day. We still need operators for both Phone and CW, Captains for CW, Antennas and Power. We also need equipment loans. If you have a generator, pop-up shelter or any type of demonstration you would like to present to the public please contact Tom. There will of course be food and drinks available on site. This is a great time to see old friends, make new ones, practice your emergency communication skills, contribute to the success of NARS and Amateur Radio and just have a good time at the park.

Ron Horton KF5LFL

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

Redd School happenings....

CQ with LABRATS Radio Student Gavin.

For this month's newsletter, I decided that instead of writing **about** the LABRATS Radio club from my perspective, that it was time to hear from one of the participants! 6th grader Gavin Scamp-Gross is in his second year of participating in the Radio Club.

When I asked him why he chose radio as an after-school activity he responded that he was interested in radios and communication in general. Gavin said that he often wondered how radios work as he listened to the car radio. That made him interested in joining the club. Once in, he found out that this was about Ham Radios. Instead of discouraging him, he says that it made him even more interested in learning about them. When I asked him what the best part about the Radio club was, he promptly answered "talking!". He added that recently he had talked to the Netherlands, Poland, and Germany and that it was really interesting to him. Besides talking on the air, Gavin said that he has learned a lot about "how to operate a Ham station, how to talk using phonetic words, and learned a little about Morse code".

Since there are only 2 active members in the Radio club this year, I asked him what he thought about that. His response was that it gave him the opportunity for more practice and individual attention. When I asked him what he thought about the club's mentors (Jerry & John) he described them as "helpful, fun, and kind people". I finished my interview with Gavin by asking if he would consider working towards getting a license. His response was "possibly". Hope to have more to report on him in the future.

Lollie KD5WZM



*Labrats member, Gavin Scamp-Gross
with Jerry Whiting KB5VGD as control op.*

RADIO BUSINESS: VIBROPLEX LLC TO DISTRIBUTE SSB-ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Germany's SSB-Electronic GmbH and Vibroplex LLC here in the United States have announced an exclusive agreement for Vibroplex to distribute the SSB-Electronic product line in north America.

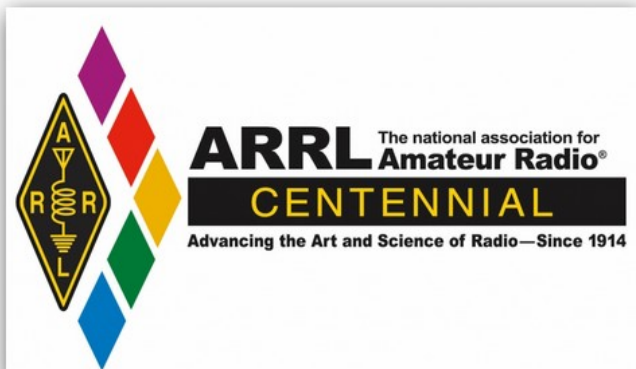
Vibroplex is the oldest continuously operating business in amateur radio, founded Horace Martin, inventor of the semi- automatic Morse Code key in 1905. The company is now located in Knoxville, Tennessee and continues to manufacture the original Martin key as well as a complete line of some 30 keys including bugs, iambic paddles, single-lever paddles and traditional straight keys.

On the other side of the Atlantic SSB-Electronic is well-known for its range of VHF high performance products including both standard and auto-switchable receive pre-amps, sequencers and switches. It also produces the EcoflexT coaxial cable, the Zeus ZS-1 SDR transceiver and a line of VHF preamps and accessory equipment.

A completely revamped product line has been released for 2014. You can find that and more on the web at www.vibroplex.com (Press Release)

Does anybody really know what time it is?

- Canadian Sir Sandford Fleming first had the idea of twenty-four world time zones in 1878.
- Cesium atomic clocks are accurate to about five parts in one hundred thousand billion when averaged over one day, meaning they are accurate to one second in 1.4 million years.
- The National Institute of Standards & Technology in Boulder, CO is home to NIST-F1, the most precise clock in the world, accurate to one second in 3,7 billion years



Saturday, April 26 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center

We had 5 candidates taking 11 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 4; passed 4
Element 3 tests given: 5; passed 5
Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Joey Montgomery - new General
George McPhail - new General
Ward Marianos - new General
George Mercurio - new General
Lester Mignerey, Jr KB0MEF - upgrade to General

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
Ron Horton KF5LFL
Martin Rogoff N5GPS
Sarah Connell W2AOV
Mike Bragassa K5UO

The next session will be held Saturday, May 24 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.

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

Field Day, June 28, & 29!

Nag, nag, nag....

Yeah, we know that's just about one month away, but like Christmas, it'll be on us before you know it. Make a commitment this year to be a participant. We will be needing volunteers for a variety of tasks; help in setting up and tearing down antennas, towers, equipment, and of course, operators to turn all those toys into contacts. All your hard work can turn into fun too and the satisfaction that you were part of an important exercise that can prepare you for the next emergency.

Mark the dates on your calendar and tell our Field Day coordinator, Tom King WK5DX, you're ready to join the team. An email to Tom is a good place to start: wk5dx@arrl.net

May the ghost of Field Day passed blow your finals if you don't participate!

Buffalo Bayou 2014 recap -

Makes you wonder if anyone even notices....

Back on March 15th the Annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta began with the usual fanfare and excitement. NARS had their volunteer communicators stationed at various points to monitor the flotilla as the race progressed down the bayou. In the past, excitement was limited to a few early boat overturns, lost coolers, paddles and maybe a few bruised ankles and egos, but in all, contestants usually arrived safely at the finish line one way or another.

But this year was different. An incident involving a couple in a boat resulted in a man breaking his arm in attempting to navigate around some hazardous areas. An alert NARS team went into action and assisted in rescuing the couple and rendering aid until the medical unit could get on site. The boat was finally recovered and the woman continued with the race after getting a friend to assist her in getting to the finish line.

Did any one really notice what had occurred? Well, Trudi Smith, Director of PR & Events did and was relieved to know that an emergency was handled in a professional manner by our NARS volunteers. "Thank you for making this event a safe one and a fun one as well. We would not be able to pull this off without the help of all of you," said Trudi. And as thanks to all the radio operators and sweep boats who participated in the event, the Buffalo Bayou Partnership hosted a boat tour down the bayou, complete with some beverages and snacks as well.

Still wondering?



Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members, Joey Montgomery KG5BVA & Gary Freeman KG5AUF
Continued 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 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

NARS Information

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Administrative & General Info.

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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.