



November 2014

Important Dates

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

Saturday, Oct.25, 2014 8:30 am.
VE License Exam Session
Tomball Community Center
S. Cherry & Market Streets
(just south of Main)

Tuesday, Oct 28, 7:30 pm.
Board of Directors Meeting
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive

Lunch Break—North

Sweet Tomatoes Nov 19
BJ's Brewery & Restaurant Nov 26
Gianna's Italian Kitchen Dec 3
Spring Creek BBQ Dec 10
Pei Wei Asian Diner Dec 17

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Pappa's BBQ Nov 19
Morningside Thai Nov 26
Pronto Cucinino Dec 3
Jason's Deli Dec 10
Buffalo Grille Dec 17

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

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

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

NARS NEWS

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

Triple feature scheduled for November meeting.

1 - **Annual election for the NARS Board of Directors.** Nominations will be taken from the floor for the following positions: Vice President, and two openings for Director at Large. Please consider volunteering for one of these openings. The Board meets but once each month and you'll help in conducting club programs and activities.

2- Keith Dutson, NM5G will present a short recap of the **2014 Texas QSO Party** and will cover some of the highlights of the event.

3 - Walter Holmes, K5WH will enlighten us on the subject of **Using Digital Voice on HF Bands.**

Friday, November 21st.

7:30 p.m.

Coffee and munchies catered by Joe KD5KR



Get on Board....
NARS needs your participation.
Volunteer as a Board Member and
be part of the decision making!

Awards Banquet 2015 - Jan. 16th!

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 16 at the Westador Club House, 17715 Cali Drive, Houston, located three or four blocks north of the Houston NW Medical Center.

The cost is \$18 per person. Reservations and payment are required prior the event. No money will be collected at the door. We have to limit attendance to 54 persons, so make your reservations early.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and buffet dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. We've eliminated the "long winded" speakers so we should conclude this event by 9:30 p.m. latest. Catering will be provided by Pappa's BBQ, well known throughout Houston.

Angus beef brisket, Link sausage, BBQ chicken, Potato salad, Ranch beans, BBQ sauce, Texas sliced bread, Garden salad, Ice tea.

Along with the awards, we'll have periodic door prizes for lucky ticket holders. Who knows what you might take home? A 2015 Silverado/Hundai pickup? Well, maybe not... Sorry, no adult beverages will be available, (but... some of you creative thinkers may find away around this.) Dress code is casual or whatever, however, no tank tops or Speedos, please! This is a classy joint, ya know.

For those of you that are not adept to "Googling" our location, a detailed map will be included in the December issue of the newsletter.

Mail your reservations and checks to:

NARS Banquet, P.O. Box 90387, Houston 77290-0387

Please include names of those attending.

Operators are standing by.... of course.

Saturday, October 25 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Fire Station #1

We had 3 candidates taking 5 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 2; passed 2

Element 3 tests given: 2; passed 1

Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Janet Noe KG5CWB - upgrade to General

Hugh Campbell - new Technician

James Dubois - new Technician

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

Sarah Connell W2AOV

Ron Horton KF5LFL

Ken Mitchell KD2KW

The next monthly session will be held Saturday, November 22 at 8:30AM at Tomball Fire Station #1, located at the corner of Rudel Drive and Quinn Street. Official address is 1200 Rudel Dr. Let me know if you would like to serve at this session.

Parking is on both sides of the building. Be certain that you DO NOT PARK in any of the driveways for the fire trucks.

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

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Dave McCombs, NA5CW

Owner

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contact@harsradio.com

2558 E. FM 1960 Rd.

Houston, TX 77073

Volunteers needed for this years Salvation Army Bell Ringers event!

Each year Narsians get together for one Saturday to man the kettles for the Salvation Army at the Wal-Mart located at the corner of US 249 and Spring Cypress Road. This year NARS members will be ringing the bells on November 29th. Two volunteers are needed for each one hour shift, starting at 10 a.m.

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, is coordinator for this worthy event and is now accepting names of those wanting to devote a little time for those in need. Jerry can be reached at his email address: g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Hey! Get off your duff and do something nice. The "Great Provider" may decide to give you a break some day....

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!



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All you need to know about batteries

There are a few of you that know just about everything there is to know about batteries, but many of us know just enough to be dangerous, or at least ignorant of how they came into being. Come along with us on a journey over the next few issues of the NARS News and enlighten yourself on how these little things came to be what they are.

Yeah, we know that batteries in their most crudest form were first utilized a few thousand years ago when some enterprising dude in Mesopotamia discovered the art of electroplating by the use of a very crude Leyden Jar type battery, but that's a story for another time.

Modern batteries have become amazing powerhouses for today's portable devices. The history of batteries is a fascinating story, with men and women across the world striving to harness the remarkable properties of electricity and make them available everywhere.

Just 30 years ago people were walking around with the proverbial "Brick" cell phone. However today it is now possible to lose your phone within the average pocket or smallest of handbags, this is in no small measure due to the advances in battery technology.

All batteries available today have their own advantages that make them ideal for particular purposes, however they all have an Achilles heel. Get to know the batteries and their funny little ways. Now, let's get started!

Luigi Galvani (1737 - 1798)

During the 1780's, biologist Luigi Galvani performed experiments at the University of Bologna involving frogs. While cutting a frog's leg, Galvani's steel scalpel touched a brass hook that was holding the leg in place. The leg twitched. Further experiments confirmed this effect, and Galvani was convinced that he was seeing the effects of what he called animal electricity, the life force within the muscles of



the frog. At the University of Pavia, Galvani's colleague Alessandro Volta was able to reproduce the results, but was skeptical of Galvani's explanation.

Alessandro Guisepppe Volta (1745-1847)

One of the enthusiastic admirers of Galvani was a university professor in Padova Alessandro Guisepppe Antonio Anastasio Volta. He repeated Galvani's experiments many times with many different materials. From these experiments he came

to the conclusion that it was the two dissimilar metals, not the frog's leg that produced the electricity. The frog's leg was just an indicator of the presence of the electricity.

In 1800, after extensive experimentation, he developed the voltaic pile. The original voltaic pile consisted of a pile of zinc and silver discs and between alternating discs, a piece of cardboard that had been soaked in saltwater. A wire connecting the bottom zinc disc to the top silver disc could produce repeated sparks. Ahem, no frogs were injured in the production of a voltaic pile. Of course, the frog was moot on this subject.



William Sturgeon (1783-1850)

William Sturgeon was an English electrical engineer. In 1825 he built the first practical electromagnet, in 1832 invented the commutator for electric motors and in 1836 made the first moving-coil galvanometer.

A major problem with the Voltaic pile was that it could not provide current for a sustained period of time. Sturgeon worked on the problem and in 1830 produced a battery with longer life than that of Volta by amalgamating the zinc.

Contributing to the major problem with batteries was a thin film of hydrogen bubbles that formed over the positive electrode. The thin film of hydrogen caused increased internal resistance of the battery that reduced its effective electromotive force (voltage). This process of a thin film of hydrogen collecting on the electrode is known as polarization.

The Volta cell had certain inherent weaknesses - any impurity in the zinc plates used caused erosion of the electrode. Sturgeon developed a long lasting battery that consisted of a single cell cylinder of cast iron into which a cylinder of amalgamated rolled zinc was placed. Discs of millboard located between the cast iron cell and the cylinder of zinc prevented contact by the different metals. Dilute sulfuric acid was used to charge the battery.

OK, enough for now. Are you starting to get the idea? Next month we're going to jump to a guy named John Daniell (1790—1845) He's not happy with the Voltiac battery and its characteristics and decides to "tweak" it a bit. Has the frog really "croaked"? More on that in the December issue.

NARS in rewind.... The year 2000

Joe, KD5KR, informed disappointed Narsians of the retirement of his famous **25,000,000 micro-amp power supply**. "Bigfoot" as it was affectionately named by its fans can be now viewed by appointment only.

Bigfoot now resides at the home its creator in Spring, TX but still enjoys an occasional visit from friends. No autographs, please....



ARRL Asks FCC to Continue Issuing Hard copy Licenses to Those Who Want Them

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL has recommended that the FCC continue to provide paper license documents to Amateur Radio licensees who want them. The League's remarks were in response to an FCC Public Notice (in WT Docket 14-161) that proposed to cease the routine issuance of hard-copy license documents to all Wireless Service licensees, including radio amateurs. While having a paper license document from the FCC to post on the wall of the ham shack has been a tradition, the Commission for several years has considered the "official" Amateur Radio license to be the virtual document residing in its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

"The FCC is willing to continue to mail paper licenses to those who request them," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has explained. "However, they are making available to licensees -- starting right now -- the actual license to print via the FCC ULS, and it is allowing hams now to opt out of receiving paper licenses from the FCC directly." (See ULS menu below.) Under the FCC-proposed process, once a license application is granted, the ULS will generate an official electronic license but will no longer mail a hard copy license unless notified that the licensee wishes to receive an official paper license document. Until new procedures are final, however, the Commission will continue to print and mail official paper licenses, unless notified to stop.

"Should the Commission proceed with the *Notice* proposals," the League said in its comments, "it is ARRL's strong recommendation that the Commission give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The ARRL pointed out that not everyone has easy access to, or is comfortable using, the ULS and that Amateur Radio licensees may occasionally need an official license document -- for example, when applying for a license upgrade at a VEC exam session or for vehicle call sign license plates. "If there is not a license printed on distinctive license stock by the Commission, authentication issues arise and the possibility of electronic alteration of a license document is created," the League stated.

Recap of October's program -

Joe Sokolowski, reporting

For those of you that missed the October's program, Dan Reilly, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Houston/Galveston Office conducted a SKYWARN training session to a crowd of some fifty members and guests. We at NARS try to have Dan update us every few years on what's new in the art of reporting adverse weather conditions when the need arises. Dan could have continued on but unfortunately, we had to wrap up the session by 9:30 pm.

Still, a refresher course is always welcome in order to renew our ability to report conditions in a proper manner. Dan handed out the latest Weather Spotters Field Guide along with a Spotter Reporting summary on who to call, what to report, and how to report it. "That big cloud just rained on me," doesn't quite convey the proper info they're looking for....

Thanks, Dan, for a great presentation! I'm ready for whatever comes down on us. Now, if I can just remember the proper description of hail size in inches.... Okay, a hail thingy 1/4 inch in size is called a Pea, 1 inch is a Quarter, and a 2.5 inch is called a Tennis Ball. If that happens, okay Dan, it's raining "Tennis Balls" and I'm outta here!



Dan Reilly, telling it like it is!

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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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. 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 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.