



NARS NEWS

October 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, 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

Spring Creek BBQ Oct 15
Pei Wei Asian Diner Oct 22
Panera Bread Oct 29
Jason Deli Nov 5
Baker Street Pub Nov 12

Lunch Break—Medical Center

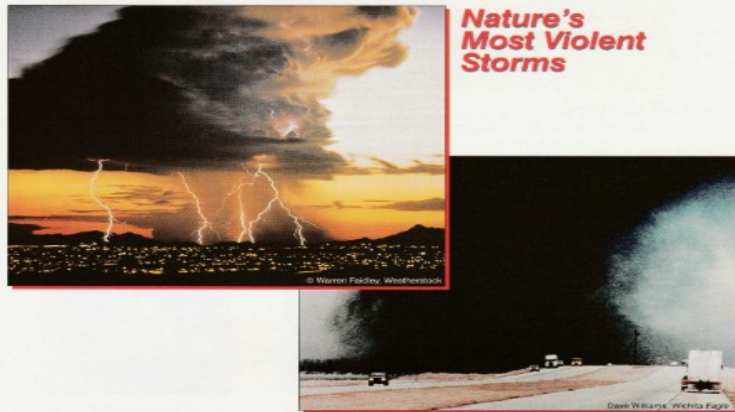
Jason's Deli Oct 15
Buffalo Grille Oct 22
Southwell's Hamburger Grill Oct 29
Marco's Mexican Grille Nov 5
Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Nov 12
Pappa's BBQ Nov 19

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.

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

thunderstorms...
tornadoes...
lightning...



SKYWARN™

Dan Reilly, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Houston/Galveston Office will be conducting a SKYWARN training session for NARS at our October 17th meeting.

What is SKYWARN anyway, and who is eligible to participate? SKYWARN is a volunteer program with nearly 280,000 trained service weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such as HAM radio, to join the SKYWARN program. Volunteers include police & fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers & other concerned private citizens.

Since the program started in the 1970's, the information by SKYWARN spotters, coupled with the Doppler radar technology, improved satellite & other data, enables NWS to issue more timely & accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms & flash floods. SKYWARN storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather.

Let's have a good turnout and give Dan a hardy NARS welcome!

A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

In February 1973, the FCC proposed a new Amateur Radio license class that would not require Morse code testing, and invited comments. At the time, the ARRL opposed the proposal.

From 1965 to 1985, the FCC, ARRL, and US hams took note of what was called the "JA Phenomenon." The number of Japanese hams grew from 70,000 in 1965 to 499,000 in 1975, and then to more than 1 million by 1985! A new Japanese codeless license class helped spur that growth.

On June 16, 1983, the second attempt to launch a Phase III Amateur Radio satellite (AMSAT-OSCAR 10) was successful. Articles in *QST*



kept hams up to date on its progress. OSCAR 10 was, by far, the most capable amateur satellite to date.

Also in 1983, Amateur Radio in the US reached a new

level of formal governmental recognition of Amateur Radio's emergency communication capabilities, when ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with National Communication System Deputy Manager John Grimes.

Articles began appearing in *QST* during 1983 explaining what personal computers could do and how they might be put to use in the ham shack.

In October 1983, the US military invaded Grenada. Mark Baretella, KA2ORK (now N2MD), then a medical student at St George's University School of Medicine on Grenada, became the only non-military source of information from the island, as he relayed messages between other Americans on Grenada and their families in the US. This resulted in excellent media coverage for Amateur Radio.



In November 1983, Owen Gariott, W5LFL, became the first ham to make contacts from aboard the Shuttle *Columbia*. His first contact was with WA1JXN. W5LFL operated his 2 meter FM transceiver during his non-duty hours during the mission's 10 days in orbit.

In September 1984, phone privileges on 75, 15, and 10 meters were expanded. In addition, US stations in Alaska and in the

Pacific had their 40 meter phone privileges expanded, so they could avoid the high-power international broadcast stations. -- *Al Brogdon, W1AB*

Saturday, September 20 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center

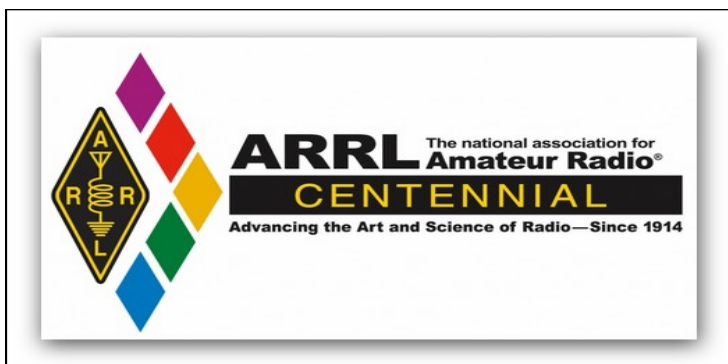
We had 3 candidates taking 5 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 3; passed 3
Element 3 tests given: 1; passed 1
Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:
Jean Ritter - new Technician
Carl Wheeler - new Extra
Kurt Rogers - new Technician

Please note: Due to a conflict in scheduling, we will no longer be holding exam sessions at the Tomball Community Center. The next monthly session will be held Saturday, October 25 at 8:30AM at the Tomball Fire Dept –Station #1 located at 1200 Rudel Drive, Tomball, TX.

Because of coming holidays during November & December, this will be the final session for the year 2014. The next exam session will be held on January 24th 2015. Please check postings prior this date for further details.

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



NARS 2 meter net

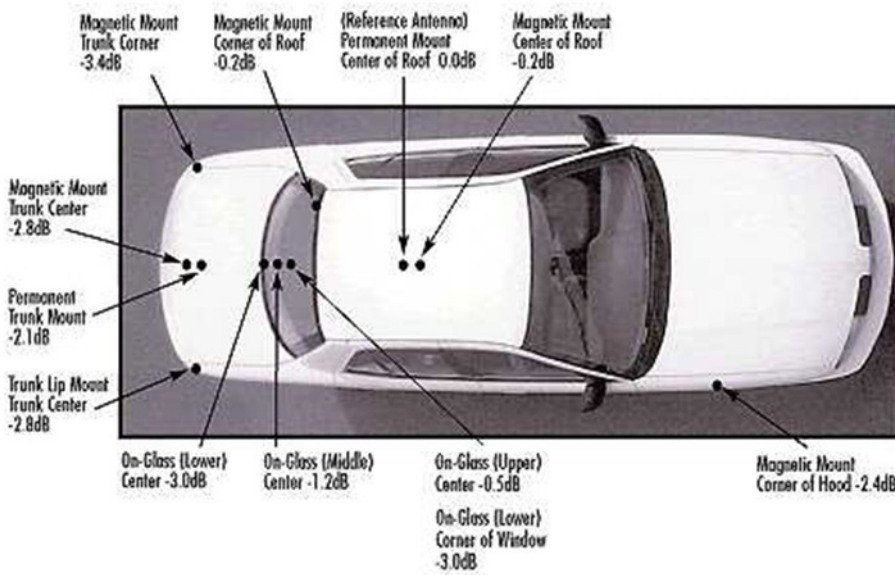
Held every Wednesday night at 8 pm. We will be temporarily using the Texas DX Society's repeater until ours is back in operation. Please configure your equipment for 147.36/96, Tone: 100.
All are welcome, members or not!

Mobile Antenna Placement

Best Placement of a Mobile Antenna

Don't Lopside Your Pattern!

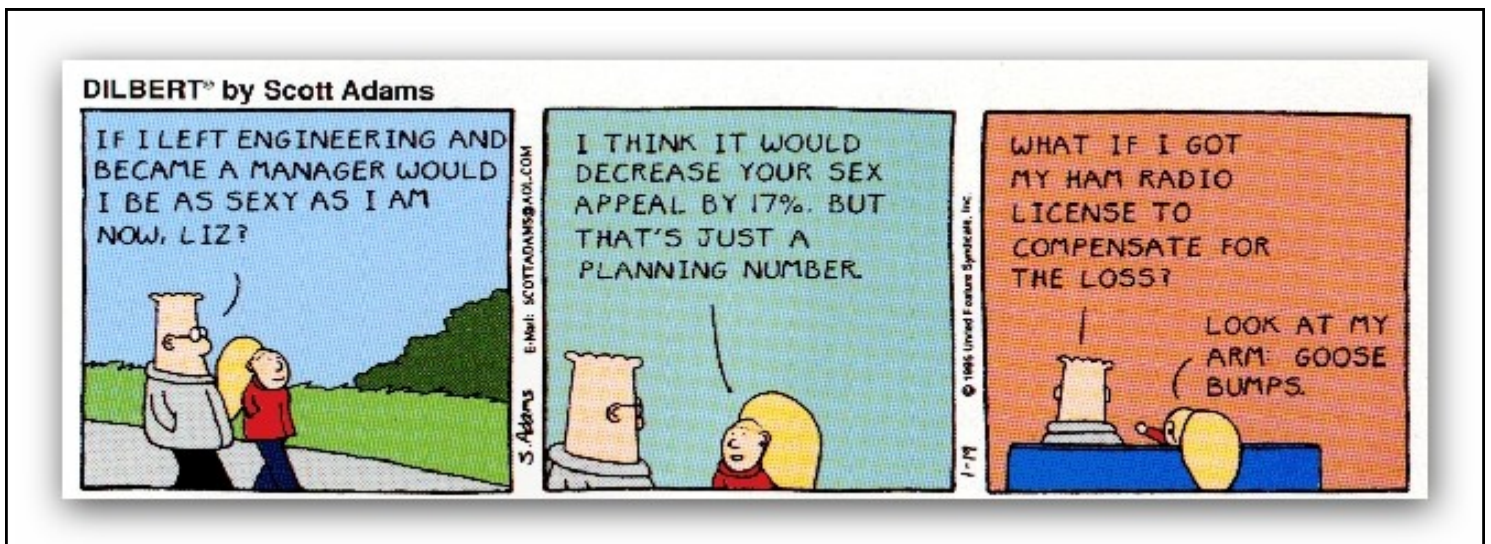
We have provided you some guidelines for mobile antenna selection. When selecting a mobile antenna, there are a number of factors that significantly affect the ultimate performance of the antenna. Gain requirements, electrical type, ground plane availability mounting style and placement, coaxial type and loss ratings, physical size, appearance, and surrounding environment are all issues that must be addressed to ensure the maximum performance from a mobile antenna installation. The electrical type or design of the mobile antenna is commonly referred to in terms of its dimensions in terms of wavelength: 1/4 wave, 1/2 wave, 5/8 wave, etc. Each electrical type has a specific radiating pattern to be considered when selecting a mobile antenna. For example, the signal radiating from a 1/4 wave antenna is directed more vertically, thus making it ideal in urban environments where buildings might obstruct the signal. The design of a 5dB collinear mobile antenna is designed to direct the signal more towards the horizon. This type of antenna is ideal for geographically flat regions where signal coverage is sparse. Ground plane availability is another critical factor in mobile antenna performance, and must be considered when determining the location and type of the antenna.



Ground plane requirements vary given the type of mobile antenna and the frequency of operation. A typical 5/8 wave antenna at 150 MHz requires a ground plane of at least 42" in diameter. At 450 MHz, 15" is required, and 800 MHz, a minimum of 8" is considered sufficient.

In terms of mounting mobile antennas on a vehicle, there are five general locations: the roof, front fender, rear fender, trunk and rear window glass (although other glass mount locations may be used). Of these, the center of an automobile roof is considered the best for mobile antenna placement, followed by the center of the trunk lid, the fenders, and then on-glass mounting. This ranking is determined by the amount of ground plane provided by the positioning, and clearance from obstruction (i.e.: the roof line), and is the reason the center of the roof is considered the ideal mounting location, provided the roof is metal. The diagram above illustrates the effective loss (at 800 MHz) due to insufficient symmetrical ground plane.

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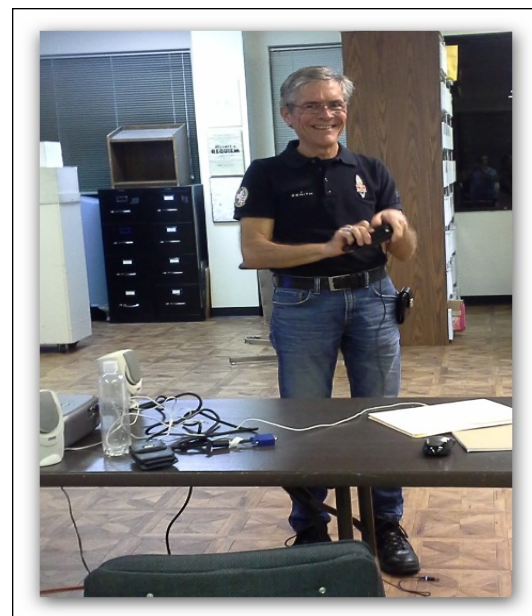


Redd School Ham Club News

It's a new year of school and Ham Radio! This year we've decided to include electronics again, along with talking on the air and learning code. Five new student members will be working building a bell kit and a motor-generator kit. However, first things first! Mentors Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD, and John Ellis, W5PDW, tagged some fellow NARS members to come help with a soldering class. This is always a great experience for the kids, and reports from them are that it was "a lot of fun" and they "learned a lot!" This class is always the "hook" that gets them excited about learning more.

A million thanks to the volunteers who are helping them: Jim Kirk, KJ5X; Brad Nelson, WD5GNI; and Tom Hoherd, KK5YU. I'll send another update when they finish the first project!

Cheers,
Lollie, KD5WZM



Andy MacAllister W5CAM, was our Guest Speaker during the September meeting, and gave us a look at the launching of Balloon BLT-41. Andy showed how amateur radio can take one to new heights. How high, you say? How about 109,000 feet! Of course, they had to travel to Austin to retrieve the payload, but ehh, no big deal.

NARS in rewind.... Field Day 1997



Some of you "old timers" may remember Field Day 1997 when a heated contest was held between the CW and SSB teams. Losers had to drink a milk cocktail called YOHO! Any idea who these guys were?

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houstonamateurradiosupply.com

Dave McCombs, NA5CW
Owner

281-355-7373
contact@harsradio.com

2558 E. FM 1960 Rd.
Houston, TX 77073

Ham Radio Class in Northwest Houston

Announcing the Third Class of 2014

Preparation is now complete for the Fall Ham Radio Technician Class located in Northwest Houston. This class is sponsored by Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS - <http://w5nc.net/>).

Ham Radio Technician Class Details

Purpose: obtain the FCC Amateur Radio Technician Class License

Lectures: 2

Dates: Saturday November 15, Sunday November 23

Times: 8:30AM-4:30 PM

Location:

Tomball Fire Department – Station 1
1200 Rudel
Tomball, TX 77375

Teacher: Skip Ferguson K5LJR

Text Book: ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 3rd Edition, includes practice exams, \$29.95+shipping

License Exam Fee: \$15

- Each lecture will include a review of material in the text book, and class practice exams.
- The last lecture will have class practice exams and a final individual license exam.
- The exam session will be provided by NARS ARRL Volunteer Examiner members.

To enroll in this class, please send an email to me at keith1@dutson.net. You will receive a map and instructions to get to the classroom.

I have pre-order text books for sale at \$30 each, including shipping. Let me know if you want me to order one of these books for you. I need your order no later than November 3rd. The text book is also available online. Be sure to get the complete book, 3rd edition.

Thanks to teacher Robert Skip Ferguson who is a retired professor of Computer Science. Skip is volunteering his time and travel expenses from his home in Brenham.

Thanks also to Fire Chief Randy Parr, for providing our classroom.

*Keith Dutson NM5G
NARS Ham Radio Class Organizer*

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members, James Savage and Steve Fincher.

Condolences to Sheree Horton KF5LMJ in the death of her sister, Stephanie Rubin Kiskis on Sept 25th.

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
281 292-2221 rwalworth@charter.net

NARS Public Info. Officer

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
281 353-2196 kd5kr@arrl.net

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kd5kr@arrl.net

Send changes in address, phone, or email to:

NARS
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.