



NARS NEWS

September 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, Sept 20, 2014 8:30 am.
VE License Exam Session
Tomball Community Center
S. Cherry & Market Streets
(just south of Main)

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

Lunch Break—North

Baker Street Sept 17
Sweet Tomatoes, Sept 24
BJ's Restaurant, Oct 1
Gianna's Italian Kitchen Oct 8
Spring Creek BBQ Oct 15

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Silver Palace Chinese Buff. Sept 17
Pappas BBQ Sept 24
Morningside Thai Oct 1
Pronto Cucinio Oct 8
Jason's Deli Oct 15

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.

**September 19th
Andy MacAllister W5CAM
will present a review of
Balloon launch BLT-41**



**Texas QSO Party 2014
Sept. 27, 28**

It's that time again when the world works Texas! Make your plans to work this year on the weekend of September 27-28. If you've never participated in TQP this is a great opportunity to learn what it's all about and how much fun it can be. If you're an experienced contester this is a good time to meet some of the friendly competition or find a mobile partner and see how many of the 254 counties you can drive through (at legal speed limits, of course,) in the weekend. See you there!

Need more info? Go to www.n5bia.net/txqp/ for rules, routes, hours of operation and more.

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

President's corner -

Checklist for September

Emergency/Hurricane supplies: Now is a good time to stock up on emergency supplies such as batteries, non-perishable food, water storage containers, etc. This is also the time of year I check my coax and connectors. I go through the bands using an SWR meter and compile a chart of the results as well.

Special Event Stations: Thanks to John Ellis who reminded us that the Route 66 On the Air Special Event is in September. The event runs from September 6, 2014 to September 14, 2014 and there are 21 stations this year...19 fixed and 2 rovers. Check out their web page at www.w6jbt.org. Be sure and check out other special event stations on the ARRL website. These events are a great way to get practice working pileups, making contacts and learning a little history at the same time.

Texas QSO Party: This is one of the premier events for lots of hams...Contesters in general, state QSO party enthusiasts, county hunters and it's just a lot of fun. Go mobile or sit at the home radio shack and track the mobiles. This is a NARS sponsored event so we'd like to hear as many NARS members on the air as possible. For more details go to the website, www.n5bia/net/txqp/

Ron's CW learning curve...I learned S and O this month. I tried it out on a recent trip until someone informed me that **SOS** did not apply to canoes stuck on a sandbar in the San Marcos River. Thanks to all those who assisted me during the tactical rescue operations.

73's,

Ron, KF5LFL

Houston Amateur Radio Supply's Tailgate was a success!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to celebrate with us. We enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones!

Thank you to Main Trading Company for partnering with us for the event and for driving down from Paris to offer extra hands!

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the BBQ fundraiser for Mr. Steve White, WB5UGT, a success. Thank you to everyone who donated food and supplies, thank you to SETAC for cooking, and thank you to everyone who bought a plate. Many of you donated more than was asked of you. It was wonderful to witness such a showing of camaraderie and support for a fellow member of the ham community.

We hope to see you all again soon. Please stop in and visit some time.

-HARS STAFF

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houstonamateurradiosupply.com

Dave McCombs, NA5CW

Owner

281-355-7373

contact@harsradio.com

2558 E. FM 1960 Rd.

Houston, TX 77073



Opening day at Houston Amateur Radio Supply

Saturday, August 23 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Community Center

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

Congratulations to:

Brian Ledbetter - new General
Michael Mansell - new Technician
Frank Payne KF5YCE - upgrade to Extra

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Skip Ferguson K5LLR (acting session mgr)
Sarah Connell W2AOV
Mike Bragassa K5UO
Michael Bowen N8ILU
Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
Ron Horton KF5LFL
Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
Martin Rogoff N5GPS

The next monthly session will be held Saturday, **September 20** 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.

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

Update on September VE Session at Tomball Comm Ctr. (see August VE Session article on left)

Back in March I requested from Tomball Community Center a year of dates, including September 20th. Hearing nothing back, I submitted these dates to ARRL, and all were placed on the ARRL web site. Later, I was told the 20th had been reserved by the Art League, and was not available. They moved it to the 27th. I requested the change to the ARRL web page, but that request went unanswered, so prospective exam applicants are expecting us a week earlier. As you know, our August 23 session was held outside because the center was locked. I went by the center the next week to make sure we were still scheduled for September 27th, explaining that the center was closed Aug 23. The lady there did not know why it was closed, but confirmed September 27. She also indicated that the Art League was using the "big" room, and may not need our usual room B location on the 20th.

Yesterday I went by to see if room B was actually available **September 20**. That was confirmed, so I changed the reservation from the 27th. I plan to attend the NARS general membership meeting on the 19th and will ask for VE's.

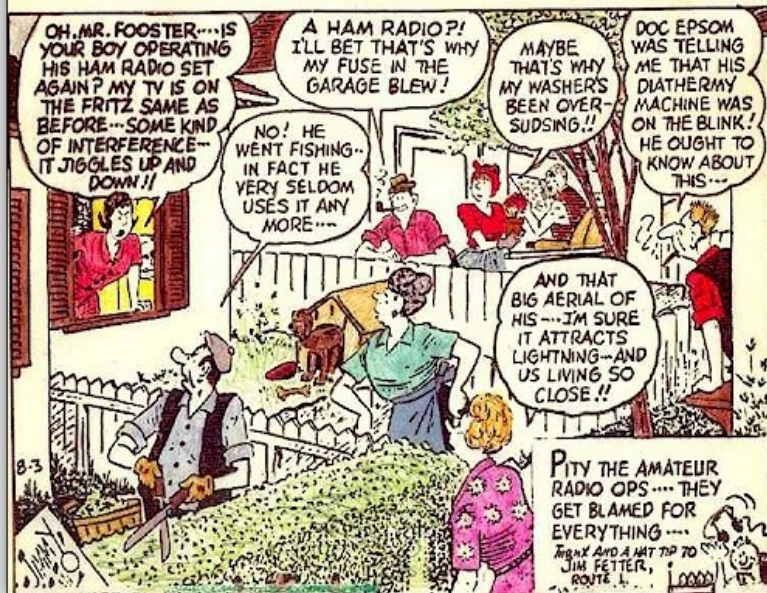
73, Keith NM5G

RADIO IN SPACE: THE SEVENTH NEXT GEN GP5 SATELLITE IS NOW IN ORBIT

On August 1st, a United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket successfully carried an Air Force GPS-IIF satellite in the orbit. This is the seventh such satellite launched of a planned constellation of 12 such birds. This satellite is the third launched in 2014, with one more planned for later this year.

(Published news reports)

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME :- :- :- by Hatlo



The national association for
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New Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee Set at \$21.40

The FCC has adjusted very slightly downward - to \$21.40 - its proposed Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee for Fiscal Year 2014. In a June Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), the Commission said it was planning to hike the current \$16.10 vanity fee to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O) in the proceeding on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase still represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years.

The new \$21.40 fee does not go into effect until 30 days after the R&O is published in The Federal Register. In the R&O, the FCC said it considered eliminating the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications but decided not to do so "at this time," because it lacks "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighs the collected revenue; or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process." The Commission said it would reevaluate this issue in the future to determine if it should eliminate other fee categories.

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau sets the vanity call sign regulatory fee using projections of new applications and renewals, taking into consideration existing Commission licensee databases, such as the Universal Licensing System (ULS) database. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014. The Commission said the vanity program generated an estimated \$230,230 in FY 2013 revenue, and it estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100 in FY 2014.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign or when renewing a vanity call sign, although some older vanity call signs are not subject to the regulatory fee.

New symbol finally added to Morse code

The 160-year-old communication system now has a new character to denote the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses. In December, the International Telecommunications Union, which oversees the entire frequency spectrum, from amateur radio to satellites, voted to add the new character. The new sign, which will be known as a "commat," consists of the signals for "A" (dot-dash) and "C" (dash-dot-dash-dot), with no space between them. The new sign is the first in at least several decades, and possibly much longer. Among ITU officials and Morse code aficionados, no one could remember any other addition. "It's a pretty big deal," said Paul Rinaldo, chief technical officer for the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio operators. "There certainly hasn't been any change since before World War II."

The change will allow ham radio operators to exchange e-mails more easily. That is because -- in an irony of the digital age -- they often use Morse to initiate conversations over the Internet. "People trade their e-mail addresses a lot," said Nick Yocanovich, a Morse code enthusiast who lives in Arnold, Md. Morse code uses two audible electrical signals -- short "dots" and slightly longer "dashes" -- to form letters, numbers and punctuation marks.

NARS in rewind....



Buffalo Bayou Team 2000

*Jimmy Kirk KJ5X, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Paul Frantz KF5SB,
Scott Byrd KM5WE, Tom Hoherd KK5YU, George Levandowski KD5AYF,
Keith Dutson WD5DXL, & Danny Richards WA5OJE*

Created in the 1830s by Samuel F.B. Morse, who invented the telegraph, the electronic signaling system spread across the world, and until the past few decades, it was used widely by the public, industry and government.

"It was the beginning of the Information Age," said Gary Fowlie, Chief of Media Relations and Public Information for the ITU, which has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. When Morse died in 1872, more than 650,000 miles of telegraph wire circled the globe. By the early 20th century, Morse messages were being sent wirelessly, via radio. Perhaps the most famous Morse communication is the international distress signal S-O-S. It consists of three dots, three dashes, and three more dots. But with the proliferation of digital communications technologies such as cell phones, satellites and the Internet, Morse code has lost its pre-eminent place in global communications.

Today it's largely the province of ham radio operators, including 700,000 in the United States. While not all of them communicate regularly in Morse, almost all are familiar with it. Some ham operators wouldn't mind more changes to spice up the language. While Morse code has a period, a question mark, and even a semicolon, it offers no simple way to articulate excitement, such as defining an exclamation point.

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members,
Brian Ledetter, Micheal Mansell

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
281 516-1466 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

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Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
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Send changes in address, phone, or email to:
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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

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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.