



August 2015

Important Dates

Monthly club meeting:

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

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 7:30 pm.
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive

VE License Exam:

Saturday, August 22, at 10:15 am.
Lone Star College Tomball Library
located at the south entrance to the
College. Official address is:
30555 St. Hwy 249.

Lunch Break—North

Aug 19, Baker Street Pub
Aug 26, Sweet Tomatoes
Sept 2, BJ's Brewery
Sept 9, Gianna's
Sept 16, Spring Creek BBQ

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Aug 19, Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
Aug 26, Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
Sept 2, Pappa's BBQ.
Sept 9, Morningside Thai
Sept 16, Pronto Cucinino

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.**

NARS NEWS

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

**Friday, August 21
John Parmalee, K5VGM
Will present a discourse on**



**Modulation:
“to alter the amplitude
or frequency so as to
convey a particular
signal.”
A technical discussion
in laymen terms....**

**“Bring your thoughts & questions
and we'll figure out solutions.”**

146.660 Repeater News

NARS now has a backup repeater in operation. The frequency, 146.660, will remain the same as before, only the tone has been changed to 100.

Anyone wishing to help defray the cost of replacing the repeater, antenna, connectors, etc. can make a donation to the Repeater Fund by making checks payable to NARS and designate “Repeater Fund” in the Memo field.

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

The cost of this equipment is considerable and will be done in stages as we go along. Some equipment, material, and technical assistance has already been donated, but we have a long way to go towards completion of this massive project.

President's Column

Summer's sizzling heat has arrived and the antennas around your home are up and working. It is a good time to get on the air and make some contacts and stay inside where the temperature is cooler, or....

Think of things that might enhance your shack or operating experience. There are things you can build yourself that can be as simple as switches or as complex as a transceiver. There are a lot of kits available if you are not ready to do the actual design work. The ARRL handbook is a good source for project ideas. Most kits have good directions and you can put your soldering skills to work or develop your soldering skills as you assemble your project. NARS has many members with skills in kit building.

If you need assistance, they are just a telephone call away or may be at the next breakfast or lunch gathering you attend. Most of them are willing to assist with information or demonstrations if they are asked.

You still have time to order parts or kits to get a project assembled and tested and placed in operation before the December share and learn meeting.

Good luck to all of you creative hams and stay cool!

Brad Nelson – WD5GNI



4721 Watonga Blvd.
Houston, TX 77092
www.ofarc.org

V.E. Exams every 4th Saturday
of the month at 9:30 a.m.
Contact: John Westerlage'
N5DWI@oafrc.org for further
info.

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Dave McCombs, NA5CW
Owner

281-355-7373
contact@harsradio.com

2558 E. FM 1960 Rd.
Houston, TX 77073

Saturday, July 25 VE Test Session Results at Lone Star College Tomball Library:

We had 5 candidates taking 6 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 2; passed 2

Element 3 tests given: 2; passed 2

Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Franklyn Pachero - new Technician

Stanley Brown - new Technician, General expired license K7HEP credit.

Debby Littlefield KG5HTP - upgrade to General

Jerry Littlefield KF5HTR - upgrade to General

Ronald Crow KG5GHV - Extra expired license N5GP credit

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Ken Mitchell KD2KR (acting session mgr)

Martin Rogoff N5GPS

Michael Bowen N8ILU

Ron Horton KF5LFL

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ

Robert Ferguson K5LLR

Mike Bragassa K5UO

Stephen Protz KA5AUD

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF

The next monthly session will be held Saturday, August 22 at 10:15AM at Lone Star College Tomball Library, located at the southern entrance to the College. Official address is 30555 State Highway 249. Let me know if you would like to serve at this session. Parking is in the lot to the right of the entrance.

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

ARRL DUES GOING UP

If you're a member of the ARRL, prepare to dig deeper into your pockets at renewal time. Membership is going up \$10, effective next January 1. The Board of Directors voted on the increase at their meeting last weekend in Connecticut, following a committee recommendation. The hike is the first increase since 2001, when basic dues were set at \$39. CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who also announced his May 1, 2016 retirement date at the meeting, called the price hike a difficult decision, even after implementing a 15 percent staff reduction and creating a development program to help grow financial gifts.

Sumner said on the ARRL website that raising dues will ensure that high-quality programs and services will continue for all members as we provide a unified voice that protects and promotes all of Amateur Radio. Information about ARRL revenues and expenditures can be found in its Annual Report archive for 2002 to 2014.

NARS in rewind...

June, 1993

A few of us charter members recall one of our own, Levi C. "Joe" Green WA4FGH, better known as *Mean Joe Green*. (No relation to the famous football player of the day.) He was just the opposite of what you'd expect, a happy guy with an upbeat, can-do, attitude. Oh, and by the way, he was our most senior member by age.

Joe Green died at the age of 93 years, 10 months & 27 days! Born July 9, 1899 in Wayne County, Illinois, Joe went SK on June 6th, 1993. He had lived in Spring, TX for his last ten years and was a charter member of NARS. Retired from Western Electric Co. as Dept Chief in Buffalo, NY, his avid hobby, in addition to amateur radio, was using his computer on which he wrote many poems.

The above photo was taken when Joe was but a young 90.



To his right was another charter member, Bob Welch KE5IC who went SK in January of 1992.

Joe left a lasting impression on many of us then, and some 23 years later we still bring up *Mean Joe Green* in many of our conversations. He was that kind of a guy!

"Hey, Joe, you're gone but not forgotten!"

Repeater fund continues its growth...

The repeater fund now totals \$525 towards the upgrading of the 146.66 repeater. The team headed up by Keith Dutson is making progress, and in fact have placed into operation a backup unit that is now operational. The backup unit utilizes the same 146.66/06 frequency but now requires a **tone of 100**.

More information will be forth coming soon, so watch the reflector over the next few weeks.

What if everyone on Earth jumped at the same time?

This question came up at a Denney's breakfast some time ago. A lot of opinions surfaced but no one really had an answer that made any sense. While researching the internet research I found a site called "How Stuff Works" and came up with the real skinny!

Ready ... set ... jump! It's hard to imagine getting everyone on Earth to jump at the same time — though with Face book, Meet up and all manner of other social-media methods of reaching people, it's easier to believe in the possibility than it used to be. Still, 7.2 billion — that's how many people live on this rock — is a lot of folks to get to do anything at the same time. Talk about herding cats. But for the sake of argument, let's just say that we could actually get everyone to participate.

If everyone stood right where they are at the appointed time and jumped, nothing much would happen. The mass of people, while pretty large, is nowhere near as large as the mass of the Earth, especially if we're all spread out like that. But since we're what-iffing here, what if we could get all the people on Earth into one spot to jump at the same time? If the more than 7 billion humans stood jammed up against each other, we'd fill about 500 square miles (805 square kilometers), or a city the size of Los Angeles Now, even assuming we could all stand that close and still manage to jump all at once, again, nothing much would happen.

Disappointing, huh? The mass of that many people may seem pretty big to all of us, but compared to the mass of the Earth, it would be like the Who's in Dr. Seuss's "Horton Hears a Who" — tiny creatures on a speck of dust. In fact, if we all jumped together, we would move the Earth only a tiny bit (as in, less than the width of a hydrogen atom) as we took off. Then as we all landed again, returning to our same spot, the Earth would do the same — return to the same spot it would have been in had we not jumped at. So, what would it take to move the Earth? Well, in fact, this is a question scientists have asked because the sun is heating up. It's estimated that in about 1.1 billion years, the sun will get so hot that it will warm the Earth's temperature by 120 degrees Fahrenheit (50 degrees Celsius), making it impossible for life as we know it to survive.

In looking at this eventuality, some have studied how to move the Earth just a bit farther from the growing fireball. Here in the early 21st century, that technology doesn't exist — and it may not ever. Consider this: Just to change the Earth's velocity by 20 nanometers per second (an infinitesimal amount, when you consider that a human hair is 80,000 to 100,000 nanometers wide), you'd have to launch 1 billion 11 ton rockets at the same time in the same direction — talk about a fireball. So if you want, go ahead and gather all of your friends together to jump up and down and see if you can make the Earth shake. It'll be great exercise — but don't expect it to move mountains.

Hey, that was fun, wasn't it? But wait, let's get serious for a moment. Earlier it was stated that the world population is now at 7.2 billion. Just how many people will it take before the earth implodes due to its own weight, huh? This all started with Adam & Eve, right? Yes, I know that it's been down hill for the serpent ever since, but still population is increasing at an exponential rate and it won't be long until, Kaboom!

Ok, 7.2 billion times the square of 2 pi over fl divided by the cosine is.... Now where did I put that calculator? This is getting downright *scary*....

Where do we go from here?

An editorial by Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

Many of our 130 plus members are marginally aware of what it takes to run an organization such as NARS on a day to day basis. NARS was first formed back in 1985. We had about twenty five or so charter members at that time, and although forming a club requires a certain amount of business savvy, it didn't take much to keep our membership informed of its activities.

As with any business, clubs have to operate on a business scale. A Constitution and By-laws are developed outlining the club's goals, and a board of directors is formed to see that those goals and business practices are conducted in a legal and ethical manner. Our needs and obligations were small back in '85, but as we continued to grow, so did the need for more complex methods of doing business. Trying opening a checking or savings account these days. If you're doing it on a personal basis, it's bad enough. If you're a business or organization such as NARS, you have to meet various Federal requirements in addition to those of the bank. And each year we as a "Non-profit" organization must report a change in board member positions, submit driver license info, employment, SS number, etc, etc. It seems to get more complex each year. It's not an easy task keeping a club as ours running well. The Board has to schedule the monthly programs, develop Field Day operations each year, maintain a variety of club owned equipment, see that the bills get paid, see that the newsletter gets out on schedule, run the monthly V.E Exam program and public service activities, etc, etc....

Enter the Administrative Secretary. This appointed position was created to take the pressure off many of our board members that are still gainfully employed and have difficulty in accomplishing tasks during the normal work day. The Admin Secretary, usually a retired person with absolutely nothing else to do with his time, (ahem...) does the post office runs, makes some bank deposits, processes membership renewals, keeps the club's data base updated, sees to it that we have a place to meet each month, maintains financial records. Let's see now, what did I leave out? Oh, distributes monthly newsletters, fields a variety of phone call enquiries, maintains the club's historical file, track the annual banquet and TX QSO Party finances, mail out membership rosters, and makes name tags for new members.... The beat goes on! So, you see? There's a lot more that goes on behind the scenes then the casual observer realizes. There's a bee-hive of activity, but it works!

And now a look at the downside....

Each year there is a struggle to fill vacancies of the Board and the result is, you guessed it, the same individuals end up being board members for another year. For NARS, a crisis is looming on the horizon. There will be a time when one says "Enough is enough!" Many of the old timers are just burned out, die out or just leave for lack of enthusiasm. I've seen it happen in other fraternal organizations; American Legion, VFW posts, Boy Scouts troops. They start out with high ideals and determination and years later, apathy sets in and the group evolves into a few ex-members lamenting over the past and wondering what happened while sipping coffee at their usual Saturday morning gathering. We're not quite there yet, but unless new interest is generated NARS is in danger of becoming a dinosaur.

Elections are coming up in November for a new vice president and two board member openings. Here's the chance to bring *your* ideas to the table. You *can* help make a difference! All it takes is to attend board meetings each month and assist in voicing your ideas on how to better the operations of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. How this story ends is up to you....

HEAVENLY COFFEE

There's nothing like sitting at the window with a nice hot cup of coffee and watching the world pass by. Now the astronauts on the International Space Station can do just that. Instant coffee has always been available on the ISS but now, for the first time, it can be enjoyed freshly brewed. Italian retailer Lavazza and Argotec, the provider of space food for European astronauts have joined forces and created the ISSpresso, a device that overcomes the unique challenges of brewing coffee in space. Quoting here: "Making coffee in space isn't easy," Argotec officials said. "This is the first capsule espresso machine that can work in the extreme conditions in space, where the principles that determine the fluid dynamic characteristics of liquids and mixtures are very different from those typically found on earth." Unquote. The microwave-sized box uses capsules, similar to a Keurig machine, to brew the caffeinated beverage, as well as other hot drinks, such as caffè lungo, tea, hot chocolate and broth. Fittingly, Italian astronaut and java fiend Samantha Cristoforetti was the first to try the new machine after it was installed May 3rd. And because no self-respecting coffee lover would ever drink their latte with a straw, a special plastic, 3-D printed cup was designed to cope with the demands imposed by microgravity. So now when you're sitting at your window with a hot cup of joe watching the world pass by you can delight in the fact that maybe, somewhere way up in the sky, an astronaut is doing the exact same thing. Except the view up there repeats every 90 minutes. I'm Mike Askins, KE5CXP in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

General License Class scheduled for September

NARS is sponsoring a GENERAL Class, a two day event in September. The dates are Saturday, September 12, and Saturday, September 19. We will use the manual written by Gordon West WB6NOA. All details are on my web site:

<http://www.dutson.net/Ham/HamClass/HC2015.html>

see page 5 for more details

We expect a maximum of 10 students. have 7 manuals left. Let me know if you want a manual. It is a good idea to get the manual now so you will be familiar with contents during the class.

Keith Dutson NM5G

Ham Radio Class in Northwest Houston

Announcing the General Class of 2015

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

Ham Radio General Class Details

Purpose: obtain the FCC Amateur Radio General Class License

Lectures: 2

Dates: Saturday September 12, Saturday September 19

Times: 9:00AM-5:00 PM

Location:

Step-By-Step Christian School
1119 S Cherry St
Tomball, TX 77375

Teacher: Skip Ferguson K5LLR

Text Book: Gordon West 2015-2019 General Class Manual

License Exam Fee: \$15

- Each lecture will include a review of material in the manual, 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. Use Google to find a map and instructions to get to the classroom.

I have manuals for sale at \$23 each, including shipping. Let me know if you want one of these books. I recommend you arrange to get it before the class.

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 Step-By-Step Christian School, for providing our classroom.

FCC reorganizes Enforcement Bureau Field Offices

In an effort to modernize its enforcement efforts, the FCC has adopted a plan that is designed to “improve efficiency, better position the agency to do effective radio interference detection and resolution and to meet other enforcement needs, and save millions of dollars annually after implementation is complete.”

What does this mean? After more than 20 years, the omission has determined that there is a significant need to change the way its Enforcement Bureau conducts business. In large measure, this initiative is the result of significant technological changes over the years and limited tax dollars. The FCC has stated that this reorganization should not be perceived as a step-back from its enforcement activities. Rather, the reorganization of its field offices is intended to align the Enforcement Bureau structure and operations with the FCC’s priorities, including the elimination of radio frequency interference. However, some industry members have expressed concern that it may become more difficult to get the Commission’s attention in the event of an interference problem.

As part of the reorganization, the FCC is changing the qualifications for its field agents and realigning its offices. Of significance, all field be electrical engineers. While the FCC will continue to operate offices in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbia, Maryland, Dallas, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Portland, Oregon and San Francisco, it will be closing its offices in Anchorage, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Norfolk, Virginia, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan, Seattle and Tampa. In order to make up for these office closures, the FCC will rotate field agents through Anchorage, San Juan and Kansas City on a periodic basis. Finally, the FCC will also base rapid deployment or strike teams in Denver and Columbia, Maryland in order to supplement enforcement efforts at the remaining field offices as well as support high-priority enforcement actions. Selected portions of the BloostonLaw Telecom Update, and/or the BloostonLaw Private Users Update — newsletters from the Law Offices of Blooston, Mordkofsky, Dickens, Duffy & Prendergast, LLP — are reproduced in this section with the firm’s permission.



Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members,
Matthew Haws KB5MKO

NARS Resource list

General help:

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281 528-0673 wa5rej@yahoo.com

Deral Kent K5WNO
281 548-7476 k5wno@juno.com

Al Manard N6VQO
281 292-3113 almanard@gmail.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. 146.660, tone 100
Coordinator: Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Web site

URL: <http://www.w5nc.net>
Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
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.