



# NARS NEWS

May 2015

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

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 pm.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Ponderosa Fire Station  
17061 Rolling Creek Drive

VE License Exam:  
Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.  
Lone Star College Tomball Library,  
located at the south entrance to the  
College. Official address is: 30555 St.  
Hwy 249

### Lunch Break—North

- Apr 22, Jason's Deli
- Apr 29, Baker Street Pub
- May 6, Sweet Tomatoes
- May 13, BJ's Brewery
- May 20, Gianna's
- May 27, Spring Creek BBQ
- June 3, Pei Wei

### Lunch Break—Medical Center

- Apr 22, Southwell's Hamburger Grill
- Apr 29, Marco's Mexican Bar & Grill
- May 6, Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
- May 13, Pappa's BBQ
- May 20, Morningside Thai
- May 27, Pronto Cucinino
- June 3, Jason's Deli

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**

**VHF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
made easy!**  
by  
**Brian Derx N5BA  
May 15th.**



## 146.660 Repeater News

NARS will be testing the replacement for the 146.660 repeater in the next few weeks. 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. Your monetary donations can help in bringing 146.660 up and running sooner. More details will follow in future announcements.

## President's corner -

Amateur Radio has a huge variety of facets. Some hams are interested in only a few of these facets and others are interested in many of them. Some hams are interested in contesting, DX, rag chewing on HF, QRP repeaters, building equipment, mobile UHF VHF and HF communications, amateur satellites, moon bounce, balloon launch, microwave, public service and emergency communications, traffic handling, nets, HF digital communications, Amateur TV, digital modes like PSK31, JT65, and others. The list goes on and new modes of operation are being added over time.

None of us are confined to a single mode. As we have increased our licensing level more opportunities have opened up to us. The ARRL publishes many specialized books on a variety of subjects covering most of these areas. There is still more information on The Internet.

If you have an interest in an area that you are not currently using or are just curious, let your interest be known. There is a good chance that another club member shares the same interest and would really like to share that interest with you. You and the other member may be able to collaborate and increase your knowledge together. Have fun in a new area of Amateur Radio!

Brad Nelson - WD5GNI



4721 Watonga Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77092  
[www.ofarc.org](http://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.

## HOUSTON AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY, INC.

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[houstonamateurradiosupply.com](http://houstonamateurradiosupply.com)

**Dave McCombs, NA5CW**  
Owner

281-355-7373  
[contact@harsradio.com](mailto:contact@harsradio.com)

2558 E. FM 1960 Rd.  
Houston, TX 77073

## Field Day, June 27, & 28!

### 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.

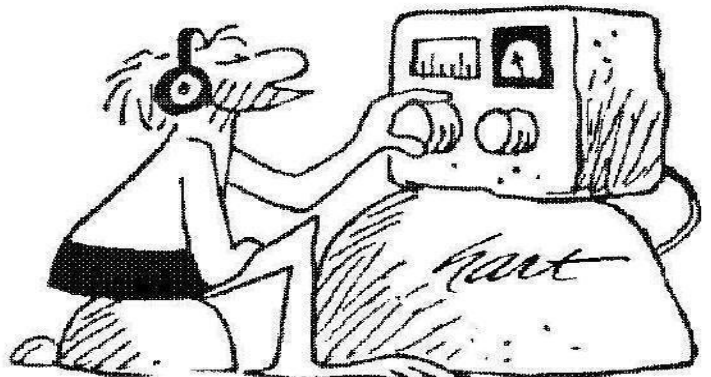
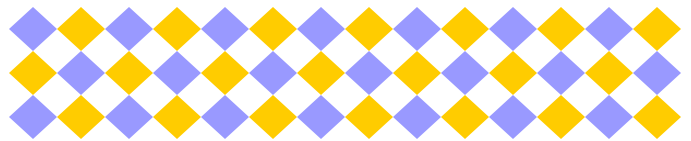
Mark the dates on your calendar and tell our Field Day co-coordinators, Keith Dutson NM5G or Ron Horton KF5LFL, you're ready to join the team.

Don't let me have to go to your Mother if you give me another of those lame excuses!



## Coming attractions!

You won't want to miss the July 17th meeting. Our featured speaker will be Kenneth G Ransom N5VHO, Inter Space Station Radio Manager for NASA.



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## 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!

## ***NARS present at Annual Scout Fair April 18th.***

Last Saturday April 18 was the annual Houston Scout Fair. NARS participated as a sponsor of Radio Scouting and Radio Merit Badge with representation by NARS Members Joey Lamond KC3DYY, Les Mignerey KB0MEF. Others working the booth were John T (Jack ) Cavuoti KF5RMY and Bo Stringer (non-Ham). Call Sign K2BSA/5 was authorized for the event. Hundreds of Scouts dropped by the booth to talk, ask questions and tell us about some Ham that they know. There was interest in Fox Hunts, cost of equipment and requirements to obtain a license. We were busy for most of the day.



Les Mignerey KB0MEF received a letter of thanks from Chad Srader, Field Director for the Sam Houston Area Council, for supporting the Scout Fair on Saturday, April 18th. This was an annual event attracting more than 25,000 Scouts and families throughout the Houston (and surrounding 16 County) area to showcase Boy Scouting in our communities.

Merit Badge Midway, which Les and his group were involved in, is an exciting educational component of Scout Fair, which is designed to introduce Scouts to a variety of industries. Businesses and organizations from around the State shared hands-on activities representing various merit badges that inspired Scouts to earn new merit badges, find new hobbies and maybe even future careers.

Thanks, Les, for making this event a huge success!

## ***NARS in rewind... June 1985***

June 1985 saw the first NARS Field Day operation. It was led by chairman Bob Jahn WA4JBV and was located at the QTH of Dan Wells N5IDE, across from Strack Farms on Louetta Road. The call used was N5HF courtesy of Henry Freedenberg, The class was 1A. And a total of 474 contacts were made. Others participating were Ken KA5AKG, Norm WB8QQR, Jim W5KMN, Dee W1HEO, Paul WB5DBT, and a few more I have managed to miss. The antennas were a TA-33 at 20 feet and a multiband dipole. The operation rated a picture on the front page of the FM 1960 Sun.

- Paul KF5SB reporting

## **Thomas S. King Jr. (WK5DX /SK)**

(June 18, 1952 - March 28, 2015)

Memorial services for Thomas S. "Tom" King Jr., 62, of Houston, Texas, were held Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Cochran Funeral Home in Livingston, TX

Thomas S. (Tom) King Jr. passed away March 28, 2015, at home in Houston, Texas. Born June 18, 1952 to Tomas S. King Sr. and Bettye (Stripling) King in Dallas, Texas. He attended Spring Branch Public Schools in Houston and spent his senior year at North Yarmouth Academy in 1971. He attended the University of Houston for two years and later Austin Community College where he graduated in computer sciences with honors in 1987. He was married in 1976 to Bryant Smith for two years. During his life, Tom was employed by Motorola Corp. for many years and later contracted with major companies programming computer operations. He was involved with his fellow motorcycle riders and enjoyed many weekend rides through Texas byroads and lanes. He also maintained an interest in short wave radio and served as President of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. He was a member of Tallowood Baptist Church.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Bettye S. King; uncles, Harvey B. King, James A. King, Dr. Robert Young; aunts, Dr. Joyce Davis and Margaret Oliver.

He is survived by his brothers, J. David King, Joseph M. King; sisters, Camille King Carter, Carol King Hoch, and Suzanne King; uncles, Dr. Phil David, Bruce Oliver; aunts, Bobbie King, Celia Young; 15 first cousins; 14 nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

## ***Repeater fund continues to grow....***

A special thank you to those that have contributed a total of \$355 towards the upgrading of the 144.660 repeater. Work is continuing towards getting the NARS repeater back in operation. Some equipment, material, and technical assistance has already been donated but monetary donations are still needed if we are to have a repeater to be proud of. Any dollar amount is appreciated no matter how small.

*(Uhh.... No, we do not accept Box Tops for Education but a Kugerand or two would really sweeten up the pot! Hint, hint.... )*



## ***Saturday, April 18 VE Test Session Results at Christ United Church***

We had 8 candidates taking 12 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 6; passed 4

Element 3 tests given: 5; passed 2

Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

Hector Guzman - new Technician

Xiaowei Dai - new Extra

William O'Neal - new Technician

John Halliburton - new Technician

Loyd Gilliland Jr KF5VVG - upgrade to General

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS

Stephen Protz KA5AUD

Ronald Horton KF5LFL

Robert Ferguson K5LLR

Marie Rogoff helped with paperwork. This allowed us to finish the session with better accuracy. Thanks Marie.

73, Keith Dutson NM5G

NARS VE Session Manager

## ***Saturday, April 25 VE Test Session Results at Lone Star College Tomball Library***

We had 10 candidates taking 20 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 7; passed 7

Element 3 tests given: 8; passed 4

Element 4 tests given: 5; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Stephen Fincher - new Technician

Robert Haldy - new General

Paul Buck KG5CJR- upgrade to General

Stephen Potvin - new General

Elba Cantu-Hardie - new Technician

Paul Muraski K9PJM - upgrade to General

Joseph Adair - new Technician

Carlos Lopez - new Technician

Richard Moore - new Technician

VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS (acting session mgr.)

Ron Horton KF5LFL

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ

Robert Ferguson K5LLR

Mike Bragassa K5UO

Sahah Connell W2AOV

Ken Mitchell KD2KW

The next monthly session will be held Saturday, May 25 at 10:16 a.m. at Lone Star College Tomball Library, located at the southern entrance to the college. Official address is 30555 St. Hwy. 249. Parking is in the lot to the right of the entrance.

Keith Dutson NM5G, NARS VE Session Manager

## ***THE PROBLEM WITH WALL WARTS***

Every ham suffers from interference now and then but most have no idea where it may be coming from. Well there is an expert on this subject and as Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, learned, his name is Ed Hare, his call is W1RFI and he can be found in Newington, Connecticut at the American Radio Relay League:

What's the most common source of interference plaguing radio amateurs today? Before you say powerline noise listen to Ed Hare, W1RFI's answer from my recent interview with Ed on HamRadioNow.

[W1RFI] "Probably the most common source of noise more than powerline noise is switching mode power supplies. They are in absolutely in everything we buy. The old days of those iron transformers are gone. Every single one of these is a switcher. "We are also seeing noise from Pulse-Width Control motors."

[KN4AQ] "Switching supplies. We are talking about those little wall-warts. We are not talking about MFJ or Astron?"

[W1RFI] "No, those are usually pretty well filtered."

[KN4AQ] "You mean the little wall-warts that is powering everything in your house."

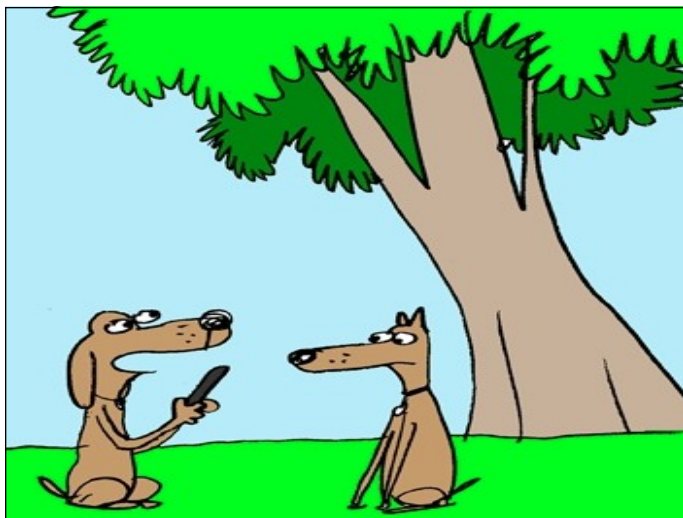
[W1RFI] "That's right, Every TV you own has a built in switcher. Almost every device has a wall-wart. And a lot of these are imported and not necessarily meeting the FCC rules, so we are seeing more reports involving those."

[KN4AQ] "Ed is the ARRL's Lab Manager but his callsign W1RFI gives away one of his passions. He told me that a few of the LED bulbs that are becoming more common in household lighting are also noise generators as are grow lights used for indoor plants and agriculture." "He said that the ARRL Lab can work with manufacturers to correct those problems, but."

[W1RFI] "We need model numbers. We need specific information on the problems that amateurs are having so that we can put some of our resources toward helping."

[KN4AQ] "Hams with RF interference problems can contact the ARRL Lab by calling headquarters or by sending an e-mail to rfi (at) arrl (dot) org."

A lot more on this subject with Ed Hare, W1RFI is at hamradioNow.tv. Just click on Episode number 196. (KN4AQ)



*"I got an app that shows the best places to go to the bathroom!"*

## Another Year Slips Away at Redd School!

The school year is just about over and soon the hot summer days will be all the kids think about. But our small group of radio enthusiasts leave with a real sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. W5LAB has quite a nice collection of QSL cards, thanks to the club QSL manager Jerry Whiting. The class always enjoys "getting on the air". Most of this group is signing up for the Radio Class next year! John Ellis commented "I wouldn't be surprised if we don't get a couple of new hams". Wouldn't that be great!

One of the highlights of the year was when the kit building was in progress. Thanks to great team of Elmers recruited by Jerry, there was a volunteer for each of the boys in the class. The hands on experience really got their attention. Learning how to solder, and how to make electrical circuits to power their projects (like the bell kits) are experiences that they will always remember. The boys were all so proud of what they had built.

One day, I invited the principal to come and observe the interactions between the students and the Elmers as they worked on their projects. It was an inspiring sight to see and I wanted her to share in it. She was moved to tears. There was such a sense of connection and caring that was tangible. Jerry, John, and all the volunteer Elmers are the heart of this Radio club. To all of them, I give my sincerest thanks for the time and patience you have given our students. And for the knowledge you have shared to inspire success.

Look for more news in the Fall when school begins again!

Lollie KD5WZM

All photos courtesy of John Ellis W5PDW



Brad Nelson WD5GNI, Jerry Whiting KB5VGD  
Teaching students of Redd School soldering basics.



Terry Myers KQ5U with a watchful student....



That's Brad Nelson WD5GNI with Ron Horton KF5LFL in background.



"Ok, Mr. Kirk, now watch carefully. It's not that difficult!"

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members,  
Paul Buck KG5CJR, Joseph Adair, Fred Orsack,, L Randall Hack, Joanne Purkis,  
G Patrick McGunagle, Carlos Lopez, Loyd Gilliland KF5VVG.  
We note with regret the passing of NARS member & past President, Tom King WK5DX/SK

## 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

## NARS Information

### President & Board Chairman

Brad Nelson WD5GNI  
281 370-0934  
wd5gni@swbell.net

### Vice President

*To be announced*

### Treasurer

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ  
281 890-4038  
sher5456@gmail.com

### Secretary

Martin Rogoff N5GPS  
281 890-4538  
N5gps.tx@gmail.com

### Directors

Al Manard N6VQO  
281 292-3113  
almanard@gmail.com

Ron Horton KF5LFL

281 890-4038  
ron.horton88gmail.com

Deral Kent K5WNO

281 548-7476  
k5wno@juno.com

Mike Bowen N8ILU

mike5664g@yahoo.com

### Administrative & General Info.

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR  
281 353-2196  
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 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.