



NARS NEWS

April 2016

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., Youth Center 2nd. Floor, # 203,
6823 Cypresswood Drive

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 7:30 pm.
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston

VE License Exam:

Saturday, April 23, 2016
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor,
Conference Room, 8:00 am.

Lunch Break—North

Mar 2, Spring Creek BBQ
Apr 6, Sweet Tomatoes
Apr 13, BJ's Brewery
Apr 20, Gianna's
Apr 27, Spring Creek BBQ
May 4, Pei Wei
May 11, Panera Bread

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Apr 6, Pappas BBQ
Apr 13, Morningside Thai
Apr 20, Pronto Cucinino
Apr 27, Jason's Deli
May 4, Buffalo Grille
May 11, Southwell's Burger Grille

Tail Dragger's Lunch Bunch -

Mondays, 11 am.
Aviator's Grill, Hooks Aerodrome

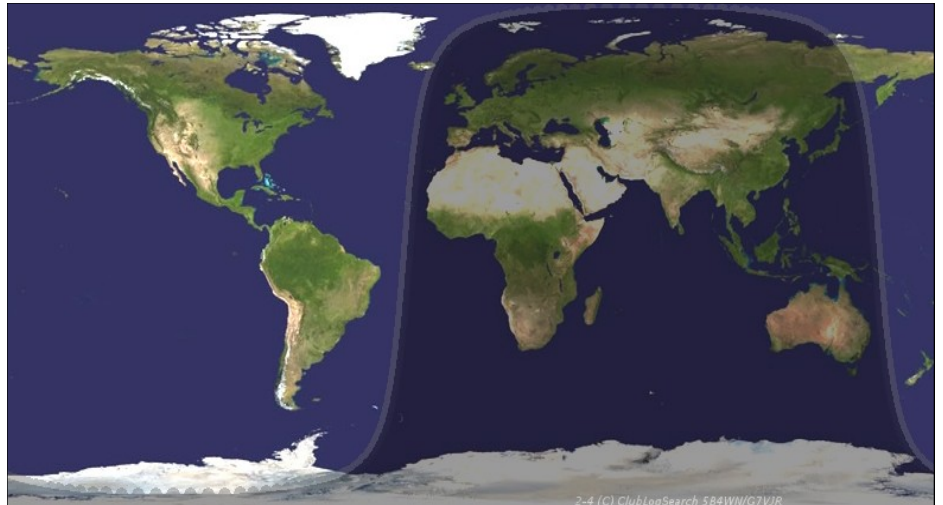
Notice: NARS membership dues are
\$20 per year, renewable on anniver-
sary date.

Friday, April 15th

Richard Nelson, KF5WRD

Presents

An introduction to Solar Weather & Propagation



*Just like weather on Earth, space weather
has its seasons, with solar activity rising &
falling over an approximate 11 year cycle.*

**Breakfast at
Denny's**

Saturdays, 7 a.m.

6504 FM 2920, Spring, TX

**Just a few blocks west of
Kuykendahl at the intersection of
TC Jester & FM 2920**

NARS has moved to a new building,

Yes, we are still meeting at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center as before, but are now meeting in the Youth/Education Center building, 2nd floor room #203, across from the Barbara Bush Library .

See page 3 for a detailed map.

Saturday, March 26 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital

We had 4 candidates taking 7 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 4; passed 4
Element 3 tests given: 3; passed 1
Element 4 tests given: 0; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Thomas Gonder - new Technician
Peter Rospond - new General
Matthew White - new Technician
Darren Coleman - new Technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS (acting session manager)
Ron Horton KF5LFL
Stephen Protz KA5AUD
Mike Bragassa K5UO
Brian Derx N5BA

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, April 23, at Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor conference room.

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

President's corner -

Field Day 2016 now has a coordinator: George Paxson AG5CZ. Thanks George, for your help. Let's all join George in setting up a team for Field Day.

Burroughs Park is the location, thanks to Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, who officially requested a site from Harris County.

We need captains for SSB, CW and GOTA stations, to set up stations and schedule operators for 24-hour operation.

A captain is needed for Electricity, which includes generators, extension cords and lighting for all three stations.

A captain is needed for Facilities, usually pop-up covers for stations to help in weather protection (sun and rain).

The Antenna captain, George Edwards K5VUU, will provide antennas for the three stations. He will need several helpers to install and check each antenna.

Tom Atkins KD5EIJ will do the cooking. We usually have dinner Saturday afternoon. Contact Tom if you can help. It would be nice to have some side dishes and desserts to go with his excellent BBQ.

Joe KD5KR will set up the welcome area, where all participants and visitors have the opportunity to sign in and obtain information.

We need someone to provide and operate a Talk-In station. Use of a local repeater needs to be chosen, requested from the trustee, and announced at the May General Membership Meeting. The location also needs to be published on the ARRL web site Field Day locator page.

We may need other leaders, to be determined by our coordinator in the near future.

The first session of the Technician class was held last Saturday at Hooks Airport. A VE team has been assembled to give exams to all students during the second session next Saturday beginning at 2:30pm. Thanks to all VE's who indicated they can be there.

General Membership Meeting programs have been planned for 2016, thanks to Richard Nelson KF5WRD. See detail in the report of Board Meeting Action posted elsewhere in this issue of the NEWS. Richard will present the April program, Solar Weather and Propagation. This will be of particular interest to those who hunt DX stations.

Repeating from last month, consider learning, helping, and eventually taking the lead in one of the following tasks:

- 1 monthly meeting programs planning
- 2 newsletter reporting and editing
- 3 field day
- 4 public service events
- 5 NARS board of directors

Thank you for your support this year.

73, Keith Dutson NM5G



**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

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contact@harsradio.com

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Houston, TX 77073

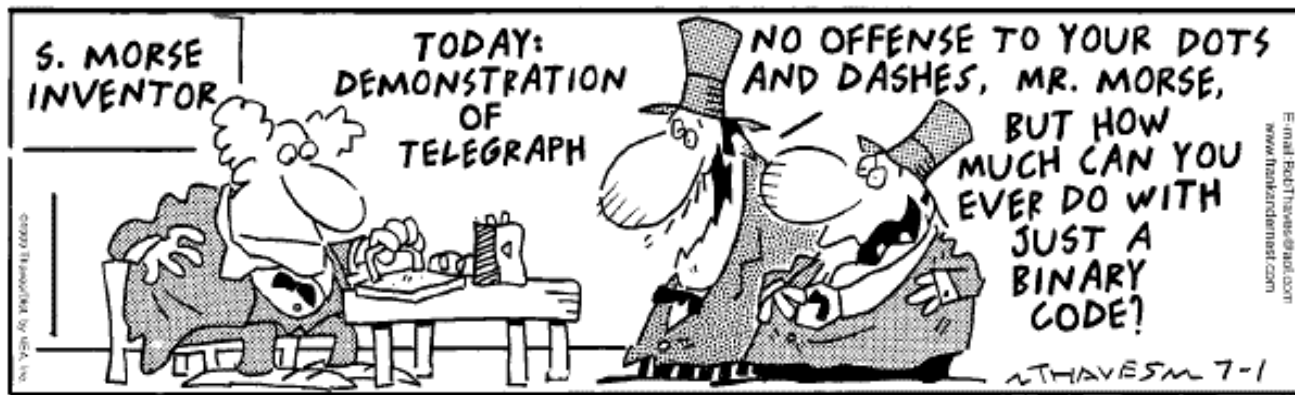
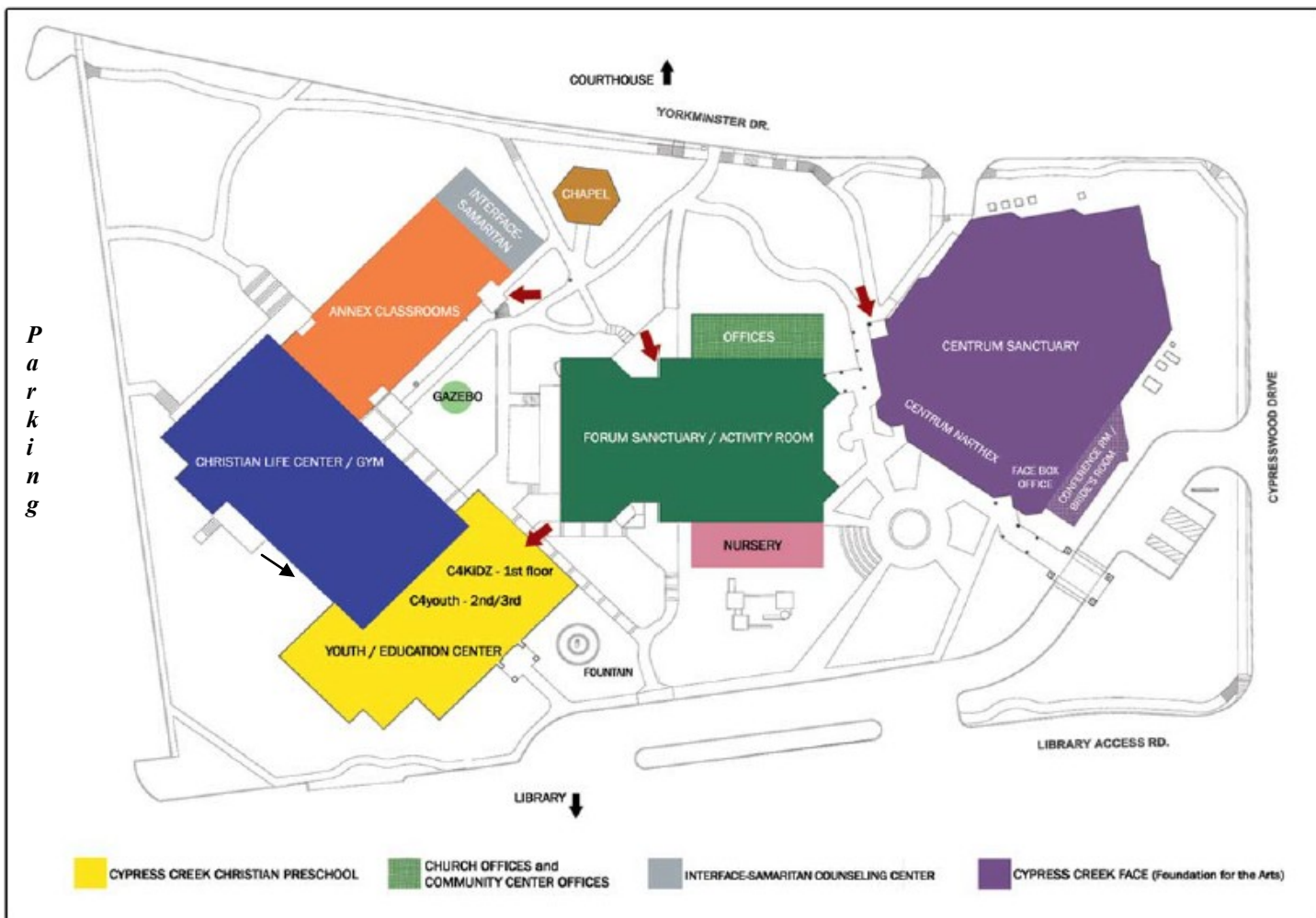
Oops!

In the March issue of the NARS News, page 6, we inadvertently failed to credit the author of the article, "Why Modern Makers Are Bringing Back Ham Radio," written by Wayne Rash, columnist for **eWeek**. Sorry, Wayne. Our editor was severely reprimanded and restricted to no more than two double mocha cappuccinos a day....

In case you missed it, NARS moved to a new building last month!

Yes, we are still meeting at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center as before, but we have now moved to the Youth/Education Center building across from the Barbara Bush Library as of Friday, March 18. We'll have greater privacy there, a screen for our visual presentations and easier access for those with physical limitations. The room, #203, is located on the second floor and is accessible by an elevator or staircase. Restrooms are situated directly across from the classroom, and yes, we will still be able to brew our coffee as before. Entrance to the building is shown as indicated by the arrow and close to the elevator, although there will be an additional entrance at the opposite end of the building near the parking area.

If you inadvertently go to the former Annex building, someone there can direct you to the Youth/Ed building next door.



Credit Card Scam

The ARRL has received a report of a "phishing" attempt to illegally obtain credit card information from a member. The caller told the member that they needed \$75 to "get his QST" and asked the member to provide their credit card number over the phone to complete the transaction.

While this is the only report we have at this time, attempts like these are becoming more and more frequent. Members should understand that ARRL would never contact you and ask for credit card information over the phone. If you receive a phone call that is suspicious, you can contact ARRL at 1-888-277-5289 to report it.

An armchair discussion on Dx

Our esteemed editor has put out a plea for some addition to his monthly mishs-mash of NARS news. He is pleading for some poor soul to expound on the topic of DX on a monthly basis.

DX is a daily basis. From day to day it changes. When the sun has acne, conditions for DX are good. When the sun bathes in Clearsil, things go downhill fast. Add to that, if you are all set to get that new rare station, and the weather patterns have decided that it would be best if you had thunderstorms for three solid days, your Dxing day is doomed.

Many DX articles present the reader with upcoming Dxpeditions. I would rather expound on what this thing we call Dxing is all about. Considering the lag from composing to editing to publishing and then getting delivered via email or real mail, it's easy to see how some of that information can quickly become useless.

And so the primer begins.... ↓

The DX Century Club (DXCC) is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It is easily the most prestigious award in ham radio. The initial award is issued for confirming contacts with one hundred different countries, as compiled by the ARRL. These aren't countries as decreed by the United Nations, but rather through a system of rules that are part of the DXCC, and these have changed over the years. To make sense of the DXCC rules that establish countries are very much beyond the scope of this writing. If you work all states (WAS) you have worked three countries. USA, Alaska and Hawaii.

There are currently 340 entities on the DXCC list. This is subject to change as political dynamics take place. Kosovo is not currently a country. With the breakup of Yugoslavia several years back, Serbia was one of the new countries that evolved. Kosovo has declared its independence, but so far, it has not been recognized as a separate country. I don't want to get into international politics, but I think the addition of Kosovo in the near future is likely.

NARS has several members who are on the DXCC Honor Roll. To get on the Honor Roll, you have to have confirmed at least 330 of the current countries list. We have a few are Number 1, which means they have all 340 countries confirmed. If you ask any of them, they will all impart the biggest secret to success. Get on the air. Listen...Listen...Listen. Most success is from being on as much as you can. Several have told me that they were close to the top, but were out of town when the last Dxpedition to a specific country was active. Wouldn't you know it...I cobble together this little piece and the ARRL decides to delete a country. Since I started this Kingman Reef has been deleted! Here I'm thinking were going to get Kosovo added and we go the other way!

Life has a way of getting in the way. You may be sent on an overseas assignment, or a transfer to another city where you can't get on the air. Family obligations arise. Ham radio is fun. Dxing is great. But family come first. Don't emerge from your ham shack only to discover that your little kids are now teens, or off to college. By all means – You must ensure domestic tranquility.

NARS Board Meeting Action

Tuesday, Mar 29, 2016, 7:17061 Rolling Creek Dr
Houston, TX 770903pm Ponderosa Fire Department Headquarters – Station
61,281-444-8465

Membership Meeting Programs Planned:

Richard Nelson KF5WRD has completed 2016 program plans.
Completed

Feb – TQP Final Results

Mar – DVD showing of K1N Navassa Island DXpedition 2015

Proposed

Apr – Solar Weather & Propagation (Richard Nelson KF5WRD)

May – Field Day Preliminary Planning (George Paxson AG5CZ)

Jun – Field Day Final Planning (George Paxson AG5CZ)

Jul – ARES (George Edwards K5VUU)

Aug – AMSAT (Andy Macalister W5ACM)

Sep – Texas QSO Party 2016 Preparation (Keith Dutson NM5G)

Oct – BSA Jamboree on the Air (Les Mignerey KB0MEF)

Nov – Elections, TQP 2016 preliminary results, Awards Banquet 2017
Announcement

Dec – K5ZTY Annual Show and Tell

Jan 2017 – Awards Banquet

Board members asked to canvas membership for ideas and suggestions.

Old Business:

Boy Scouts Support: motion passed to provide official NARS support.

Ham Class 2016-1: obtained VE team for April 9 at 2:30pm.

Field Day: recognized George Paxson as coordinator.

Newsletter Board Action Report: to be posted in each newsletter.

Equipment Inventory: tabled until April after Ron Horton KF5LFL has completed review.

Equipment Insurance: will not be obtained.

Meeting Place 2017: search terminated, current location suitable for 2017

New Business:

Mike Bowen N8ILU will update ARRL web site for affiliate club information.

Board meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month. Members may attend to observe and/or present requests for action. See any board member for more information. Visit <http://www.w5nc.net/> for current club information.

Until Next Time, **Grumpy**

What is ARES George Edwards K5VUU, reporting

Part 1 – Introduction and Overview – How is ARES Organized?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service, (ARES) is a part of the field organization of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators. The League represents Amateur Radio interests to regulatory bodies, provides technical advice and assistance to Amateur Radio enthusiasts and supports a number of educational programs throughout the country. ARRL is a non-profit organization and has a membership of approximately 156,000.

The ARRL has 120 full- and part-time staff members. The field organization of the ARRL is broken down into fifteen (15) Divisions which are further broken down into a total of seventy-one (71) administrative sections. Each division has a Director, and Vice Directors as appropriate. Each section has a Manager, who then appoints other assistants and coordinators to assist them in fulfilling their role. One of those positions is the Section Emergency Coordinator who is responsible for all emergency communications and ARES within their section.



The sections are then divided down into even smaller areas called districts. The SEC appoints District Emergency Coordinators who are responsible for their particular district. Districts are generally further divided down by counties, or in the case of Harris County (TX) which is its own district, units specifically targeting a geographic area or task. Each County, or unit will have an Emergency Coordinator and assistants who are responsible for emergency communications for that unit.

Amateur Radio During and After Disasters:

Amateur Radio operators set up and operate organized communication networks locally for governmental and emergency officials, as well as non-commercial communication for private citizens affected by the disaster. Amateur Radio operators are most likely to be active after disasters that damage regular lines of communications due to power outages and destruction of telephone, cellular and other infrastructure-dependent systems.

Amateur Radio Operators Help Local Officials:

Many radio amateurs are active as communications volunteers with local public safety organizations. In addition, in some disasters, radio frequencies are not coordinated among relief officials and Amateur Radio operators step in to coordinate communication when radio towers and other elements in the communications infrastructure are damaged.

Major Amateur Radio Emergency Organizations:

Amateur Radio operators have informal and formal groups to coordinate communication during emergencies. At the local level, hams may participate in local emergency organizations,

or organize local "traffic nets." "At the state level, hams are often involved with state emergency management operations. In addition, hams operate at the national level through the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which is coordinated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), which is coordinated through the American Radio Relay League and its field volunteers.

Nationally, Amateur Radio Is Recognized as a Resource by National Relief Organizations.

Many national organizations have formal agreements with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other Amateur Radio groups including:

- Citizen Corps - Department of Homeland Security
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Communications System
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- National Traffic System
- National Weather Service
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials

Coming up next month – Part 2 - Harris County ARES - West Gulf Division / South Texas Section / District 14

NARS in rewind.... June 2006

Some of us can remember when NARS had a meeting featuring George Pierce W5GFP and his array of radio controlled model aircraft. Quite a few were on display but unfortunately very little details are now available of that event. We were meeting at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church at that time and if I'm not mistaken, we had George demo some of his radio controlled helicopters outside under the church pavilion.

That was George on the left with Billy Denton W5SB in the background. Don't recall who the young lady was, maybe George's daughter?



Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members,
Stuart Spreen, Sean Ramsey KG5IRM, Lance Clarke KB5UC
& Bob Schmanski KG5JWV

NARS Resource list

General help:

Allen Majeski WA5REJ
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

281 292-2221 rwalworth@charter.net

NARS Public Info. Officer

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

NARS Information

President & Board Chairman

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keith1@dutson1.net

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Deral Kent K5WNO
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Mike Bowen N8ILU
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mike5664g@yahoo.com

Administrative & General Info.

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

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. 146.760, tone 103.5
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 6504 FM 2920, Spring
(Just a few blocks west of Kuykendahl)

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.