



# NARS NEWS

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

### VE License Exam:

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

### Lunch Break—North

July 6, Panera Bread  
July 13, Jason's Deli  
July 20, Baker Street Pub  
July 27, Sweet Tomatoes  
Aug 3, BJ's Brewery  
Aug 10, Gianna's

### .Lunch Break—Medical Center

July 6, Silver Palace Chinese Buffet  
July 13, Pappas BBQ  
July 20, Morningside Thai  
July 27, Pronto Cucinino  
Aug 3, Jason;s Deli  
Aug 10, Buffalo Grille  
Aug 17 Southwell's Hamburger 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,  
August 18th  
A program on  
AMSAT  
Presented by  
Andy MacAllister W5CAM*



*Come early, Seating limited.*

### Coming attractions:

*September*

*Get ready for TQP 2016! by Keith Dutson NM5G*

*October*

*BSA Jamboree on the air, by Les Mignerey KB0MEF  
Original Modes & Raspberry Pi, by Skip Ferguson K5LLR*

**Breakfast at  
Denny's  
Saturdays, 7 a.m.  
6504 FM 2920, Spring, TX  
Just a few blocks west of  
Kuykendahl at the intersection of**

## Saturday, Jul 23 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital

We had 7 candidates taking 7 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 2; passed 1

Element 3 tests given: 4; passed 4

Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

Gary Greer N5EXP - upgrade to Extra

Garret Ryon - new Tech

Terry Hinton KG5NQC - upgrade to General

Gravan Rorie KG5NQB - upgrade to General

Randy Handley KC6WYH - upgrade to General

Bradford Peck KE5TUD - upgrade to General

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS (acting session mgr)

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ

Ron Horton KF5LFL

Mike Bragassa K5UO

William Hielscher KG5WPH

Ron Matussek WA6TQH

Skip Ferguson K5LLR

Mike Bowen N8ILU

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, Aug 27, 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

NARS VE Session Manager

## President's Report –

### Repeater status:

I get a lot of questions about status of the NARS repeater.

As reported last month, NARS is getting a new Yaesu Fusion DR-1X repeater. It was ordered in June, but nothing has been seen so far. This new repeater will be installed in my shack and connected to an antenna placed on the 150-foot tower. The repeater will handle both traditional FM analog transmissions, plus three other digital transmissions under the C4FM modulation specification.

I currently have two Yaesu transceivers capable of C4FM operation. I expect to use them to test the new repeater. I would like to hear from others if they can help in testing.

Meanwhile, the NARS downtown repeater is in need of maintenance, to move the antenna away from the digital interference that renders it unusable. Hopefully, this maintenance can be scheduled soon. Let me know if you are available to help with this maintenance.

Also, the “hot standby” repeater at Stagecoach is functional, but does not cover all NARS members. Finally, there is another repeater here at the shack that can be used as a backup.

Here is a summary of all repeaters to be available to NARS members:

146.660=, tone 141.3 – Houston, ID KA5AKG - Motorola

146.660=, tone 100.0 – Stagecoach, ID NM5G – Kenwood (hot standby)

146.660=, tone 77.0 – Tomball, ID W5NC – Yaesu (digital)

146.660=, tone 77.0 – Tomball, ID NM5G – Kenwood (backup)

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

## HOUSTON AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY, INC.

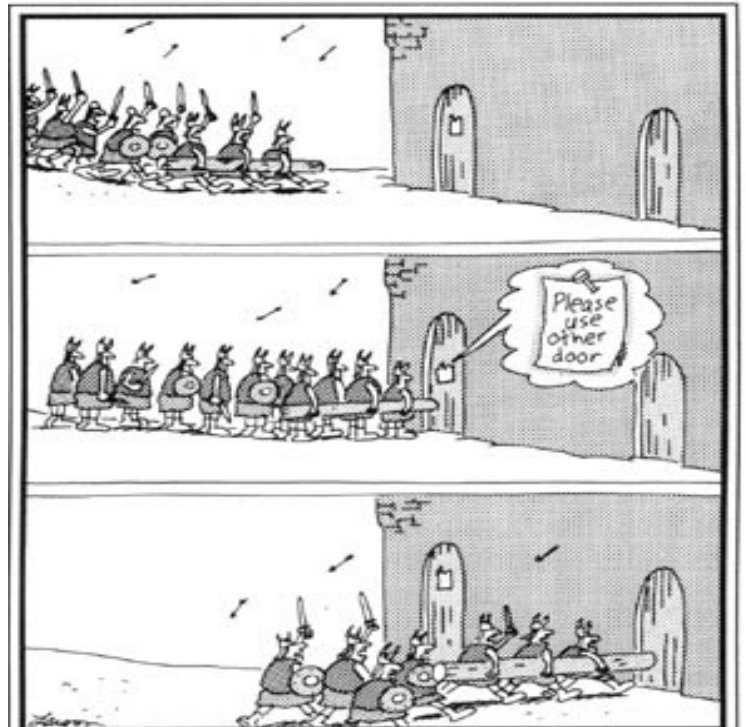
HAM | CB | COMMERCIAL | DIGITAL SCANNERS | ELECTRONICS  
RETAIL | REPAIR | CONSIGNMENT | INSTALLATION

houstonamateurradiosupply.com

**Dave McCombs, NA5CW**  
Owner

281-355-7373  
contact@harsradio.com

2558 E. FM 1960 Rd.  
Houston, TX 77073



## *Dxing in the Heat of Summer*

*By the Grumpy ol Ham*

Yes – It's August. Yes it's hot outside. And, unfortunately, there are still no decent freckles on the SUN! There's still DX out there, but few and far between. Looking at my DX Cluster website that I use, I see more postings for National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) than countries. At least, that gives us some challenge for improving our operating skills, so I can commend and not condemn the program.

So, what's an aspiring DXer to do? The only and obvious answer is to work DX! With lousy propagation, there is still some DX challenge available. What comes to mind, right off the bat is the Worked All Continents Award. It's not a glorious award, but it's one a beginner DXer should have on his/her wall. Work and confirm contacts with North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Even with poor conditions, North and South America are chip shots. Aruba, P40, counts as South America and it's only 2,000 miles away. Next is Oceania, which covers the Pacific Ocean, from Australia up to Hawaii. Obviously, KH6, Hawaii is a fairly easy choice, only 4,000 miles away. Next on the list is Europe. It's densely populated, so if the bands are open in that direction, you should be able to score that continent.

The two toughies are Africa and Asia. Africa is sparsely populated, but there is activity on the northwestern part, which is to our advantage. Madeira Islands CT3 and Cape Verde, D4 are only 4500 miles away and are active. Cape Verde is mostly active in contests with mega-stations built by visiting European contesters. Bringing up the rear is Asia. It's so big, and so far away. Japan is densely populated and has a very active ham population. That said, they're still 6,500 miles away. Instead of northwest, look northeast for Israel, 4X. Unfortunately, it's about 6,500 away too.

So, there's the challenge for the summer. WAC award. It can be done, and enjoy the chase. Oh, you already have WAC? Expand the challenge and see how fast you can work WAC. How fast on one band? There are lots of ways to expand the challenge, but it is a way to keep your DX interest up. Unlike the editor of CQ magazine said in his editorial "take advantage of the summer weather and get outdoors with your ham gear" New Yawkers need to come to Texas and see how much fun it can be to melt with your first step outside.

*Grumpy*



## *THE WORLD OF DX*

In the world of DX, two members of the Ukrainian DX Team, operators Alex/UX0LL and Alex/UT5UY, will be on the air as 5H1XX from Zanzibar Island between August 13th and August 22nd. They can be heard on various bands and modes. Send QSLs to M-Zero-URX.

The Essex UK based Martello Tower Group will be operating the special event station GB5RC ( G-B-5 Radio Caroline) from August 5th to the 8th on-board the MV Ross Revenge in the River Blackwater to commemorate five decades of offshore radio broadcasting in the UK . The group will be active on 40 to 10metres with full UK legal output power. A special QSL card will be available.

Listen for operators Dietmar/DL3DXX, Rene/DL2JRM, Kurt/DJ4XX and Robin/DO2XX working as OJ0DX from Market Reef between August 11th and 16th. They will be transmitting on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They also have plans to be in the Worked All Europe CW Contest that takes place August 13th and 14th. Send QSLs to DL3DXX.

A special event station, operated by a team of Cuban amateurs will be on the air between August 11th and 14th. The call sign is T42FRC. Listen for them on 160-10 meters where they will be using CW, SSB, PSK31, PSK63, PSK125, RTTY and JT65. Send QSLs to CO2WL.

### *Amateur Radio Alive and Well in Turkey*

Contrary to erroneous reports making the rounds on various Internet sites, *no* Amateur Radio licenses were suspended or revoked in Turkey in the wake of the failed July 15 coup. "There is no ham radio license revoked in Turkey, and ham radio operators are operating normally," said Aziz Sasa, TA1E, the president of Turkey's International Amateur Radio Union member society TRAC. "The reports on ham radio licenses being revoked by the Supreme Council of Radio and Television (RTUK) are unconfirmed and speculative. RTUK is not a regulatory body of ham radio," Sasa added. His entire statement has been posted to the TRAC website.

The erroneous reports cite a release from RTUK, which oversees



broadcasting. Amateur Radio and other wireless industries are regulated by BTK, a separate agency. Three stations in Turkey were reported heard on 10 meters during an opening to Central Europe on July 21 — TA1BM, TA1PB, and YM7TEN/B.

The erroneous story said the revocation information had come from TRAC, but gave a URL belonging to an altogether unrelated organization with a similar URL. The same false story included a concocted "warning" to radio amateurs attributed to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. TRAC the IARU member society has not been closed, nor has its website been blocked or shut down.

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## ***Future FAA Rules Could Affect Some Amateur Radio Antenna Support Structures***

Yet-to-be-developed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules stemming from the recent passage in Congress of H.R. 636, the FAA Reauthorization Act, could pose additional marking requirements for a small number of Amateur Radio towers. The bill instructs the FAA to enact rules similar to state-level statutes now in place that are aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of meteorological evaluation towers (METs) set up in rural areas.

In the wake of fatal crop dusting aircraft collisions with METs, often erected on short notice, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended in 2013 that states enact laws -- sometimes called "crop duster" statutes -- requiring marking and registration of METs.

While some state crop duster laws exempt ham radio towers, the federal legislation does not. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said, however, that the list of exemptions in the federal legislation restricts application of the new rules to a very small subset of Amateur Radio towers.

"The FAA Reauthorization Act has very little application to Amateur Radio antennas. We will have a good opportunity to address the final FAA rules through the normal rulemaking process," Imlay said. "We'll be meeting soon with FAA officials to learn their intentions as well as to advance our own concerns to the agency. Uniform federal regulation is beneficial to hams, because it eliminates a patchwork of state statutes that can impose significant constraints on ham antennas in rural and agricultural areas."

The FAA Reauthorization Act gives the FAA 1 year to issue regulations requiring the marking of towers covered by the new legislation.

Marking of towers covered by the legislation will be in the form of painting and lighting in accordance with current FAA guidelines.

The law covers towers that are "self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground anchors;" are 10 feet or less in diameter at the above-ground



base, excluding concrete footings; are between 50 feet above ground level at the highest point and not more than 200 feet above ground level; have accessory facilities on which an antenna, sensor, camera, meteorological instrument, or other equipment is mounted, and are located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town or on land that is undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes.

Imlay said the law excludes towers erected adjacent to a house, barn, electric utility station, or other building, or within the curtilage (enclosed area occupied by a dwelling, grounds, and outbuildings) of a farmstead, among other exclusions.

"We do not anticipate that a significant number of Amateur Radio antennas will be subject to these rules," Imlay said, "but we need to monitor the FAA rulemaking process carefully to head off requirements that could put the cost of installing and maintaining affected structures out of any reasonable reach.

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### ***NARS in rewind... January 1998***

#### **President's Corner**

*by... Jim Kirk - KJ5X*

Happy New Year. We've gone on to that irresistible temptress 1998. However, it seems to me that a lot of NARS folks enjoyed themselves in 1997. One can recall the many good times at the Wednesday lunches, the Saturday breakfasts, the spring picnic and the monthly meetings.

There was the contesting fun (including 4th place out of over 500 in Field Day class 2A) and the satisfaction of helping out with communications at civic events. There was also the joy of 25 new hams "graduating" from the NARS novice school, and there were the grins of the many new hams who passed at the NARS VE test sessions. I hope you enjoyed the year as much as I did.

As usual, the December Home Brew Night was a lot of fun with many remarkably good entries. Congratulations to Bill K5ZTY for his "Best in Show" award and to Jack WA8GHZ for his "Most Creative" award. We are long on talent in NARS it appears. Remember the NARS banquet at 7 PM, January 16, at the Valley Ranch Barbecue Restaurant. It's a fun event with good food, nice door prizes, awards, snappy patter and lots more.

You may have noticed some deliberate interference with your '66 repeater communications from time to time. The best way to deal with this is to ignore it. If it's so bad that communication can't be maintained, go to simplex or another repeater or just be patient. Do not talk on the frequency at any length about the interference or attempt to tell the individual what a sorry-sick-screwball he is. That will only enforce his notion that he has the power to do something that is noticed. Besides, the interference usually doesn't last long and if it does, the perpetrator's days on the air are numbered.

Best wishes to you for a super 1998. And thanks to all who gave their time and talent to make the 1997 NARS experience the great one it was.

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Congratulations on the following upgrades:  
Karl Baltz KG5NNG, Gary Greer N5EXP, Randy Handley KC6WYH,  
& New Member, Jim Arpey

## 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

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### Administrative & General Info.

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Send changes in address, phone, or email to:

NARS  
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.