



# NARS NEWS

June 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, June 28, 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.

**Note: There will be no license exam  
in June due to Field Day operations**

### Lunch Break—North

May 25, Baker Street Pub  
June 1, Sweet Tomatoes  
June 8, BJ's Brewery  
June 15, Gianna's  
June 22, Spring Creek BBQ  
June 29, PeiWei  
July 6, Panera Bread

### Lunch Break—Medical Center

June 1, Morningside Thai  
June 8, Pronto Cucinino  
June 15, Jason's Deli  
June 22, Buffale grille  
June 29, Southwell's Hamburger Grill  
July 6, Silver Palace Chinese Buffet  
**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.

## Field Day Final Planning Friday, June 17th.



*George Paxson AG5CZ,  
presiding.*

***“June 25, 26 - The countdown begins!”***

....See Site map on page 7

**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, May 28 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital

We had 6 candidates taking 7 tests.  
Element 2 tests given: 2; passed 2  
Element 3 tests given: 2; passed 2  
Element 4 tests given: 3; passed 3

### Congratulations to:

Thomas Greathouse KG5KOD - upgrade to Extra  
Mark Allen - new General  
Sarah Brown KF5LFL - upgrade to Extra  
Sable Needham - new Tech  
Darryl Gunter KG5KOS - upgrade to Extra  
Mark Koelmel KG5JFT - upgrade to General

### Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS  
Ron Horton KF5LFL

Thanks also to Skip Ferguson K5LLR and Mike Bragassa K5UO who volunteered, but were not able to attend because of flooding.

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

**\*NOTE\* There will be no session in June because of Field Day.**

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

**Tuesday, May 31, 2016, 7:30pm**  
**Ponderosa Fire Department Headquarters – Station 61**  
**17061 Rolling Creek Dr**  
**Houston, TX**

### President's Report

Keith NM5G gave a report from his trip to Dayton for Hamvention 2916. He served at the K2BSA booth within the ARRL section. He urged all Board members to become proactive in recruiting Boy Scouts into ham radio. The earliest opportunity is inviting scouts to the GOTA station operated during Field Day.

### Membership:

Membership currently at 120.  
New NARS brochures are now available.

### Membership Meeting Programs Planned:

#### Completed

Feb – TQP Final Results  
Mar – DVD showing of K1N Navassa Island DXpedition 2015  
Apr – Solar Weather & Propagation (Richard Nelson KF5WRD)  
May – Field Day Preliminary Planning (George Paxson AG5CZ)  
Proposed  
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)  
Digital Modes and Raspberry Pi (Skip Ferguson K5LLR)  
Nov – Elections, TQP 2016 preliminary results, Awards Banquet 2017 Announcement  
Dec – K5ZTY Annual Show and Tell  
Jan 2017 – Awards Banquet

### Old Business:

Field Day – meeting went well, supplies ordered and received from ARRL  
Equipment Inventory – no report  
Update Affiliated Club Info on ARRL web site – completed  
Mike Bowen N8ILU unable to order more flyers from ARRL to continue QST distribution project

### New Business:

none

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.



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

**HOUSTON**  
AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY, INC.

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

[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

## What is ARES?

- George Edwards K5VUU reporting

### Part 3 – How can I participate?

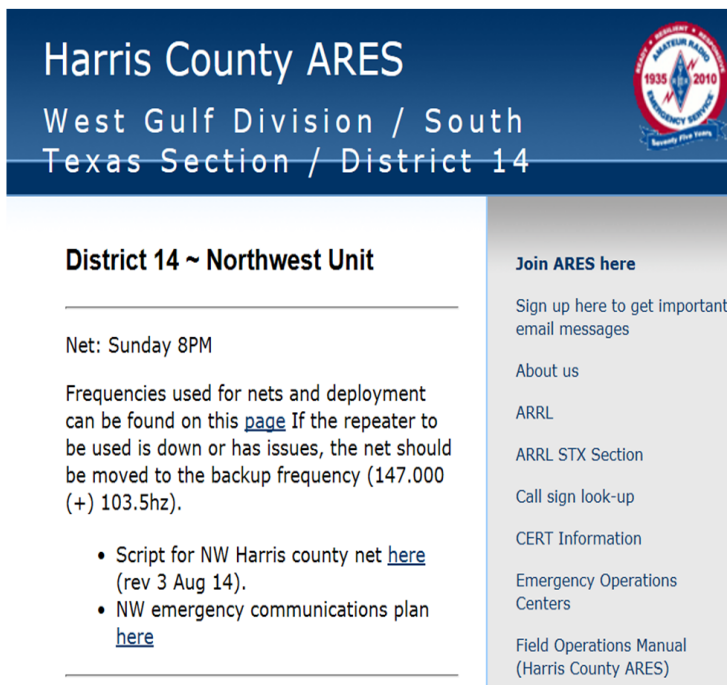
Follow these steps to become an ARES Member of the:

Harris County ARES West Gulf Division / South Texas Section / District 14

NARS Members have historically affiliated with the District 14 / Northwest Unit.

To find the information and links to become an ARES Member go to the following link:

<http://harriscountyares.org/nw/dist14nw.htm> and select the "Join ARES here" box.



The screenshot shows the Harris County ARES website. The header includes the text "Harris County ARES West Gulf Division / South Texas Section / District 14" and a logo for the Harris County Emergency Services Authority. The main content area is titled "District 14 ~ Northwest Unit" and lists the net time as "Sunday 8PM". It provides information on frequencies and deployment, and includes a list of links for further information: "Script for NW Harris county net here (rev 3 Aug 14)", "NW emergency communications plan here", "Join ARES here", "Sign up here to get important email messages", "About us", "ARRL", "ARRL STX Section", "Call sign look-up", "CERT Information", "Emergency Operations Centers", and "Field Operations Manual (Harris County ARES)".

**This will take you to the following page of instructions. To become a member of Harris County ARES and receive a Harris County ARES badge you must;**

- Possess a valid amateur radio license  
Possess sincere desire to serve communications duty in the public service

- We also need you to do two things;  
The first is to submit an on-line [FSD-98](#) with the South Texas Section of the ARRL. Click on "Register New Member"  
The second is to join the [email list](#). This email list generates very few emails so it will not load your inbox up with mindless discussion but will always be of information that is important to the mission of Harris County ARES.

### Membership.

There are three levels of membership based upon individual achievement level.

While not required by the ARRL to be a Basic ARES member, many of our served agencies may require you to have taken the FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 incident command courses in order to serve even as a communications volunteer. These courses are **FREE** and only take an hour or two each to complete. Once completed add them to your training records in the [STX Info](#)

Depot. Because both FEMA and the ARRL keep moving things around on their web-sites links to those are no longer provided. Use your favorite internet search engine and simply put in the course description and you will quickly find it.

**Basic membership.** All that is required to be a basic member is to have an amateur radio license and join ARES.

**Intermediate Membership.** To be considered an intermediate member once must fulfill the requirements for the Basic membership plus;

- Education
  - FEMA IS-100 Course - Introduction to Incident Command System
  - FEMA IS-200 Course - Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
  - FEMA IS-700 Course - National Incident Management System (NIMS)
  - NWS - Skywarn class
- Participation
  - Net Participation (once quarterly)
  - SET / HURREX or similar drill
- Proficiency / Skill
  - Obtain Training Task Book
  - Program tone into HT
  - Program freq & offset into radio
  - Write and send an ICS-213 message
  - Operate VHF winlink station
  - Setup mobile radio into cross bandAssemble a 24 hour go-kit

**Advanced Membership.** To be considered an advanced member once must fulfill the requirements for the Basic & Intermediate membership plus;

- Education
  - FEMA IS-800 Course - National Response Framework
  - FEMA IS-802 Course - ESF #2 - Communications
  - ARRL EC-001 - Introduction to emergency communication
- Participation
  - Directed net participation
  - Public Service Event Once annually
  - SET or similar exercise (Bi-Annually)Serve as Net Control
- Leadership
  - Present a training session
- Proficiency / Skill
  - General Class license or higher
  - Proficient in ICS forms
  - Operate winlink peer-to-peer
  - Assemble power polesBuild simple dipole

*Coming up next month – Part 4 – Continuing Education in Emergency Management*



## The Redd School Lab Rats do it again!

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, along with other Narsians decided the Redd School kids were up to taking on a more complex kit by putting together an AM radio receiver. More complex soldering and positioning of small components showed that these kids were up to the task. Six receiver kits were assembled and, you know, they all worked as designed!



## NARS in rewind.... Field Day 2003

As with every Field Day the fun and success would not have been possible without everyone acting as One Big Team! For that, I thank all that participated. Greg Erlinbusch W5IDX the coordinator for this year, George and Zack Levandoski KD5AYF, the big red & white tent really made the weekend; Ken Harlan KA5AKG; Without "Genny," we would not have any power for radios, lights, coffee, etc. So many more made up the team that made it possible. And last, but by no means least, all the volunteers that helped with setup and take-down.



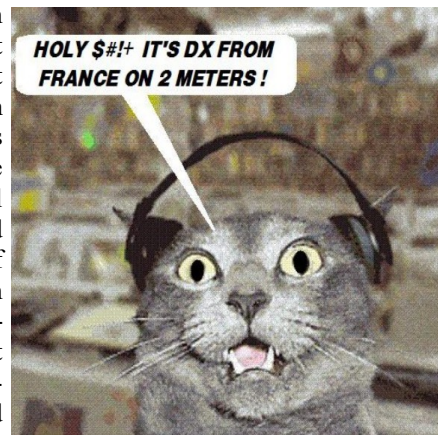
73 — and .... Only 11 1/2 months until next Field Day!  
Bruce NILN

## Signal bounced from ISS heard across the Atlantic

2 meter signal from the UK, reflected off the structure of the International Space Station (ISS) on May 2, was heard across the Atlantic. Following 2 weeks of preparation, Tim Fern, G4LOH, in Cornwall (IO70jc) and Roger Sturtevant, VE1SKY, in Nova Scotia (FN74iu) attempted a FSK441 contact.

Employing AMSAT satellite software, both stations aimed at the calculated grid HO11nl for a 144.175 MHz contact attempt with a mutual window of less than 1 minute. VE1SKY was able to copy G4LOH at a distance of 4441 kilometers (approximately 2753 miles). This was the first signal received via ISS bounce from Europe to North America, and the first intentional signal heard via ISS reflection in any direction across the North or South Atlantic. The reception is being verified as a possible DX record for satellite reflection. Transmitting in CW, Fern, operating as GK4LOH, has since been received twice in the much-closer GN37 grid by VO1HP at VO1FN in Newfoundland.

In 2014, RSGB VHF Manager John Regnault, G4SWX, received a 2 meter signal from VC1T, where a team, was trying to win the Brendan Trophy for the first transatlantic contact on 144 MHz. Upon investigation, it was determined that the VC1T FSK441 signal that G4SWX heard had also bounced off the ISS rather than via terrestrial propagation and would not qualify for the Brendan Trophy, offered by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS). The Brendan Trophy will recognize the first "traditional mode" two-way contact (ie, SSB or CW) capable of being copied without machine assistance.



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ARRL News

## Why do we say it?

"Hey, Dude, nice earring on your nose.... "

"Duds" are our clothes from the Middle English word *dudde* meaning "to dress." The Easterner who goes West dresses himself in fancy "duds" and to Westerners seems to pose or strike an attitude. Dude is "dud" plus "attitude. Kind of fits today, doesn't it? Anyone who doesn't dress as you do has to be a Dude!

# DX Bits and Tidbits

by the Grumpy ol' Ham

It's time for a Field Day issue of this little DX ditty. Needless to say, DX and Field Day are not really a match in the normal sense. When I decided to scratch out some DX notes for NARS, my intention was not to do the typical "What's new" "What Freq" "When and Where." The club has a goodly number of DXers. Many are at or above 300 entities. They already have the Where, When and How figured out. I think I'm writing for the guy at the start of the DX adventure, as well as those who've been at it for a while, but not satisfied with their standings on the DXCC ladder.

Field Day is a domestic operating activity. There is some DX, but not that much to make it interesting. What I want to focus on, is what's going on out at the Field Day site. There are several hams in our club that don't have much in the way of an HF antenna. Get out and see what some wire antennas can do! In Field Days past, the club was filled with DXers and Contesters and the goal was to work any and all. Tri-band yagis were erected on towers. Satellite and VHF/UHF stations were manned and we boldly and loudly went to war with the other Field Day stations. Nowadays, we are lucky to have enough bodies to man two stations, and at that, just for a portion of the time allotted.



One of the benefits to the newbie is that our stations are much less intimidating. If you go out to see what is being done, you will see very simple antenna systems. The plan this year, as was done last year, is to use "Off Center Fed Dipoles." If you don't have an HF antenna at your house, look at this antenna as a possibility. If you have a peak to your roof, you have a center point to hang an antenna. It can really be a stealth antenna if you use small diameter wire. And the truth of the matter is, most folks won't notice it anyway.

You will not quickly run to the top of the DXCC Honor Roll, but you will be able to get a signal out of your backyard and into the backyard of someone in Europe, etc. If you have the time, I encourage you to visit other local Field Day sites. Look at the antenna installations. Ask questions. Find something that you can use to stop being an SWL and get your ham license wet!

## THE WORLD OF DX

Looking for someone to work? Check these out!

Dave, GM0LVI, is working between June 17th and July 6th as SV8/GM0LVI/P from Zakynthos Island. He will operate holiday style using 10 watts. QSL via GM0LVI, direct or by the Bureau. He is not accepting LoTW.

Hans, DK3PZ, will be on the air from June 11th to June 18th as LA/DK3PZ from Rennesoy Island. He will be working the bands holiday style. Send QSLs via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

Mike, DG5LAC, is active on SSB through June 18 as EA8/DG5LAC from Fuerteventura Island. Find him on 40 through 10 meters. Send QSLs via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW or eQSL.

Members of a South Korean Amateur Radio Club will use the call sign 6M6M from Jeju Island between June 23rd and June 26th. Find the club on 6 meters only using CW, SSB, FM and the Digital modes. QSL via HL2UVH.

## PROGRESS ON HR 1301

Trying to hammer out acceptable language for the Amateur Radio Parity Act hasn't been easy. But the ARRL and the organization representing homeowners associations have helped fashion an amended bill with input from congressional staffers that would permit outdoor antennas to be installed in communities with deed-restricted residential properties.



The homeowners group, called the Community Associations Institute, issued a statement expressing support for the amended language in the legislation, also known as HR 1301. And Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, the ARRL Hudson Division Director and Legislative Affairs Committee Chairman, also noted he was pleased with the agreement - but stressed that some matters still need to be worked on. Congress is expected to act on the bill sometime this year.

(ARRL)





## President's Report - Field Day Planning II

Field Day setup begins Friday, June 24, 1:00 PM at Burroughs Park. Operations begin 24 hours later. We need operators for both CW and SSB stations. We also need to recruit Boy Scouts and other young persons to participate at the GOTA station.

Class 2A allows separate stations for phone and CW. Also, a separate GOTA station may be used to demonstrate Amateur radio operation to new hams licensed in the past year, plus non-licensed persons who would like to experience an actual on-the-air contact. This is a great opportunity for new prospects, especially scouts.

### Here is a repeat from last month:

Field Day 2016 coordinator: George Paxson AG5CZ.

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 are fortunate to have Ron KF5LFL as SSB station captain, Keith NM5G as CW station captain, and Beth KE5IOU as GOTA station captain.

The trip to Dayton for Hamvention 2016 was, as in past years, a new experience for me. I manned the K2BSA booth, within the ARRL setup, from noon to 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 21. During that time, I learned the importance of the K2BSA organization. They are quite active in working with ARRL to get boy scouts active in ham radio. I soon realized this is a major portal to gain youth in our hobby. I believe NARS should pursue all means to help in K2BSA activities in our area. Our Board Member Les Mignerey KB0MEF is very active, and also on the Board of K2BSA. Please work with him with your ideas.

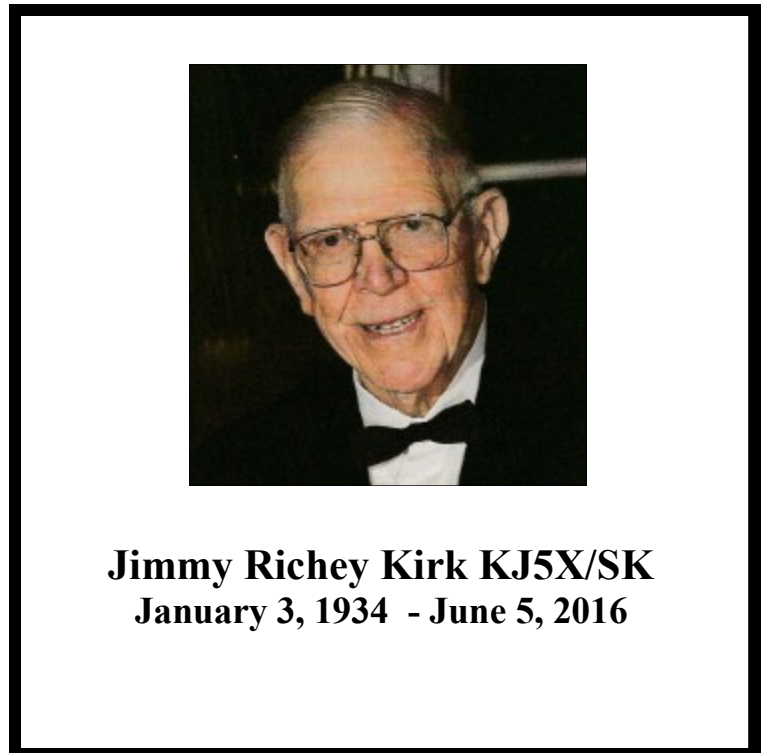
73, Keith Dutson NM5G



HamConvention 2016 — K2BSA Team

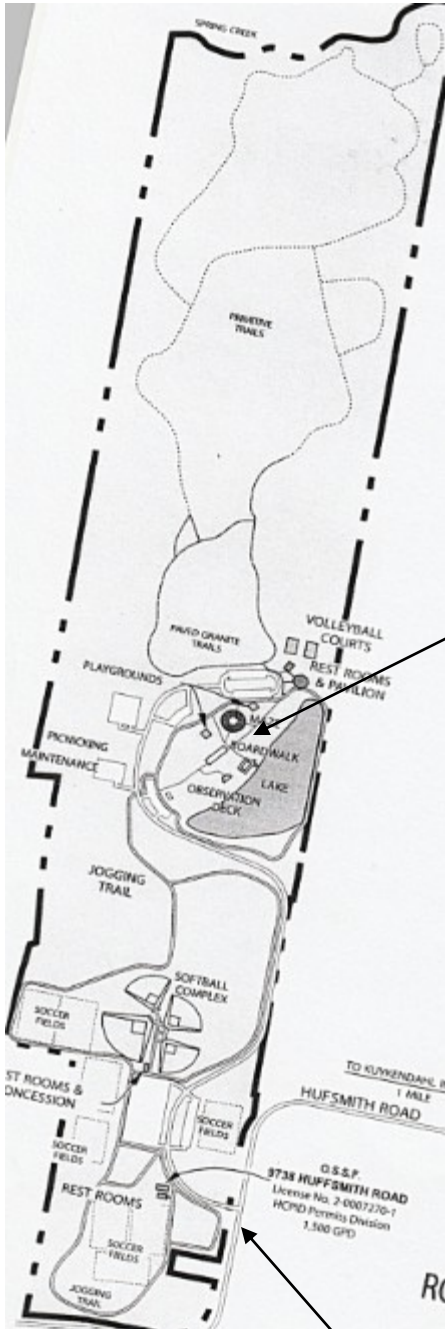


HamConvention — 2016  
Lim K5ND & Keith Dutson NM5G

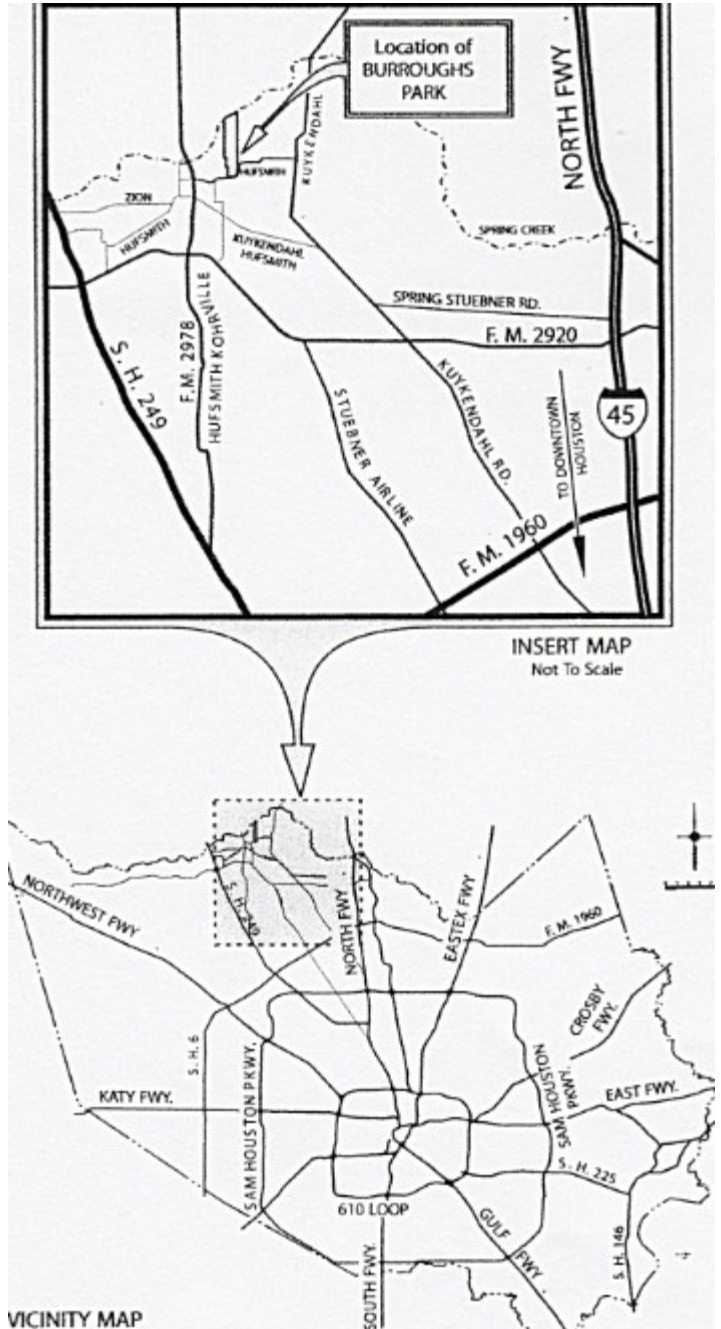


**Jimmy Richey Kirk KJ5X/SK**  
**January 3, 1934 - June 5, 2016**

**Field Day 2016 June 25 thru 26**  
**Burroughs Park, 9738 Hufsmith Road**  
**Site setup Friday, June 24, 1 pm.**



Field Day site



INSERT MAP  
Not To Scale

VICINITY MAP

Park entrance

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Congratulations on the following upgrades: Sarah Brown KF5LFL to Extra .

Welcome new member, John Hemphill K5TNA

Continued concerns for Sarah Connell W2AOV, who has major health problems and is now a resident of a Care Facility.

We regretfully announce the passing of Jimmy Kirk KJ5X /SK on June 5th , 2016

## 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

Keith Dutson NM5G  
281 516-1466  
keith1@dutson1.net

### Vice President

Richard Nelson KF5WRD  
281 257-1279  
Richard-nelson@hotmail.com

### Treasurer

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

### Secretary

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281 890-4538  
N5gps.tx@gmail.com

### Directors

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kb0mef@arrl.net

Ron Horton KF5LFL

281 890-4038

ron.horton88@gmail.com

Deral Kent K5WNO

281 548-7476

k5wno@juno.com

Mike Bowen N8ILU

281 954-0940

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. 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.