



May 2016

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, May 31, 2016, 7:30 pm.
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston

VE License Exam:

Saturday, May 28, 2016
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor,
Conference Room, 8:00 am.

Lunch Break—North

May 4, Pei Wei
May 11, Panera Bread
May 18, Jason's Deli
May 25, Baker Street Pub
June 1, Sweet Tomatoes
June 8, BJ's Brewery

Lunch Break—Medical Center

May 4, Buffalo Grille
May 11, Southwell's Burger Grille
May 18, Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
May 25, Pappa's BBQ
June 1, Morningside Thai
June 8, 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 anniver-
sary date.

**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 NEWS

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

May 20th Field Day Preliminary Planning



George Paxson AG5CZ

Field Day Coordinator,

**Will be highlighting plans for the
Field Day ops. On June 25-26.**

Field Day is but a few weeks away.

**Your participation is needed to make this operation
a success.**

NARS Board Meeting Action

Tuesday, Apr 26, 2016, 7:30pm
Ponderosa Fire Department Headquarters – Station 61
17061 Rolling Creek Dr
Houston, TX 77090
281-444-8465

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)

Proposed

- 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)
- 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 – no report
- Equipment Inventory – photos shown of recent inventory taken at NM5G QTH
- Update Affiliated Club Info on ARRL web site – in progress

New Business:

- Mike Bowen N8ILU will order more flyers from ARRL to continue QST distribution project
- Field Day supplies will be ordered from ARRL.

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.

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

President's Report - Field Day Planning

Field Day is less than two months away. At the last Board meeting there was much discussion about membership participation this year. As we progress in planning the 2A class setup and operation, the lower class 1A should be considered as a backup operating plan.

Class 1A allows only one station, with no extra Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station. This station would be shared for phone and CW operation. A separate VHF/UHF station is allowed, to operate above 50MHz.

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.

So, what will it be, 2A or 1A? Membership participation will provide the answer. Come to the next General Membership Meeting Friday, May 20, to participate in this decision.

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.

A part of my report from last month did not get published last month, so here it is again:

The March General Membership Meeting had excellent interest and attendance. Special thanks to Joe KD5KR for obtaining the new meeting room across from the library. We used the overhead projector and pull-down screen, and managed to get audio passed from the PC to the built-in sound system. Future meetings may use this equipment, eliminating the need for the NARS projector and portable screen, hauled around by our VP, Richard Nelson KF5WRD.

I will attend the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio. Richard Nelson will host the May meeting.

73, Keith Dutson NM5G

What is ARES?

- George Edwards KF5VUU reporting

Part 2 - Harris County ARES - West Gulf Division / South Texas Section / District 14

ARRL West Gulf Division / South Texas Section



Harris County ARES

West Gulf Division / South Texas Section / District 14

Harris County (TX) is a stand-alone District in the South Texas Section. The county is subdivided into four quadrants using IH-10 to the east and west, IH-45 to the north and Hwy 288 to the south as dividing lines. Each quadrant has an Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Emergency Coordinators as needed.

<u>Northwest</u> <u>N5ZKD</u> <u>Sid Sherwood</u> <u>III</u>		<u>Northeast</u> <u>KF5VIK</u> <u>John Igoe</u>
		
<u>Southwest</u> <u>AE5JY</u> <u>Kerry Mallory</u>		<u>Southeast</u> <u>AD5CQ</u> <u>George</u> <u>Fletcher</u>

The District 14 Emergency Coordinator (DEC) is **Jeff Walter, KE5FGA**

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

Public Service Events

Volunteering for public service events are a wonderful way to practice handling traffic and working in a more formal net format.

Wide Area Nets

A wide area net (WAN) is held each 5th Sunday. Each WAN is run differently for different purposes.

Northwest Unit Net: Sunday 8PM:

The repeater used varies each week as provide in the weekly bulletin. If the repeater to be used is down or has issues, the net is moved to the backup frequency (147.000 (+) 103.5Hz).

District 14 ~ Leadership Team:

- DEC Jeff Walter KE5FGA
- ADEC Ben Gillis K5TBN
- AEC Kyle Douglas W5KCD
- AEC - Admin Marni Rosen KE5MSD

Northwest Unit Leadership Team:

- EC Sid Sherwood III N5ZKD
- AEC Net Manager Robin Marsh KF5MNB
- AEC Training Earl Pack AE5PA
- AEC Admin Andrew Bounds KD5CQ
- AEC TXTN Sharon Heivilin KC8EO
- AEC Liason Dominic Mazoch N5TCB
- PIO Robert Rasa W5CPU
- RACES DRO Hal Merrit KD5HW

Coming up next month – Part 3 – How can I participate?

Saturday, April 23 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital

We had 5 candidates taking 6 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 2; passed 2

Element 3 tests given: 3; passed 3

Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

Thomas Greathouse KG5KOD - upgrade to General

David Schaefer KD5ZEN - upgrade to General

Kenneth Birme KG5MCL - upgrade to Extra

Karl Baltz - new General

John Wilson - new General

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS

Skip Ferguson K5LLR

William Hielscher KB5WPH

Ron Horton KF5LFL

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF

Thanks also to Richard Nelson KF5WRD, who helped with paperwork.

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, May 28, 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

QSL CARD THAT DELIVERED

We celebrate the fact that sometimes it takes a little longer for a QSL card to reach its destination. Sometimes years. Sometimes decades. And in this case, three quarters of a century. But oh, it was worth it.

A QSL card that ended up in the hands of Jane Walton in the UK in late February had to cross not just one ocean but two generations before reaching her. It belonged to a British radio amateur named Clifton Trevor Malkin, call sign G5IV. Clifton had been Jane's grandfather. And though Jane is not a ham and never had a QSO with her grandpa, she always had fond memories of being in his shack with him when she was a child in Yorkshire. She would hear him make contacts around the world via radio from Barnsley and be charmed by its magic.

Two months ago, some magic happened again - but a different way. Feeling nostalgic, Jane decided to type her grandfather's call sign into the Google search engine and one of the responses that came up was an eBay listing. It said: "QSL CARD, ham radio card" and the call sign was G5IV. The card had been mailed to the U.S. long ago from Barnsley, England, following a successful QSO in 1939. Now, the American seller was asking \$6.50 for G5IV's card.

Jane bid on the item and some 77 years later, the card is back home to where it all began. The Barnsley Chronicle carried the story of Jane Walton and the QSL card in its April 1 edition, creating the impression that perhaps this was one of those April Fool's tales that makes its way to the public this time of year. But indeed, the offering of the card can still be found on eBay, in the inventory of eBay seller, Anne's Books & Stuff. The seller, not surprisingly, has a number of other vintage QSL cards from around the world. But Jane Walton has the only one she wants. It's a piece of her childhood, come back home.

For Amateur Radio Newslite, I'm Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, in Nottingham, the UK.

Recap of April's program on Space

Weather

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR reporting

A round of applause for Richard Nelson's program in April. Richard knew next to nothing about the subject but decided to delve into the subject with vigor. A few weeks later he put together enough information to present the membership and guests with an informative discussion on solar weather and propagation, power point and all! He covered things like solar flux, geomagnetic storms, coronal mass ejection, coronal holes and HF propagation dependency upon the ionosphere.

Richard acknowledged that the more he dug into the subject, more questions arose than answers. It did create a robust "round table" discussion amongst the audience, and it was surprising the interest the subject matter drew.

Many of us walked away with a better understanding of the ionosphere and the effect it has as a result of sun activity. One thing for sure, I'm going to apply a double coating of SPF 50 every time I leave the house....

Saturday, April 9 VE Test Session Results at Hooks Airport

We had 7 candidates taking 7 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 7; passed 7

Element 3 tests given: 0; passed 0

Element 4 tests given: 0; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Myron Geppert - new Technician

Daniel Burns - new Technician

Thomas Stuewe - new Technician

Savannah Tracy - new Technician

Jason Mitchell - new Technician

Stephen Young - new Technician

Linda Hughes - new Technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ

Martin Rogoff N5GPS

Skip Ferguson K5LLR

Ronald Horton KF5LFL

Mike Bowen M8ILU

This completes the Spring Technician Class with 100 percent pass rate.

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

A SINGULAR SOLAR ACHIEVEMENT

Hey, Richard Nelson, take note of this!

A tale of hope for hassled, harried hams. You can't outsmart the sun, and you certainly can't outshine it, but some radio amateurs in India recently had their moment in the sun during the National Field Day held by the Amateur Radio Society of India on Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17.

Camped out on a hilltop in the Turahalli forests, the group from Bengaluru was looking to go the distance, wherever that distance might take them. It didn't look like that was going to be very far, however. Conditions were not the greatest. They were marred by strong solar flares, making HF contacts extra challenging - or nonexistent. To add to that, the operators found the midday sun to be brutally hot and blistering.

And then - contact! Operator Madhu Prasad, operating station VU3NPI, connected on 21 MHz with Hong Kong station VR2XMT. It was enough. More than enough. Signal reports and call signs were exchanged. And the moment became one of the brightest spots during the 24-hour period. Prasad told the Bangalore Mirror "Within a minute of the rig going live, we could establish contact."

Among his colleagues in the Bangalore Amateur Radio Club, Antarctica is the farthest anyone has contacted on their rigs. But Hong Kong, under tough conditions, still proved to be a shining moment. And VU3NPI enjoyed his Field Day moment in the sun after all.

(THE BANGALORE MIRROR, AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY OF INDIA)

DX Bits and Tidbits

from the Grumpy ol' Ham

The premier award for those of us who chase DX is the DX Century Club – the DXCC.

As you are probably aware, this is your reward for hours of chasing countries and finally amassing the credits for working one hundred countries. Not so fast. Reading the fine print, this is for confirming one hundred entities. Huh? What's that???

If you've earned the Worked All States (WAS) award, you have worked three countries. The United States, Alaska and Hawaii. Alaska and Hawaii are not countries! (I know we in Texas know we are a country!) They are entities. There are several stipulations in the DXCC rules that determine whether a piece of our earth's geography qualifies as a separate entity. Distance is one of the qualifiers. Both Alaska and Hawaii are separated from the contiguous landmass that is the United States. Being separated from the "mother country" also comes into play. Alaska is separated from the mainland United States by Canada. If Puerto Rico were ever to become a state, that would only mean that the WAS award would become harder. Puerto Rico would still be a separate entity due to both distance and having intervening entities between the contiguous US landmass.

This past winter, there have been several "rare countries" that have been activated. Palmyra, South Sandwich Island and South Georgia Island.

None of these spits of land have a formal government. Most don't have any population except birds, seals or crabs. There may be a very small human population on these islands, but they are mostly scientific researchers. We as hams, however, want to work these islands, but we really can't call them countries. Therefore we work "entities!" We know when a DXer is bragging about picking up a new country toward the DXCC Honor Roll that they are talking about entities, but "countries" is easier to say, and we all know what he means.

I just scribbled this because I'm sure there are several folks wondering why such-and-such is considered a country. You can go to the ARRL website and read the complete DXCC rules and you will easily see there are many more stipulations as to why a geographic point of land is or is not to be considered a country. Yes, I fear, even lawyers have to have their say as to what is a "country!"

73 & DX

Grumpy



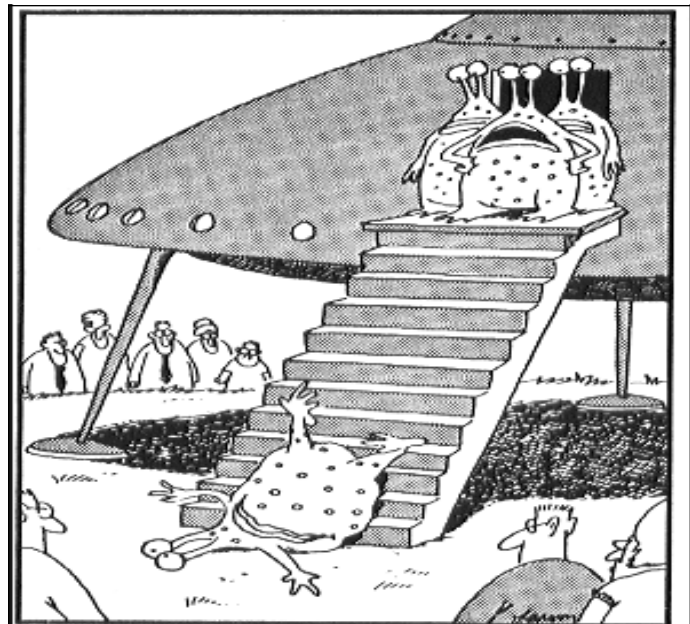
NARS in rewind.... April, 1992

NARS License Exams Inaugurated by Paul Frantz, KF5SB

On Saturday, April 18, the first regularly scheduled Volunteer Exam session was held by the NARS VE Team. The venue was the Tomball Community Center and a total of 21 elements were administered.

After the dust had settled, there were two upgrades, one Extra and one Advanced, along with four new licenses. Of the four, three were from the NARS Novice/Tech class, and all are now waiting their Technician tickets. Patsy White, EYL of WF5W, Mary Anne Smith and Carolyn Lopez are the new Amateurs and now members of NARS.

VE's participating in the sessions were Mark Tyler K5GQ, Jay Rubens KI5MD, Bob Walworth AK5B, Cal White WF5W and Paul Frantz KF5SB.



"Wonderful! Just wonderful! ... So much for instilling them with a sense of awe."

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members,
Simon Mitchell KG5MAZ, Ken Binnie KG5MCI and Tom Stuewe KG5NBT.
Concerns for Sarah Connell W2AOV, who has major health problems and is now a resident of a Care Facility.

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

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

Directors

Lester Mignerey KB0MEF
281 257-6580
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.