



September 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, Sept 27, 2016, 7:30 pm.
Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston

VE License Exam:

Saturday, Sept 24, 2016
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor,
Conference Room, 8:00 am.

Lunch Break—North

Sept 7, Jason's Deli
Sept 14, Baker Street Pub
Sept 21, Sweet Tomato's
Sept 28, B.J.'s Brewery
Oct 5, Gianna's
Oct 12, Spring Creek BBQ
Oct 19, Pei Wei

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Sept 7, Morningside Thai
Sept 14, Pronto Cucinino
Sep 21, Jason's Deli
Sept 28, Buffalo Grille
Oct 5, Southwell's Hamburger Grill
Oct 12, Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
Oct 19, Pappas BBQ

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**

NARS NEWS

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

Texas QSO Party 2016 Preparation

September 24 and 25

a

Keith Dutson NM5G Production

Coordinator Keith Dutson will be making a presentation on the upcoming TQP contest, with tips on planning routes for those who want to go mobile and for those who want to follow the mobile operators for those multipliers. If you've never participated in TQP this is a great opportunity to learn what it's all about and how much fun it can be. If you're an experienced contesteer this is a good time to meet some of the friendly competition or find a mobile partner and see how many of the 254 counties you can drive through (at legal speed limits) in the weekend. See you there!



Double feature this month!

BSA Jamboree on the air, by Les Mignerey KB0MEF

Coming attractions:

October

Original Modes & Raspberry Pi, by Skip Ferguson K5LLR

November

**Elections, TQP preliminary results,
Awards Banquet announcement**

Saturday, Aug 27 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital

We had 8 candidates taking 14 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 7; passed 7

Element 3 tests given: 6; passed 1

Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

Steven Drabbant KG5DKX - upgrade to Extra

Jeffrey Blessing - new Tech

John Vaughan - new Tech

Jody Christensen - new Tech

Robert Jones - new General

Gary Urie - new Tech

Justin Davidson - new Tech

Robert Callicotte - new Tech

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Mike Bowen N8ILU

Mike Bragassa K5UO

Ron Horton KF5LFL

Brian Derx N5BA

Skip Ferguson K5LLR

Stephen Protz K5AUD

William Hielscher KG5WPH

Martin Rogoff N5GPS

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, Sep 24, 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



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

NARS Board Meeting Action

Tuesday, Aug 30, 2016, 7:30pm

Ponderosa Fire Department Headquarters – Station 61

17061 Rolling Creek Dr

Houston, TX 77090

281-444-8465

President's Report

Welcome to Ron Matusek WA6TQH, new director replacing Deral Kent K5WNO.

Secretary's Report

Minutes approved as submitted by VP Richard Nelson KF5WRD.

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed details of last month deposits and disbursements. There is \$685 in the repeater fund, sufficient to pay for new repeater

Membership:

Renewals sent out. Membership now at 105.

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)

Jun – Field Day Final Planning (George Paxson AG5CZ)

Jul – ARES (George Edwards K5VUU)

Aug – AMSAT (Andy Macalister W5ACM)

Proposed

Sep – BSA Jamboree on the Air (Les Mignerey KB0MEF)
Texas QSO Party 2016 Preparation (Keith Dutson NM5G)

Oct – 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:

Repeater status reported by Keith NM5G (no response as yet from Yaesu).

Reviewed candidates for VP and two directors to be elected in November. Mike Bowen N8ILU and Ron Horton KF5LFL stated they would run for another term. That leaves VP position to be nominated. The Board is looking at four prospective nominees.

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.

DX Tips and Tidbits from Grumpy 'ol Ham

The Equinox is Coming! The Equinox is Coming!
Hooray – September is finally here. The heat of summer is about to fade away. Now, this is Texas, so it will be a slow fade, but we'll take what we can get. We can almost now step outside and touch copper wire or aluminum tubing and not weld our hands to metal. Time to think of any antenna projects that you've been dreaming about the past few months.

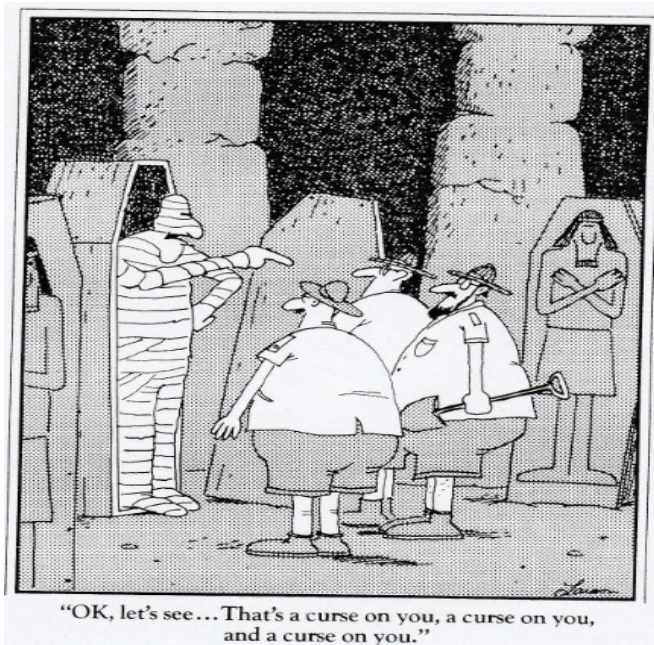
The Autumnal Equinox is September 22 this year. If you are so inclined, you can dress up in your Druid garb and dance around Stonehenge, but that's a bit too much for me. The significance of equinox is in it's translation...Equal night. The sun has left the northern latitudes and is at the equator. It is now on its move to the Southern Hemisphere.

As the sun heads south, it is no longer boiling our ionosphere. Conditions have been pretty awful this summer. And from everything I've seen in print, Solar Cycle 25 is going to be pretty awful through all it's 11 years. As fall commences, the bands should smooth out somewhat. I don't see any great openings, but the high bands should once again have some life to them and the low bands will become much more prolific. Traditionally, 160 meters through 30 meters have much better propagation during the low sunspot times of solar cycles.

Time to work on your low-band antennas. Novices and Techs can work CW on several of these bands, so there is further incentive to break out your key (not the one that locks the shack!) and learn the code.

I would be remiss in not putting in a plug for the Texas QSO Party at the end of September. It's not really known as a "DX Contest" per se, but there are several folks in other countries that are collecting counties. They will want to work you. Get on and put some RF in the air. The more you operate, the more comfortable you become in getting on and operating in general. Don't be afraid to put out a CQ!

73 & DX. Grumpy



MESSAGE FIT FOR A QUEEN

Imagine, for a moment, U.S. President James Buchanan and Great Britain's Queen Victoria exchanging QSL cards. Imagine too the 19th century world figures giving one another signal reports. It didn't quite happen that way but in August of 1858, the president and the queen communicated across the Atlantic, as Victoria sent the president an invitation to visit Buckingham Palace. Her message began: QUOTE "Come, let us talk together" - as clear an opening for a rag-chew if ever we heard one. It was the first transatlantic telegraph message between the two and the president received it at the summer White House in Pennsylvania.

To commemorate that telegraph's anniversary, hams from the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society in Pennsylvania, using the call-sign N3B, sent an ARRL Radiogram on Aug. 16 to Queen Elizabeth II. It was delivered to GB3RS at the Radio Society of Great Britain's National Radio Centre Bletchley Park. The message was sent in CW on 20 meters by Lloyd Roach K3QNT and Bernie Frank W3DRW.

Band conditions weren't optimal but in the UK, Trevor Hughes, G4WKJ and Andy Roberts M0GYK, were still able to copy the good wishes and forward them on to Buckingham Palace where, despite poor signal reports that had challenged the amateurs, it was never the less well-received.

For Amateur Radio Newline, Graham Kemp, VK4BB.

ICOM DELIVERS A TOKYO SURPRISE

If you're a leading manufacturer of amateur radio equipment, there's no better place to release the news of long-awaited new products than at the Tokyo Ham Fair, which recently concluded. Amateur Radio Newline's Mike Askins KE5CXP tells us what radio giant Icom had in store there:

Attendees at the Japan Amateur Radio League's Tokyo Ham Fair on Aug. 20th and 21st got quite an eyeful from Icom Inc. The manufacturer at long last trotted out the very samples it had been hinting at for the past few weeks in its online campaign. Visitors got their first glimpses of a few new products: Icom's IC-7610 will replace the IC-7600 as a 100-watt base station with built-in antenna tuner and capability for HF and 50MHz. Icom also rolled out the IC-R8600 wide-band receiver to replace its IC-R8500. This receiver will operate in analog and digital modes and have a frequency range from 0.01-3000MHz. Among handhelds, Icom is introducing the IC-R30, an analog and digital model which succeeds the IC-R20 and can decode D-STAR, P25, NXDN and dPMR digital modes.

A special edition handheld model was also introduced: the ID-51 PLUS2, which permits D-STAR calls through the Internet, even in areas without access to D-STAR repeaters. Though Icom revealed the samples, the company did not unveil details on prices or the products' launch dates. With more than 36,000 participants at the ham fair, you can be sure there were a lot of eyes on Icom this year.

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) Stations Encouraged to Register and File Post-Event Reports

Scouting's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) officials are asking JOTA 2016 participants not only to register for this year's event, but to follow up with a post-JOTA report. As an incentive, all stations filing reports will automatically be entered to win an Icom ID-51A handheld transceiver. The 59th



annual JOTA takes place October 14-16. "Last year we had 400 stations register but only 200 stations file a report," said JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND. "We're going to improve that this year. Icom America and Ray Novak, N9JA, have stepped up to help us with a considerable incentive."

Wilson pointed out that only BSA stations will be eligible to win. "These prizes are for the station. It's up to you to determine who gets it or how you share it," he said. "Of course, everyone who files a report will receive the 2016 Jamboree on the Air Certificate."

More than 1 million Scouts in 150+ countries -- at nearly 18,000 stations -- are expected to take part in JOTA 2016, engaging with other Scouts to talk about Amateur Radio and their Scouting experiences. "JOTA is about conversations across town and around the world, rather than about contacts," Wilson said.

The JOTA reporting system will open right after JOTA weekend; reports are due on November 1, with the prize drawing held that week. "Designate someone on your team to collect



the information needed for your report," Wilson recommended, pointing to a list of "best practices" to ensure a report that "truly captures your event."

JOTA Guidelines for Amateur Radio Operators are available online. Among other advice, the operating guide points out that US Scouts may speak directly with Scouts in other coun-

tries as long as a third-party agreement exists between that country and the US. A Scout station spotting cluster will also be available this year, to show who's on the air and where. Dave Edwards, KD2E, and Andy O'Brien, K3UK, have developed a Scout scheduling page for teams to post their frequencies.

JOTA stations have been asked to avoid other operating activities taking place over the October 14-16 weekend, including the Worked All Germany Contest. Four state QSO parties are also taking place over JOTA weekend -- Illinois, Iowa, New York, and South Dakota. Wilson also asked for the cooperation of testers.

"As you participate in these or other contests that weekend, please keep in mind that Scouts will be on the air at the same time," Wilson advised competitors. "For most, this will be their first experience with Amateur Radio. Please be courteous and, where possible, provide some contest-free space around their ongoing QSOs near the Scouting frequencies. After all, they are the next generation of ham operators -- or not."

ARRL reporting

President's Report – Texas QSO Party

First, a big thank you to Andy MacAllister W5ACM, for his excellent presentation on AMSAT and recent satellite developments. He passed around a "CubeSat" for all to see. It was a complete unit, with a weight used to have the feel of an installed battery. He also talked about his own experience in communicating via satellites, and brought a "go" kit with everything needed to operate while on a trip.

The next meeting, on September 16, will be a dual presentation on Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 2016, by Les Mignerey KB0MEF, and Texas QSO Party 2016, by yours truly.

I hope to have photos to show planning, route selection and equipment testing for this year's operation from my truck. Randy Handley KC6WYH will be the driver while I operate as a mobile. Plan to attend this meeting where you can get your questions answered.

The following is a repeat from last month's report:
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

Strange Stats!

- Seawater contains enough gold that if it were mined, every person on Earth would receive nine pounds.
- Seven percent of Americans say they have been abducted by aliens or know someone who has.
- One person in two billion will live to age 116 or older.
- Each day, a healthy individual releases a minimum of 17 ounces of gas due to flatulence. *Hmm... Could this actually be the hypothesized F-3 layer science is talking about?*

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

New member: Ryon Garrett KG5ORP
Condolences to Joe KD5KR, for the passing of his wife, Margie on 8/16/2016

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

Ron Matusek WA6TQH
281 205-3068
ronml@att.com

Vice President

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

Mike Bowen N8ILU
281 954-0940
mike5664g@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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

Administrative & General Info.

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

Secretary

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

Send changes in address, phone, or email to:

NARS
P.O. Box 90387
Houston, TX 77290-0387

Directors

Lester Mignerey KB0MEF
281 257-6580
kb0mef@arrl.net

Nets

2 meter Wed. 8 pm. 146.760, tone 103.5
Coordinator: Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Ron Horton KF5LFL

281 890-4038
ron.horton88gmail.com

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.