



# NARS NEWS

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

April 2017

## Important Dates

### Monthly club meeting:

Third Friday of each month, 7:30 pm.  
(except January)  
Cypress Creek Christian Community  
Ctr., Youth Center 2nd. Floor, # 203,  
6823 Cypresswood Drive

### Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, Next meeting, April 25,  
2017, 7:30 pm at: Ponderosa Fire  
Station 17061 Rolling Creek Drive,  
Houston

### VE License Exam:

Next exam, Saturday, April 22, 2017  
Saturday, February 25 at 8:15AM at  
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor  
Green conference room.

### Lunch Break—North

Apr 12 Panera Bread  
Apr 19, Jason's Deli  
Apr 26 Baker Street Pub  
May 3 Sweet Tomatoes  
May 10 B.J.'s Brewery  
May 17 Gianna's

### .Lunch Break—Medical Center

Apr 12 Jason's Deli  
Apr 19, Buffalo Grille  
Apr 26 Southwell's Hamburger Grill  
May 3 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet  
May 10 Pappas BBQ  
May 17 Morningside Thai

### 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 21  
featuring:

Jeff Walter KE5FGA  
an introduction to  
Amateur Radio  
Emergency Service  
(ARES)



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

## ***Saturday, March 25 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital***

We had 11 candidates taking 14 tests.  
Element 2 tests given, 8; passed 8  
Element 3 tests given, 5; Passed 4  
Element 4 given, 1; passed 1

Congratulations to:

Michael Crowley; new Technician  
Richie Rodgers - new Technician  
Kevin Fojtasek - new Technician  
Ryan Decker - new Technician  
James Decjer - new Technician  
William Rich - new Technician  
Jerry Kelly - new General  
Ramond Duhe - new General  
David Scott KG5SAF upgrade to General  
Robert Amie KG5RPC - upgrade to General  
William Bierman N5RDO - upgrade to Extra

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS  
Sheree Horton KF5LMJ - Manager  
Skip Ferguson K5LLR  
George Paxton AG5CZ  
Stephen Protz KA5AUD

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday April 22, at Tomball Regional Hospital. Anyone who wants to observe and/or participate in a session is always welcome.

### ***In Memoriam***

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed some years past. Some of you may remember Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey" who died peacefully at the age of 93.

The most traumatic part for the family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left foot in.

*And then, that's when the trouble started.....*



**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  
N5DWI@oafrc.org for further info.*

President's Corner  
April 2017

### March Recap

Keith Dutson, NM5G shared a video about the 2014 FT5ZM DXpedition to Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean. The video was very interesting. They were fortunate the island has semi-permanent residents at a French research station there, but even so still had to bring in food, fuel, water, in addition to their radio equipment. The amount of planning and travel involved to get to this island about 2,000 miles from anywhere was impressive.

### April Meeting

Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, will be talking about ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). With spring thunderstorms and hurricane season approaching, this topic is timely.

### Other News

Club polo shirts. The Board voted on a light blue club shirt and we are in process of determining pricing. We will be placing orders for hats as well. We decided to delay ordering jackets until late summer, so as to be ready in time for fall. Stay tuned.

We also bid adieu to NARS member, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, who is moving to Abilene. I want to thank him again for all of his work with the club and including putting out the newsletter. He will be missed.



ark your calendars; it's time to start thinking about Field Day, June 24 & 25. We will need volunteers to work SSB (phone) and CW. We also will need volunteers to assist with set-up and tear-down. Also this can be a good opportunity to get the word out to the public about our hobby, and allow newcomers to just Get On The Air (GOTA).

## *ARRL Reiterates its Case for New Band at 5 MHz*

In comments filed on March 20 with the FCC on its own January *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11785](#)), ARRL reiterated its case for a contiguous secondary 15-kHz wide 60-meter band of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz in addition to the four existing discrete 60-meter channels that fall outside the requested band, with a permitted power level of 100 W EIRP and retention of current operating rules. More than 5 dozen comments, all supporting the proposed allocation, were filed on the League's petition, although some suggested more spectrum or higher power, or a combination. ARRL said, however, that it does not at this time favor any changes in its initial request for a new band. The League proposal would implement a portion of the *Final Acts* of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international amateur allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz at a maximum of 15 W EIRP.

"Each component of this proposal is intended to maximize spectral efficiency by permitting amateurs to operate throughout a band as conditions and availability warrant; to give primary service operations certainty as to where radio Amateurs will be located within the broader fixed and mobile service band between 5.250-5.450 MHz; and it protects those primary users with the same successful interference avoidance techniques and protocols that have been used for the past 15 years domestically, with which radio amateurs have the technical training and experience to comply," ARRL asserted in its comments. The League said the WRC-15 power limit of 15 W EIRP "would render the band unsuitable for emergency communication, especially between the US mainland and the Caribbean Basin during summer storms and hurricane season, when atmospheric noise can be severe.

ARRL said there were good reasons for hewing to the proposal it initially crafted and filed with the FCC, most relating to the fact that the spectrum is shared with federal government users and radio amateurs must avoid interfering with them. The ARRL also pointed out that there is no "European Model" for 5 MHz, noting that the vast majority of European countries have held to the 15 kilohertz agreed to at WRC-15, and some even to the 15 W EIRP power limit. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)), which regulates government spectrum, would have to sign off on any proposal, and, ARRL noted, it has twice expressed concern about a contiguous allocation at 5 MHz and did not favor the plan agreed to at WRC-15.

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Citing its decades-long effort to obtain operating privileges in the vicinity of 5 MHz, ARRL said there's "not really much room for debate about the size of the band and the power limit domestically at the present time, given the allocation status of the band (domestically and internationally) and the necessary interference protection requirements for primary users." "It is hoped that as regular Amateur operation in this contiguous band develops, with the operating parameters recommended in ARRL's *Petition*," the ARRL comments continued, "such operation will continue to demonstrate compatible sharing with federal and other users and the operating parameters and the band can be re-examined and adjusted equitably at a later time."

ARRL said the most important thing is to have the FCC grant an allocation before offering initiatives to alter the plan it proposed in January. It urged the FCC to adopt the rule changes it's proposed "at the earliest possible time, if at all possible in advance of the 2017 hurricane season."

## *DX Tips and Tidbits Grumpy 'ol Ham*

It's April and we are getting fooled.

**B**ad news all around, and unfortunately it's true! First off we have the deletion of two DXCC entities. The ARRL has deleted Kure Island and Midway Islands as DXCC entities. This has to do with the Administration of these places. The administration was changed last summer and as such, both Kure Island and Midway are now considered part of Hawaii! To say the least, Hawaii is now the widest state in the Union at nearly 1500 miles wide, and a LOT of water surrounding it!!!

The second bad news to report is the instance of several radio blackouts lately. The sun is playing tricks on us with solar storms that usurp our radio propagation. The further bad news is that this is just the beginning of the solar downturn. We don't start coming back up until 2020 or beyond. Life is looking grim for any good propagation for some time.

All hope should not be abandoned. Even on the downturn in propagation, there are times when the sun will provide some excitement. Ten and twelve meters are the hardest hit, but there will be days when the bands will open up and give us something to get excited about.

The only way to take advantage of these openings is to be on the air. Don't just wait for something to show up on your DX Cluster, call CQ! Several years ago, the FCC opened up 10 meters to Technician Class operators. Before the transition, everyone knew that 10 Meters was dead. When the Techs got permission to operate, they called CQ and the band came alive. In truth, the band wasn't really dead before, it's just that no one bothered to call! I won't guarantee that the bands will mysteriously open, but it will increase your odds.

73 & DX

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members, Dave Scott KG5HF & Michael Ballesteros W5MSB

## 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

### 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

Richard Nelson KF5WRD  
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Richard-nelson@hotmail.com

### Vice President

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Ron Matusek WA6TQH

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ronml@att.com

Mike Bowen N8ILU

281 954-0940  
mike5664g@yahoo.com

### Administrative & General Info.

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

Send changes in address, phone, or email to:

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

### Nets

2 meter Wed. 8 pm. 146.660, tone 141.3  
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, jsokolow@sbcglobal.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.