



NARS NEWS

February 2017

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

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, Feb 28,
2017, 7:30 pm at: Ponderosa Fire
Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston

VE License Exam:

Next exam,
Saturday, February 25, 2017
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor,
Conference Room, 8:00 am.

Lunch Break—North

Feb 15, Panera Bread
Feb 22, Jason's Deli
Mar 01, Baker Street Pub
Mar 08, Sweet Tomatoes
Mar 15, B.J.'s Brewery

Jan 18, B.J.s Brewery

Lunch Break—Medical Center

Feb 15, Jason's Deli
Feb 22, Buffalo Grille
Mar 01, Southwell's Hamburger Grille
Mar 08, Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
Mar 15, Pappa's BBQ

Tail Dragger's Lunch Bunch -

Mondays, 11 am.
Aviator's Grill, Hooks Aerodrome

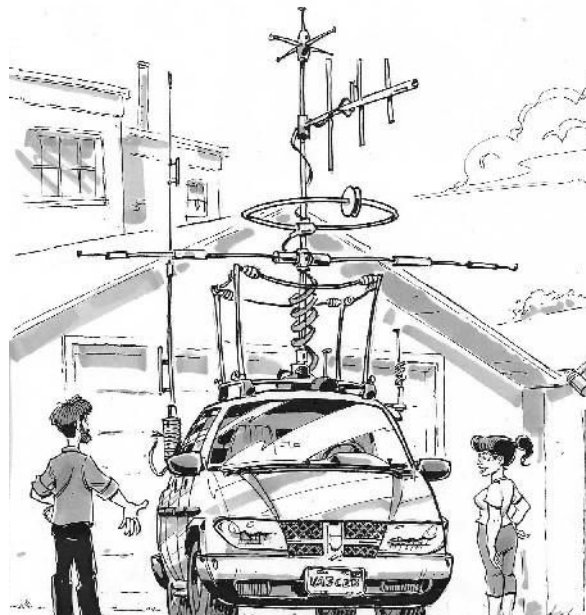
Notice: NARS membership dues are

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

Back by popular demand,
Keith Dutson NM5G
will discuss
Mobile operations and art of
installing mobile equipment
in less than 412 easy lessons....

That should peak your interest!

Don't miss it!
Friday, February 17th.



President's Corner

Richard Nelson KF5WRD

The January meeting was NARS' annual banquet held at Nona's Italian in Tomball. After a stormy start (literally a thunderstorm), the evening progressed well and I think a good time was had by all. This marked the changing of the guard, as I took the President's reign from Keith Dutson, NM5G.

I want to mention that this event was made possible required the participation of several individuals. Thanks to all of the club members for helping make this a great event. We also thanked Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR for his service to the club as he prepares to move from the area. Keith will be assuming the role of NARS Administrative Secretary.

I look forward to 2017 and to continuing the things NARS has done in the past including conducting the Buffalo Bayou Regatta, Field Day, and Show and Tell in December, among others. This club has a lot of great activities being conducted and promoted by our members. The club has an active VE Session program. Some club members are currently taking part in an Extra Class being taught by club members, Keith Dutson, NM5G and Skip Ferguson, K5LLR.

We have opportunities for club member's to take part in these and similar activities. For instance, Field Day in June will be here before we know it, and the club need people to volunteer as coordinators. We are always in need of newsletter material.

Many of you are working on other interesting projects you could share with the club. For example, I would like to hear from any of you that have worked with remote operations – I think this would be a fascinating meeting topic.

I welcome your suggestions as to possible programs, recruitment, and other club issues. Please e-mail me at KF5WRD@arrl.net . Although this is not anonymous, I will keep the source of any ideas confidential. Or if you prefer, reach out to any Board Member listed in the Newsletter. I will continue with this involvement theme through the next several newsletters. The meeting this month will feature Keith talking about mobile operations and installing mobile equipment, and I hope to see you there.

73 Richard



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
N5DWI@oafrc.org for further info.

Saturday, January 28 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital

We had 3 candidates taking 5 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 4; passed 2
Element 3 tests given: 1; passed 0
Element 4 tests given: 0; passed 0

Congratulations to:
Randall Rogers - new Technician
Robert Amie - new Technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:
Martin Rogoff N5GPS - manager
Stephen Protz KA5AUD
Mike Bowen N8ILU
Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
Mike Bragassa K5UO
Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
Richard Nelson KF5WRD
Ron Horton KF5LFL
Ship Ferguson K5LLR

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, February 25, at Tomball Regional Hospital. 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 ARRL VE Liaison

New Board of Directors for 2017

President - Richard Nelson KF5WRI
Vice Pres: - TBA (Keith Dutson pending.)
Treasurer - Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
Secretary - Martin Rogoff N5GPS
Director s- Ron Matusek WA6TQH
Lester Mignerey KB0MEF
Michael Bowen N8ILU
Ron Horton KF5LFL

Admin. Secretary - Joe Sokolowski KD5KR (Non voting member)
Keith Dutson NM5G will assume this position in May when Joe resigns in order to relocate to Abilene.

Board meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at :
Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston.

Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to US House Passage, Heads to US Senate

Just 10 days after being introduced in the 115th Congress, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, [H.R. 555](#), passed the US House of Representatives on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 cosponsors, but failed to clear the US Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was launched on January 13 with initial co-sponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!" The bill arrives in the US Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign.

"We're very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It's amazing that this happened," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. "With the help of ARRL members, we believe we can get this done," Lisenco continued. "We came within a hair's breadth last time, with [thousands of] e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical."

H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners associations seeking to enforce the restriction.



ARRL News

New FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Praises House Action on H.R. 555, Other Telecoms Bills

The FCC's new chairman, Ajit Pai, this week praised US House action on [H.R. 555](#) and other telecommunications-related legislation that cleared the chamber the previous day.

"I want to commend the US House of Representatives for passing a number of important, bipartisan telecom bills yesterday," Pai said on Tuesday. "These bills will help bring greater efficiency to the Commission, provide consumers with greater protections, improve rural call completion, help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety," he continued, adding, "I look forward to working with Congress on these and other important issues as Chairman of the FCC."

President Donald Trump named the 44-year-old telecommunications attorney -- who



FCC Chairman Ajit Pai.

has served on the Commission since 2012 and is its senior member -- to succeed Chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on Inauguration Day, January 20.

"I am deeply grateful to the President of the United States for designating me the 34th Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," Pai said in a statement. "I look forward to working with the new administration, my colleagues at the Commission, members of Congress, and the American public to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans."

A Republican, Pai was nominated to the FCC by former President Barack Obama and was confirmed unanimously by the US Senate in 2012. Pai has said the Commission needs to eliminate "outdated and unnecessary regulations," as he proposed in a December speech. "The regulatory underbrush at the FCC is thick," he said. "We need to fire up the weed whacker and remove those rules that are holding back investment, inPai has said that he supports "the freedom to access lawful content, the freedom to use applications, the freedom to attach personal devices to the network, and the freedom to obtain service plan information."

In a January 24 speech, Pai addressed the "digital divide" in the US, "between those who can use cutting-edge communications services and those who do not," he said. "I believe one of our core priorities going forward should be to close that divide -- to do what's necessary to help the private sector build networks, send signals, and distribute information to American consumers, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or anything else." The son of immigrants from India, the Harvard Law graduate and respected telecommunications attorney grew up in Parsons, Kansas. The FCC now is down to three members, so President Trump will have the opportunity to appoint two more. In addition to Pai are Democrat Mignon Clyburn and Republican Michael O'Rielly. The Commission can have five members, three of whom typically are from the majority political party. Before leaving office, former President Barack Obama renominated now-former FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, for a new term.

DX Tips and Tidbits Grumpy 'ol Ham

The nearly exciting news this month is that the first sunspot of Cycle 25 has been spotted. Don't expect to turn down your RF Gain control, because this means not very much in the great scheme of things. We're still in the downward spin of Cycle 24 and it is not expected to bottom until 2020 or 2021. We've got a lot of waiting to go through to begin to see any improvement in propagation. One of the good things about February is the reappearance of DX Contests. In all fairness, there are always DX Contests of some sort or other. However, a few good series of contests are on the horizon.

The ARRL DX contests are the first to be mentioned. Mostly because the DX is looking for you. In other DX contests, it's everyone vs everyone. The ARRL DX Contest is the world vs. the U. S. and Canada. Europe doesn't get any points for working other Europeans. They only get points for working YOU! The more they work, the higher their score. This gives you the advantage because they need your QSO. For the low power, poor antenna ham, this is the contest to be on and calling. If you have several DX entities already, this is your chance to increase you band or mode counts.

The ARRL CW contest is the third weekend in February...the 18th and 19th. The Phone contest is the first weekend in March...the 4th and 5th.

The CQ WPX contest is everybody vs everybody. It also includes U. S. working U. S. and everybody else too! You can boost your states worked as well as your DXCC count. The Phone contest is March 25 and 26. Since you are trying to work everybody, this is a good contest to work on your Field Day practices. In both, you want to work as many as you can.

This is also the contest the some of the NARS ops are going to Nicaragua to put on a Dxpedition, They would like your contact very much. If you are interested, the rules for these contests are at the ARRL web site and the CQ Magazine web site.

Good Luck in Contest OM

Grumpy

Nayif-1 CubeSat with Amateur Radio Transponder Set to Launch on February 15

AMSAT-UK and AMSAT-NL have learned that MBRSC has released information about the launch date of the Nayif-1 satellite, which includes a full **FUNcube** communication package. Nayif-1 is set for launch on an Indian PSLV launch vehicle on February 15 at 0358 UTC. PSLV Flight C-37, will be carry more than 100 satellites into orbit. Nayif-1 carries a U/V linear Amateur Radio transponder for SSB and CW and a telemetry transmitter. The initial plan called for a late-2015 launch.

Nayif-1 was a joint project of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (**MBRSC**) and American University of Sharjah (**AUS**). The United Arab Emirate's first nanosatellite, Nayif-1 was developed by Emirati engineering students from AUS under the supervision of a team of engineers and specialists from MBRSC. The partnership between the two entities was aimed at providing hands-on satellite-manufacturing experience to engineering students.

Telemetry will be transmitted on 145.940 MHz, 1.2 kb BPSK (FUNcube standard). The SSB/CW transponder uplink passband is 435.045-435.015 MHz, and the downlink passband is 145.960-145.990 MHz.

AMSAT-UK is seeking post-launch reports from stations around the world, especially during the first few minutes and hours after launch. It is anticipated that the first signals may be heard in North America during the mid-evening hours on February 14 (local time).

A mission-specific **telemetry dashboard** is available. In a manner similar to that of the FUNcube-1 dashboard, this one will be capable of uploading the telemetry received to a central data warehouse. **More information** on the telemetry dashboard is available, as is a **test file**.

Initial spacecraft operation will be in a low-power "safe" mode, with just the telemetry transmitter activated.

ARRL News



Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Wishing a speedy recovery to John Parmalee K5VGM from major surgery, and to Ron Matussek WA5TQH , a heart cath. procedure.

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

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NARS Public Info. Officer

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
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Send changes in address, phone, or email to:

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Nets

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g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Ron Horton KF5LFL

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Web site

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Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
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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.