



January 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, Jan 31, 2017,
7:30 pm at: Ponderosa Fire Station
17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston

VE License Exam:

Next exam,
Saturday, January 28, 2017
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor,
Conference Room, 8:00 am.

Lunch Break—North

Dec 21, Panera Bread
Dec 28, Jason's Deli
Jan 4, Baker Street Pub
Jan 11, Sweet Tomatoes
Jan 18, B.J.s Brewery

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

Dec 21, Pronto Cucinino
Dec 28, Jason's Deli
Jan 4, Buffalo Grille
Jan 11, Southwell's Hamburger Grill
Jan 18, 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.

**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

NARS Awards Banquet set for January 20th, 2017....

January 20 will open the new year with our 32nd Awards Banquet. It is only fitting that we celebrate, once again, our good fortune by gathering together to enjoy good eats, pleasant conversation with our companions and guests and to recognize the accomplishments of those who have worked so hard to keep NARS what it is today.

This year, the Awards Banquet will be held at Nona's Italian Café, 1025 Alma Street, Tomball. The cost is \$22 per person. Reservations and payment are required prior the event. We anticipate an attendance of some fifty persons, so make your reservations early.

Seating will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner served at about 7:15 p.m. Guests will be served at the table, one of the three entries being selected. See page 3 for details.

Please mail your reservations and checks to:
NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston, TX 77290-0387
Include the names of those attending.

Waiting till the last minute before deciding? Email me at kd5kr@arrl.net and we'll try to squeeze you in....

See map on page 5 for restaurant location and menu.



NARS Board Meeting Action Tuesday, Dec 27, 2016, 7:30pm Skype (on-line)

President's Report

This is an optional on-line meeting to test for possible future use

Secretary's Report

Minutes approved as submitted by Martin Rogoff N5GPS.

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed details of last month deposits and disbursements.

Membership:

Renewals sent out - none

News deadline – early Jan

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)

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

Proposed

Jan 2017 – Awards Banquet

Old Business:

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

Still looking for VP candidate. This position is crucial to continuation of NARS club.

Banquet will be at Nona's Italian Grill in Tomball

Banquet awards will be prepared by Keith NM5G and Richard KF5WRD.

VE sessions for 2017 will be in Green room at Tomball Regional Hospital.

Early 2017 meeting programs are set for April and May

Nominations sought for replacement of functions being performed by KD5KR

Sponsorship approved for scouting and American Legion activities by KB0MEF.

Cypress Creek meeting place to be secured for 2017.

New Business:

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

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 Report – Passing the Baton

It is a new year, time for a new President, Treasurer, Secretary and Board members. This action will be carried out during the annual awards banquet to be held from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at Nona's Italian Grill, Tomball, Texas.

It has been a good year for me. I enjoyed serving as your president, and would like to thank Treasurer Sheree Horton K5LMJ, Secretary Martin Rogoff N5GPS, Administrative Secretary and PIO Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Directors Ron Horton KF5LFL, Mike Bowen N8ILU, Les Mignerey KB0MEF, Deral Kent K5WNO and Ron Matusek WA6TQH, for their excellent guidance and actions taken during 2016.

NARS is still seeking a candidate to run for Vice President. You need no experience. You will learn the duties of president as you serve for a year. You will also have the opportunity to plan for the Awards Banquet to be held in 2018. If you are willing, we would love to have you join the board. Or, if you could recommend someone for this position, please contact me or any Board member. Thanks.

73, Keith Dutson NM5G

New Board of Directors for 2017

November's election results:

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)

Board meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at : Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. Members are always welcome to attend.



Further instructions for the downloading and installing of Winlink Express requires too many details for a newsletter article. I have tried to condense it but this is not practical.....so I refer you to the following website:

The Winlink Book of Knowledge

http://www.winlink.org/content/winlink_book_knowledge

The Winlink Documentation Project AKA "The Book of Knowledge" Edited by the Winlink Team

Topics:

"Getting started" links for new users

- Read [Winlink's Wikipedia article](#) for a well-rounded introduction.
Watch the [K4REF video tutorials](#).

Popular site shortcuts

- [Winlink Express, the popular Winlink user client program](#).
- [Winlink Express HTML Forms Library](#)
[Winlink FAQ \(Frequently Asked Questions - with Answers!\)](#)

The Winlink FAQ is updated regularly by Don Felgenhauer, K7BFL. Don distills information and answers to questions discussed on the Winlink email reflectors by users, gurus, developers and sysops. This 100+ page document is well written and organized for easy consumption. It covers:

- General Questions about Winlink
- User software setup and use with specific information on Winlink Express, Airmail, and Paclink
- Setup and use of RMS Packet, RMS Relay and other Sysop software
- Questions and answers about WINMOR TNC and the WINMOR protocol.
Information on and best practices of creating local emergency communications networks.

It comes in a handy .PDF document. Download: [Winlink FAQ](#)

Note: This is the final article on this topic for now. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me directly.

George Edwards K5VUU

DX Tips and Tidbits Grumpy 'ol Ham

Happy New Year and I hope you see lots of DX in 2017!

In actuality, I really doubt it. We remain on the downward slope of the sunspot cycle, so there will be occasional bumps in propagation, but they will be fewer and fewer. Since this is viewed by both experienced DXers and those just starting out on the climb to their first hundred countries, I need to be careful and not discourage you. You may not even hear countries in Southeast Asia, but there are, in fact, lots of countries not so distant.

At one time, someone pointed out that there are 65 countries in North America alone! Get them and you are already two thirds of the way to DXCC! Of course, there are some that are currently unreachable. Navassa and Desecheo come to mind. If you didn't get them in the past few years when there were Dxpeditions to these spots, they won't reappear for several more years.

The recent reshuffling of country status for several of the Caribbean Islands have changed or added a few new spots to chase. Not all of these islands are active all the time, but their proximity to the United States make them easy trips for hams who want to get a nice tan and work as DX!

If you add South America, some western European, and Pacific Island countries, DXCC is still achievable even in low sunspot years. For those who want an additional challenge, CQ Magazine offers the CQ DX Marathon. A yearlong event to keep your DX juices flowing. Through the course of a calendar year work countries and CQ Zones. Add them together and that's your score. Bands and modes are not counted. See the rules at <http://www.dxmarathon.com/Rules/2017/2017%20Rules.htm>

Upcoming DX events include the CQ 160 contest, followed by the ARRL DX contests in Feb and March. I mention the 160 contest because, with the low sunspot activity, there is usually low noise on the "Top Band" and increased activity. Working DXCC up there is still not easy. I don't think I've ever heard of anyone working 100 countries in a contest weekend, but picking up a few new ones up there is going to give you a nice warm feeling. It's also a time to pick up 160 meter WAS!

Remember, that we a nicely positioned in the center of the country, so we have equal propagation to both coasts. Alaska and Hawaii are not so simple, but since there is a contest on, there is activity from these points.

Not as likely as other times.

Enjoy Dxing in 2017 !

Grumpy

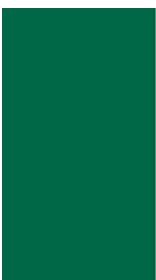
NARS Awards Banquet January 20,



Mexico Not Yet Extending Operating Permission to Non-Mexican Radio

Broad changes in Mexico's radiocommunication regulatory environment 2 years ago continue to hinder Amateur Radio licensing there and still do not provide reciprocal permission for non-Mexican radio amateurs to operate south of the border. Mexico's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member society, the Federation of Mexican Radio Amateurs (FMRE), has been working with the new regulator, the Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) to craft more Amateur Radio-friendly licensing procedures and regulations, and there has been a little positive movement. The new regulatory regime considers the radio spectrum as an exploitable resource, and all former Amateur Radio regulations have been deemed null and void.

FMRE's new president, Alfonso "Poncho" Tamez, XE2O, is spearheading the society's negotiations with the IFT. At FMRE's National Convention in September, IFT Commissioner Adriana Labardini announced to loud cheers that her agency will get Amateur Radio licensing going again, after a 2-year delay. FMRE has



estimated that of the 3,500 existing Mexican Amateur Radio licenses in place before the new law went into effect, more than 1,000 have expired and their renewal was put on hold until the IFT works out procedural details. She

said the IFT expects to process more than 800 applications by year's end, with another batch of more than 1,400 to follow. An initial license will cost about \$30 US. The status of Amateur Radio clubs has also been put in limbo by the new regulatory regime.

A revised IFT draft of Amateur Radio licensing procedures included specific provisions to grant Amateur Radio operating permission and to make licensing requirements more consistent with the nature of the Amateur Radio service. But significant gaps still exist. At this point, it is not even necessary to take an examination to obtain an Amateur Radio license -- called a "concession" -- in Mexico.

While the IFT has not yet determined what to do about foreign radio amateurs wishing to operate in Mexico, the agency has received 45 petitions to do so and is considering how it can issue permits; a foreigner cannot obtain a license under the new law, but may be given permission to operate as XE#/<home call sign>. Further, no regulations are in place regarding power output, license classes, licensing zones, interference, and other regulatory aspects.

ARRL News

SCOUT MERIT BADGE FINDS NEW DIRECTION

This week in Radio Scouting we have updates to the Radio Merit Badge program to announce.

A big new addition to the Radio Merit Badge is a new option of Amateur Radio Direction Finding. This combines orienteering and foxhunting and opens a new interactive component to this program. Cellular telephone topics have been added and different types of radio modulation have been included. Key requirement changes were dropping open, closed, and short circuits as well as schematic symbols and components as these are covered in the Electricity and Electronics merit badges.

Other revisions include: minor edits and reordering of requirements in the Amateur Radio option; Radio Broadcasting option now includes Internet streaming, regulations, and power levels; Medium Wave and Shortwave Listening option includes both types of listening as well as listening via streaming services on your smartphone.

These updates will take effect in 2017, and those scouts working on the previous set of requirements generally can finish them up the same year. For this and more information on K2BSA and Radio Scouting, please visit www.k2bsa.net.

For Amateur Radio Newline and the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association, this is Bill Stearns, NE4RD

SCOTA (Scout Camps On The Air)

We're looking for Scouts, parents and adult Scout leaders willing to participate in a BETA program of amateur radio. www.scota.us/ SCOTA is an every day event with a minimum of 5 scouts or youth and 2 adults. Goal: Introduce youth to amateur radio by getting them on the air. The purpose of SCOTA is to increase exposure of amateur radio to the scouting organization in hopes of fostering interest in the hobby of HAM radio, teaching technical skills with regard to radio operating and creating goodwill among fellow Scouts and amateur radio Operators alike. If you would like to participate and learn about the hobby of amateur radio please contact Les Mignerey :



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

Les Mignerey, KB0MEF
Assistant Section Manager for Radio Scouting
South Texas Section
Information Coordinator Between HAM's / Scouts

12203 Normont Dr
Houston, TX 77070
kb0mef@arrl.net
720-329-1967



Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for January 20, 2017

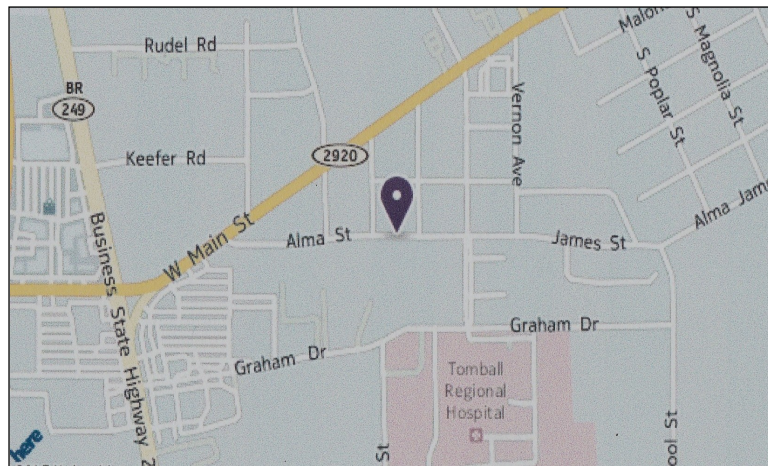
Another year is passing and we are fast approaching the NARS Annual Awards Banquet. This event marks the 32nd year that NARS has been in existence. It is only fitting that we celebrate, once again, our good fortune by gathering together to enjoy good eats, good conversation with our companions and to recognize the accomplishments of those who worked so hard to keep NARS what it is today. As usual, reservations are limited, so you need to get your name on the list as soon as possible. Here are the details:

When: January 20, 2017 Where: Nona's Italian Grill, 1025 Alma St, Tomball, TX 77375, 6 pm to 9 pm. Cost: \$22 per person. Tax & gratuity will be subsidized by NARS Adult refreshments available at your additional cost.

Door prizes will be awarded: Door prizes will be given to lucky ticket holders. Two Grand prizes will be a new hand held transceiver donated by Marty Fitzgerald W5MF, and from George Edwards K5VUU, a new in box MFJ-401D Econo Keyer II It currently lists for \$69.95. We'll even throw in a few things of "lesser value" to sweeten the pot.

Reservations can be made by mailing in your check with the names of those wishing to attend to: NARS, P.O. Box 90387 Houston, TX 77290-0387, It may seem early but this annual event is only days away.

Please note that there will be no General Meeting at the Community Center in January. If you're not at the Awards Banquet, you're at the wrong place....



Nona's Special Menu

Salads

HOUSE SALAD

Served with
Homemade ranch or vinaigrette

CAESAR SALAD

Traditional garlic and anchovies dressing with crispy croutons & parmesan cheese.

MAIN COURSE

SHRIMP FETUCCINI ALFREDO

Sautéed shrimp in a crème sauce, butter & parmesan cheese

POLLO PAISANO

Stuffed with spinach & cheese topped with mushroom, sun dried tomato, Capers & onion in a vodka crème sauce served with vegetable & potato

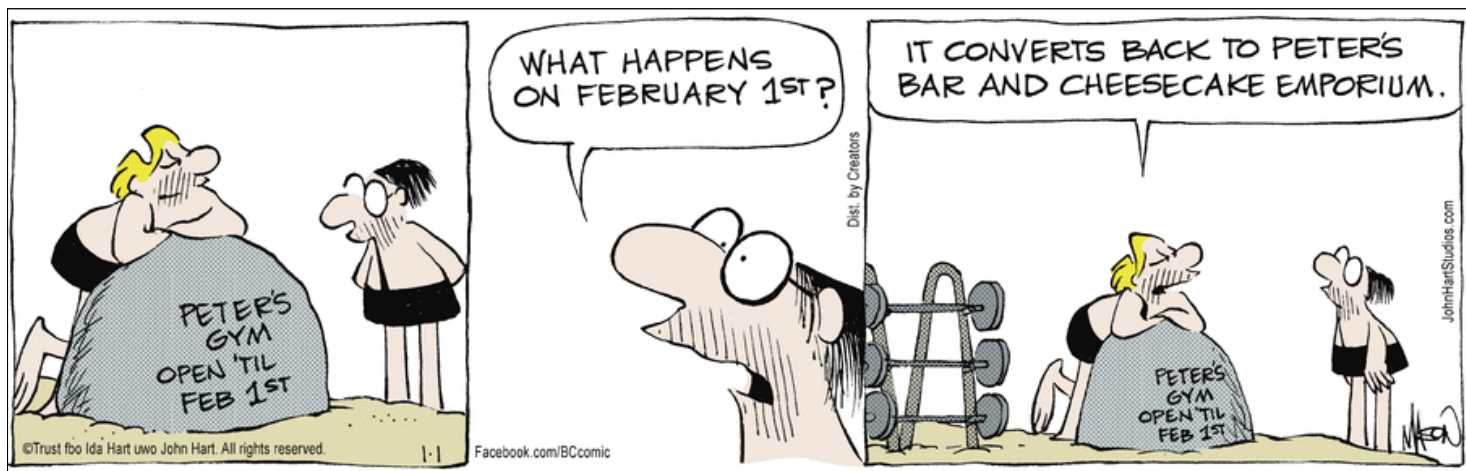
8 oz RIBEY STEAKE

Topped with a green pepper corn cognac sauce

Served with asparagus & potato

DISSERT

Cheese cake



Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

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.