



NARS NEWS

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

June 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, June 27,
2017, 7:30 pm at: Ponderosa Fire
Station 17061 Rolling Creek Drive,
Houston

VE License Exam:

NO exam in June due to Field Day.
Next exam, Saturday, July 22, 2017
Saturday, February 25 at 8:00 AM at
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor
Green conference room.

Lunch Break—North

June 7 Panera Bread
June 14 Jason's Deli
June 21 Baker Street Pub
June 28 Sweet Tomatoes
July 5 B.J.'s Brewery
July 12 Gianna's

Lunch Break—Medical Center

June 7 Jason's Deli
June 14 Buffalo Grille
June 21 Southwell's Hamburger Grill
June 28 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
July 5 Pappa's BBQ
July 12 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 anniversary 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**

Final Field Day planning June 16

2017 ARRL Field Day is June 24-25

ARRL Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



Volunteers needed for various activities.

Want to operate? Sure!

Want to help setting up and/or tearing down?

Of course!

If you can do the 5 yard Mosey in 18.2 seconds,

We can use you!

And, if you can't, show up anyway.

There's bound to be something to eat.

Field Day location: Burroughs Park

9738 Huffsmith Road, Tomball

Setup on Friday afternoon, June 23

Contact Richard Nelson KF5WRD at

Richard-nelson@hotmail.com

Uh, just do it now before you forget....

(Map on page 5)

Saturday, May 13 VE Special Test Session Results at Hooks Airport

We had 6 candidates taking 8 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 6; passed 4
Element 3 tests given: 2; passed 0
Element 4 tests given: 0; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Steven Mortimer - new Tech
Joyce Mortimer - new Tech
Adam Sanders - new Tech
Donald Bradfield - new Tech

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Skip Ferguson K5LLR
Ron Matusek WA6TQH
Stephen Protz KA5AUD
Richard Nelson KF5WRD

This completes the Spring Technician class.

The next monthly session will be held Saturday, May 27 at 8:15AM at Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor, Green 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 Liaison



**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@ofarc.org for further info.*

President's Corner -

NARS Needs You!

Field Day 2017 is June 24-25. Burroughs Park – Mark your calendar!

The **next meeting June 16** will be finalizing Field Day preparations. Field Day set up is preliminary held Friday night and then Saturday morning.

The Object of Field day per ARRL:

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio. In practice, Field Day is part -

Social gathering with food and friendship.

Emergency preparedness - gaining experience in less than ideal conditions.

Demonstration of Ham Radio to the public.

Chance to learn about different radios, antennas & equipment.

Where is Field Day being held?

Field Day operations are listed on the ARRL webpage at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> As I was writing this the number of sites was approaching 1,000. I expect more to be added as the date approaches. NARS' Field Day will be held at Harris County's Burroughs Park, 9738 Hufsmith Road, Tomball. (see page 5 for a map.)

When is Field Day?

Operations are officially conducted 1800 UTC [1 pm] Saturday June 24 and ending 24 Hours later on Sunday June 25, 2017. We have setup before this (usually Friday) and tear-down Sunday [historically by mid-morning]. Stations without advanced setup can operate until 2100 UTC.

What is NARS Doing?

We will be operating class 2A which includes a GOTA station for the public. We are hoping to host some Boy Scouts. Classifications with 2 or more transmitters may operate the GOTA as a 3rd. Station. We may operate a 6 mtr & above as a 4th station, also allowed under 2A. Keith Dutson is the coordinator. He is looking for help in setting up CW & phone (SSB) stations and getting operators for these stations. This requires table, generator, lighting & accessories, in addition to a transceiver for each station. Another major component is the antenna. At least one per station in required.

So what is a 1A or 2A operation?

(Class A) refers to a group or Club portable operations set up specifically for Field Day under emergency power. Such stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must not use facilities installed for permanent station use, or use any structure installed permanently for Field Day. NARS is the club and Burroughs Park is the non-permanent location.

The number designation refers to the number of radios operating (on the air) simultaneously. The GOTA station is an exception and may be added for classes 2A & above. So, if we have one transmitter, that is 1A, & if we get a 2nd. Transmitter we become 2A, etc.

What about equipment?

The club has the off-center fed dipole antennas and filters. Various club members donate use of generators, radios, and other equipment such as tables, shelters. Keith may put out a general call for needed items.

BUT MOST OF ALL WE NEED BODIES! We need operators, so volunteer now! There will be signup sheets at the June 16 meeting. I would like to see your name on one of those sheets.

Richard Nelson, KF5WRD

A Bragging moment!

Congrats to Skip Ferguson K5LLR and Keith Dutson NM5G, who provided on-site training at Johnson Space Center, winding up the session with three individuals passing the exam.

Score: Two astronauts and one NASA employee!

Keith NM5G

Bulletin to all Narsians:

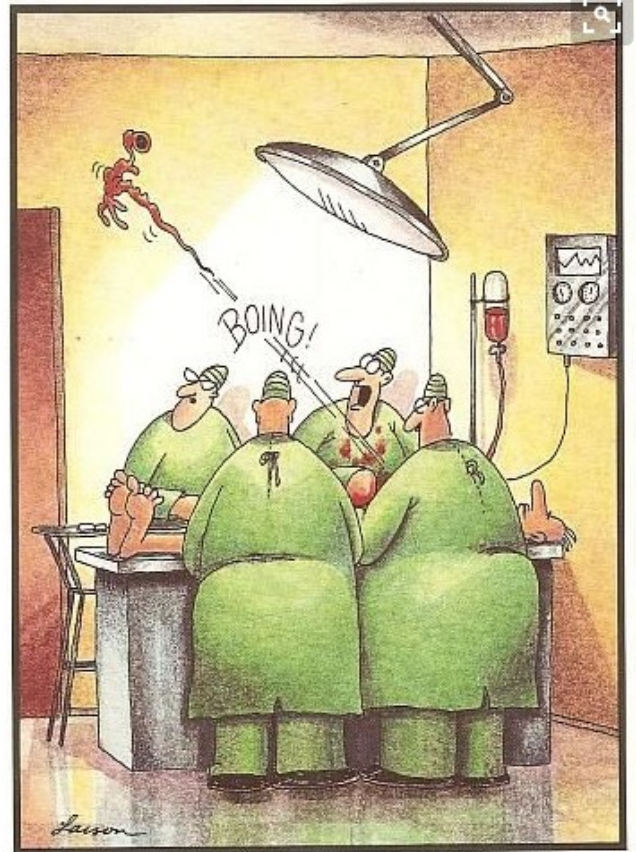
A girl I grew up with - Dr. Sharlene Katz - WB6FFE, is presently the Dean of the Electronics Engineering school at California State University Northridge. Since 2013, Sharlene has been the lead scientist on a program to design, build, and orbit a CubeSat.

The purpose of Dr. Sharlene's (mini V-ger) program has been to test a new power-supply system and improve the pipeline of CSUN engineering students to NASA and JPL. The CubeSat was successfully launched and has been in orbit reporting back to 'The Creator' since May 17. It can be heard on high passes with just an egg-beater antenna. The downlink frequency is 437.4 Mhz.

The web address below can be copy/pasted into your browser. On the Mission Ops tab, there is a Keplerian graphic illustrating the CubeSat's current location, and when the next pass over Houston will be. If you hear it and email-forward the Excel spread sheet (not complex) to Dr. Katz, you'll get recognized on the web-page as a participating team member, and receive a QSL card shortly thereafter.

<http://www.csun.edu/cubesat/>

KF5LFL Horton's greatest fear....



"Whoa! Watch where that thing lands—
we'll probably need it."

I didn't know that....

The ARRL has just come out with what could be a very interesting and informative book. Just when you think you know all there is to know about grounding, along comes a publication that makes you think twice about the subject. This could be a very good read for some of us "experts." (See article below.)

Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur shows you how to make sure your station follows current standards for lightning protection and communication systems. You'll learn effective grounding and bonding techniques for home stations, including condos and apartments, portable and temporary stations, as well as towers and outside antennas. I think it's worth looking into.

Braid versus Strap

Flat, solid strap or heavy wire are the standard for making grounding, bonding, or high-current connections at RF. Braided strap is often used for dc and low-frequency power and grounding connections — is it ever acceptable to use braided conductors for RF?

If the connection needs to flex — for example, for grounding equipment that has to be moved frequently — and it's protected from water, it is OK to use tinned flat-weave braid. Never use a braided conductor for high-frequency connections outside or where it can get wet! Water will be drawn into the braid between the strands where it cause the individual strands to corrode, reducing the effectiveness of the braid.

It is common practice to remove copper braid from old coaxial cable and use that for grounding — don't do it at RF! Coax braid works fine inside a cable but when removed from its protective jacket, rapidly begins to loosen and corrode, losing its effectiveness at RF.

An editorial from a distant mirror -

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

I happened to run across a now dormant issue of "That Texas Magazine," published in Tomball in 2006. In it was a full page article written by Mike Bragassa K5UO explaining about NARS and our coming Field Day activities. That was one big event for us back then. Cal White WF5W, John Ellis W5PDW, Paul Frantz W5FP, H.O. Townsend K5CX, Rick Aikman K5ZE, Norm Covey K5OS Madison Jones W5MJ and countless others were all assembled to show off their communication skills during this annual event.

These were the ghosts of Field Day past. A large tent was set up at Fritchie Park not too far from a family cemetery, and if you listened carefully, one could hear the sounds of the long deceased humming to the sounds of "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day..." Some say that crusty old Caleb Fritchie a seasoned telegraph operator in the late eighteen hundreds was trying to make a contact or two. It may have only been a cow lowing in the distant pasture, but still....

Yes, Field Day was a big thing back then, but guys like Caleb, Cal, H.O. and the rest of the gang have either crossed the ethereal abyss or moved on to other places, ending placidly amidst the noise and haste, remembering what peace there may be in silence. It doesn't have to be this way, though. We can still enjoy the thrill of setting up operations, filling the air with contacts, you know, running with the horses. Isn't this what you got into the hobby of amateur radio to begin with? Hams didn't just rag chew but also strived to help fellow citizens in crisis when the need arose.

Recalling the past is fun and educational but you can't rest on your laurels. CW is still there albeit not as it used to be, and now there are new and exciting modes of communication to experience. Field Day is morphing and we need to follow its path if we're going to be a viable alternative to emergency communications. Maybe a crisis is good for the soul. NARS is starting to coalesce and shows signs of a new beginning. Start small and work your way up. That's how we did it back in 1985 and it'll work again if you allow it.

73's from KD5KR in Abilene. I may be miles away but I left my heart in Houston! "Oh, oh. I feel a song coming on....."
Stay toned!

DX Tips and Tidbits from the Grumpy 'ol Ham

Here we are in the month of June. You just think it's hot. Just think, Summer doesn't start until the end of the month. That's also the time Field Day takes place. If it's like other Field Days, it will be hot and humid. Although Field Day is not a DX contest per se, it is still an opportunity to get on the air and work stations across the USA and Canada. There are also the U. S. possessions such as Guam, U. S. Virgin Islands and others that will participate.

Most importantly, for many of our newer hams that have licenses, but live in deed restricted communities, here's a chance to get out and operate. There will be the complete collection of operators from other newbies to seasoned operators. And this will be evident to stations on the air as well as the local NARS operators who come to operate at our Field Day site.

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

We had 9 candidates taking 14 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 9; passed 9

Element 3 tests given: 3; passed 1

Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 1

Congratulations to:

Tiffany Schaefer - new Technician

Michael Kalish - new Technician

Mohammad Hirzallah - new Technician

James Arthur - new Technician

Theodore Martin - new Technician

Thomas Norton - new Technician

Darwin Gilmore - new Extra

Matthijs Boerlage - new Technician

Christopher Mayo - new Technician w/auto upgrade to Advanced

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Steve Protz KA5AUD

Skip Ferguson K5LLR

Ron Matusek WA6TQH

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, July 22, at Tomball Regional Hospital.

THERE IS NO SESSION IN JUNE

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

Get out to Field Day because it's a great time to gather with other club members and find out interests you may have with others. We have such a narrow time to mingle at our monthly club meetings, this is a great time to know more about one another.

As for DX info for this time of the year, continue to monitor the higher bands. 17 through 10 will have moments of openings, and you need to be there to catch them. They may be very brief, but productive.

Also don't forget to monitor 6 Meters. This is the time of the year when sporadic E comes out to play. Also, troposcatter makes its presents known. For those with 2 Meter ser-ups, there have been several report instances of 2 meter tropo as well.

For the VHF enthusiast, it is frequently better to have your radios turned on and listening as opposed to just monitoring your local cluster. Activity can come and go, before someone puts out a spot.

Good DX to all

Grumpy

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

New members: Nilayendu Soneji KG5TDJ, and Joe Lahnstein W4HUA & Jerry Kelley KG5STE
Wishing Ron Horton KF5LFL a quick recovery from bypass heart surgery in Denver on May 5th.
followed by gall bladder surgery a few days later! His return is delayed until his oxygen level stabilizes.
With deep regret, we note the passing of former member, (1994 -2003) Bob Argo KC5JZO in May 2017.

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

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Martin Rogoff N5GPS
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Send changes in address, phone, or email to:
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Directors

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

Nets

2 meter Wed. 8 pm. 146.660, tone 141.3
Coordinator: Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Ron Horton KF5LFL

281 890-4038
ron.horton88@gmail.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 kdutson@sbcglobal.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.