



# NARS NEWS

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

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

### VE License Exam:

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

### Lunch Break—North

Mar 15, B.J's Brewery  
Mar 22, Gianna's  
Mar 29, Spring Creek BBQ  
Apr 5, Pei Wei  
Apr 12, Panera Bread  
Apr 19, Jason's Deli

### .Lunch Break—Medical Center

Mar 15, Pappa's BBQ  
Mar 22, Morningside Thai  
Mar 29, Pronto Cucinino  
Apr 5, Antonio's Mexican Grill  
Apr 12, Jason's Deli  
Apr 19, Buffalo Grille

### Tail Dragger's Lunch Bunch -

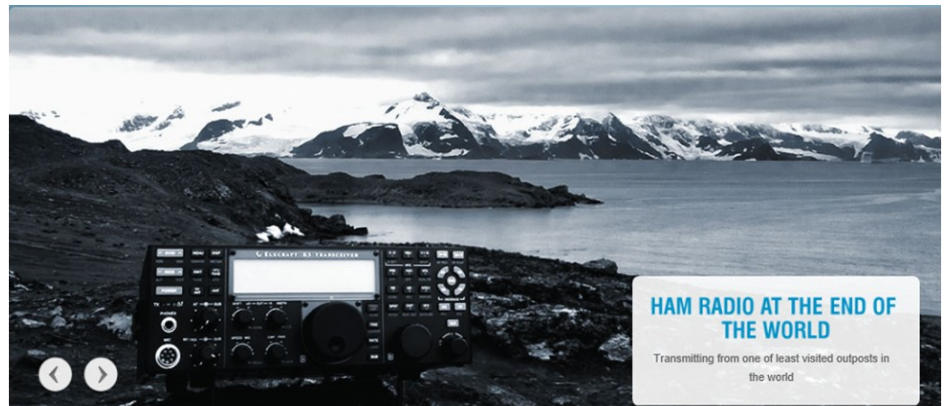
Mondays, 11 am.  
Aviator's Grill, Hooks Aerodrome

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**

## Friday, March 17

## Transmitting From One of the Most Remote Places on Earth!



This month we will be showing a video on the 2014 FT5ZM Dxpedition to Amsterdam Island or “Île Amsterdam” in the southern Indian Ocean.

The setting according to Wikipedia is unique:

The island had a history of shipwrecks and stories of people marooned on the island from the late 1700 onwards. It is just over 6 miles long, and over 21 square miles. The island is volcanic, and the peak rises to 2,844 ft. It is called the “loneliest volcano on earth

.” It is truly miles from anywhere being just under 2,000 mile to Madagascar, 2200 miles to Perth, Australia and almost 2700 miles to Durban, S Africa. of Antarctica's ice shelf.

*Continued on page 2*

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

We had 7 candidates taking 10 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 4; passed 3

Element 3 tests given: 2; passed 1

Element 4 tests given: 4; passed 3

Congratulations to:

Michael Dillon - new Technician

Ted Blackburn N9GVR - upgrade to Extra

Ed Struzynski - new Extra

Frank Anthony KG5QAP - upgrade to Extra

David Scott - new Technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS - manager

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ

Ship Ferguson K5LLR

George Paxson AG5CZ

Ron Horton KF5LFL

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, March 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

*DXpedition, cont.*

It is located about 2,000 miles north of Antarctica's ice shelf.



It is part of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands together with neighboring Île Saint-Paul 53 miles to the south. The Martin-de-Viviès research station, first called Camp Heurtin and then La Roche Godon, is the only settlement on the island and is home to about thirty non-permanent inhabitants involved in biological, meteorological and geomagnetic studies.



**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.*

## ***Saturday, February 18 VE Test Session Results at Hooks Airport***

We had 6 candidates taking 6 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 0; passed 0

Element 3 tests given: 0; passed 0

Element 4 tests given: 6; passed 3

Congratulations to:

Michael Ballesteros W5MSB - upgrade to Extra

Rob Nixon KD5BXZ - upgrade to Extra

Rick Braddy W5FCX - upgrade to Extra

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ

Skip Ferguson K5LLR

Ronald Horton KF5LFL

Ron Matusek WA6TQH

This completes the Extra Upgrade class.

The next monthly session will be held Saturday, February 25 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

## ***New Board of Directors for 2017***

President - Richard Nelson KF5WRI

Vice Pres: - 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

Keith Dutson NM5G will assume this position in April 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.

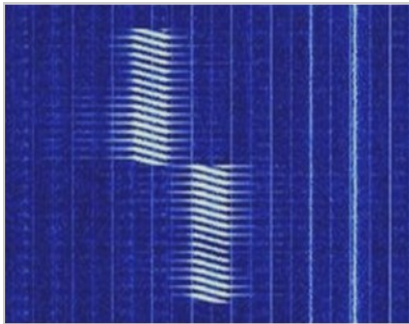
## ***"Mysterious Foghorn" is Chinese Over-the-Horizon Burst Radar***

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System [newsletter](#) reports a mysterious "foghorn" -- a Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) burst radar -- is operating in Amateur Radio bands.

"We observed the mysterious foghorn on 7, 10, and 14 MHz," the newsletter recounted. "This is a Chinese OTH radar, which is often jumping, and sounding like a foghorn." The signal is frequency modulation on pulse (FMOP) with 66.66 sweeps-per-second bursts.

Other intruders include a Russian frequency shift keying (FSK) signal from Kaliningrad on 7,193 kHz and a Russian FSK signal on 7,193 kHz (50 baud, 200 Hz shift). German telecommunications authorities have filed another complaint.

The latest IARUMS newsletter also reports strong splatter from Radio France International (RFI) on 7,205 kHz down to 7,186 kHz. The French REF has informed RFI and French telecommunications authorities. Intruders still reported, and the subjects of complaints from German authorities include Radio Hargeysa in Somaliland on 7,120.0 kHz; Radio Eritrea with Ethiopian interference on 7,175.0 kHz; Radio Taiwan and a Chinese jammer on 7,200.0 kHz, and a Radio Tajik harmonic (from 4765 kHz) on 14,295.0 kHz.



The "foghorn" waveform from the Chinese over-the-horizon burst radar. [Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, screenshot]

*ARRL News*

## ***You have DXing Questions? Dr. DX has Answers!***

The Southern California DX Club ([SCDXC](#)) has announced that "**Dr. DX**" is on call and ready to answer questions via e-mail from fledgling DXers. A team of experienced DXers will offer helpful replies to any and all DXing-related questions.

The club has also distributed a brochure to Southern California Amateur Radio clubs to entice hams who are not yet DXers into that area of the hobby. Ham clubs outside of Southern California may [request](#) a PDF.

The SCDXC says its efforts to promote DXing in general are not limited to Southern California, and Dr. DX will take questions from anywhere. Through the Dr. DX program, new DXers may ask about equipment, operating techniques, antennas, QSLing, and related topics, and someone on the SCDXC Dr. DX team will have the right answer! SCDXC Dr. DX team members will respond to every question. — *Thanks to SCDXC*

## ***President's Corner***

### ***A Word of Caution...***

I would like to caution everyone about leaving anything valuable in your vehicles. During last month's meeting, one of the members had a truck break-in behind the church (and it appeared some other car break-ins might have occurred). This happened in a location which is adjacent to the Precinct 4 constables' office.

### ***Feb. Recap***

I also want to thank Keith Dutson, NM5G for making a presentation about his mobile installation and antenna upgrade. I learned there is much more involved in the process than it would seem at first, and that it is important to ground everything (including the truck bed) to the chassis. It is also necessary to fuse and ground electrical connections. We also learned professional help from installers at stereo shops for running wires may be worth the cash cost to prevent aggravations.

### ***Other News***

I want to thank everyone who provided suggestions about meeting topics. I have had some possible meeting presentations proposed, but our current arrangements (i.e., lack of high speed internet, and workable projector) limit some possibilities. For example, our facilities are not set up to demonstrate working radio set ups, software, etc.. I will be reaching out to the membership for other topics of interest in the near future.

*Richard Nelson KF5WRD*

## ***International Crystal Manufacturing Going Out of Business***

International Crystal Manufacturing ([ICM](#)) of Oklahoma City has announced that it will be going out of business, probably at the end of May. Royden Freeland Jr., W5EMH, son of the company's founder, posted a letter this week on the ICM website.

"We will be honoring all orders that we have already taken and will be able to fill a limited amount of new orders dependent upon raw materials available," Freeland said. "We would like to thank you for your past business. The success of ICM over the previous 66 years has been largely due to its amazing customer base." International Crystal produces RF control devices — quartz crystals, oscillators, QCM crystals, filters, TCXOs/VCTCXOs, and precision crystals.

Royden R. Freeland Sr. founded International Crystal in 1950, at first operating out of his garage. One of his first contracts was to produce crystals for Collins Radio. The elder Freeland and his wife died in a 1978 air crash, and his son took over the company, which expanded into the production of other electronics in the 1980s. In the 1990s, though, it sold off some of its equipment and distribution business to concentrate on its core enterprise — the manufacture of crystal and oscillator products.

The announcement caught some manufacturers off guard, and they are seeking to source the products they had been buying from ICM, one of the few remaining US-based manufacturer of crystal products. Radio amateurs requiring crystals for projects or as replacement parts for older equipment also will have to look elsewhere. Ironically, International boasts on its website that it's "a proud supplier to RadioShack," which, for the second time in 2 years, declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy this week.

## It's time to move on....

A commentary by Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

Well it's finally going to happen. After 83 years of skirting up and down the ladder of life, I'm pulling up stakes and moving to Abilene, where the deer and the antelope play, the martinis are dry and the sky is not cloudy all day! As editor of the NARS News for the past three years, I've enjoyed putting together each issue, although at times I wondered where the next article would appear to make the read a bit more interesting.

NARS was so much fun since its conception in 1985. Along with amateur radio came the building of friendships that endured over the years. Members came together from all walks of life, business, academia, those with Masters and PHD's, and yes, a lot of us "Joe & Jane Six packs" to round out the mix. Each had something to offer and to learn about a hobby that is constantly in a state of flux.

I'm really going to miss you all, but economics and advanced age dictates that I start acting like a retiree that's supposed to be regulated to daily sessions of "I Love Lucy," bingo and hours of playing Dominos. But, I'm not ready to follow that regimen, not just yet. I can still do the 500 yard Mosey in four minutes flat.

Way back when I was but a small lad, my grandfather, a former Cossack in the Polish army in the late 1800's once said to me in his heavy European accent, "Josef, never draw your saber in anger lest you injure your horse in the process." Whoa! I'm still trying to figure out what the heck he meant by that! I mean, how retro can you get? That was way before John Wayne!

73 to all! I will still be on 2 Meters, and who knows, a little skip can do wonders in communications. If that doesn't work, well maybe I'll see you once again on the other side of the great ethereal abyss. But, just in case, I'm leaving my saber behind.....

## WWV: THE DAY THAT TIME STOOD STILL

Daylight Saving Time, which starts Sunday, March 12, confuses lots of people - at least temporarily. But radio station WWV had another issues recently. Radio Station WWV, operated by the United States National Institute of Standards and Technology, continually transmits the current time on several frequencies from just outside Fort Collins, Colorado. If you tuned into WWV recently, and it seems they disappeared... well, it wasn't another David Copperfield TV special. WWV was off the air recently for installation of a 250 kVA backup generator. Matt Deutch, N0RGT is the chief engineer at WWV, and explains what took place.

"We've had the same diesel generator to back up WWV since 1967, 68 something like that, and it worked wonderfully for us, but over the years it has slowly started to accumulate its problems. And the reliability was in question. It was having trouble starting sometimes especially when we needed it, and so the division scraped together some money and said let's get a new generator. So we've installed a new generator. The testing isn't done quite yet. We're still in the midst of... Cummins is gonna test it... but we've run it. We have a new automatic transfer switch, and we're hoping to do a load test next week and transfer it onto the building also and make sure everything works okay".

Matt further explains what took place instead of the expected two days of service outage that was anticipated.

"That was to pull the new cable through the conduit... put in new conduit and pull cable through it, and reconnect it to the distribution panel. So it was just for safety measure for the workers to work on that equipment. And it went a lot faster than we thought it would, which is good. And so, we just had two short outages instead of the day long outages like we had anticipated. So for the couple of weeks until the testing is complete, WWV is running without a backup generator. And ironically, that's exactly the time that an unexpected outage took place."

"We did have one outage that was unscheduled. We need the generator about once every five years. And, we did have a snow storm last week, and one of our outages was unplanned. We didn't have a backup generator, and sure enough we lost power. We were off the air for about two hours without a backup generator."

The generator will be fully functional soon, and WWV will be back to being all time, all the time. And it sure was fun to call WWV and ask, "What time is it?" But alas, it's happened many times before.

Reporting for Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Neil Rapp, WB9VPG in Bloomington, Indiana.

## Non Sequitur by Wiley Miller



# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

We note with sadness the passing of Bill Pierrard, K5JHP/SK on March 5, 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

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

Ron Matusek WA6TQH  
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ronml@att.com

### Vice President

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keith@dutson1.net

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

### Treasurer

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sher5456@gmail.com

### Administrative & General Info.

Keith Dutson NM5G  
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keith1@dutson.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, Keith Dutson NM5G, keith1@dutson.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.