



May 2017

Important Dates

Monthly club meeting:

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

Board of Directors Meeting

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

VE License Exam:

Next exam, Saturday, May 27, 2017
Saturday, February 25 at 8:00 AM at
Tomball Regional Hospital, 1st floor
Green conference room.

Lunch Break—North

May 10 B J's Brewery
May 17 Gianna's
May 24 Spring Creek BBQ
May 31 Pei Wei
June 7 Panera Bread
June 14 Jason's Deli

.Lunch Break—Medical Center

May 10 Pappas BBQ
May 17 Morningside Thai
May 24 Pronto Cucinino
May 31 Antonio's Mexican Grill
June 7 Jason's Deli
June 14 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 anniver-
sary date.

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

NARS NEWS

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

May 19th Field Day Preliminary Planning

Field Day is June 24 & 25 and
We have no NARS FD Coordinator this year!

*To decide whether to have a FD event, we need to hear from
NARS members, and anyone else who is interested.*

*Please reply via email and indicate your choice to participate,
or not. If you want to participate, what will you do to:*

- 1. Help in field day setup.*
- 2. Help to control and/or operate a station.*
- 3. Help in some other way (welcome tent, cook, etc.)*

*The results of this survey will be the topic of discussion at the
General Membership on Friday, May 19th.*

All suggestions will be considered.

*73, Keith NM5G
kdutson@sbcglobal.net*

Saturday, April 22 VE Test Session Results at Tomball Regional Hospital

We had 5 candidates taking 7 tests.
Element 2 tests given: 5; passed 4
Element 3 tests given: 1; passed 1
Element 4 tests given: 1; passed 0

Congratulations to:

Nilayendu Soneji - new General
Alan Kinzy - new Technician
Joseph Schlobohm - new Technician
Douglas Johse - new Technician

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS - Manager
Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
Richard Nelson KF5WRD
Skip Ferguson K5LLR
Jennifer Robinson KD2EYR

The next monthly session will be held 0800 Saturday, May 27,
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



4721 Watonga Blvd.
Houston, TX 77092
www.ofarc.org

V.E. Exams every 4th Satur-
day of the month at 9:30
a.m.

Contact: John Westerlage
N5DWI@oafrc.org for
further info.

President's Corner

Richard Nelson KF5WRD

April Recap

Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, who is the Emergency Coordinator of the South Texas Section of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) talked to the club about ARES activities. Harris County is unique in that it is a district unto itself (District 14) which is further divided into four quadrants by I-45 and I-10.

He emphasized anyone can join ARES – provided they are available and willing to participate. Members who are interested can look at <http://www.harriscountyares.org/> ARES works with Harris County emergency services and FEMA, so there is so FEMA training required.

Personal Note

Thanks to whoever picked up my tab at Denny's last Saturday (May 6).

A Commentary by John Ellis W5PDW

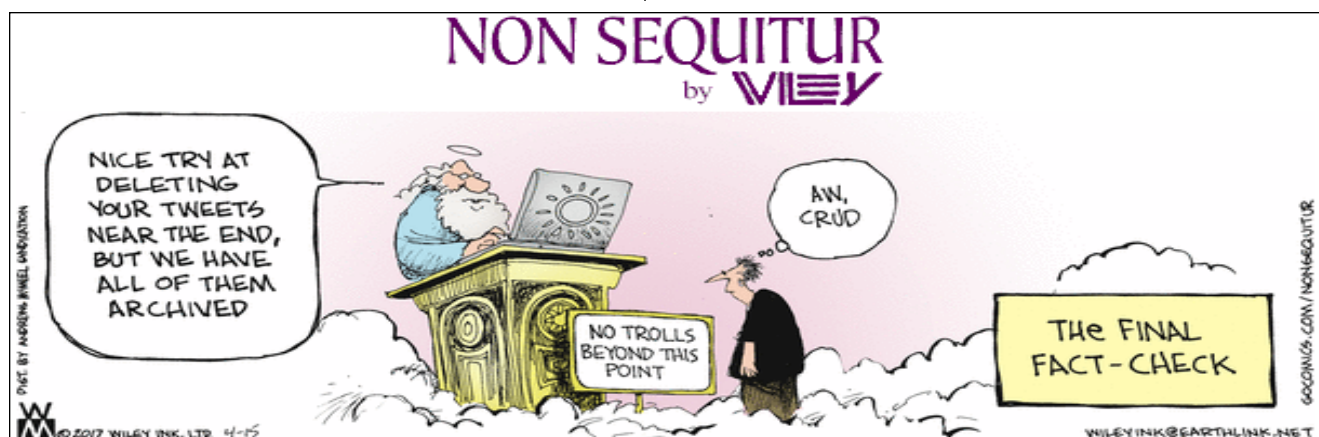
Congratulations to all the VE's for the continuing growth of the New Op's to the Amateur Radio community.

Welcome to The Airways. There are so many aspects of our hobby, it is difficult to decide which to pursue. Here are some thoughts that you might consider for your first HF station. You can't go wrong beginning with a Kenwood TS-520 HF transceiver. A clean one goes for about \$300.00. These rigs have excellent audio, no bells and whistles, analog readout and 100 watts output. A really good rig to get your feet wet.

When you decide to upgrade, you can recoup your investment. I would recommend keeping it for a backup rig. Another thought, the antenna can make or break your station's success. If your antenna stay's up for over one year, It wasn't big enough!

I especially enjoy working DX, rag chewing and Special Event stations. Check out page 104 April QST for a list of Special Event stations. April 25-30 The Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary will have 7 stations along the trail. They are 1x1 call signs. Most S.E. QSL cards are hi quality color photographs. Nice to collect!

You can also get their info on QRZ.com and search W5C. Their site is <http://www.qrz.com/db/w5c> www.qrz.com/db/w5c Any questions, drop me a line.



US Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Comments on Baker Island DXpedition Compatibility

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) appears open to a DXpedition to Baker Island in the Pacific, which has not been activated for 15 years. Baker and Howland Islands (KH1) is the fourth most-wanted DXCC entity, according to the Club Log *DXCC Most Wanted List*. On April 24, the FWS released a [Draft Compatibility Determination for Amateur Radio Operation](#) for public review and comment. The comment period ends on May 8. Public access to the Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is managed through a special use permit (SUP). Baker and Howland Islands are part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM), created by former President George W. Bush under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The monument was expanded by President Barack Obama.

"Amateur Radio operation is an existing use at Baker Island NWR; however, it is not a common use," the FWS said in opening the *Draft Compatibility Determination* for comment. "The Service last permitted an Amateur Radio operator group to access Baker Island NWR in April 2002. The SUP authorizing this use will include stipulations, conditions, and restrictions to ensure compatibility and mitigate for potential anticipated impacts to refuge resources."

Comments may be submitted via e-mail to Monument Superintendent Laura Beauregard. Include "Baker Amateur Radio Comments" in the subject line.

The FWS allowed that while Amateur Radio is not a wildlife-dependent public use, it does offer "some value as a source of public information about wildlife resources and to bring public attention to the Refuge," the FWS said. Baker Island is 1,830 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu -- an 8-day voyage.



Visitors to Baker Island would be accompanied by an FWS representative, who would approve the landing zone. The FWS would also have to approve QSL cards to ensure that they include "an informative or educational statement about the Refuge." The FWS called QSLs "a valuable outreach tool."

"By allowing Amateur Radio operators to visit the PRIMNM refuges, the refuges benefit through the ability of staff to visit remote island sites to monitor wildlife populations and habitats, detect invasive species introductions, and perform management actions that would otherwise require the Service to charter a vessel," the FWS, said, pointing out the mutual advantage to the Service of accompanying a DXpedition to the island.

The 2002 K1B Baker Island DXpedition logged 96,000 contacts. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#), FWS

SB QST ARL ARLB013

ARLB013 Important Notice - New MF and LF Bands are Not Yet Available to Use!

The new 630-meter and 2200-meter bands are not yet available for Amateur Radio use. The effective date of the recent FCC Report and Order (R&O) granting these allocations has not yet been determined, and until the start date has been set, it is not legal under an Amateur Radio license to transmit on either band.

The R&O can be found on the web in PDF format at, https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-33A1.pdf.

The fact that the new rules contain a new information-collection requirement - notification of operation to the United Telecoms Council (UTC) - complicates the matter of determining an effective date. According to the FCC R&O, the Office of Management and Budget (under the Paperwork Reduction Act) must first approve the information-collection requirements in Part 97.303(g)(2), which must be in place before radio amateurs can use the new bands.

Once that happens, the FCC will publish a notice in The Federal Register "announcing such approval and the relevant effective date."

ARRL will announce the UTC notification procedures and the effective date to use these new bands as soon as these are known.

DX Tips and Tidbits Grumpy 'ol Ham

April showers bring May flowers. Watch out for pilgrims! April was unexciting and May is forecast to be the same. The sun is uneventful so it's catch as catch can. There are occasional openings and the only way to take advantage of them is to be on the air. I have seen some reports of Caribbean stations working into Europe and North Africa on 10 and 12 meters, so don't abandon all hope. There will be openings and you just have to be there to take advantage of them.

You do need to be attentive to the Six Meter Band from now through August. The reflectors are beginning to show spots on the band. At the start of summer sporadic E will start to appear. And as the name implies, it is Sporadic.

A ham 50 miles away may be working into New England and you will hear nothing. You may work someone and he will suddenly drop out. It's not you, the E skip moved to another location, or completely dropped out. That's just the nature of that mode of propagation.

Another VHF mode to be aware of at this time of the year is Tropo. With weather fronts moving across the country, there is often ducting that can occur along the line of the front. Watch your weather maps. Most new HF rigs now come with 6 meters as a standard band. Don't forget to look over there.

73 & DX

Grumpy

2017 DFW DX & Contest Forum
Sponsored by The Lone Star DX Assoc & The DFW Contest Group
Plus Contest Luncheon with Special Guest, Tim Duffy, K3LR
"The Evolution and Future of Contesting"

The DFW Contest Group and the Lone Star DX Association announce the 2017 DFW DX & Contest Forum to be held on Friday and Saturday, June 9th and 10th in conjunction with Ham-Com at the Irving Convention Center in Irving, Texas.

The 2017 DFW DX & Contest Forum includes 16 presentations on Friday and Saturday and is highlighted with a luncheon on Saturday featuring our special guest Tim Duffy, K3LR. Tim will present on "The Evolution and Future of Contesting" at the luncheon. Tim will also be presenting at 1:00 PM on Friday on "Station Design for HF".

All presentations from all speakers are included in your standard admission to Ham-Com however, the Luncheon admission will be \$25 and includes a light boxed lunch and raffle entry for door prizes

2017 Presentation Topics

Friday Sessions

- Introduction to Contesting (KG5VK)
- DX 101 (N5JB)
- Contesting from a Small/Restricted Lot (NM5M)
- QRP Contesting (NE5DL)
- Station Design for HF (K3LR)
- RF Design for Single Operator Two Radio Stations (W8FN)
- Taking Your Contest Efforts to the Next Level (W0UO)
- Cubical Quad Design Methods (WA5FWC)

Saturday Sessions

- Preparing for the Solar Minimum (W0UO)
- Effective Antennas for Low Band DXing (KG5VK)
- Survey of Low Band Receiving Antennas (WX0B and HK1A)
- The Future of DXing and DXpeditions (KK6EK)
- Luncheon (\$) - The Evolution and Future of Contesting (K3LR) - \$25.00 and includes a light boxed lunch and raffle entry for door prizes
- The Sun and Radio Propagation - (Dr. Tamitha Skov)
- Live Demonstration of N1MM + (W8FN, KG5VK, W0UO and others)
- Contesting and DXing with the Digital Modes (N3BUO)

The cost for the Luncheon is \$25 and includes admission to the 12:00 presentation on Saturday with special guest Tim Duffy, K3LR as well as a boxed lunch with deli sandwich, chips, fruit cup or cookie, water and iced tea. Admission price also provides a chance to win one of our several door prizes from prominent Amateur Radio vendors. Tickets must be purchased in advance using the information below. There is no charge for any of the presentations on Friday, or for any of the other presentations on Saturday, all other presentations are covered by the price of admission to Ham-Com.

Contest Luncheon Special Guest, Tim Duffy, K3LR

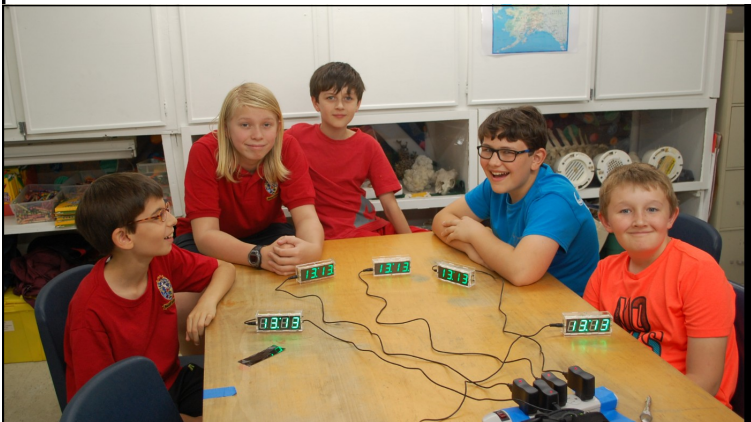
Tim has been an active amateur radio operator for over 45 years. He has hosted 132 different operators from around the world as part of the K3LR Multi-Multi DX radio sport contest efforts since 1992. He was the Atlantic Division Technical Achievement award winner in 1998. Tim was moderator of the Dayton Contest Forum for 10 years and has been moderator of the Hamvention Antenna forum for 33 years. He is a founding member and current President of the North Coast Contesters. K3LR serves as chairman of Contest University (11 years), the Dayton Contest Dinner (25 years), chairman of the Top Band Dinner – as well as coordinator of the Contest Super Suite (32 years) in Dayton during the yearly Hamvention. He is founder and moderator of the popular RFI Reflector (RFI@contesting.com) since 1999. He has been a guest on Ham Nation many times. Tim was a member of Team USA at the World Radio Team Championship – four times and will operate in Germany for WRTC2018. Tim serves on the board of directors of the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) as Vice Chairman and the Radio Club of America (RCA) as President and a member of the RCA executive committee. Tim is President of the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club (W3LIF). Tim was elected to the CQ Contesting Hall of Fame in 2006. He was honored with the prestigious Barry Goldwater Amateur Radio service award by the RCA in 2010. K3LR was honored as Ham of the Year for 2015 by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. Tim is the Chief Operating Officer and General Manager at DX Engineering. He is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University.

Purchase Ticket for the 2017 DFW DX & Contest Forum To purchase tickets for the luncheon portion of the 2017 DFW DX & Contest Forum, please go to the DFW Contest Group website link below and scroll down to the payment form. [http://](http://www.dfwcontest.com/2017-dfw-dx-contest-forum.html)

www.dfwcontest.com/2017-dfw-dx-contest-forum.html

Redd School happenings

The students below are displaying the results of a digital clock kit project. The kids, under the direction of Jerry Whiting KB5VGD and other NARS members, were taught basic soldering techniques along with the ability of identifying a variety of component values. The best part of the project was the builder's realization that when powered up, the clock actually worked! NARS has been providing the Redd School with weekly tutoring in electronics and amateur Radio over the past twelve years. A major accomplishment some years back was when an amateur radio club, *The Lab Rats*, was established within the confines of the Redd School establishment.



The photo on the right depicts a scene of the annual Spring Festival which is dedicated to the parents and guest to expose the public to what the school does. Here, Terry Myers KQ5U is demonstrating Morse Code, one of many modes used in communicating with others throughout the world.

Hamvention Organizers "Counting Down the Hours," Anticipating up to 35,000 Visitors

Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) Treasurer and Hamvention® spokesperson Mike Kalter, W8CI, said this week that everything is falling into place for "a five-star event" at Hamvention's new venue at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio, May 19-21.

"We're counting down the hours," Kalter told DX Engineering's Tim Duffy, K3LR, in a May 2 [video](#), produced by DX Engineering. The theme for Hamvention 2017 is "Same friends, new home."

Kalter revealed to Duffy that after Hara Arena announced it would be closing last year, the Hamvention Organizing Committee pondered not staging a show at all in 2017. "We had thought we might not even have the event for another year and take more time and get it all set," Kalter said, "but our team was determined to do this."

The flea market at the new venue turned out to be "one of our more difficult areas," Kalter said. The Hamvention flea market will have the same number of booth spaces as in 2016. "It's looking like it will sell out, but we're not there yet," he told Duffy. Inside exhibitor booth space is in very good shape, he noted. Kalter said he does not anticipate any problems with parking, explaining that free on- and off-site parking will be

available, with shuttle bus service to and from Hamvention for off-site lots. Maps now are online to help visitors to navigate what will be unfamiliar territory for most.

Kalter also told Duffy that he's expecting a bumper crop of attendees at Hamvention 2017. "The way ticket sales are going, and with most of the hotel/motel space sold out by mid-February...we're expecting between 30,000 and 35,000 people," he said. It's still possible to buy tickets online through May 17 and pick them up at the show. Kalter said there was a lot of demand for forums this year, and Hamvention will be unable to accommodate any repeat sessions. Duffy noted that 2017 will mark his 35th year moderating the antenna forum.

Kalter also said the Hamvention organizers made a commitment to better food. "I think all of us at Hamvention have been a little disappointed in the food that was there," he said. "So we have made a concerted effort." A beer garden on site will be selling a commemorative stein to note the very first Hamvention in Xenia.

"We're going to learn a lot this year," Kalter said, anticipating a lot of input from visitors, and he credited DX Engineering and other vendors for offering their constructive advice in the run-up to the show. Some 600 DARA volunteers are involved in making Hamvention 2017 happen.

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

New members: Nilayendu Soneji TBA and Joe Lahnstein W4HUA
Wishing Ron Horton KF5LFL a quick recovery from a double bypass heart surgery on May 5th.

NARS Resource list

General help:

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281 528-0673 wa5rej@yahoo.com

Deral Kent K5WNO
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Al Manard N6VQO
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Digital modes:

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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
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g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Ron Horton KF5LFL

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ron.horton88@gmail.com

Web site

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Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
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NARS Reflector

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

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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.