

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 2006

## April Meeting – Special Videos

Two special videos will be presented at the April meeting.

The first is one received from NARS former president and charter/life member Dee Logan W1HEO. Dee put this together to explain amateur radio to the general public. It is quite good.

The second is the story of an amateur radio Hallicrafters transmitter and receiver being prepared for deployment to the battlefield during World War II. I was surprised at the quality put into this rig and the method used to install it in a military field truck.

I think you will enjoy both of these videos. See you at the meeting.

Keith NM5G

## Annual Picnic 2006

Date: Saturday, May 6

Time: 11:00AM until 4:00PM

Location: 24415 Deep Meadow Dr, Tomball – see map below

Food: BBQ and side dishes from Rib Tickler, home made desserts

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Bring your own chairs and cokes (iced tea provided).

Come join the NARS crowd for good eats, games and plenty of eyeball QSOs. Horseback rides will be available for kids and daring adults. There may even be a bit of music entertainment from the NARS Pickers.

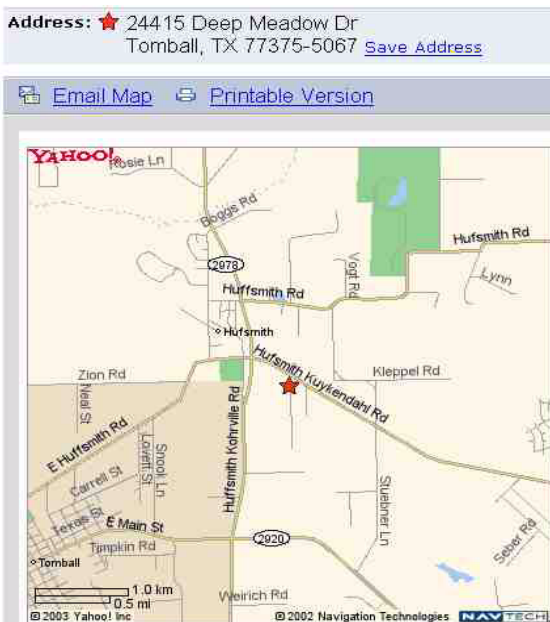
Beth will be showing off her new barn. I call it a horse mansion. It includes a water treadmill and several other pieces of equipment for treating and conditioning horses. If enough are interested, she will show a horse working in the treadmill.

A volunteer is needed to pick up the BBQ from Rib Tickler. We also need horseshoes, washers, badminton, or whatever else would be fun. Do you have one of these? If so, please call 281-351-7683. Thanks.

Do you have a favorite dessert you make to show off? Hint – chocolate chip cookies – yum. If so, bring it along. There will be a prize awarded to the maker of the favorite sweets as voted by the diners.

Mark your calendar now for this fun, informal get-together.

Keith Dutson NM5G  
keith@dutson.net  
281-351-7683



## Important Dates

**Friday, Apr 21, 7:30 PM** – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, Apr 22, 8:30 AM** – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

**Tuesday, Apr 25, 7:30 PM** – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

### Contests

Apr 22–23 SP DX RTTY, FL QP, Helvetia  
May 6–7 ARI Int'l DX  
May 13–14 CQ Nat'l Foxhunting Weekend  
May 27–28 CQ WW WPX CW

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch – North

Apr 19 Strack Farms  
Apr 26 Pepperchino  
May 3 Luby's Cafeteria  
May 10 Jason's Deli  
May 17 Neal's Restaurant

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Apr 19 Skeeter's  
Apr 26 Charlie's Hamburgers  
May 3 Cafe Express  
May 10 Sweet Tomatoes  
May 17 Fuddrucker's

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

Apr 19 Luther's Barbecue  
Apr 26 Fred's Italian Corner  
May 3 Jason's Deli  
Mar 10 Buffalo Grille  
Mar 17 DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers

### Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

11:00 AM Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport  
**Notice:** NARS membership dues are \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

*Deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the last day of this month.*

**BREAKFAST**  
**at Denny's**  
7720 Louetta  
**Saturdays**  
7:30 AM

## President's Corner

April 2006

February's short programs were great. Everyone enjoyed them. Having to put one on myself was some effort. Those involved in coming up with a presentation should preview it before it is shown to NARS. April's program is another example of one that was previewed first.

On the BPL front, TXU is pouring millions into the technology. The link posted to the NARS reflector was not valid shortly after posting. I have not seen anything on the BPL reflector about it or what is going on with the local BPL.

It is great to see the activity growing in ARES. Recently about five NARS members went to take the level one test. The Houston ECHO society gave the test at the Red Cross building on the Southwest Freeway past Kirby. After passing, the ARRL provides a great color certificate.

We have put on the calendar a radio tune up day; what do you need measured?

On your FM mobile rig

- a. output power
- b. deviation
- c. alternator whine (no it is not there or yes it is.)
- d. frequency of resonance of antenna

NARS has gotten a request for CW classes. For those individuals that request help we have found an elmer to work with those asking for help. Those individuals wanting a class were referred to BVARC.

Mark K5GQ

## Public Service Events

*Your Radio Skills Are Needed*

Events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (October) and Sunmart Texas Trails Run (December). Events supported by NARS members include Houston Marathon, MS 150 and Wings over Houston.

Plan to help with one or more of these events in 2006.

This month plan to be a part of the MS150. Here are some details from Bill Stietenroth.

The MS150 is happening on April 22 and 23 of this month. It is still not too late to sign up and help. The net control is going to be run from the Houston command center for the whole event and they need operators for both days in the command center. There are still vehicles and rest stops that need manning. You can work a few hours or the whole weekend. Contact Mike Hardwick, N5VCH, at 713-771-4625 or 713-826-6917 or let me know you want to help and I'll get you connected.

The Northwest Harris County ARES group is busy too. We now have operating positions at the Ponderosa V.F.D, Klein V.F.D., Cypress Creek E.M.S. command center, Northwest Hospital and Cy Fair Hospital. We are in the process of getting antennas and feed lines installed in these locations. The emergency responders have been told how Hams can provide communications when all else fails so now they want to see Hams in operation. They are investing time, space and money to set us up and they have representatives sitting in on our drill planning sessions. What we need now are HAMS. Sign up and get involved. Learn something new, meet some new friends, have a new adventure, do some public service. To register, here is the link to the live on-line form. Fill out the info and click the send button.

<http://www.arrrl.stx.org/nwhcares/forms/online%20registration.htm>

There will be a general membership meeting for the northwest ARES group on Saturday, April 29th at the Cypress Creek E.M.S. education center which is on Five Forks just off of Stuebner Airline about 1/2 mile north of Louetta Rd. You don't have to be a member to attend. Come out and look it over. If you decide to join you can do it there and get your picture ID badge at the same time.

For years Hams have been using public service communications as the main reason for their existence. In the FCC part 97 rules it is reason #1. We have used public service to petition the Congress and the FCC to allow us keep our operating frequencies and even to give us new ones. For the last few years the ARRL has been making a concentrated effort to sell Amateur Radio to anyone in Congress who will listen. They have forged a Memorandum of Understanding with Homeland Security and the Red Cross. After the Amateur Radio response to the hurricane season we had last year, the emergency agencies have taken notice of the fact that we can provide communications where none exist and our system is expandable to fit whatever the need. Now, after years of telling emergency responders that we can help and asking them to give us a chance, they are coming to us asking us to back them up. Now we have to produce.

If you decide to join ARES or if you have recently joined the first thing to do is take the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Level 1. This course explains the ARES plan, how it works and how you can fit into it. You can take the course and the test on line at ARRL.ORG or you can buy the book from the ARRL or Houston Amateur Radio Supply, study on your own and take the test locally. Some of us in NARS are studying the books and have a test session scheduled for May 6th at the Red Cross center. There is plenty of time for you to study up and get in on that test session. If you have any questions, please ask me. Become active.

Bill, K5ZTY

## *Ham and “Sheez” News*

### “March”ing into Spring

March certainly lived up to its reputation. The winds blew the cold air right out of South Texas and left us with warmer days and some beautiful flowers and shrubs. Of course, I won't mention the allergies all of the wind and blooming flowers and trees left behind.

The Herb Luncheon at Arbor Gate brought a few of us out to enjoy one of the first whispers of Spring. The Guest Chef for the Herb Luncheon as always was Molly Fowler, the Dining Diva. This year, she managed to present a program that was greater than any of the others we have seen at Arbor Gate. Her helpful tips and tricks manage to leave most of us with our jaws wide open in amazement. This year, we enjoyed a little “wine” with our luncheon. You know the Ham and Sheez have a reputation for enjoying wine – wherever they go. We actually had a wine tasting. We sampled a Chardonnay from Italy which was quite good, but believe it or not, the Genevieve Winery produced a Chardonnay that outshined Italy by a country mile. If you are not familiar with all of the Texas Wineries, I am sure you won't guess where the grapes were grown for this one – would you believe the Genevieve wineries grapes come from Fort Stockton, Texas. I don't know why I was surprised, but I was. The luncheon was a huge success and we managed to learn at little more about fresh herbs and Texas wines. Be sure to watch upcoming newsletters for more about Molly Fowler, the Dining Diva. I don't think we have seen the last of her this year.

The Ham and Sheez cookbook is really beginning to take shape. Thanks to all of those who submitted recipes and especially to those who are working hard to produce it. I will forward more details about the cookbook in emails over the next couple of weeks. There are some decisions that we need to make. I will forward you some sketches that we will need to review and then select for the cover of the cookbook. We want to wrap up the decision making on this at the April Ham and Sheez meeting – Monday, April 24th.

### Upcoming Activities

**Saturday, April 22nd** at 10:00 am  
– Arbor Gate

Dr. Bill Welch of Texas A & M University will be conducting a class on Heirloom Plants. Special varieties of these plants will be available during the event. There is no fee for this class, but reservations are requested. If you did not attend the herb luncheon this year, this is your chance to experience Arbor Gate at its finest. Laurie and I have been going to Arbor Gate for several years. Each time we go, there are new native plants growing in their landscaped gardens. There is even a new Rose Arbor where you can find almost any type of rose plant you might be looking for. A trip through the gift shops will also help to separate most of us from our money.

**Monday, April 24th** – Ham and Sheez Monthly Meeting. We will review the cookbook and make the final preparations for it's compilation into a real book. During the meeting we will be entertained

by a special guest. I can't say who it is because it is a surprise. See you there I hope.

### **Field Day – June 23rd – 25th**

The ladies of the Ham and Sheez have been asked to “man” the Welcome Tent at Field Day. This is always a fun time for us to get together and help the guys with their yearly test of their emergency operating procedures. If you can help, please email me and let me know what two hour shift you can work. The tent will be operational from noon on Saturday until 6:00 pm Saturday and again from 9:00 am to approximately noon on Sunday.

### Recipe of the Month **Boneless Pork Loin**

2 TBLS garlic salt  
2 TBLS chili powder  
4 pounds boneless pork loin

Sauce:

10 ounces apple jelly  
1 cup ketchup  
2 TBLS cider vinegar  
2 tsp chili powder

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix garlic salt and 3 TBLS of chili powder and rub on the meat. Bake pork for 2 hours uncovered. Mix sauce ingredients in a pan and bring to a boil. About 20 minutes before the pork loin is done, pour sauce over the meat, reserving some to serve on the side.

Enjoy

*Cheers,*  
*Anita – N5AOK*

## VE Session Results

Last Saturday's VE Session Results,

Five elements were given to five candidates, which resulted in one new Technician licensee, one upgrade to General and two upgrades to Extra. The VE's administered 2 – Element 2 and 1 – Element 3 and 2 – Element 4 examinations; of which, four of the five were passed.

Please welcome this newly licensed Technician to the hobby;

KE5HWT – Wesley L. Mayer of Hempstead

A hearty well done goes to new General class licensee;

KC5RET – Robert (Rob) McClure of Spring

Congratulations are in order to these new Extras;

AD5WQ – Max V. Vickers of Willis  
KD5ECG – Larry J. Grindel of Conroe

The VE's and other volunteers in attendance were;

Jim Kirk–KJ5X  
Eddy Reynolds–K5WQG  
Keith Dutson–NM5G  
Laurie Meier–N1YXU  
Walter Holmes–K5WH  
Colin Jenkins–KU5B

Thanks folks, I am very appreciative of your service.

The next session will be held on April 22, 2006.

73  
*Norm Covey/K5OS*  
*NARS VE Session Manager*

## *Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting*

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on March 28, 2006 at the Ponderosa Firehouse on Rolling Creek Drive. The following board members were in attendance: Mark Tyler, Jerry Whiting, H.O. Townsend, Joe Sokolowski, Rick Aikman, Mike Lodge, Keith Dutson, and Chuck Sanders along with the following guests: Anita Townsend and Bill Stietenroth. Highlights of the meeting:

- Programs – The board discussed potential programs for the remainder of the year including the following:

Month – Presenter, Topic, Status

April – Mark Tyler + TBD, Hallicrafters WWII Film, Confirmed Tentative

May – Jerry Whitting/Bill Denton, Field Day, Confirmed

June – George Carlson, Radio Tuneup, Tentative

July – HO Townsend et al, TQP, Confirmed

August – Cal White/Paul Frantz/Keith Dutson, Malta Adventures, Confirmed

September – TBD, ARES, TBD

October – George Carlson, TBD, Tentative

November – TBD, TBD, TBD

December – Open Floor, Show & Tell, Confirmed

Several slots remain open so if you know of someone interested in making a presentation to the club please contact any of the board members. Several months ago the board recognized that it was becoming more and more difficult to borrow

projectors for use at the club meetings. At the March meeting the board, following a motion by Jerry Whiting, assigned Keith Dutson the task of procuring a project based on specifications prepared by Chuck.

- Field Day – The board was pleased to hear that Jerry Whiting and Bill Denton have agreed to be co-coordinators for the annual NARS Field Day event with Jerry handling the administrative duties and Bill in charge of operations. Bill and Jerry will lead the discussion at the May meeting related to Field Day. Rick Aikman will continue to pursue the fabrication of new bases for the towers. Bill Denton also confirmed by phone that TDXS would be participating with NARS this year and will be represented at the May meeting.

- Annual Picnic – Keith has again agreed to host the annual picnic at his place and announced that the date would be May 6. Additional details to appear on the reflector and in the newsletter.

- Ham & Sheez Cookbook Project – Anita Townsend made a brief presentation on the Ham & Sheez cookbook project and requested funding for the initial run of approximately 100 books. The board agreed to fund this initial run.

- ARES Testing – Bill Stietenroth reminded the board that the next testing session for ARES will be in May, just in time for all interested to become qualified

to assist with any emergencies during the upcoming hurricane season. Bill will be sending additional information via the reflector. He also mentioned that ham radio as a viable resource for emergency communications was being talked up at regional meetings of emergency personnel and that now is the time to get qualified so that you will know what to do if called on to provide assistance. Bill also noted that all interested parties are invited to a general meeting of ARES scheduled for April 29 and that Level 1 is all that you need to pass in order to receive an ARES badge and become qualified to assist in an emergency.

- On the last Tuesday of each month the board meets at 7:30 pm to discuss club business and to set direction for the club. The meeting place for 2006 is the Ponderosa Fire Station at 17061 Rolling Creek Drive. The Ponderosa Fire Station can be reached as follows: traveling west on FM1960 take a right at the intersection of FM1960 and Rolling Creek Drive. The station will be on your left at the end of the small strip mall. You should park on the south side of the fire hall and enter the building through the main door under the arch. The normal meeting room is the first room on the right. All members are invited to attend the board meetings. If you desire a specific item to be on the agenda please communicate your request to Mark Tyler.

*C. W. Sanders, NO5W*  
*NARS Secretary*

# QUA\* Tina KD5FME and Eddie KC5UIB Sinclair?

Well, since I missed the deadline last month, I'm writing a two and a half-for-one article of two HAM's and one who is soon-to-be. Tina, KD5FME and Eddie Sinclair KC5UIB spread their involvement across many groups, including our HAM and Sheez, NARS and the Compaq radio club. Edison, (I love his name!) is busy creating his own hobbies at five.

Tina was born in San Antonio and graduated from East Central High School. Eddie was born in Long beach, and moved to Palestine, Texas at 10 years old. He built his first crystal radio at age seven. Watch out Eddie, after hearing the following story, Edison may be way ahead of you already. . .!

Tina told us several months ago, when Edison was four, about 'Robox', a toy he built out of McDonald's hamburger cartons, toilet paper and paper towel rolls and a paper cup. The head and stomach were the boxes and rolls were legs and arms, with a cup for a hat. He wanted it to talk, so Eddie got a digital recorder and Edison recorded phrases for Robox. This has been one of my favorite parts of HAM and Sheez. . .hearing about peoples lives, children and experiences.

Eddie has actually been in commercial radio. He was an engineer at a small AM/FM station in Lufkin. He would fill-in on-air on nights and weekends. But, his real enjoyment came from producing commercials and doing voice-overs.

Eddie and some friends who had access to the internet at the university came up with a hodge-podge of sound cards, modems, computers, etc. to communicate by voice over the internet. He was so excited about the potential that he began taking courses to expand on the idea. In class, the instructor asked each person to tell why they had enrolled. Eddie excitedly told about his new idea. Everyone in the room told him it was a ridiculous idea and a waste of band usage. He was deflated and dropped the class. Unfortunately, he abandoned the idea for what is now voice-over IP used by companies like Vonage.

Tina was at an apartment managed by her cousin when Eddie came in the office. His original motive was to ask her cousin out for lunch, but they all decided to go out and

he asked Tina for her number. . .the rest is history!

Eddie moved in 1991 to San Antonio and was working for Southwest Research Institute (SRI). He once told me some interesting information. HEB, headquarters in San Antonio, makes their produce growers first drive to SRI, where they pick an item off the truck and test it for freshness. If the items don't meet their standards, they are rejected. I knew there was a reason their produce was better!

Tina had worked for several years at Service Merchandise (I miss that store) and was in management. They transferred her to Beaumont and Eddie took a job with Compaq until 1997.

After he left Compaq, Eddie worked for Fann Instrument Company. He managed delivery of bore cladding machines. The oil-well valves are forged iron and not corrosion resistant, therefore his equipment would overlay the inside with stainless steel.

His latest position involves many days of international travel. He is currently in Oman. He is working for Halliburton, with the fluid cement testing equipment. There are two factors he tests; pumpability and cured strength. These are important because of the high pressures used in pumping the cement.

Unfortunately, most of the places he travels to stay for several days are far from civilization. He says that the inside of planes, taxis, labs and hotel rooms look the same world-wide.

Tina is hoping for a possible trip with him to an interesting destination now that Edison is older. Do they use lots of concrete on the Fiji Islands?

While Eddie is out-of-town, Tina and Edison are busy with special projects at the Redd School. His latest favorite is the Pizza Parlor in his classroom. The teacher set up a mock cash register, oven, pizza slices (with toppings that can be added) and tables and chairs. The kids take different parts of customer, cashier and maker. Edison's favorite is cashier.

They were all able to attend his latest school Science Fair. His favorite part was the magic sand. It was coated with a

hydrophobic chemical, so that when water was poured away the sand was completely dry! I wish I could have seen that. . .

Unfortunately, Edison isn't old enough this year to use the amateur radio equipment donated by some NARS members. He is looking forward to next year.

Eddie was licensed in 1996 and Tina got her license in 1998 in self-defense, so she could find him! Her mnemonic is 'Find My Eddie'.

They have mostly been involved in two-meter, packet and Eddie's real interest is in repeaters.

He took his antenna down before Rita, but the interesting story is how he put it up.

Tina drove into their driveway and Eddie was on the roof, on top of a step-ladder reaching out from the top rung to make the final adjustments. He explained that he had nailed the ladder to the roof to stabilize it before he climbed up. . .yes, the ladder was on top of the roof. Don't try this trick at home (writer's disclaimer).

Tina was HAM and Sheez' "Member of the Year" last year. She is always willing to have a party at her house. The "New Year" event, especially trying the potato gun, should be on everyone's calendar.

Tina's hobbies are reading mysteries and bowling. She, Teresa and Desi go to tournaments every year. They always come back with great stories.

Eddie has an interesting hobby. . .auto racing. He's not as fond of the actual race as he is in the support, with his radio and the support trucks. He and Tina are both excited about the Houston Grand Prix in May.

Tina says she has had a 'pretty incredible' life. She loves meeting new people and hopes to see more of the world. Eddie says he wishes he had grown-up and started a family sooner. Well, Tina, we're glad we have had the chance to share in your life and. . .Eddie, stay young and just try to keep one step ahead of Edison.

*Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL  
Ham & Sheez Reporter*

\* QUA: "Q" signal meaning "Have you news of . . . ?"

# DX News

## “For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

DX IS! Yes. . .

DX IS. . .what you make of it.

Not too many member DX reports this month. Maybe the summer radio-doldrums are setting in? Hopefully not so.

### Member Reports:

Bruce, N1LN, Worked some good band-countries this past March:

1. TY5WP Benin: 80 CW, 40 CW, 20 SSB/CW
2. TY5MR Benin: 17 CW
3. C91VB Mozambique: 40 CW
4. T80W Palau: 30 CW
5. P29YDX PNG: 40 CW, 30 CW
6. TZ6DEL Mali: 40 CW

Great Bruce; those are always ‘good-ones’ to get in the log. It seems the mailbox was good to Bruce this month with some over-all new countries confirmed:

1. KP5/N3KLS Desecheo: 80 SSB, 30 CW, 20 SSB
2. KP5/K3LP Desecheo: 40 SSB, 20 CW, 17 SSB, 15 SSB

His DXCC count so far: 326 / 324

It is always nice to have the DXCC country counts with the reports. Too. Thanks Bruce. I am sure the membership is always interested in how fellow members are doing in their steps up the DXCC ladder.

Bruce is about down to the bare bones in the way of antennas. He pretty well has stripped off what goes with he and Laurie to the new antenna farm. . .errr, home in North Carolina.

The bands will be quiet now!

Jim, KJ5X, made only two useful DX contacts this past month:

1. FY5KE Guyana: 15 SSB
2. TY4TW Benin: 17 CW

Both with 150 watts. Jim: was that ”150 drive to the amp” or total output? Hi!

The FY5KE was worked on 17meters off the back of his Force 12 C3SS tri-band Yagi. I think that has happened to all of us for stations in this near-hemisphere like Guyana.

The irony is that the antenna is a tri-bander for 10, 15, 20 meters. Jim is able to load the antenna on 17 and 12 meters using his tuner.

Mr. Jim is still looking for 9N (Nepal) and S2 (Bangladesh) and six other countries. Jim, that area of the world in this time of low sunspot activity has been most difficult. The last Nepal station I have heard (and not worked) was just a month or so ago on 80 and 160. Even if you did hear him well (no), he had big time city QRN and had big problems hearing callers.

I recall this from my time in Beijing at BY1QH. I had put a 40 meter Delta loop up; but the city QRN was unbearable. I later heard that many NA/EU were calling me but I could not hear them. I think in old cities like this. . .in places like this, there is nor regard for updating the electric grid going throughout the city or keeping it ‘clean’.

Jim says he has a reward available to anyone giving him a call when either a 9N or S2 is on the-air and he makes a QSO.

Rob, KC5RET, had his first venture into both DXing and contesting this last month and had a great time, too. It was the CQ WW WPX SSB test. He worked these stations all on 10m SSB: HC8N Galapagos, LU1HF Argentina, PS2T Brazil, CE2LS, TI8CBT Costa Rico, PY2CX Brazil, PY2SBY Brazil.

His first QSO with HC8N; the operator ‘Trey’ (N5KO), explained the workings of the test. This got Rob going. Rob was using a 10 meter dipole, 31 feet in the air.

Thanks Rob and sure hope to hear from you later this month with a whole list of DX worked.

John, W5PDW, was active in the ARRL DX SSB contest and made 87 DX contacts with only 100-200 Watts. Seems he thinks he may have worked a pirate station. He worked a 9H3DX, Malta station and the operator appeared to have a Texas accent. “Had to be a ‘Slim’”, John related. You never know. . .

Cal, WF5W, is testing a new antenna, at least on 2 meters. It is from ‘The Dutch

Group’ and they claim it makes a good field day or portable antenna. He hopes to make one for 10 meters. Cal described it to me and lost me right away. I’d have to see a picture to get a better understanding of the antenna: Criss cross the loop and feed it at the top, at the ‘criss-cross’. Bend the wire into two Delta loops and bend downward to 45 degrees. “I think it is like a Delta loop with the letter ‘X’ inside the delta; but I might be wrong”.

Cal had it mounted at six foot at his home and was able to connect to the ‘66’ repeater. ‘Not great, but readable’. That really is good when you think about the six foot height, the distance and the amount of trees around Cal’s residence.

Many, many thanks for that type of report. We want those, also, members!

H.O. K5CX, feels that March was one of the better DX months for him; especially after looking at this same time frame in the sunspot cycle in 1993 and what he worked then.

March 2006: 17 CQ zones and 93 QSO’s. He would be happy with this record every month. Remember: ‘DX is!’ Look for it and you will find it!

For last month (March): Here are the prefix’s H.O. worked: 3D2, 6W, 8R, 9A, 9H, EA, EA8, EI, ES, F, FM, FS, FY, G, GJ, GM, HB, HI, HK, HR, I, J7, J8, JA, KG4, KH6, KP2, KP4, LU, LX, OE, OH, OM, ON, OZ, P4, PJ2, PY, PZ, S2 (see that, Jim?), SP, TG, TI, TY, UA, UA2, V3, V7, VP5, VP9, XE, YO, YU, YV, ZF and ZP. Verry good H.O.!

The 9H was the TDXS group 9H3DX. H.O. says Steve, W9DX was at the mic. 9H3DX was used exclusively for the ARRL DX SSB contest.

Going further with H.O.’s report in his all-band quest for countries and zones. QSO count/band:  
80 meters: 9    40 meters: 54    20 meters: 17  
17 meters: 5  
15 meters: 6    10 meters: 2  
You worked that VFO overtime, H.O.

Thanks H.O.; You come back, Ya’ hear!

*Continued on page 7*

# DX News – Continued

Mike, K5UO ('le columnist'): Still working on my 80 meter vertical made from Rohn 25g and a 17 foot stinger. I almost bit off more than I could chew when I decided to go with in-ground radials and at least 66 of them, each 67 foot long. Man, that is 'back-breakin'! And copper has gone up in price about twice what it was last year, if you look at what Home Depot charges for wire. It's something I always wanted to do (try).

Somehow, I trashed my log file in DX4WIN; nice! I was able to download from LoTW the confirmed contacts as I had just made a submission a few weeks ago. But the unconfirmed QSL are. . .gone. If I can just figure out how to download from LoTW the "unconfirmed" QSO's.

Speaking of that; LoTW does make a good repository for your confirmed contacts. Easy access of confirmed QSO's from your last submission plus any incoming confirmed QSO's.

New QSO's/Band-counters:

1. 3D2RX Rotuma: 30 CW
2. MJ/K8PT Jersey (GJ): 17 CW
3. MJ/W8JWN Jersey (GJ): 80 CW

4. HQ9F Honduras: 17 CW
5. JT1CO Mongolia: 30 CW
6. P29YDX PNG: 30 CW
7. TY4WP Benin: 80 CW (#248/80m)
8. TY5WP Benin: 160 CW (#139/160m)
9. TY5MR Benin: 17 CW
10. V51AS Namibia: 30 CW

New QSL's Recd/ Band-counters:

1. 5B4AGC Cyprus: 160 m
2. 5R8GZ Madagascar: 20, 17 CW
3. D4B Cape Verde: 80m (via LoTW)
4. GI4BBE N. Ireland: 17 CW
5. MJ/K8PT Jersey: 17 CW
6. K3LP/KP5 Desecheo: 17 CW

Beverages have come down for the summer months!

News from the DX bulletins:

1. 3B8 Mauritius: ON4LAC/3B8 until May 13. 80-10 meters SSB, RTTY, PSK31. QSL to his home call.
2. 3DA0VB Swaziland: UA4WHX is currently active in his all-Africa trip. Excellent operator.
3. SV Greece: Special event call sign SY05AIA until June 15. Fifth anniversary of

the International Airport in Athens.

4. AP Pakistan: AP2IA is usually QRV on 20 meters from around 1230 - 1320 Z. QSL to his home call.

5. VP8 South Shetlands: DT8A has been active on 30 meters around 2020Z; 20 meters around 2230Z and 40 meters around 2100Z. QSL to HL2FDW

6. EP Iran: EP3 AG on RTTY on 20 meters between 1330 to 1530Z.

7. FR Reunion Island: FR1AN on 17 meters from 1100 to 1500Z, SSB.

8. FS Saint Martin: FS/K9EL active until April 11; 80 through 10 meters. QSL to his home call.

9. LZ Bulgaria: members of the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs active as 'LZ80R' to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the first amateur radio club in Bulgaria. QSL to LZ1BJ.

That's it for March DX News and a special thanks to the DX report contributors. Without your input there would be no DX News!

Mike, K5UO

## Tomball Repeater Semi-Occasional Newsletter

What: Annual Focus Banquet & Fish Fry  
Location: First Baptist Church, Tomball  
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2006  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Cost: \$10 Per Ticket

Mike Felcyn (KC5HEI) will be the speaker with an update on the mission work in Honduras.

The Felcyns were members of our Tomball

Repeater Group and have been missionaries in Honduras for the past ten years. This banquet is a major fund raiser to help in their mission.

If anyone has any silent auction items, please call Rubye Box at 281-357-9019 or email: [rubye.box@charter.net](mailto:rubye.box@charter.net)

If you want to reserve tickets, contact Dana Daniels at 281-290-8640 or email:

[jddaniels@ev1.net](mailto:jddaniels@ev1.net)

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Don't forget:  
Breakfast at Denny's, 8 AM on the second Saturday of the Month.

Taildraggers Lunch:  
Hooks Airport Grill, Every Monday 11-12.

## Technician license course scheduled for May 7th

NARS is offering a one-day study session on Sunday, May 7th for Technician followed by an exam for those wishing to get their No-code Technician license. Because this is an accelerated self-study course, focusing entirely on the questions and answers given during the test session, it is not recommended for children under the age of fifteen.

The course will be conducted at the Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Hall, 17061 Rolling Creek Dr. Houston (One block west of Ella off FM 1960 W.). NARS decided to drop the cost to \$20.00 to make it more attractive to those interested in getting into

the amateur radio hobby. The \$20 enrollment fee does include the \$14 cost of taking the exam. This course can help one attain a No-code Technician license in a short amount of time. There will be no theory or code involved, only questions and the correct answers. Previous courses conducted using this format had a success rate of 80% or better.

Membership in NARS or other amateur radio organizations can help a licensee in utilizing his newly acquired privileges. Enrollment is limited to thirty students and is tailored to the

adult sector only. So, if you know of anyone who is serious about getting their ticket, here's their chance! Spread the word around. Reservations are required. Send name, address, phone number and a check for \$20.00 to: NARS, PO. Box 90387, Houston, TX 77090-0387. Further information can be obtained at our web site, <http://www.w5nc.org> or by email to one of those listed below: Joe KD5KR at [kd5kr@juno.com](mailto:kd5kr@juno.com) or Jerry KB5VGD at [g\\_whiting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g_whiting@sbcglobal.net).

Joe KD5KR

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Tom Fletcher KE5BRD.

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

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### Satellite:

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### Digital Modes:

Don Bedell KA3BKU Packet  
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### VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA 281-894-5942

### PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson NM5G  
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

### Interference (Basic Advice):

Mark Tyler K5GQ  
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Terry Myers KQ5U  
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### Card Checking Awards Managers:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC  
281-363-0209, rwalworth@charter.net  
Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC  
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H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ  
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

### NARS Public Information Officer:

Laurie Meier N1YXU  
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## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Mark Tyler K5GQ  
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### VICE PRESIDENT

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD  
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Joe Sokolowski KD5KR  
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### DIRECTORS

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### ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

TBA

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR  
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Send address, phone, email and other  
changes to:

NARS  
PO Box 90387  
Houston, TX 77090-0387

### NET

10M Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM, 28,444 ssb  
Coordinator: Jim Kirk KJ5X  
281-376-0718, kj5x@swbell.net

### WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>  
Webmaster: Bill Buoy N5BIA  
281-370-3510, n5bia@arrl.net

### NARS REFLECTOR

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### TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: H.O. Townsend K5CX  
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

### VE SESSION (ARRL)

Manager:  
Norm Covey K5OS  
281-252-8285, k5os@arrl.net

### REPEATERS

2M: 146.660 / 146.060 (KA5AKG)  
Tone: 141.3  
70 cm: 444.375 / 449.375 (KA5AKG)  
Tone: 103.5

### MEETINGS

#### Monthly General Membership

Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM  
Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 6000  
Spring Cypress Road

#### Saturday Breakfast

Denny's, 7720 Louetta, 7:30 AM

#### Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

Various locations (Info on 146.660 and  
listed on front page in Important Dates  
column)

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