

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 2005

June Meeting – Skywarn

We are just starting the beginning of the Hurricane season and the heavy summer thunder storms for the Texas area. This month's program is on the new updated Skywarn program (the last one NARS had was March 2000) to be presented by Gene Hafele from the NOAA. Please note that the meeting is to start at 7:00 PM, 1/2 hour earlier than usual.

Jerry KB5VGD

New NARS Web Master

Let's welcome Bill Buoy N5BIA as he takes on the day-to-day management of the club's two web sites: NARS – www.w5nc.org and the Texas QSO Party – www.txqp.org.

A native Houstonian, Bill was first licensed in 1979 as a Technician at the FCC Field office. Remember those days! In 1983 he up graded to General class, and in 2003 he upgraded to Amateur Extra class at HamCom. Bill operates QRP and loves the fresh smell of burning rosin of kit building. Occasionally he drags out the Kenwood 520, blows the dust off and goes QRO!

Take a look at the revised web sites. I think you'll like the face-lift, repaired links, and fresh navigation.

H. O. -- K5CX
Fmr. Web Master

ARRL Field Day – 2005

Field Day is only a couple of weeks away. If you have not yet signed up to operate, it is not too late. The team captains are coordinating their own schedules, so send them an email or give them a phone call. They are as follows:

SSB Station: Keith NM5G keith@dutson.net 281-351-7683
CW Station: Bruce N1LN n1ln@arrl.net 936-271-1096
VHF/UHF Station: Rick ki5mera@sbcbglobal.net 281-351-5341
Get-On-The-Air Station: Paul n5nxs@flash.net 281-894-7758

As many of you know, 6 meters has been open lately – so the VHF station should be very active. Also, be sure to stop by to operate on the GOTA station. We want to encourage youth and non-hams to try their hand at one of the many modes being offered there.

Here is this year's schedule:

Pre-Setup Lunch: Friday, June 24, 11:30 – 13:00 at the Juarez Mexican Restaurant, 2545 Gessner, 713-690-1790
Setup: Friday, June 24 – 13:00 until completed
Operations Begin: Saturday, June 25 – 13:00
Barbecue Dinner: Saturday, June 25 – 18:00 (\$5 per plate)
Operations End: Sunday, June 26 – 13:00
Tear Down: Sunday, June 26 – 13:00 until completed

Plan on coming out to the site – doing some operating – having some Barbecue – or just sitting around and catching up with some of your friends – it should be a great time for all. See map on page 2.

73, Keith NM5G – 2005 Field Day Coordinator

Important Dates

Friday, Jun 17, 7:00 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 6:30 PM.

Tuesday, Jun 28, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive. This is one signal light west of Ella on 1960, go north about 200 yards and park on the south side of the fire hall, NOT in front of the big doors.

Saturday, Jul 23, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main). NOTE: No session in June because of Field Day.

Contests

Jun 18 Kid's Day
Jun 18–19 All Asian CW DX, WVQP, PQQP
Jun 25–26 ARRL Field Day
Jul 9–10 IARU HF Championship
Jul 16–17 CQ WW VHF

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Jun 15 Neal's Restaurant
Jun 22 Olde City Pub & Grill
Jun 29 Red Lobster
Jul 6 Casa Imperial Mexican
Jul 13 Strack Farms

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Jun 15 Fuddrucker's
Jun 22 Escalante Mexican
Jun 29 Jason's Deli
Jul 6 Luther's BBQ
Jul 13 Skeeter's

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 Joey D's
5918 W FM 1960
Saturdays
7:30 AM

President's Corner

June 2005

Greetings Fellow NARSians,

Thanks to Mike Lodge for filling in for me at the May meeting and to Keith Dutson for heading up Field Day and doing the presentation. The June 17 meeting presentation will be on Skywarn.

Field Day is now about 3 weeks away (25 & 26 June) and will be here before we know it. And it looks as if we are getting everything in place to make it a success. We even have a backup site in case the Hammerly site has problems again this year – which at this point we do not anticipate. Now, we are looking for participation from all of our members. If you haven't already, call one of the captains and sign up to work a station. You will have a good time and make the club viable at FD. Oh yes, and food in the form of Bar-B-Q will be cooked by Tom Adkins KD5EIJ, and side dishes provided by Christy Richards KD6NKY on Saturday afternoon. The price is \$5 per plate.

HamCom 2005 will probably be history by the time this is published, but at this point we are looking forward to a good time in Arlington on 3, 4 and 5 June. Most are staying at the Wyndham just north of the convention center to be within walking distance of the activities. We will be manning the TQP table as in years past and will be a little closer to the main tables. One major item on the agenda for NARS is to look further into augmentation of our .66/.06 repeater antenna so that we can get fuller coverage of our members.

The board meeting was held Tuesday, 31 May and we had a visitor in the form of Bill Denton, W5SB who brought the message to us that this year's banquet will be the 20th anniversary of The Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Bill expressed much interest and told us of considerable preliminary planning he has done for a special banquet in January. The board listened with great interest and passed a motion to honor NARS at the banquet and modify the format to accommodate it. So stay tuned for further updates and make your plans now to attend on 20 January 2006.

Field Day! Field Day! Field Day! Field Day! Go Teeeeeaaamm!!!

73, Lee K5AVY

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

Events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (October), SIRE Ride-A-Thon (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 2005.

VE Session Results

Today's VE test session added two new Technician Class licensees, one new General, one upgrade to General and one upgrade to Extra Class. There were eight elements given and all the candidates passed; another perfect session.

The new Technician Class licensees are Glen Farmer of Magnolia and Allen Onwuchekwa of Houston. I hope that every one of you will welcome these new hams to the hobby. Congratulations are in order to James A. Freeman of Bellville as he smoked Elements 1, 2 and 3 to regain his General license after being absent from the hobby for a number of years. Michael Hales-KE5CDS of Spring passed Elements 1 and 3 to secure his General Class license; great work Michael. Last but not least, Martin Rogoff-N5GPS of Houston passed the Element 4 test, "with flying colors" I might add, to secure his Extra Class license. My congratulations go out to Martin, "Fine Business."

My thanks to Kirby Van Horn-K7EC, Keith Dutson-NM5G, Eddy Reynolds-K5WQG, Rick Aikman-KZ5E, Walter Holmes-K5WH, Bob Walworth-N5ET, H. O. Townsend-K5CX, Tom Rum-KD5QO; without you volunteers the VE test sessions cannot happen; great job folks!

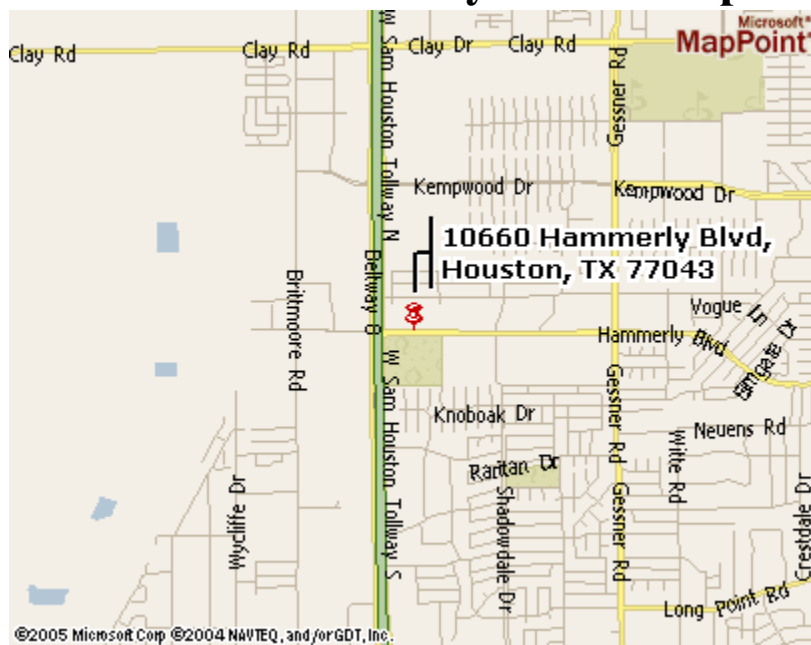
There will be no session in June because of Field Day. The next session will be held July 23; I hope to see you there.

73

Norm Covey/K5OS

NARS VE Session Manager

ARRL Field Day – 2005 Map



Guthrie Center

Directions to Juarez (Friday Pre-Setup Lunch): head east on Hammerly, turn left on Gessner, go north on Gessner about half way to Kempwood, turn left into parking lot.

Ham and "Sheez" News

Ready for Summer

Ready or not, summer has arrived. After a wonderfully cool April, we have skipped right into the good ole summertime. As of this writing, school is out for most of the children of NARS and hopefully there are some summer vacation plans on the horizon.

Here is a short recap of what took place in May.

The annual NARS Picnic was held at the home of Keith Dutson NM5G. I heard reports that many folks turned out for the BBQ and fellowship. Thanks again Keith for a great time and for organizing the picnic again this year.

The Stampin Up Club members met at the home of Laurie Meier N1YXU this month. We had a great time learning new techniques for using eyelets and another design that reminds me of a patchwork quilt. Once again everyone brought goodies. Not all of the recipes have made it to my computer for sharing, but as they do, I will continue to post them.

The Third Annual Memorial Day BBQ and swim party was also held at the home of Bruce N1LN and Laurie Meier. Since our regular monthly meeting falls on Memorial Day, Bruce and Laurie have hosted this annual event in lieu of our Ham and Sheez monthly meeting. Although we were threatened by thunderstorms early in the day, they never materialized and allowed us to enjoy a wonderful afternoon and evening around the pool. The annual game of Trivial Pursuit, pitting the men against the women, was won this year by the men. We are still not sure how they did that, but we were good sports and allowed them bragging rights until the same time next year. As you know, there is not a meeting of the men or the women that does not come with food and not just food, but some very good food. I have received two of the recipes from the BBQ and will post both of them at the end of this article for all to share. Thank you to both Bruce and Laurie for a wonderful time.

Ham-Com in Arlington

I did not get a chance to write the newsletter article until returning from Ham-Com this year, so I wanted to go ahead and include a summary of what we did in this section of the newsletter. The trek to Arlington began at different times for most of us this year, but most all of

arrived sometime Friday afternoon. After a fun filled afternoon of setting up the TOP table in the convention center, seeing old friends and shopping, we spent the evening at a Mexican food restaurant where we had some good food and excellent service.

Saturday was a busy day at Ham-Com with multiple programs and presentations to see as well as some more shopping. Many of the ladies opted for an afternoon around the pool or in the malls. The guys had plenty of shopping opportunities in the convention center. Many of us attended the DX luncheon where we heard a presentation about the DXpedition to **Andaman** and Nicobar Islands which coincidentally took place just prior to and during the Tsunami last Christmas. As always, one of the Ham and Sheez came away with one of the door prizes – Laurie Meier. Congratulations Laurie.

Saturday evening, most of us went to a steak house restaurant for a steak and some really nice live entertainment. The other part of the entertainment was the boot scooting which took place on the dance floor. There are some very talented Ham and Sheez out there.

Upcoming Activities

June 12th – The Stampin Up Club meeting will be at the home of Anita Townsend at 2:30. This will be the last time you can order some of the stamp sets from the 2005 catalog. A new 2006 catalog will be released on July 1, 2005.

June 19th – Father's Day. I know none of the ladies forget dates, but I decided to include this in the upcoming activities. We hope all of the father's have a wonderful Father's Day.

June 25 – 26th – NARS sponsors a Field Day Event each year. Again this year, the ladies have been asked to help with the desserts for the BBQ dinner that is scheduled for Saturday evening, the 25th. Please bring something that will keep in the heat or bring it in an ice chest or cooler that will withstand the heat. This is a family event, so bring the family, a few extra chairs, and enjoy the BBQ. The price per plate is \$5.00.

June 27th – The regular monthly meeting of the Ham and Sheez will be held at the Presbyterian Church on Spring Cypress between Kuykendall and

Stuebner-Airline.

Monthly Recipes – From the Memorial Day BBQ

The Famous Harlan Cheese Wafers – by Norma Harlan

2 sticks margarine, softened
1 lb. grated sharp cheese
2 c. flour
2 c. Rice Krispies
1/4 t. salt
1/4 t. garlic
1 t. cayenne pepper powder

Soften margarine and cheese. This is easily done in the microwave on LOW. Add flour, Rice Krispies, and seasonings. Form dough into small balls and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten each ball with a floured fork. Bake at 325 degree oven for 15 minutes. Makes about 90 to 100 wafers. These freeze well after baking. May be used right out of the freezer. Takes very little time to thaw.

Mandarin Orange Jello – by Schalee Lodge

Ingredients:

2 pkgs orange jello
2 large cans mandarin oranges
2 tubs light cream cheese
1/4 cup Powdered sugar
Two pkgs graham crackers
2 sticks butter

Directions:

Prepare jello according to directions for adding fruit. Set in fridge for 30 minutes.

Crush pkgs graham crackers in food processor. Melt butter in 9x11 dish. (Makes thicker bars than what I had at the party) Mix crackers and butter and press into bottom (refrigerate for 15 minutes).

Mix tubs of cream cheese and 1/4 cup powder sugar. Spread over cooled graham crackers.

Add mandarin oranges to jello mixture. Pour over cream cheese.

*Stay cool,
Anita – N5AOK*

QUA* Walter Holmes K5WH?

Until my latest interview I didn't appreciate the variety of specialized areas in this hobby. I have known about the contesters – you know who you are, Bruce, Anita etc. – the DXpeditioners, Paul, Cal – and the QRP'ers – Zed (I'm whispering as I write this!). It was fun to learn a new facet and I even attended a seminar on satellite radio while at HamCom. I even recognized and understood most of the concepts. K5WH, Walter Holmes, taught me quite a lot in our short conversation the other day. I'll do my best to get it right!

Walter is one of the few original Houstonians. He went to Robert E. Lee High School and Houston Community College. His technical talent was in such demand at the time that he was immediately employed by an oil well surveying company in Sugarland. A friend there moved to a secret, new company and kept telling him he needed to apply. When he did apply in 1983 he became the 258th employee. Of course, we all know that company as Compaq, now Hewlett Packard (formerly known as – they even had a Princess for a while!).

He had to think a while before he remembered his new title – Manager of Middleware and Web Hosting for Americas Operations. He is now doing his favorite work since starting in this business. He manages people all over the world and is experiencing a variety of new technologies, cultures and personalities.

He shared a couple of his favorite Compaq stories with me.

He received a special waiver to have alcohol on the premises during a major production cut-over. They were switching all phone systems in one night. Many volunteers from other divisions worked all night to achieve this at the old Chasewood Bank building.

One of his team was entering an elevator carrying a beer when a security guard came around the corner and said "Hey, what are you . . .". The elevator door closed before he finished. He found Walter and said, "We might have a problem," and explained what happened. Walter said not to worry. Half an hour later the manager of security found Walter and apologized for the questioning of one of his people!

Several years ago Walter was in Scotland

setting up their systems to coordinate with the one in the U.S., when he saw a familiar face coming toward him. George Edwards was training at the new site! They used to bump into each other in the most unexpected places.

And, my personal favorite story is when he met an interesting person in the marketing department. I asked what he had to do with marketing and he explained that he worked all over the company – well, OK – He and Teresa, aka "T" decided they should go out and get to know each other better. They know each other quite well now, with four girls; Natalie, Jacqueline, Heather and Stephanie. Stephanie kept me entertained at my first Field Day!

They also have two dogs, a cat, which just had five kittens two weeks ago, and a rabbit! I'd say it's a full-house.

Walter was first licensed in 1977 as WD5GAZ. He was an avid CB'er (Michael says, "Oh, man, do you have to say that..!!"), and has loved electronics since he was a child. He worked at Multi-Communications, a store located at Hillcroft and Richmond. They had the exclusive sales rights for Ten-Tec. Everybody in the store was a HAM, so . . .

Walter now uses Kenwood equipment, exclusively. Here is a brief list:

HF
TS-2000X

Mobile
TM-D700
TS-50

HT
TH-D7

And his antennas are:

Home:
Cushcraft A3 Tri-Bander
GAP Challenger Vertical

Satellite array:
20 element crossed Yagi UHF
14 element crossed Yagi VHF
2.4 Giga Hertz S-Band

I'm sure somebody will let me know if I got anything wrong . . . for all the good that will do!

But, as many know, his current favorite is satellite. He likes talking to the world through space to a device that might be the size of a hard-back book (six inches square). He uses data or voice and sometimes packet radio through the International Space Station, ISS.

The foot-print of the satellite continuously changes and any two stations within that area can communicate. He said, after I asked, that there have been relays between the space station and other satellites to cover a larger area. Also, the HEO's, High Earth Orbit satellites can potentially cover half of the globe. Currently there are none continuously active. One satellite, AL-7 went dead many years ago and suddenly woke up using its solar panels for energy. It might become active on one of several bands and it is anybody's guess which one!

Several universities are currently building some of the Cube satellites (girls, I thought he said "cute"!). They are able to piggyback their launch with commercial equipment at very little additional cost.

K5WH's favorite contact was a cosmonaut at the Russian "NASA". The hardest was Bruce and the gang during the pile-up at St. Croix!

Walter and Teresa love any kind of water sport and he enjoys scuba diving and sailing, and we have all experienced the "Drink and Drown" parties!

He is an avid Astros fan (affectionately referred to as "Lastros"). A few years ago he received a special award from Compaq and was invited to have lunch with Steve Francis of the Rockets. Another gentleman brought his son and the shooting coach gave him a shooting lesson after the team practice! He went from missing most of his free-throw shots to making all of them after a little adjustment. Steve gave him a pair of shoes.

Walter's answer to my famous question of summing up his life was "I'm having fun and loving it! No time to get bored." Well, Walter we're glad we get to hang around you and have some of that fun spill over to us!

*Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL
Ham & Sheez Reporter*

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

Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on May 31 at the Ponderosa Firehouse on Rolling Creek Drive. The following board members were in attendance: Lee Kinard, Mike Lodge, Mark Tyler, Paul Frantz, Jerry Whiting, Keith Dutson, and Chuck Sanders along with the following guests: H.O. Townsend, Bill Buoy and Bill Denton. Highlights of the meeting:

- Programs – The following slate of programs for the remainder of the year was reviewed. Only one month remains unconfirmed. If you know of someone interested in making a presentation to the club please contact any of the board members.

Month Presenter Topic Status

June, Gene Hafele, Skywarn,	Confirmed
July, William Simon, Computer Forensics,	Confirmed
August, Dr. Tompkins Galapagos, Islands,	Confirmed
September, Fred Windisch/Paul Owen, Fire prevention/protection,	Confirmed
October, Walter Holmes, APRS,	Confirmed
November, Larry Dierker, Baseball,	Very tentative
December, Open Floor, Show and Tell & Silent Auction,	Confirmed

- Field Day – Keith reported that his efforts as Field Day coordinator are going well although there are still some unfilled positions including the VHF/UHF station. If you know of someone active in VHF/UHF

operations please let Keith know. Keith reported that the site is all set with tables, portalets, and operating chairs. He reminded everyone that chairs used while not operating needed to be provided by the user. Keith also reported that the phone station has signed up two YL ops. Keith noted that the alternate site, Spring Creek Park, has also been reserved in case of rain.

- Texas QSO Party – H.O. reported that the formation of the TQP Committee was beginning to pay off with the development of a database of Texas amateur radio clubs from which to solicit plaque sponsorship. Plaque sponsorship is going well although there are still several plaques needing sponsors. He also noted that the TQP Webmaster, Bill Buoy – N4BIA has implemented a feature of the website that allows submittal of mobile routes directly to the website. So if you are planning a mobile operation in TQP its time to be planning your route. And when you are done be sure to submit it via the website. Doing so will create interest in your operations and probably lead to more QSOs for you and the club. Chuck also reported that he had spread some publicity for the TQP in a presentation he made to the Central Texas DX and Contesting Club in Austin at their April meeting entitled “GPS-Enabled Software for Mobile Contesting”.

- Annual NARS Awards Banquet – It may seem a bit early to begin working on the Annual banquet but the 2006

edition promises to be a special event in that it will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of NARS. The board entertained and approved a proposal by Bill Denton to focus the 2006 banquet on the history of NARS, its past movers and shakers, humorous stories, etc. In order to fit the story into a compact time frame Bill will produce a video recording for presentation. Bill will be submitting more information on the event in a future edition of the club newsletter. In the meantime, if you have some item, story, etc that you feel would be of interest at this celebration please make it known to Bill.

- 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 2005 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 Lee Kinard.

*C. W. Sanders, NO5W
NARS Secretary*

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Hi gang, if anyone is interested in picking up the DX column for the newsletter, please let Lee, Keith or one of the board members know. After 13 months it's time for someone else to give their perspective.

My Thanks go to Bruce, N1LN, Cal W5FW, John W5PDW, Jim K5JDB, H.O. K5CX, Jim K5JX, Dr. Pat

W5STAR and Mike K5UO for all your support.

73, Al W5ADF

From the editor:

Al, you have done a great job with the column. Many readers have said they enjoy reading it. Take a well-deserved

vacation. You are welcome back anytime.

Now it is time to pass the reins to a new DX editor. Please welcome Mike Bragassa K5UO. Mike, we look forward to reading your reports and comments.

Keith NM5G

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Steve Simmons KE5ERO

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TBA

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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

Joey D's Restaurant 7:30 AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

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

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Send all articles and materials for the
Newsletter to:

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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
Special Service Club affiliated with the
American Radio Relay League.

ARRL Club No. 2120