

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 2006

June Meeting – Field Day Setup ARRL Field Day – 2006

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: Mark K5GQ k5gq@juno.com 281-587-0256
VHF/UHF Station: Rick KZ5E ki5mera@sbcglobal.net 281-351-5341
Get-On-The-Air Station: Paul N5NXS n5nxs@flash.net 281-894-7758

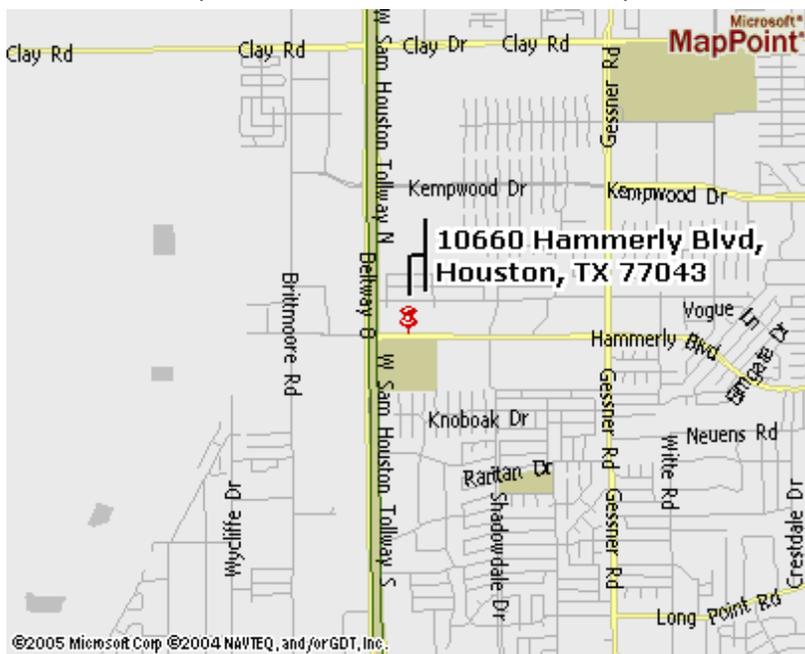
Be sure to stop by to operate on the GOTA station. We want to encourage youth and non-hams to try their hand at one of the many modes being offered there.

Here is this year's schedule:

Pre-Setup Lunch: Friday, June 23, 11:30 – 13:00 at the Juarez Mexican Restaurant, 2545 Gessner, 713-690-1790
Setup: Friday, June 23 – 13:00 until completed
Operations Begin: Saturday, June 26 – 13:00
Barbecue Dinner: Saturday, June 26 – 18:00 (\$6 per plate)
Operations End: Sunday, June 27 – 13:00
Tear Down: Sunday, June 27 – 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.

73,
Keith NM5G, Jerry KB5VGD, Paul W5PF – 2006 Field Day Coordinators



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.

Important Dates

NOTE* No general membership meeting in June: It is being replaced by the Field Day setup operation Friday, June 23.

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

NOTE* No VE Session in June
Saturday, July 22, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

Jun 17 Kid's Day
Jun 17-18 All Asian CW DX, WV QP, Quebec QP
Jun 24-25 ARRL Field Day
Jul 1 RAC Canada Day

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – North

Jun 21 Pepperchino
Jun 28 Luby's Cafeteria
Jul 5 Jason's Deli
Jul 12 Neal's Restaurant
Jul 19 Sweet Tomatoes

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Jun 21 Chilis 290
Jun 28 Cafe Express
Jul 5 Willie's Grill 290
Jul 12 Fuddrucker's 290
Jul 19 Fajita Willie's 290

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

Jun 21 Jason's Deli
Jun 28 Buffalo Grille
Jul 5 DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers
Jul 12 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
Jul 19 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet

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

June 2006

I have looked forward to field day every year! In fact I start practicing TR Field Day simulator months before. This year a great CW operator moved; NILN. I already miss him. NARS has joined ranks with TDXS. Some TDXS society members will be commemorating the Texas Armadillo Run by operating Field Day at <http://www.consultpr.com/Armadillo.htm>. Those TDXS members who would like to operate field day locally can come and participate at NARS. To date, May 31, many CW positions are open. Email or call me.

Putting Field Day on is lots of team work for every one; please make an effort to attend. NARS will get bonus points if an elected official comes. Bring one!

Rufz, a good DOS based CW practice program, is now Windows based. Search for rufzxp. It sends 50 calls. You tell it what speed to start. If you are not sure of the call it will send it again by give you only partial credit. As you get the calls correct the speed increases. Morse Runner is a MD Windows XP CW practice program. It is designed around the WPX contest. It sounds like a real radio listening to the contest.

I operated some of the WPX contest. Many new operators seem unable to read CW contesting for beginners. These poor skills frustrate those skilled operators. For instance, if the call letters are weak, the operator repeats them; if correct the other station signifies with "R" not a repeat of the call letters.

Hurricane season is approaching. Get involved and practice, practice and practice. Get CERT trained, take and pass the ARES exams, GET INVOLVED.

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.

Following is a report from K5ZTY.

The Northwest Harris County ARES drill has come and gone. On Saturday morning May 20th we activated and passed messages between the emergency responders in the FM1960 area, Northwest Hospital, Red Cross and TranStar. We had some successes and some failures as expected. An After Action Meeting was held at the Ponderosa VFD where the Cypress Creek EMS fed us fajitas and cold drinks. We discussed the drill and pointed out the successes and also some problems that need to be improved upon. Digital messaging is relatively new to emergency communications and we need to gain some more experience on, if, how and when to best use it. Overall, it was a good learning opportunity for all of us.

The Hams for Hospitals program is moving along nicely. Cal White, WF5W, did a masterful job of presenting the communication plan to the hospital and was successful in getting permission and cooperation from the hospital management to implement the plan. The Tomball Bunch is in the process purchasing equipment and getting its support personnel identified and on the volunteer staff at the hospital. They may have the first up and running program in Harris County. If you live in the Tomball area and want to help with this project, contact Cal.

I have contacted Methodist Hospital Willowbrook about the program and they are in the process of purchasing and installing ham radio equipment. We will have to have a core group of operators to go through the process of becoming hospital volunteers at Willowbrook, which includes background checks, to get hospital ID badges in order to have access to the hospital during an emergency. I expect to hear more about this in the coming weeks.

Terry Myers and Jerry Whiting are working with Houston Northwest Hospital setting up their Amateur Radio station. Terry and Jerry did a fine job of demonstrating Amateur Radio to the staff at the hospital during the drill.

Just this week, ARES received a request from the Cypress Creek VFD to help establish Amateur Radio backup communications for them. Anyone want to help with this?

The emergency responders are asking us to back them up as we have long said that we could do. What we need now are more Hams to work with these agencies.

Northwest Harris County ARES general meeting is scheduled for July 15th at the Cypress Creek Education Center. Put it on your calendar.

Become Active!

Bill, K5ZTY

Ham and "Sheez" News

Cookbook Update

I know that many of you missed the May issue of the Ham and "Sheez" newsletter article, but there was a very good reason why it never made it to print. In addition to spending several days in the hospital at the beginning of the month, I have been working hard on the cookbook. My backup, Laurie Meier – N1YXU, was in the middle of moving to North Carolina, so there was really no way to make it happen. I apologize and I will do my best to never miss another newsletter.

On April 30th, the Ham and "Sheez" met at my home to do the final planning and staging of the cookbook activities. Following the brief meeting, we honored our special guest, Laurie, with a going away party. She made it quite clear that she was not fond of the "G" word (as in Goodbye), so no one was allowed to say it out loud. Some of us shared stories and reminisced about some of our special experiences over the years with Laurie, both before and after the Ham and "Sheez" group was born. We presented Laurie with a card which contained our best wishes for she and Bruce in their new home.



The Cookbook is a reality. The files necessary to make it into a real book were delivered to the printer on June 1st and the first book came off the assembly line this afternoon, June 4th at about 4:00 pm. A great big Texas thank you goes to everyone who participated in the project. According to the printer, we had 217 pages in our

book, with over 250 recipes. As many of you will see when you purchase a copy for yourselves, we did very little editing. The book has a "down home" flavor, no pun intended. If your recipe told a story or was a family favorite from years gone by, we included your comments in the book with the recipe. Some of the recipes, you will never find anywhere else, they are truly unique, while others are your old time favorites that just need to be documented somewhere.

I don't think it is any surprise to any of you that NARSians do not go anywhere unless food is involved. Well, another interesting fact has come to light in the wake of the cookbook assembly. We had eight (8) major categories of foodstuffs. Would you believe that the dessert section was twice as large as any other section? Yes, there is a very large sweet tooth in all of our heads.



Upcoming Activities

Ham-Com 2006 – June 9th and 10th

It is almost time for the annual trip to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to be a part of Ham-Com. The event will be held at a new location this year. Plano, Texas is the new site for the event. I will be helping to work the Texas QSO Party table that is sponsored by NARS each year. In addition, we will be carrying approximately 200 of the new Ham and "Sheez" Cookbooks with us. Please stop by the booth and lend me a hand in selling the cookbooks if you have a chance. They are appropriately titled "The Best Little Cookbook in

Texas."

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 the 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. As of this writing I do not have any names on the list, so pick your time and let me know.

Recipe of the Month

This is one of the many mouth watering recipes you will find in "The Best Little Cookbook in Texas" which will be available for purchase at this month's NARS club meeting and again at Field Day.

Breakfast Casserole

Teresa Holmes (W5MOM)

2 lbs. Hash Browns (thawed)
1 cup Onion (chopped)
1 pint Sour Cream
1 can Cream of Chicken Soup
12 oz. Cheddar Cheese (shredded)
2 cups Ham (cubed)
1/4 cup melted butter (or margarine)
salt & pepper to taste

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Spray or coat bottom and sides of a 9"x13" oven proof dish/pan. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Pour into prepared oven proof dish, spread ingredients out evenly in dish. Bake at 350 for about 45 minutes.

Serve with fruit and biscuits or toast.

Enjoy

Cheers,
Anita – N5AOK

VE Session Results

The results of the regular May VE session on 05/27/2006 are finally in; thank goodness. May has not been a good month for speedy ARRL processing.

We had five candidates to which; 1-Element 1; 3 - Element 2 and 1 - Element 3 exams were given. A CSCE was issued for the Element 1 credit; one candidate earned a Technician license and another earned their General license.

John Rossi-KE5IKZ, of Spring, earned his Element 1 credit and is now set to

upgrade to General or higher within the next year; congratulations, John.

Congratulations to new ham, Kathleen Hamilton-KE5IVB, of Tomball, for earning her Technician class license; nice job Kathleen.

A fellow Magnolian, Robert Brayton-KC4PBS; earned his General class ticket and I'm sure will soon be enjoying the new privileges, if not already; congratulations Robert.

The volunteers for this session were, Keith Dutson-NM5G, Sarah

Connell-W0HXO, Eddy Reynolds-K5WQG, Bob Walworth-N5ET and Mark Bayern-AD5SS; my special thanks to these folks for their time and help; we simply can't do these sessions without our wonderful volunteers.

There won't be a session in June, next session will be 07/22/ 2006, same time, same channel.

73

*Norm Covey/K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager*

May 7th Self-study Tech class a success!

Well, that was an experience! No one was really sure how this self study session would turn out since it was our first attempt at using this format to help individuals in getting their Technician license. As it turned out, our fears were unfounded. Out of an enrollment of fourteen, twelve managed to pass the exam and were awarded the coveted Technician Class license. That comes out to be an 85.7 percent pass rate. We were, of course, teaching the test, but the goal was to renew interest in the field of amateur radio. Hopefully, some of those successful candidates would

further their education in the hobby by getting involved in organizations such as NARS.

None of this would have worked out so well if it weren't for the cooperation we received from Norm Covey and his V.E. team. Coming out on a Sunday afternoon is not the easiest thing to commit to. But, they put down their TV remote, sent the dawg to the back yard, and were there by late afternoon to administer the exam. VE's attending were Mark Tyler K5GQ, Sarah Connell W0HXO, Eddie Reynolds K5WQG,

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, and, of course, "El Heffe," Norm Covey K5OS. Hey, as long as we're handing out kudos, we ought to mention that the session couldn't have left the ground if it were not for volunteers Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, Rob McClure KC5RET and Bill Veerkamp K5NS.

Thanks, folks. Now that we know this method works, we'll be ready to have another go at it later on down the log!

Joe KD5KR



DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

DX IS! Yes . . .
DX IS . . . what you make of it.

Member reports:

Norm, N5OS, must have that monster antenna setup working great as reports some “good stuff”:

1. E20 WXA Thailand 20 meters
2. WH2DX Guam 20 meters
3. EX2M Kyrgyzstan 20 Meters (Super “good one” on any band, Norm!)
4. UN7QF Kazakhstan 20 Meters (Ditto, Norm!)
5. A41LD Oman 20 Meters (Another “Ditto”, Norm)
6. A92GR Bahrain 20 Meters (Good one for this part of cycle!)
7. YN2N Nicaragua 20 Meters
8. AH8/W9EYE Amer. Samoa 20 Meters
9. FO5EM 20 Meters, Fr. Poly (Tahiti)
10. OX3KQ Greenland, 20 Meters
11. DQ2006X Special German call, 20 Meters
12. 7Z1UG Saudi Arabia, 20 Meters (Good one for that time of the evening.)
13. V85GD Brunei 20 Meters (Another good one this part of cycle.)

Who said there is no DX; that the bands are dead? Don’t believe so. You just need to know where to look. (See “Propagation” below.) Usually in a low–low sunspot cycle, the better paths are north–south. Looked like Norm proved that wrong! Tnx Norm and keep it up and let me know some more next month!

Cal, WF5W, who is sort of between–stations with no towers and Yagi’s, due to a planned house move has been working a bunch of DX with his 160 meter dipole and a tuner . . . and his new Icom IC–7000 transceiver.

Cal has a new 70 foot crankup tower and SteppIR four–bander on order for the new homestead. Probably is ‘stacking iron’ in August–September. According to Cal, the crankup needs a concrete base that will require a hole big enough to . . . almost . . . put his sailboat in. (Schooner, clipper–ship; or whatever you call those things?) You won’t Sakrete that base; that will take a fleet of cement mixers to fill up. At eight foot deep it may be that all Cal will need to do is add dry cement!

When Cal and the “SK” / “FIST” crew go to Belize; his call will be V31EA. (ed. – Even though Belize raised the price of annual renewals, I still keep V31UO active)

John, W5PDW, has been quite active this past month with these band condition reports: 10 and 20 meters DXing alive into the early evenings. Made contact with the Indy–500 Special Event station (call?) The operator was a nine year old extra–class YL running a Drake L–4 into a five element 20 meter monobander at 150 feet. John made 26 solid–copy DX contacts on 20 meters;

including a couple of lighthouses and IOTA’s.

John, reports that his wife, Lu, is home recovering from a very successful back surgery operation.

Mike, K5UO. Didn’t get to work anything ‘super’ this month. Did see that 20 meters is very active with many spots in the evening. Same . . . somewhat for 40 meters. Lots of Germans using the DQ2006 special prefix as mentioned last month.

Had to crank the KLM 40 meter Yagi down to the bottom antenna to retrofit the 17 foot special dual–impedance matching feedline. The 3 element 40 Yagi is at 120 feet and the TennaDyne T–12 LP about 15 feet below it. Real all day slow–going chore. Me in the tower and Ms Sharon on the ground cranking the mast winch cable.

The KLM 40 had been up 16 years and feed points and all were in excellent condition. I did re–do them, though; hoping for another 16 years being trouble–free.

Interesting QSL’s received this month:

1. 3Y0X Peter Isl: New ones on 160 (#133) and 12m. Completes 8 bands.
2. 4J5A Azerbaijan: #245 on 80 m. 15 month old QSO
3. JT1CO Mongolia: 30m (35 days QSL turn–around)
4. RM1MVW M–V Island: 30m
5. VQ9LA Diego Garcia: 30 m # 229. All bands but 160!! He has been quite active on 160m; but no Q yet!

DXCC submittals:

1. That reminds me: If you are going to HamCom in Plano; it’s about time to get your QSL’s all sorted and arranged. I should have 40–50 to lay on them.

2. On another note: if you have hard–copy QSL’s and also QSL’s credited on LoTW; you can submit for both at one time, using a “hybrid application”. To do this, specify (where asked) on the LoTW application that you will be submitting paper cards and on the paper application, check the box that says you will be submitting a LoTW application. Otherwise, they will be treated as separate applications. If your paper application does not have the “check box”; download from the ARRL a recent form. I am guessing the “paper application”; so marked; could be done with your paper submittal at HamCom.

3. Bob, N5ET, our local DXCC–guru passes on that there will be card checking at HamCom but the ARRL will not be present. That means that any 160 meter QSL’s; any QSL’s older than 10 years and deleted countries QSL’s cannot be checked. These will need to be sent to the DXCC desk.

4. DXCC Fees: The DXCC program fees will rise slightly on July 1. The fee for a basic DXCC application (including certificate and pin for initial applications only; 120 QSO’s

maximum.) and for first endorsement applications within a year will increase to \$12 for ARRL members and to \$22 for foreign non–members. Second and subsequent endorsements 120 QSO’s maximum) within a year will be \$22 for ARRL members and \$32 for foreign non–members. The cost of other DXCC related items such as plaques and pins also will rise come July 1.

DX ALERTS:

1. A71EM, A71BX and others will operate on all bands and modes as A72006 from June 1 through July 31 in anticipation of the 15th Asian Games that will be held at Doha on December 1–15. QSL via EA7FTR.

2. Michel, F6IPS, will operate as TM6SME on June 3013 from Edmondeville, Close to Sainte Mere–Eglise, to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the WWII “D–Day” landings in Normandy (June 6, 1944). QSL to his home call, direct or via the bureau,

3. Juergen, DJ3KR, will operate as JW/DJ3KR from Svalbard on June 2–18. CW on HF and 6 meters.

4. Jean, F1PNR will be active as TK/F1PNR from Corsica until the end of June. He will operate on all HF bands but mainly 40 and 20 meters.

5. Victor, ZK1CG, reports that as of June 1 2006, ZK1 stations will finally Change to the new “E5” prefix allocated to New Zealand for exclusive use by the Cook Islands. Victor plans on being active with his new call, E51CG right away and later on with E51USA.

6. VU4AN: The May–June Issue of NIAR “Ham News”, featuring twenty pages devoted to the hamfest held at Andaman Islands recently is available at <http://www.niar.org/hamnews/newsletter/may2006.pdf>. Many worldwide in attendance and were able to operate from this rare DXCC country.

Probable Field Day Propagation:

According to the ARRL propagation newsletter: Towards mid–summer sporadic E will help out on 10 meters and possibly 15 meters. Check these bands at late mornings and early evenings. Recently there have been some good sporadic E openings on 10 and 6 meters. This will serve to help domestic contacts; good for Field Day. For FD . . . and DX contacts, 40 and 20 meters will be the bread and butter bands. Have good antennas for those bands!

Much thanks got to those members who have submitted data for this monthly report. Without your input, there would be no DX Report in our newsletter. I am also appealing to those members who have not submitted DX reports before to please do so. Response has been very poor.

Mike, K5UO

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Randall Bachman KE5IEU, Carol Fox KE5IKU and David Schaefer KD5ZEN.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
Bill Denton W5SB - Antennas
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net
Madison Jones W5MJ
281-350-4330, w5mj@hal-pc.org
Larry McCain KN5Z
281-469-6709, kn5z@arrl.net
Deral Kent K5WNO - Antennas
281-548-7476, k5wno@juno.com

Satellite:

Dick Rooney W5VHN
281-288-8424, dickrooney@usa.net

Digital Modes:

Don Bedell KA3BKU Packet
281-257-6425 donka3bku@ev1.com
Gregg Erlenbusch, W5IDX PSK/RTTY
281-970-6860, W5IDX@ARRL.net

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
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com
Terry Myers KQ5U
281-443-6042, tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net

Card Checking Awards Managers:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC
281-363-0209, rwalworth@charter.net
Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC
281-894-5942
H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

Laurie Meier N1YXU
936-271-1096, n1yxu@arrl.net

NARS Information

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
281-583-5588, g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY

Charles Sanders NO5W
936-321-0053, no5w@txucom.net

TREASURER

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

DIRECTORS

Cal White WF5W
281-351-6323, CWhite314@direcway.com
Mike Lodge K7LEX
281-255-2202, lodgem@swbell.net
H O Townsend K5CX
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net
Rick Aikman KZ5E
281-351-5341, ki5mera@sbcglobal.net

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

TBA

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

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

NARS@mailman.qth.net
Coordinator: Peter Wang KF5ND
281-550-3864, kf5nd@yahoo.com

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

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
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