



NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 2007

Important Dates

St. Kilda and 4 other IOTA's by N5ET



Friday, June 15, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, July 28, 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, June 26, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

All Year 2007, CQDX Marathon
June 23-24 ARRL Field Day
June 16-17 All Asian DX CW
July 14-15 IARU HF Championship

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

June 20 Sweet Tomatoes - Willowbrook
June 27 BJ's Restaurant & Brewery
July 4 Your Backyard BBQ
July 11 Casa Imperial Mexican
July 18 Strack Farms

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

June 20 Fajita Willie's - 290
June 27 Jason's Deli
July 4 Your Backyard BBQ
July 11 Goode Co. BBQ
July 18 Skeeters

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

June 20 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
June 27 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
July 4 Your Backyard BBQ
July 11 Pappas' BBQ
July 18 Fred's Italian Corner

Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

11:00 AM Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport

Notice

NARS membership dues: \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

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

In contrast to the past several years, NARS will hold our regular monthly meeting Friday, June 15th at the Cypresswood Community Center. We will put a few finishing touches on the upcoming Field Day plans and hear some of the interesting experiences of Bob Walworth, N5ET, in his recent European junket and how he put 5 IOTA Islands on the air. If you plan to join the gathering for dinner prior to the meeting at Gringo's Mexican Restaurant, please give Jerry, KB5VGD, a call at 281-583-5588 so he can get a count for seating.

Field Day is here. June 23 & 24 we will descend the field just north of the Rib Tickler Restaurant on Hwy 249 in Tomball and see how well we could handle emergency communications. Bill, W5SB, is directing the action. Plan to join in. Bring some friends by. Expect a fun weekend

See you at the meeting Friday.

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BREAKFAST

at Denny's

7720 Louetta

Saturdays

7:30 AM

Public Service

President's Corner

The Hurricane season has officially started. As hams one of our duties is to assist in emergency situations. Now is the time to get prepared. Check to see that your station is backed up and that you and your family have plans in place to provide safe and secure conditions.

Some of us have joined groups to assist the local hospital in our area. If you would like to help in this area please contact these team leaders; Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY Methodist Hospital at Willowbrook, Terry Myers KQ5U Houston Northwest Medical 1960 & 45, or Eddy Reynolds K5WQR Tomball Regional Hospital.

You can also become involved in ARES. There is an ARES Net each Sunday at 8:00 PM local time. Check the NARS Reflector for repeater details for this net.

There will be a general meeting on June 15th so make plans to join us for a fine talk. Field Day, one of the highlights of the year, will be June 23 and 24 in Tomball. Check the web page for the details and plan to join in the fun.

Get involved; remember this year's motto "What can I do for the NARS club".

Jerry KB5VGD

The first item this month is Field Day. This year NARS field day is going to be more like an emergency communication set up. We are going to start set up on Saturday morning instead of on Friday as in the past. Emergency communicators should be able to get on the air quickly. Shelters will be quick up canopies and tarpaulins, antennas will be on push up poles, the Salvation Army kitchen will be on site providing power and food. (they always show up at disasters) The site is primitive and there are no conveniences. We will mow the area and try to kill some of the bugs, but come prepared to swat some. There isn't much shade, so dress accordingly and if a thunder storm comes up, there is nowhere to hide and through all of this, we must keep the radio stations on the air. This will get you ready for a hurricane aftermath. Are you tough enough?

The much heralded June Hurricane Drill has been neutered. For some reason, unknown to me, Harris County decided not to have a communications failure that required an Amateur Radio response during the week long drill. However, ARES went ahead and staffed Transtar, Houston HEC and Harris County Pct 3 Road Camp and conducted some communications exercises during the day on Wednesday June 6th. Methodist Hospital system and Houston Northwest Hospital butted in also. Plans included making simplex and repeater contacts with voice and Airmail between the different sites and the Harris County and Houston EOCs.

A couple of months ago I organized the volunteer communicators at Willowbrook Methodist Hospital. NARS has another group of volunteer communicators working at Houston Northwest Hospital. Back in February of 2005, I was asked to help establish Amateur Radio backup communications at Houston Northwest. I called Terry Meyers, KQ5U, and asked him to go along with me and look at the job. What we found was that they had bought a bunch of Ham gear off of a list circulating around hospital emergency groups and had tried to install some of it themselves. It was sort of a mess. We had a lot of work to do. Then one Saturday morning Terry and I were at an ARRL CCEP test session and one of the examiners, Jim Burrough, N5DTT, who is the Environmental Emergency Manager at Methodist Med Center asked Terry if anyone here lived close to Methodist Willowbrook. Terry pointed to me across the room. Jim came over and asked if I would contact Methodist Willowbrook about establishing Amateur Radio backup communications for them. Well, I can't cover two hospitals, so Terry inherited Houston Northwest. It was a tough start at HNW for Terry. They became disinterested in the project and put it on the back burner until one day when they were notified of an upcoming drill in which there would be a communications failure. They failed that drill. They then realized that planning for emergency communications must be done before hand the same as any other emergency planning and they got with the program. Terry has done a masterful job of installing the radio station and putting together the program and staff to respond to a communication emergency. There are no books on how to do this, it is done purely by Amateur Radio experience in meeting communications needs. He has recruited seven other people to staff the program. The first on deck was our President, Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD. Others are: Mark Stringfield, AD5YV, Madison Jones, W5MJ, Paul Flagg, WA5EE, Joe Chambers, KF5AT, Terry Koelling, WB4LEJ and Charles Ritchie, K7KVG. Terry says that his goal for the program is for any one of the members to be able to take the program and run with it and they are training toward that goal.

Continued on next page

Public Service

Since I organized the Emcomm Group at Willowbrook Hospital, we have added five more members. Ron Forrester, W5RFI, Bill Pierrard, K5JHP, Bill Skipper, KB5BS, Lesa Skipper, KB5GMW and Beth Skipper, KE5JKR and I appreciate them signing on to help. However, we are going to lose one of our charter members. H.O.ss Townsend is leaving us to go to East Texas, a little too far to respond to our 2 meter simplex calls. I hate to see you go HOss and I thank you for all the help you gave me in establishing our Emcomm Group.

If you haven't noticed, the NARS Wednesday night, 8:00pm, 2 meter net is alive and well again. Jerry, KB5VGD, took it on himself to re-ignite the old net for all the newcomers and not-so-newcomers alike. He is also asking some questions of the ones who check in that are raising emergency communication awareness. He has been averaging around 20 checkins a week. Good job Jerry.

One event to look forward to: The Katy Flatland Century Bike Ride on Sunday, July 15th. Below is a cut from Mike Hardwick's Amateur Radio Infomail.

"Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Katy/Fulshear areas. Fifteen operators are needed for communications for this event. Operators need at least a VHF mobile radio to volunteer. Talk-in and event will be on the 145.19 repeater with a 123.0 tone. Operators will meet at 5:30 am at the Jack-in-the-Box at Katy Mills Mall just south of Interstate 10 for maps, final instructions and tee shirts. Contact Mike Hardwick, N5VCX at 713-826-6917 or n5vcx@att.net for more information. "

There will be over 2000 riders in this one and it covers several courses ranging from 30 to 100 miles. It is sponsored by the Northwest Cycling Club based at the Northwest Cycle Shop at Jones Rd. and Hwy 290. I have never done communications for this one before but I am going to sign up to help with it this time. Any one else want to go along?

Become Active!

Bill K5ZTY

Passing the VE Torch

It is my pleasure to announce that Eddy Reynolds, K5WQG, has agreed to accept the responsibilities of VE liaison for the Tomball VE sessions. For those of you who may not know Eddy, he is very active in the Ham community, primarily HF CW and has proven to be a valuable and dependable member of the VE team. Eddy resides in Tomball, only a few minutes from Tomball Community Center, and did I fail to mention, he will retire in three days...he's looking forward to that.

I want to thank Eddy for his assistance over the years and his exemplary performance as a VE team player. Eddy is familiar with all of the facets of the VE team responsibilities and I'm sure he will take the VE program to a higher level.

We will not have a VE session in June because it conflicts with Field Day. The next session will be held on July 28, 2007. I will assist Eddy with the July session and at that time, pass the torch.

We have an exceptional team of VE volunteers and it has been my pleasure and honor to be their VE liaison. To all of you who have volunteered over the years... "Thank you very much for your service to the hobby; we can't do it without you.

73,

Norm Covey K5OS

QUA * The Redd School Labrats

I often hear talk of the future of ham radio, accompanied with sounds of despair. Well, I met two exciting examples of why it's alive and well and also interviewed their teacher this past week.

KE5IOT, Audrey is 12 years old and KE5IXW, Meghan is 10 years old. Their teacher is Lollie Garay, KD5WVM, who teaches science at the Redd School. There is a third young man who was testing the following week. They meet after school in a club called LABRATS (Learning About Research and Technology Through Science). In addition to Miss Lollie, there have been seven students and four adults licensed through this club in the past four years.

Audrey was born here in Houston and Megan near San Francisco, CA. Audrey has two sisters, a Maltese dog, a cat and a cockatoo. Meghan has one sister, a mane coon cat and a hamster. This will be Audrey's last year at Redd School. She wants to be a vet when she gets through with school, but she does like humans too. Meghan will attend Salem Lutheran School when she finishes 8th grade at the Redd School. She wants to teach Middle School.

Both Audrey and Meghan were licensed in May 2006. Audrey's favorite contact was talking to Mr. Jerry mobile. He also sat next to her and helped her make a contact in Germany. Meghan enjoyed a contact in Arizona. They both enjoy the two-meter equipment at the Redd School provided by NARS members. They each also have equipment at home. They also have other hobbies. Audrey enjoys reading fiction and fantasy and Meghan likes Nancy Drew mysteries (she's following in my footsteps!) and Harry Potter. Both are dancers and Meghan has played soccer for five years.

Audrey's favorite trip was provided by her grandparents to Paris. She enjoyed the Louvre. Her favorite painting was faces painted using the shapes of leaves and flowers. Meghan's favorite trips so far were to Disneyworld and seeing winter snow in Seattle.

Miss Lollie enjoys challenging the children and especially being able to teach through experience. The day we visited she was teaching eighth grade science. The F5 tornado in Kansas had occurred the prior week and she explained how they are formed and then gave the students assignments to report the next day on certain major tornados. I learned quite a lot just eavesdropping.

Their after school clubs currently include Aeronautics, "Critter club" (animal care) and Robotics and of course Ham Radio. This was their first year to enter a local scholastic robotics contest.

When NARS members participate and bring projects (like building an oscillator) the students learn how to solder or strip wire. They are learning skills that will apply to many other endeavors. One young man was mesmerized by such a project. He has not yet been licensed, but his interest is in the film industry and he can apply these experiences in the future.

Lollie first came up with the LABRATS idea and discussed it with Dr. Pat of Rice University. She immediately recommended a ham radio club. This has been their most successful year in terms of participation and achievement. Lollie is married to Rey Garay who is Dean of Students at Houston Community College. They met at a workshop and ended up in opposing study groups. She has two children, a daughter who lives in Washington State and a son who is a graduate student at Texas Tech. They had a Siberian husky for 17 years whose name was Red but can't yet bring themselves to get another.

Lollie learned code from Cal White, WF5W, and received her Tech license four years ago at the start of the school program. Rey, KD5YLN, was licensed the same day. She has since upgraded to General and has also promised Jerry to get on the air more than just the 2-meter drive time next year. One afternoon they contacted a ham in Nicaragua and brought in one of their Spanish-speaking students to talk with him.

Lollie likes to read mystery and suspense...naturally one of her choices is Patricia Cornwell's CSI novels.

Lollie has traveled most of the United States and has her eye on a trip to Hawaii. But her dream is to travel with the teachers in the Artic. She just missed the cut last year to work with a scientist in Antarctica. She has applied again this year. The day before our conversation she was celebrating a grant from BP concentrating on teaching students to expand energy sources.

Lollie says her life is a never-ending adventure. Audrey says life has been a wonderful experience. There have been a few ups and down but she is fortunate to have close family and friends. Meghan's life so far has been an exciting trip. There will be several new LABRATS members next year, so...Here is a challenge to all NARS members...get involved with these kids. It will be time they will remember forever and...so will you!

By Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL

*QUA - "Have you news of ... "

Greetings from Ham & Scheez,

Summer is just around the corner and the Ham and "Sheez" ladies have been very busy creating our own version of Hallmark cards for our troops! The following met this past Sunday at Anita's -- Darlene Buoy, Keri Sanders, Tina Sinclair and I. We had a fun time, lots of laughs and wish you could have been there!

If you missed Anita's earlier e-mail of May 21st -- I am inserting here again. If you can not help with making the cards then, we would hope you would consider helping with some of the other items the troops need below.

Hi Ladies,

Many of you were not able to attend the card making yesterday. We certainly missed you. We did however manage to create 30 more cards to be sent to the troops. When we get together on June 3rd, we will have some extra supplies and some samples for you to simply copy. We will be making cards for an entire year's worth of holidays, because the troops we are supporting are being deployed for 15 months.

Because we received a request directly from a Chaplain's assistant in Iraq, we have decided to lend our support to these specific brave men and women.

As of this moment, we have 70 cards made to send. Many are blank and could be used for any occasion. I will put all of the cards in the mail on June 4th if we can get at least 200 cards made. That means that at least 1% of the men and women in this group of soldiers will have a card to send home to one loved one. We have supplies to make 400 to 500 cards. When we have exhausted the supplies that we have, we can buy more supplies and make more cards. If you want to help with the other things that have been requested, we can do that too. The need is great. I know that our cards and anything else we will send to these soldiers will be appreciated. I have no doubt that I will get immediate feedback from this group of soldiers, because this request was personal.

Anita

Next Card Making Date -- We will again be meeting on June 24th from 2 – 6 p.m. but, this time, we will be at Tina Sinclair's. Her address is 2905 Milroy Lane. Please save this date and hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events -- Radio Convention in Plano – June 8-10
Field Day in Tomball – June 23-24

Recipe for the Month -- Macaroni-Ham Salad -- From Southern Living

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 cups uncooked elbow macaroni | 1 cup chopped cooked ham |
| 1 cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced | 1 tomato, seeded and diced |
| 1 small red bell pepper, diced | 1 small yellow bell pepper, diced |
| 1 small green bell pepper, diced | 1 ¼ cups mayonnaise |
| 1 ½ tsp. Cajun seasoning | 2 tsp. lemon juice |
| Salt to taste | |

Prepare macaroni according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cold water until cool. Combine macaroni and next 9 ingredients until blended. Add salt to taste. Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Enjoy, **Mary Tyler**

May VE Session Results

The results are in for the last regular Tomball VE session; please welcome and/or congratulate these new Hams and those that have upgraded;

Rachel Vela - KE5OTM - Magnolia - T

Dean Miller - KD5AXC - Conroe - G

John Jackson - KD5QDC - Cypress - E

Andrew Vela - KE5OTN - Magnolia - T

Mary Dachsels - KE5NFN - Houston - G

Larry Gibbens - W5IBC - Houston - G

Edward Neeley, Jr. - KE5OTO - Houston - G

Austin Schilling - KE5DQR - Hockley - G

Elements given Passed/Failed; T - 3/1 G - 5/1 E - 1/0

New license classes earned - 8 Candidates who did not earn an upgrade or an initial license - 2 (including 1 retake.)

Total candidates served, 10 (including 1 retake.)

The VEs and helpers serving this session were; Tom Rum-W5RUM, Sarah Connell-W5HXO, Eddy Reynolds-K5WQG, Martin Rogoff-N5GPS, Madison Jones-W5MJ, Gregg Erlenbusch-W5IDX and Paul Frantz-W5PF. My thanks to the VEs. They do a great job at these sessions and we can't do it without them.

The next VE session will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2007 at 8:30 AM. There will be no June session because it conflicts with Field Day

73,

Norm Covey

Two NARS Members get New Towers



Two 72 foot US Tower crankups loaded and ready to go at the US Tower plant in Lincoln, KS. WF5W and W5PF won't have to do any more tower climbing. Each tower will have a 3 El. SteppIR 40thru 6 meter yagi when installed this Summer.

Photo by WF5W

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

General Help:

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

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Digital Modes:

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281-251-4301 fitz6@swbell.net

VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA
281-894-5942

PC Programming and Web Design:

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

Building Electronics & Kits

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

Interference (Basic Advice):

Terry Myers KQ5U
281-443-6042, tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net

Card Checking for Awards:

Bob Walworth N5ET – DXCC
281-292-2221 rwalworth@charter.net
Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC
281-894-5942
H O Townsend K5CX – WAZ
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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 7:30PM

Cypress Creek Christian Community Ctr

6823 Cypresswood Dr

Saturday Breakfast

Denny's 7720 Louetta 7:30AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30AM

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

NARS NEWS is published monthly by the 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 2120