

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 2006

March Meeting

Hurricane Rita – Wake Up Call for Harris County, Amateur Radio and NARS

When Hurricane Rita threatened to come right up the Houston Ship Channel, It got the attention of all Harris County emergency responders. They were doing worst case scenarios day and night until Rita turned east.

Since then they have been doing serious preparation for the next one. One of those preparations is getting backup communication plans established with the amateur radio community. At the December NARS board meeting the Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department asked us to establish backup communications for them and the rest of the emergency responders in the FM1960 corridor. This job is bigger than NARS so we called upon one of our members, Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, who is the ARES District 14 Emergency Coordinator for Harris County to help put this plan together.

Come to the meeting Friday, March 17 and hear what some of these plans are, how ARES works, how you can help and hear Dale Walker, AA5DW, talk about his experiences when he was sent into the damaged areas of both hurricane Katrina and Rita to establish communications right after the storms.

Bill K5ZTY

The Nars Jacket 2006

Once again, NARS is offering the exclusive NARS Jacket

Own the one and only NARS Spring, Fall, Winter jacket. This jacket is made of the finest material (water resistant 65% polyester, 35% cotton poplin). Color, olive (dark tan). Two side pockets and one inside breast zippered pocket and your name, your call on the right side and NARS logo on the left side.

Orders may be placed from March 1st through March 30th. They may also be places direct via E mail to Jerry Whiting at March club meeting g_whiting@sbcglobal.net OR MAIL TO: Jerry Whiting, 1118 Marne Ln., Houston, TX. 77090



Orders will be placed with vendor the first week in April. for Delivery the last week in April. Payment in advance is to beby check made out to NARS club.

PRICE AND SIZE: SM, MD, LG, XL \$57; XXL \$59; L, XL TALL \$62; XXL TALL \$65. (Price includes all cost and taxes)

When ordering give your: NAME; SIZE; CALL; ST ADD; CITY; ZIP; PH; and EMAIL.

Important Dates

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

Saturday, Mar 25, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, Mar 28, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

Mar 18–19 Russian DX
Mar 18–20 VA QP, BARTG Spring RTTY
Mar 25–26 CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr 1–2 Kids' Roundup, SP DX, EA RTTY, MO QP
Apr 1–2 QCWA Spring QP

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – North

Mar 15 Jason's Deli
Mar 22 Neal's Restaurant
Mar 29 Sweet Tomatoes
Apr 5 Farm To Market Grill
Apr 12 Casa Imperial Mexican

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Mar 15 Sweet Tomatoes
Mar 22 Fuddrucker's
Mar 29 Escalante Mexican
Apr 5 Jason's Deli
Apr 12 Goode Co BBQ

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

Mar 15 Jason's Deli
Mar 22 Buffalo Grille
Mar 29 DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers
Apr 5 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
Apr 12 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

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 Drive, 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 or Jerry KB5VGD at g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

MOTORCYCLE HAMS NEEDED

If you are an Amateur Radio Operator, with or without a motorcycle, interested in volunteering for the BP MS-150 on April 22-23, 2006, please contact:

Jerry Irwin, WA0GLD

Home: 936-856-5178 Cell: 936-537-7524

email: F16Jock@earthlink.net

or visit <http://www.ms150.org>

VE Session Results

Breakfast at The Blueberry Patch was followed by another successful VE session. Seven elements were given to seven candidates, which resulted in three new Technician licensees and three upgrades to Extra. The VE's administered 1 - Element 1, 3 - Element 2 and 3 - Element 4 examinations; of which, all were passed except the code test.

Please welcome these new licensees to the hobby;
 KE5HNP - Timothy Haywood of Houston
 KE5HNQ - Laurie A. Bayern of Houston
 KE5HNR - Bradley Miller of Conroe

Congratulations are in order to these new Extras;
 W5BBR - Billie Holbert of Brenham
 KE5CWC - William Stanton Thomas of Humble
 W0HXO - Sarah J. Connell of Houston

The VE's and other volunteers in attendance were;
 Paul Frantz-W5PF
 Kirby Van Horn-K7EC
 Jim Kirk-KJ5X
 Eddy Reynolds-K5WQG
 Keith Dutson-NM5G
 Laurie Meier-N1YXU
 Bruce Meier-N1LN
 Bruce Wright-WC5CW

Thanks folks, I am very appreciative of your service.

The next session will be held on March 25, 2006. The area around the session may prove to be a bit distracting; Tomball will be celebrating a community event in and around the community center. Market Street will be blocked and parking may be limited, so get there early if parking is a concern.

73, Norm Covey/K5OS
 NARS VE Session Manager

Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on February 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, Chuck Sanders along with the following guests: Bill Buoy 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
March	Hal Merritt/Dale Walker	ARES	Confirmed
April	Field Day Coordinator	Field Day	Tentative
May	TBD	Radio Tune-up	Tentative
June	TBD	TBD	TBD
July	TQP	H.O. Townsend et al	Confirmed
August	Cal/Paul/Keith	Malta Adventures	Confirmed
September	TBD	ARES	TBD
October	TBD	George Carlson	Tentative
November	TBD	TBD	TBD
December	Open Floor	Show and Tell	Confirmed

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DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

DX IS! Yes. . .

DX IS . . . what you make of it.

This month’s DX News is a bit late due to several of the members and myself traveling on February 28 to the Republic of Malta, off the coast of Italy, in the Mediterranean Sea. This is a Texas DX Society effort, of which several of us that are NARS members are also TDXS members.

This was an all-HF band effort; including 160 meters from March 1–8. The usual CW, SSB and digital modes and frequencies were used. Participants are Cal/WF5W (9H3W), Steve/W9DX (9H3DX), Madison/W5MJ (9H3V), Don/N5DD (“Mr. RTTY”) (9H3RY), Bill/K5WAF (“Mr. PSK”) (9H3WF), Mike/K5UO (9H3UO), Paul/W5PF (9H3PF), and Keith/NM5G (9H3KD). We participated in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest March 4–5 as 9H3DX. QSL Manager is W5PF. No QSL’s should be sent to the 9H3 QSL Bureau or to the Dutch call that pre-existed for 9H3V . . . please. Visit the TDXS web site: <http://www.tdxx.net/> for more details.

Location was a very nice four bedroom villa about 200 feet from very large bay looking out on the Mediterranean Sea. It appears that this area is almost exclusively summer homes for people from continental Europe as they were about 100 % unoccupied while we were there. The weather, however maybe not surprising, was very cold and windy; maybe in the 40’s and 50’s. Cold for South Texas boys anyway! Sweat shirts were the uniform of the day. Fortunately the care-taker (?) brought us a gas powered space heater which ran about all of the time. There was one day that it was very sunny and warm. We appreciated that! It seems these “summer” homes do not have any heating installed in them. [Mike, you left out an important detail that helped us cope with the cold weather. We consumed 3 pounds of Starbucks coffee imported from Tomball. –Ed]

Conditions were about par for this time in the sunspot cycle. Outside of the contest about all contacts were mostly CW (9H3V) along with RTTY (9H3RY) and PSK (9H3WF). We could sure tell when we had been spotted on the clusters as rate would jump up to 3 + QSO’s a minute. Only over-all radio problem had to be the endless broadcast interference; everywhere; all of the time. It was, at times, very difficult on 40 and 80 meters.

Anytime of the day we could work Eastern Europe and Russia. I think even with the radio’s turned off, Hi! Several hundred QSO’s were made on 160; most being EU’s with an interesting antenna location. It was a standard 160 meter dipole but stretched out from the back fence of the villa property and across the neighbors property and then across a relatively busy little street. Average height was probably 15 feet above ground and maybe a few feet above structures! We were a few days late in erecting the dipole due to construction going on right around

the pole we wanted to use for one end of the dipole.

We only had one amplifier; “about” 400 watts; which was used for the contest station and then off and on before and after the contest. Fifteen meters was the contest ‘money-band’ for us. The pileups were endless!

We were able to visit the Malta ARL club one night when they held their meeting. They have a nice little station and club rooms in the downtown area. Different kind of club meeting I must say. Wine was served to all that wanted it and then later they cooked up some spaghetti. Perhaps they had their official meeting at that time, I do not know as we left before their dinner time.

Cal, WF5W, passed an invitation to the Malta amateur radio community to our Texas-style chili cookout at our villa one night during our stay. Even the head of the Malta PTT (FCC), David Jones was in attendance. Talk about “politiikin”, Cal! David was very accommodating to us and our amateur license requirements. It is definitely a pro-amateur radio country for visitors.

A special thanks should go to Maureen, 9H1JN and Alan, 9H1AW, a retired couple from the UK permanently living in Malta. They helped with directions, driving guidance and many, many more things that helped our stay in Malta to be a success. Maureen even did the laundry one time!

3Y0X, Peter Island, Antarctica, is history! Sunday February 19 they started tearing down and moving equipment back to the transport ship. The group made over 86,000 QSO’s on 160meters through 2 meters; primarily CW. I think the 2 meter QSO was via EME with W5UN at Mt Pleasant, Texas.

It looks like a lot of the members made the log for 3Y0X; with Bruce/N1LN probably with the most QSO’s: 19 on all HF bands, SSB/CW. This was new-one for his DXCC efforts. It appears to have been a very successful DXpedition and pretty much problem free. Further details, recaps and some very nice photos are available at www.peterone.com. Congratulations to all that made contact with them!



What the members are doing: (Primarily this will be 3Y0X recaps)

Cal, WF5W was a “five-bander“ for QSO’s with 3Y0X: 20, 15, 12, 30, 17 meters. He missed them on 40 meters because lightning did not miss his 40 meter Yagi prior to the Peter-One operation.

Steve, N5EN was quite active in his chase for contacts with 3Y0X: 20, 17, 15, and 12 meters on CW and SSB.

Ron, W5HZE (ex-WB5HZE), a new ham to our area and a near neighbor to me and not presently a member of NARS was able, and now hear this: to make 15 QSO’s with 3Y0X using a random wire; a temporary setup for him at his new house. Fifteen QSO’s! Bands were 10 through 40 meters, inclusive . . . with a random wire strung around and across the pine trees. . . Sorta knocks the wind out of “I don’t have a big antenna for DX.”

Jim, KJ5X, said it took the 3Y0X DXpedition to get him on the radio this month. Jim worked them 15 and 20 meters, both SSB and CW. Another one in the box, Jim! Jim had worked Peter Island in the previous operation, but maybe these QSO’s were band-counters? Jim tried to get the Nepal station, 9N7JO but never could hear them well enough. (Jim: he had a worse time hearing the “deserving”. He was plagued with S9+++ city QRM.) Mr. Kirk is awaiting the Glorioso operation coming up very soon.

No stranger to the Newsletter; but a stranger to the DX News column, Keith, NM5G: Reports these QSO’s in February: 3Y0X–Peter Is; S51CK–Slovenia; IZ8EJB–Italy; SV9CVY–Crete; SV6ADE–Greece; OE9XRV–Austria. Keith explains: “All of these contacts were made on the stack of 2 Force 12 C–3’s on 20 meters. This setup is essentially a 2 over 2 on 20 meters at 152 and 120 feet. The Peter One contact was made barefoot on the Yaesu 9000D early evening Friday Feb 18. The rest were made Sunday afternoon Feb 19 after listening on 15 to see if 3Y0X was still operating. I was hoping to make a CW contact but heard nothing there, so switched to phone and still heard nothing. Then I changed to 20 meters phone and heard a pile-up working S51CK very near the spot previously held by 3Y0X (14190/14225). So I rotated the stack from 180 to 45 and made the contact. It was unusual to hear such a good signal on 20 in the 2:00 PM time frame, so I began to tune up in the band and found the other pile-ups. I switched on the Alpha to compete with all of those east coast stations. This did the trick and I busted the pile-ups in about 3 calls for each station. SV9CVY was particularly satisfying as I got him first call. Mica (op) said my audio was superior to all the others calling. I then realized all of these contacts were made using the Heil PR40, which is an audiophile type of mic, not your typical DX pitch.” Thanks Keith and will look forward to your DX activity report next month.

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DX News – continued from page 3

From the hinterlands, Walter, KK5LO, Hondo, Texas, was able to make contact with 3Y0X four times on 12, 15 and 20 meters both CW and SSB. Congrats, Walter! Hope it was a new-one for you. Other DX that Walter reports is LU1ZD “Base de Ejercito General” (“base of general army”) in Antarctica and 9A15DX in Croatia. He seems to think the new reinstall of his tower and Force 12 C4 antenna was a success.

Bruce, N1LN, was able to fill in almost all of his blanks for a new DXCC country with his 19 QSO’s with 3Y0X. Like a lot of us he missed them on 10 meters. The 160 meter CW QSO was number 123 on that band. He is moving along on this difficult band.

His new band-counter QSO’s for the month were FO/HA9G on 160m (#124) and on 17 meters and 9G5XA on 17m CW.

New confirmations: His mailbox blessed him with a QSL from K7C, Kure Island . . . and the elusive QSL card for XF4IH (Revilla Gigedo), for over-all DXCC of 326 with 323 confirmed. N1LN / K5PTC will become . . . almost . . . QRT, as the tear-down of the station(s) has begun with Bruce and Laurie’s upcoming move to North Carolina. As most of the antenna/tower equipment remains for the new owner; Bruce will have the bare minimum, including some ‘smoke’, of course, for that new rare-one that might pop up during this transition period before the moving van shows up. He has left some DX in the antenna’s he is leaving on the property so Mark/mmx will have something to work, Hi!

John, W5PDW, Was another successful 3Y0X-chaser; having made four QSO’s on 10, 15 and 20 meters, both SSB and CW. During the chase, John did not wear his seat belt, but reports no damage to the shack other than what damages may have pre-existed from earlier DX-chasing. Be careful there, ‘podner’. In his chase he did not run “big smoke” just 200-400 Watts. His very first QSO with Peter-One was with the traveling trophy camel-back trophy key. John: leave some DX in that straight-key for the next winner of the key.

H.O, K5CX, also made quite a few contacts with 3Y0X: a seven-band SSB sweep, in fact, including 80 meters. Well done, OT!

H.O. made contact with TZ9A, Mali, on 20m this month. That’s always a good one to get on . . . any band. He received his “six-band-sweep” QSL’s from Colin, V31UB. So, he really does QSL!

Jim, K5JDB, was able to QSO 3Y0X (AN-104) in his IOTA quest on 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 40 and 75 meters. Jim says a little smoke was needed, most likely on 40 meters . . . where things became . . . a . . . bit unruly . . . at times. Jim never could hear them on 12 meters during his at-home-time. There is a cure for that, he determined. He spent one lunch hour atop his work parking garage in an attempt to work 3Y0X from his 100 Watt mobile. Wouldn’t you know Jim gets setup and station went QRX for an extended time. Jim just waited; every once in awhile announcing he was “standing by”. Thirty-five minutes later, 3Y0X comes back to him right away! In the log, Bingo, and didn’t have to fight the tri-banders and

Alpha’s. Ya ‘gotta’ do that when you are chasing DX as a mobile, sometimes.

(Short-story: K5UO. I have done things like this before in my quest for mobile DXCC: One time I was chasing a fairly rare DX station in Africa on 15 or 20 meters, I don’t recall. I was on the west-side of the Big Horn Mountains in Central Wyoming. I kept calling and calling to no avail. I arrived at the very top of the Big Horns; gave 1-2 calls in a pileup, mind you and he came back to me with a very good report. Proves that antenna height does work as I was at 10,000 feet A.S.L! Another time I was mobile in Dickinson, North Dakota, chasing some rare DX and couldn’t hear them well at all and they darn sure couldn’t hear me in the pileup. I drove just north of town to the highest point in North Dakota; an 800 foot above average terrain butte where all the repeaters are located. First call, he is 5x9 and I am 5x9: in the log! Sorry; I guess all of us could tell little stories like that of mobile experiences chasing DX.)

Mike, K5UO, needed “Peter Island” on 12 and 160 Meters. I was able to get them on 160m the hard way. Early in their operation it was rumored they would be on 160m this particular night. I napped until midnight or so and then went looking for them. At 3:20 AM local time, they haven’t shown. That is 20 minutes or so past their sunrise; forget it for today. Turns out they spent all night on 80m; thank you! The next night I do this again; only to be successful at 2:30 AM, local; finally! Wouldn’t you know that night or two later I hear them on 160 at 9:00PM, local, a more civil hour! Several calls and they are in the log again; just for insurance, you know. Also worked them on 12 meters. It was a “just-above-ESP” QSO; so I noted “? QSO” in the log and would look for them again sometime later. This was about the time that they were having problems uploading log data on their satellite telephone. It took several-several days before I saw my QSO’s on their www log search. It was the 12 and 160 meter QSO’s that did not make the upload link; thank you! Anyway, the QSO’s were good and it is all . . . history!

Interesting QSO’s / QSL’s:

QSO’s this month for new band-counters:

160 meters: 7X0RY, EA6IB, FO/HA9G, ISO/K7QB

160 meters DXCC: 129 confirmed and 138 worked.

QSL’s received this month for new band-counters:

1) 3B9FR on 17m from 18 months ago!

2) 7X0RY for 160 meters (#129 confirmed) – incidentally, this was a Czech QSL manager: two weeks QSL turn-around time!

3) K7C, Kure was needed on 17 meters and the QSL received showed only the 17 m QSO; thank you. I guess there were a lot of computer problems with their operation and many Q’s didn’t make it.

Speaking of the K7C, Kure operation; “Mr. DXpeditioner”, Martti Laine, OH2BH, made the comment to the effect that all future DXPeditions with live www logging and some of the high tech things that K7C offered will have to include a dedicated specialist as a computer/internet/communication/etc engineer in their staffing operation requirements along with the operators. It appears to be heading that way.

Thanks to all that contributed reports and hope to hear from you and other members, of course, in the future.

Mike, K5UO / 9H3UO

Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting – continued from page 2

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.

- **Field Day** – The board discussed the participation of the Texas DX Society at this year’s Field Day and Mark Tyler took an action item to get back with TDXS to confirm their interest and discuss coordination of their participation. The board also discussed the need to identify a coordinator for Field Day. Rick Aikman voiced a concern over the need to improve tower safety at Field Day and suggested that three bases be fabricated to improve tower installation and de-installation. The board agreed that this was something that needed to be addressed prior to this year’s Field Day.

- **Publicizing Amateur Radio** – Joe Sokolowski described a video entitled, “Amateur Radio, Wireless Window to the World”, that he had received from the developer Dee Logan. The goal of the video is to present amateur radio to the general public. The board discussed interest in using this program and an associated toolkit which is currently being developed. There was also discussion of the need to identify how such a program could be best utilized. If you have ideas along these lines please communicate them to any member of the board.

- 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

Ham and "Sheez" News

February at a Glance

February is a short month, and it has just flown by. The Ham and "Sheez" met at the home of Desi Livingston on the 18th for a Bunko Party. Another great time was had by all. Unfortunately, the fuzzy dice went to the hostess. She will be bringing them back to the next bunko party in hopes of giving them to the next lucky person who comes in last at Bunko.

On February 27th, the club meeting was held at the Starbucks on Spring Cypress and Champions Forest Drive. This was our planning meeting for the Ham and "Sheez" Cookbook. What a great time we had. There were plenty of hot beverages to keep us warm and cozy while we circled the wagons and got to work on the cookbook.

Those in attendance all took home assignments for the next club meeting. The deadline for the recipe submissions is March 20th, so please, please please, get those recipes in to me – n5aok@arrl.net and we can get started on the really hard work, making it into a readable book. The categories were sent out in email. If you did not get them, send me a note and I will resend that email to you. When we meet at the church on the 27th of March for the March club meeting, we will wrap up the final details related to the design, color, and art work for the cookbook. Be sure to come, if not for the "Stampin Up" workshop, at least for a sneak peak at what we have done so far.

Upcoming Activities

Saturday, March 18th – Fourth Annual Herb Luncheon at Arbor Gate – Be sure to go to the URL that Laurie Meier sent out in email and register for the Herb Luncheon at Arbor Gate if you plan to attend. We have attended this in the past and it is well worth the \$35.00. Plus, you get to go shopping in the beautiful gardens after the luncheon. The luncheon begins at 11:00 and is usually over by 1:00. Some of you did

not register for this event in time, so we have another option. The Old Town Spring Wine, Art, and Food Festival is the same day. Even those who go to the herb luncheon at Arbor Gate will still have time to make it to Old Town Spring. See the details below.

Saturday, March 18th – FESTIVAL – Old Town Spring: Springfest–Wine, Art, and Food Festival – Texas Style. Festival celebrates the Wines and Wineries of Texas, with up to 19 wineries having attended in the past, and 38 wines to taste. The festival is in its 6th year, and set to explode with expansion. Festival organizers are adding a Go Texan Food Vendor area where participants can taste, sample, and purchase food products made in the Great State of Texas. Local restaurants are invited to participate in a Taste of The Town food tasting, with restaurants located within the various wine stations located throughout the town. The Art Show and Sale is expanding and relocating to the center of town, in a festive area down the main street. Since the event takes place on the streets of the town, the 150 shops, art galleries, museums, and restaurants are also available to festival attendees with a wide variety of products from around the world. Great tastes, great art, and great shopping, all to kick off Spring Break weekend. Time: Saturday 10–7 & Sunday noon – 6pm. Cost: call. Location: Streets of Old Town Spring. For more information, call 800–OLD–TOWN.

Monday, March 27th – Ham and "Sheez" monthly meeting at the Church. We have a special treat this month. Tere Crowcroft has been invited to bring a "Stampin Up" workshop for the night of the 27th. Many of us were part of the Tomball Stampin Up club last year and have missed being part of a regular monthly gathering to learn new techniques and make some specialty cards. Be sure to let us know if you can attend so that we can make sure that Tere has all the supplies she needs.

April Activities – Arbor Gate in Tomball has several opportunities to get together in April. I will bring a list of those and others to the March meeting, so be sure to be there.

Recipe of the Month

From Jo Nan Carr, this is one of the many recipes she has submitted for the Ham and "Sheez" cookbook.

TACO SOUP

1 pound hamburger (or ground turkey)
1 onion chopped
Salt & Pepper to taste
1 to 2 small cans chopped green chili peppers
2 cans stewed tomatoes
1 can Rotel tomatoes
2 cans pinto beans (drained)
1 can kidney beans (drained)
1 can kernel corn (drained)
1 package taco seasoning
1 package ranch dressing
1–1/2 to 2 cups water
Topping – Any combination of:
Tortilla chips
Grated cheese
Chopped green onions
Sour cream

Brown hamburger and chopped onion. Add Salt and Pepper to taste. Add other ingredients. Simmer 30 minutes.

Welcome to spring.
Anita – N5AOK

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.

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Sarah Connell W0HXO, Tony Crowsey KE5GTF, Lynn McKee KE5GVA, Gregory Stafford KE5BKP and Michael Stone W5MJS.

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
281-292-2221, 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

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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

Denny's, 7720 Louetta, at 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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