



NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 2007

Important Dates

Recent Events and Field Day 2007

We will take a look at several of the activities the club has been involved in during the past busy month. The Ham Fest at Orange and rebirth of the Greater Houston Ham Fest in Ft. Bend County were interesting events, particularly with a presentation at the latter by ARRL West Gulf Division Vice Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV. You'll see our instructors in action at the recent radio merit badge class put on for local Boy Scouts.

Our meeting will revolve around planning and preparations for Field Day this year at a new site. Some video of the site will give us some flavor of what's to come. A few scenes from past Field Days may also bring some interesting experiences to mind.

If you haven't yet taken time to complete the program questionnaire posted on our web site, please do so as we are vitally interested in what you want to see at our monthly meetings. It can be returned electronically, in person, or via mail. We need your input. Join us at the meeting Friday, March 16th.

Bill Denton W5SB

Technician license course scheduled for May 20th.

NARS is offering a one-day study session on Sunday, May 20 2007, followed by an exam for those wishing to get their Technician license. Because this is an accelerated self-study course, focusing entirely on the questions and answers given during the test session, it is not recommended for children under the age of fifteen.

The course will be conducted at the Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Hall, 17061 Rolling Creek Dr. Houston. (One block west of Ella off FM 1960 W.) The \$20 enrollment fee includes the \$14 cost of taking the exam. This course can help one attain a Technician license in a short amount of time. There will be no theory 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

Friday, Mar 16, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, Mar. 24, 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

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

Contests

All Year 2007, CQDX Marathon
Mar 17-19 BARTG Spring RTTY
Mar 24-25 CQWW WPX SSB
Apr 7-8 MO QSO Party
Apr 7-8 FeldHell Spring Sprint
Apr 14-15 JIDX CW
Apr 14-15 GA QSO Party

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Mar 14 Casa Imperial Mexican
Mar 21 Strack Farms
Mar 28 Pepperchino
Apr 4 Luby's Cafeteria
Apr 11 Jason's Deli

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Mar 14 Goode Co BBQ
Mar 21 Skeeter's
Mar 28 Charlie's Hamburgers
Apr 4 Cafe Express
Apr 11 Willie's Grill 290

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

Mar 14 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
Mar 21 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
Mar 28 Pappas BBQ
Apr 4 Fred's Italian Corner
Apr 11 Jason's Deli

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.

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

President's Corner

I am proud to say that the new venue for our monthly meetings at Cypress Creek Christian Community Center was a rousing success. We had a total of 54 attendees. The elevator will be in service for us coming and going. I am looking forward to see all of you there again.

As spring is the sign that new things start to pop up out of the ground, so it will be for NARS Field Day. This year the location will be in Tomball. The site is just north of the fire hall in that big field between Quinn & 249. This is the new location for the First Baptist Church of Tomball. Now is the time to start Participating in this grand (Walters Hock's Word) NARS event. I will be talking more about this in the future and at the meetings. We do have a Field Day team started with Mike Lodge head coordinator; Paul Frantz and I are also part of the committee. There are more positions that need to be filled and now is the time you can ask, "What can I do to help in NARS Field Day". You can contact any one of us or step up at the meeting.

On February 24th NARS members Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Tom Atkins KD5EIJ, Bill Skipper KB5BS, and Jerry Whiting KB5VGD joined Scout leader Gary Greer KE5LYU to conduct a "RADIO Merit Badge course for the Boy Scouts of Polaris District. Thirteen Scouts earned this merit badge after the all day event. If anyone knows of another scout troop in the area that would be interested in doing a radio merit badge session get in touch with Joe or me.

Remember this Years Club Motto
" What can you do for NARS Club"

Jerry KB5VGD

NARS conducts Scout merit badge class



On Saturday, February 24th, NARS sponsored a Boy Scout merit badge class for thirteen boy scouts of the Polaris District. This event was held at the troop's scout facility near the Wells Middle School near Stuebner Airline and FM 1960. Those assisting were Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, Tom Atkins KD5EIJ and Bill Skipper KB5BS.

This, of course, was a class involving the Radio Merit Badge and involved three hours of lecturing on the basics of radio operation and ending with a session in which each scout participated in a ten minute QSO via 2 meter xcvrs. Without question, this was a most rewarding event for us, and it was exciting to see the interest these kids had in working toward their goal of qualifying for their Radio Merit Badge. In all, this was a Saturday well spent!

NARS 2007 Meeting Program Survey

On the next page is the NARS 2007 Meeting Program Survey. If you have not sent one in to the board, please take the time to complete the survey and give it to a board member. Your input and ideas on this subject are very important. This is your chance to help the club improve our meetings.

NARS 2007 Meeting Program Survey

For the past 20+ years the NARS board of directors have presented a variety of programs at the regular monthly meeting. They have covered just about every gambit of Ham Radio and related subjects. Many of the meeting topics over the years have been on various non Ham Radio topics. Finding new and interesting topics are extremely difficult. In planning for 2007 the board of directors would like to solicit input from the general membership on suggestion for meeting topics and answer a few question about their thoughts on past programs and future ones.

Below is a list of question, some just yes or no, some will provide for a space to write in suggestions.

Please take a bit of time and fill out the questionnaire return it to one of the board members or email it to Joe Sokolowski kd5kr@arrl.net

Questions:

How would you rate the programs over the past few years: Good _____ Bad _____ Mediocre _____ Indifferent _____

Would you like to see more Ham Radio related topics? Yes _____ No _____

Would like to see more non Ham Radio related topics? Yes _____ No _____

What subjects would you like to see more of _____

What subjects would you like to less of _____

Would you like to have 2 short programs of different topics _____

Would you like to see short video topics of local interest? _____

(Examples) other area ham radio club activities, video of behind scenes... a look at Ham's in action from other area club activities such as, Houston Marathon, Wings Over Houston Air Show, Sun Mart Endurance Run, other area club meetings, Field Days, Swap Fest, Weather Bureau, Emergency Operation and Communication Centers and Radio classes and so on.

Do you feel it would be helpful to have a microphone and speaker system at every meeting to more clearly understand the speaker _____

Do you read the NARS Newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

Suggestion on Programs _____

Do you have a program to present _____

Comments or suggestions on any of the above

Thanks for your input
NARS Board of Directors

Texas QSO Party 2006 -- Results

This is a brief, well it started out that way, report on the 2006 Texas QSO Party including the overall results as well as some specifics related to participation by NARS members. A more extensive report, including soapbox comments and a number of photos from the event, is being developed and will be available on the website. The response to the request for photos for that report has been very good so far but if you haven't already submitted a photo or two from your operation, and wish to do so, there is still time. Please send them to me via email or bring them to the next club meeting. Electronic jpg or bmp files are preferred but hard copies either as slides or prints can also be used. And, of course, of most interest are photos showing operating/driving personnel.

After hurricane Rita severely curtailed participation in the 2005 TQP there was some concern regarding activity in the 2006 event and in particular whether operators from outside of Texas would show up to party and would there be a sufficient number of Texas mobiles and fixed stations to make it interesting. It's a good measure of the popularity of the TQP, and of the hard work that George, K5VUU, and H.O., K5CX, have put into organizing and promoting the TQP since NARS took it over, that both of these questions can be answered in the affirmative. Here are some of the details.

A total of 271 logs were received including 7 logs from DX countries, 13 from Canada, 122 from US outside of Texas, and 129 from Texas. Approximately 41300 QSOs were logged by Texas stations. That equates to an average hourly rate of approximately 2300 per hour or approximately 38 QSOs per minute. That's a lot of dits and dahs and rapid fire talking – kudos to all who made that great rate happen!

Of those 129 logs from Texas 105 were from fixed stations. Mobiles turned out in force with 21 single op mobile logs and 3 multi-op mobile logs involving 8 operators being submitted for a total of 29 mobile operators. While we did not reach the goal of activating all 254 Texas counties we did manage to put 220 counties on the air. After all, activating all counties is a big challenge since there's Miles and Miles of Texas out there and a lot of counties to cover. But we'll continue to have 254 as the goal for the 2007 TQP.

NARS was well represented in the 2006 TQP having the most logs submitted (23) and the most counties activated (119). Unfortunately our goal of bringing the club aggregate trophy back to NARS fell short due to tremendous efforts by the Austin-based Central Texas DX and Contest Club (CTDXCC) and the DX Contest Club (DXCC) based in the Dallas area. Here's how the top three clubs fared in the club aggregate competition:

Club	Logs	QSOs	Score	Average/Log
CTDXCC	18	11410	4039623	224423
DXCC	14	7560	2539968	181426
NARS	23	7590	1986847	86384

When it comes to radio operating those Austin folks certainly aren't slackers. In addition to obtaining the Club Aggregate Trophy for a year, they will receive a permanent plaque donated by H.O. & Anita Townsend – K5CX & N5AOK

You can see from these results that NARS had excellent participation but needs to work on its average score per log. Of course increasing the number of QSOs as well as the number of multipliers in each log would help in this regard as would activating more counties per log to get those bonus points.

TQP Results - contd.

Logs were received from the following NARS members:

Category	Call Used	Operator
Single Operator Fixed Stations	N5BIA	Bill Buoy
	NA5F	Mike Wheat
	W5ADF	Al Fritsche
	KB5VGD	Jerry Whiting
	KD5KW	Ken Mitchell
	KA5AKG	Ken Harlan
	N5MT	Mike Davidson
	KD5KR	Joe Sokolowski
	K5AVY	Lee Kinard
	KD5EKA	Willard Hood
	W5PDW	John Ellis
	K7LEX	Mike Lodge
	K5OS	Norm Covey
	KD5EIJ	Tom Atkins
K5UO	Mike Bragassa	
Multi-operator Fixed Stations	N5NXS	Paul Owen
	KD5BXZ	Rob Nixon
	K5ZTY	Bill Stietenroth
	NM5G	Keith Dutson
	K5GQ	Mark Tyler
Single Operator Mobile Stations	N5BA	Brian Derx
	K5N/W5MF	Marty Fitzgerald
	N5AOK	Anita Townsend
	N5ET	Bob Walworth
	NO5W	Chuck Sanders
Multi-operator Mobile Station	N5BE	Danny Richards
	KE5MS	Matt Stouffer

Many thanks to the above operators who put Texas and NARS on the air and helped make TQP 2006 a great success. Also many thanks to the following unsung hero and unsung heroines who drove the mobile operators through Miles and Miles of Texas and kept them headed down the right path often with little, none, or, at best, confusing instruction from the radio op:

- H.O. Townsend practicing his NASCAR skills driving N5AOK to another outstanding score and eventual picture in the pages of QST.
- Carol Fitzgerald behind the wheel of K5N/W5MF. It's reported that Carol nodded in the up and down direction when Marty proposed something like "Honey, we're going on vacation. I'll do most of the driving — after the first 800 miles".
- Linda Walworth behind the wheel of N5ET navigating a twisting and turning route through east and northeast Texas.
- Keri Sanders putting the pedal to the metal behind the wheel for NO5W demonstrating skills she refined in warm-up sessions in MS QP, GA QP, and OK QP.
- In case you're wondering who was behind the wheel of the Derx-mobile it was none other than the operator himself who headed out to San Antone and back. That's quite an operating feat and Brain deserves to give himself an attaboy.

TQP Results - contd.

Speaking personally the mobile driver/operator partnership is an excellent way for a duo to share an amateur radio operating experience and to see some interesting Texas country-side. From a radio operator's perspective there's just not much in ham radio that can match driving down some beautiful Texas back road or interstate while handling a roaring pileup every 20 minutes or so as the new counties come and go. It just doesn't get much better than that and it doesn't require traveling to a DX location or a license on the part of the driver – well at least not one from the FCC! If the radio operator is operating CW using a pair of noise-canceling headphones, the driver can even listen to Miles and Miles of Texas or other favorite tunes while the radio op is immersed in the pileup. It's a lot of fun. So if you have HF mobile capability you're encouraged to draft a driver and give it a try. If you don't have HF mobile capability but would like to get involved as a mobile any of those in the above list would be willing to give you advice and/or a hand, or perhaps they might be looking for a driver/co-operator. Participation in a multi-op is another approach that will give you some time in the operating chair without taking your whole weekend if your time is limited.

Well, of course there was competition other than the club aggregate category, so let's look at those eligible for a certificate or plaque, the top three entries in those other categories.

Single Operator Texas

Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
KE5C[1]	John Dvoracek	1218	406,133	CTDXCC – K5CTX
K5FD	James Cook	803	280,652	Certificate
W5BOK[2]	Dennis Cobb	740	179,776	Certificate

1. Operating at K5TR, 2. WA8ZBT operating at W5BOK

Multi-Operator Texas

Call	Operators	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
NX5M	Bob Pack [1]	1940	1,044,136	The Pearland ARC – K5PLD
N5YA	Bill Simpson [2]	1757	801,920	Certificate
NM5G	Keith Dutson [3]	1034	339,500	Certificate

1. Bob Pack NX5M, Dennis Ignatenko NT5TU, Jack Markum N5DUW, Mike Schoppe N5XJ, Roy Wiggins – KR5W
2. Bill Simpson N5YA, N5AC, K5QE, K5SF, W5LL, N5UM 3. Keith Dutson NM5G, Mark Tyler K5GQ.

QRP Single-Operator Texas

Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
W5KDJ	Wayne Rogers	171	30,780	Austin QRP Club – KQ5RP
W5ESE	Scott McMullen	132	30,408	Williamson County ARC – WC5T
NZ5A	Bob Logan	137	24,838	Certificate

CW Only Single-Operator Texas

Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
N5DO	Dave Cockrum	623	256,053	Heart of TX DX Society – W5DXS
K5LH	Chris Rust	414	145,330	Williamson County ARC – WC5T
N5CHA	Todd Dewberry	395	119,685	Certificate

Texas Mobile Single-Operator

Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
WW5X	Bill Wells	1938	625,968	SW Dallas County ARC
K5P	Lee Laird [1]	1562	604,820	Certificate
K5N	Marty Fitzgerald [2]	1318	444,167	Certificate

1. K5UN operating as K5P, 2. W5MF operating as K5N

Texas Mobile Multi-Operator

Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
K5NA	Richard King[1]	2342	1,003,478	Mike Bragassa – K5UO
N5BE	Danny Richards [2]	344	60,192	Certificate

1. Richard King K5NA, Susan King K5DU, Scott Pederson KI5DR, Gary Schmidt W5ZL
2. Danny Richards N5BE, Matt Stouffer

TQP Results - contd.

Texas Mobile CW-Only Single-Operator				
Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
K5OT	Larry Hammel	1706	599,862	CTDXCC – K5CTX
W5SL	Jay Sewell	998	273,532	Certificate
NO5W	Chuck Sanders	528	121,952	Certificate
Non-Texas Single-Operator				
Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
N4PN	Paul Newberry	584	240,240	CTDXCC – K5CTX
NC4KW	Bruce Meier	424	182,678	Certificate
W0BH	Bob Harder	468	182,388	Certificate
Non-Texas QRP Single-Operator				
Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
N4JF	Jerry Fiore	256	86,784	Certificate
N2WN	Julius Fazekas	154	50,390	Certificate
K3TW	Tom Warren	89	28,367	Certificate
Non-Texas CW-Only Single-Operator				
Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
N6MU	John Desloge	289	156,720	Norm Beavers – W3DYA
N4VA	Larry Vogt	247	129,132	Certificate
K8IR	James Callow	275	123,225	Certificate
DX Single-Operator				
Call	Operator	QSOs	Score	Plaque donor/Certificate
DL5AWI	Gerd Kaiser	132	39,420	Larry Hammel – K5OT
DL3GA	Andy Gille	53	7,814	Certificate
OK1AOV	Jiri Suntych	40	4,376	Certificate

So, there you have it, a not entirely brief summary of TQP 2006 including the top three in each category. As you can see NARS had a few to make the top three but we could use a few more, and those that did make it need to move up in the standings, in order to regain the coveted TQP Club Aggregate trophy which will be passed from the DX Contest Club to the Central Texas DX and Contest Club at the Hamcom convention in June. We'll be distributing the plaques and certificates during March. Look for a full report including results and soapbox comments from all submitted logs, and selected pictures from the operations in the near future.

Looking toward TQP 2007, which will be the weekend of September 29-30, it's not too early to start making your plans and getting ready. Will you join in the fun by operating as a single fixed station operator, or as a single mobile operator, or as part of a multi-op mobile or fixed station team? Each of these is a great way to enjoy the TQP by putting Texas and NARS on the air.

Hope to CU there,

Chuck/NO5W
TQP Coordinator

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

NARS Resource List

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

Interference (Basic Advice):

Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256 k5gq@juno.com
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
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

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

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD

281-583-5588

g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Bragassa K5UO

936-273-4010

bragassa@consolidated.net

SECRETARY

Charles Sanders NO5W

936-321-0053 no5w@consolidated.net

TREASURER

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

281-353-2196 kd5kr@arrl.net

DIRECTORS

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF

281-251-4301 fitz6@swbell.net

Bill Denton W5SB

281-469-8331

bdenton@academicplanet.com

H O Townsend K5CX

281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

Tom Atkins KD5EIJ

281-447-4347 tom_sts@hotmail.com

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

TBA

NARS Information

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

281-353-2196 kd5kr@arrl.net

*Send address, phone, e-mail and other
changes to:*

NARS

P O Box 90387

Houston, Texas 77090-0387

NET

10M Ragchew: Mon. 8:00 PM, 28,444 ssb

Coordinator: TBA

WEBSITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>

Webmaster

Bill Buoy N5BIA

281-370-3510, n5bia@arrl.net

NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.qth.net

Coordinator Keith Dutson NM5G

281-351-7683 keith@dutson.net

TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator:

Chuck Sanders NO5W

no5w@consolidated.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 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:
Editor: Ken Harlan KA5AKG

kharlan@sbcglobal.net

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

ARRL Club 2120