

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2006

May Meeting – Field Day Preparation

Keith NM5G will have a PowerPoint presentation of Field Day status and planning.

Annual Picnic 2006



Important Dates

Friday, May 19, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 26, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

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

Contests

May 20–21 King of Spain, Baltic DX

May 27–28 CQ WW WPX CW

Jun 17 Kid's Day

Jun 17–18 All Asian CW DX

Jun 24–25 ARRL Field Day

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – North

May 24 Sweet Tomatoes

May 31 Farm To Market Grill

Jun 7 Casa Imperial Mexican

Jun 14 Strack Farms

Jun 21 Pepperchino

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

May 24 Fajita Willies 290

May 31 Jason's Deli

Jun 7 Goode Co BBQ

Jun 14 Skeeter's

Jun 21 Chilis 290

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

May 24 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille

May 31 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet

Jun 7 Luther's Barbecue

Jun 14 Fred's Italian Corner

Jun 21 Jason's Deli

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

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 the MS150 held in April.

The MS150 has come and gone for 2006. There was a group of 10 NARSians providing communications for the two day event. Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, was MED 5, Walter Hock, KK5LO, was MED 4, Paul Owen, N5NXS, was SAG 41 and also coordinator for 7 other SAGs, Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ, was SUPPLY 2, Brad Nelson, WD5GNI, was Bellville Net Control, Mark Tyler, K5GQ, was Break Point 2A, Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, is coordinator for all of the SAG operations for the event and drives one of the SAG wagons, Kevin Colby, KD5ZUI, was AMBULANCE 2, yours truly, K5ZTY, was Medical Supervisor 1, and Pete Wang, KF5ND, was bike rider #4041 and 500mw Med Net crash reporter. (see Pete's story elsewhere in this newsletter) Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, communications coordinator for the event, reported that he was 45 hams short of the number he needed. Think about volunteering for next year's event. It is fun to 'get out of Dodge' for two days and do something worthwhile. Ask any of the ten who went this year.

"First time I've ever seen two hams looking so happy while changing a flat tire on a humongous van! Thanks Paul and Tom for helping us out at BP6 (FM969) on Sunday! And a special thanks to Kathy SAG #44 for loaning us her spare tire when our spare tire turned out to be "not so spare" (i.e. already flat). They joked about how much this was going to cost me, but in the end it came down to a hand shake and a tip on where to find the indoors bathroom at BP6 to clean up better." Lee N5NTG, SAG 13 *See picture below.*

The Northwest ARES group held a general meeting Saturday morning April 29th at the Cypress Creek EMS training center. About 30 people attended and got to meet face to face some of the voices they had talked to on the radio. Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, the South Texas Section EC spoke on the ARRL's continuing upgrading and updating of the ARES response plan and noted that the whole plan depends on the grassroots operators and thanked the attendees for their dedication of time and money to become trained and equipped for the task. Hal Merritt, KD5HWW, northwest Harris County EC, introduced new and prospective members to the ARES emergency communications plan and Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, District 14 EC, briefed somewhat on the upcoming drill. Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF, digital communications guru, gave a tutorial and update on digital modes and the five year plan for Harris County. We got a look into the "Go Kit" of Bill Rimmer, N5LYG, former northwest Harris County EC and picked up some ideas for putting together our own kits. Bill and Hal also related some of their own experiences on emcomm deployments. Next, Jennifer Hawes, KD5SQK, Regional Liaison Officer for the Texas DPS talked about the requirements for hams to interface with the police agencies, especially the Department of Public Safety. Police don't trust volunteers and for us to work with them we need to get some basic training and probably be RACES members. RACES does background checks and provides official I.D.

Before the next newsletter comes out we will have had our Northwest ARES disaster drill. It is coming up on Saturday, May 20th. Start listening to the 147.00, +, 103.5, repeater at about 7:30 on Saturday morning to begin hearing the scenario and for first instructions. This is fun stuff and good practice for the real thing. Many of us in this one are beginners so we will make plenty of mistakes but we will be working with professional responders and we will learn a lot. Besides that, no one gets hurt or embarrassed and everyone gets fed. Register with ARES and plan to participate.

FYI: The NARS 146.660 repeater is now officially the backup repeater for the ARES county wide repeater, 147.00,+ , 103.5 in the event of a disaster and it is now the regular 4th Sunday repeater for the Northwest ARES Sunday night net that comes on at 8:00pm local time. Speaking of the Sunday night net, here is the schedule of repeater use for that net: 1st Sunday, 146.72, - , 123.0, 2nd Sunday, 146.76, - , 103.5, 3 rd Sunday, 147.30, +, 151.4, 4th Sunday, 146.66, - , 141.3, and if there is a 5th Sunday we use 146.44 Simplex and practice relaying stuff.

Bill, K5ZTY

President's Corner

May 2006

GREAT TRAINING for those who participated in MS150. NARS had an increase of participants over last year even with Belton Swapfest being on the same weekend as the BP150.

This month we bid farewell to two couples. Lee K5AVY and Nancy Kinard are moving to East Texas. Lee was NARS President in '05. And Bruce N1LN and Laurie N1YXU Meier are moving to North Carolina. Each has contributed greatly. Laurie served as Public Information Officer and as a major force in the Ham-N-Sheez organization. Bruce was President of NARS in '04, CW Field Day Chairman, sponsored Pesky Texan Contest Club and was a major contributor for NARS in the TX QSO party. NARS has been honored to have each as members. We will miss the enthusiasm and GREAT JOB that each brings in chairing a job.

Mark K5GQ



DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

DX IS! Yes. . .

DX IS. . .what you make of it.

Member reports:

W5MJ, Madison, worked some really ‘good-ones’ this past month: YX0LIX, Aves Island, 40 meters; SO1R, Western Sahara, 40 meters and TY5WP 20 meters; all on CW, of course. With this Madison has confirmed that he is a DX-er by filing a report this month. Thanks Madison! Let’s hear from more of you. . .DX-ers.

WF5W, Cal, reports an almost all-band contact with YX0LIX on 20, 30, 40, 160 meters; all CW. With Cal’s current antenna tear-down project; he will be all-band dipole for awhile.

NO5W, Chuck, has a report this month, probably due a column in itself! Our own “Roving Animal” and his designated pilot, Keri, have been making several of the nearby state QSO parties as a CW mobile and doing very well for himself, thank you! Combining a little vacation time in Macon and Savannah, Chuck and Keri ventured to Georgia several weeks ago for their state QSO party.

The official Saturday 2:00 PM start got off to a late start and a bit of a change in routing due to a bad thunderstorm. After the storm had passed they headed out having to let weather dictate a bit the routing.

Then no more started and down the road a bit; his new IC-7000 started cycling on and off; then quit completely after driving over a nasty bump. Initial roadside efforts to determine the cause was not beneficial. The special power cord for the backup 706 transceiver was not to be found.

But, heck, he thought; maybe the problem is not the new transceiver at all. Let’s start tracing right from the source and that was the culprit. It appears that the car’s fuse clip had lost its tension and would not hold the fuse well enough; especially if any road bumps were encountered. That was it and they were back mobile. Lost time from the weather and car problems is no way to start this contest. You’re playing catch-up the remainder of the time.

The good old standby, money-maker 20 meters was on the “fritz”, also. Chuck

spent most of his time on 40 meters which was doing very well. It appears that most Georgia QSO party participants were disappointed in 20 meters and were all on 40 meters. Chuck said the 40 meter pileups were tremendous and allowed some really good QSO rates:

Sample of first ten minute rates and over-all county rate in various counties:

1. Bank: 150. . . .78
2. Bull: 132. . . .87
3. Cand: 156. . . .129
4. Carr: 156. . . .113
5. Eman: 144. . . .72
6. Fann: 174. . . .146
7. Gord: 144. . . .134
8. Hara: 138. . . .131
9. Hear: 168. . . .115
10. Madi: 138. . . .173

Chuck also had many stations following him as they traveled the different counties. Just a few:

1. W8WVU 32 counties
2. W9IU 32 counties
3. W2YC 30 counties
4. K4EJ 29 counties
5. And many more in the twenty’s and teen’s.

He and Keri logged almost 800 miles running the Georgia counties. Probably Exxon or the likes are happy! With all of the delays and such; Chuck logged in 1157 QSO’s which may give a first or second place in the “mobile CW” category.

Congratulations Chuck and Keri!

W5PDW, John (a.k.a. “Juan”), was able to snag two QSO’s from Aves Island YX0LIX on 10 and 15 meters. John also worked two special event stations this past month: W1MGY, commemorating the Titanic call sign, MGY. . .and N4S for the 25th anniversary of the Space Shuttle.

The very last of April, John had a blast of energy and propagation and tried to “WAFSU” (Work All Former Soviet Union) and with a 100 Watts. (Isn’t that 775DSP 200 Watts, John? Well, anyway.) He interrupted UA4PK and XYL UA4PAK at their breakfast table in Kazan on the Volga, while they were enjoying pancakes (“Blimi” in Russia). They must have their radio next to the breakfast table, eh? John also worked UA9MA, UA9FLD, RN6BY, RY3OU, RW9FM, UA6UDV and UR5HAC in the Ukraine. John was doing

well from all over the FSU; from east to west. And into Europe: SP9QMP, EA8YB and S51ICK. Excellent John!

N1LN, Bruce, like a lot of us had a slow DX month, past. New band countries were YX0A (Aves) 17 CW and 20 SSB and YX0LIX (Aves), 15 CW/SSB, 10 SSB, 30 CW. Also some “just good ‘ole DX”:
4S7AB Sri Lanka on 17 meter SSB, SO1R Western Sahara on 20 CW and 40 CW, YB1A Indonesia on 40 CW and VR2BG Hong Kong on 20 CW.

Bruce was also able snag, maybe 10 different Georgia counties from the “Roving Animal” Chuck, NO5W in the Georgia QSO party.

He also reports that the contest station call, K5PTC has been retired and a call sign change due to the Meier’s move to North Carolina. Be looking, now, for “NC4KW” or “North Carolina 4 Kilo Watt”. A bit long; but pretty distinctive: Their state, call district and the venerable “KW”.

K5UO, Mike, had a slow month for notable QSO’s or QSL’s. Did work one of the Andaman Island stations for a new one on CW. This leaves only BS7, Scarborough Island for all-CW DXCC.

QSO’s: JT1CO/30 meters CW, SO1R/30/15 meters CW, VQ9LA/30 meters/CW, VU4AN/VU4JLW/17 meters CW and YX0LIX on 30 meters, the only band I needed them on.

Notable QSL’s received: JT1CO/30 meters via Logbook of the World! TY5WP, Benin/80 meters CW. (40 day QSL turn-around: OK!)

Finally finished my Rohn 25, a.k.a. 80 meter vertical. The 67 each 1/4 wave ... buried. . . radials about did me in. Works great. . .for this time of the year. Have to wait until fall to really see how it works. Wanted to get this built before South Texas’s hot summers set in. Tried to talk N1LN, Bruce out of his 1500 Pf vacuum variable with no success. Had to settle for an air variable and three doorknob capacitors to allow switching up to 3795 (~). Feeding it with 300 feet of 0.50 inch 75 Ohm CATV coax; picked up at a really good price (free)

Continued on page 4

DX News – Continued from page 3

Notable DX-Alerts from the bulletins:

1. EG7CC (Spain) will be active May 20-21 as a special commemoration to the 500th anniversary of the world explorer, Christopher Columbus. All bands with a special QSL card either direct to EA7URE or via the bureau.

2. EM20U, Ukraine: A special 20th anniversary event operation from. .the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. Better them than me!

3. "2006 Football World Cup" championship special event in Germany. There will be a total of 36 different special event stations active from May 13 to July 16: all bands and modes. Prefix's being used are "DQ" and "DR"

4. J5DOT and J5TRJ, Guinea-Bissau: Active from April 25 to May 4. All bands: SSB,CW and RTTY. QSL via JA1DOT

5. Frosty, K5LBU (C91CF) is still looking for additional operators for a trip to C9, Mozambique June 29 to July 13. If interested visit www.tdxs.net/C9.html or email Frosty : <frosty (at) pdq.net>. CW op's are a particular need.

TB0DX is the callsign used by the OK DX Foundation's operators during their island activity from Kosrelik (AS-123) Turke QSL via OK2GZ, direct or bureau. The web page for the operation is at http://www.okdx.cz/ankety/iota_ta/iota_ta_en.php

+ SILENT KEY + Geo Longden, G3ZQS passed away on 25 April. In 1987 Geo founded FISTS (<http://www.fists.co.uk/>), the International Morse Preservation Society that boasts a membership in the thousands world-wide

Special station LZ06KM will be active on 1-31 May to celebrate St. Kiril and Methodius' Day. QSL via LZ1PJ, direct (Ivan Ivanov, P.O. Box 15, BG-1324 Sofia, Bulgaria) or bureau (e-mail requests for bureau cards can be sent to lz1pj@qsl.net). (ed. note: They were the developers of the Cyrillic language.)

Mike, K5UO

VE Session Results

April VE Session Results,

Five elements were given to three candidates, which resulted in one new Technician licensee and two upgrades to Extra. The VE's administered 1 - Element 2 and 2 - Element 3 and 2 - Element 4 examinations; of which, four of the five were passed.

Please welcome this newly licensed Technician to the hobby;

KE5IEU - Randall Bachman of Houston

Congratulations are in order to these new Extras;

AD5WV - Ellis Carter of Magnolia
WB5ERD - Walter Hamilton of The Woodlands

The VE's and other volunteers in attendance were;

Eddy Reynolds-K5WQG
Keith Dutson-NM5G

Paul Frantz-W5PF
Kirby Van Horn-K7EC
Sarah Connell-W0HXO
Steve Niles-N5EN

Thanks folks, I am very appreciative of your service.

The next session will be held on May 27, 2006.

73
Norm Covey/K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager

QUA*?

NARS friends,

I am having one of those summers. Christopher is getting married in August and I am very involved in helping with the plans. In fact, Ursula and I are going for three days to San Antonio this week to finalize some details. It is so much fun!

Michael left for Brussels on Saturday and then heads to Australia the following week. I am leaving next week to join him

and vacation for a few days. To answer the question I know you are thinking - no, he didn't have time to get a reciprocal license. He was disappointed.

I hope I get to meet a few koalas! Sarge is staying home in joint custody between Christopher and Ursula (his fiance).

In addition, this summer, we have several other weddings and graduations we need to attend. I am already planning my next

article for the September newsletter. I hope we will be able to make the monthly meetings and especially the Starbucks afterward.

I sure hope they have Starbucks in Australia!

Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL
Ham & Sheez Reporter

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

MS150 Pete Wang



After a steep climb at Bastrop State Park

I want to report back to you, all of my family, friends and sponsors, on how the bicycle ride went on April 22–23, 2006.

I made it from Houston to Austin, Texas! 185 miles! \$1,175 raised to fight Multiple Sclerosis and to support people living with MS!



Waiting for the ride to begin, 6:00 am, April 23, 2006

I left Houston (near Tully Stadium) at 6:38 am with Team Schlumberger, arrived at Bellville lunch at 9:30 am (the new potatoes at Bellville were awesome!), then I lost my fast train (and I won't paceline with strangers, for safety reasons, so I was riding alone), and it got hot, so I got to La Grange about 2:15 pm, which I think is my

best 100 mile time ever, thank you southeast wind. Felt really perky and good after the ride. Stayed up until bedtime. Ate lots of BBQ at the Schlumberger tent. Altogether too much fat and protein when I should've been taking in carbs.

Went looking for friends on other teams. Thought about but didn't go see the "Breaking Away" bicycling movie with Dennis Quaid (circa 1979). No alcohol consumed . . . beer + me + post-exercise = BAAAAD

I slept in a giant big top circus-like tent with 250 other Schlumberger team members; it was a mild night, so I slept with sleeping bag unzipped.

Next morning, left La Grange at, I don't know, 7:30 am (?), went through Buescher & Bastrop State Parks, which was lots of fun, the hills were short and steep, there were some thrilling downhills when you felt like you were flying, and you were shaded from the hot sun by the canopy of trees. After lunch it got hot again, and the tailwind did not materialize but I felt a crosswind, so I was going pretty slow by the end of the ride, and got into Austin by about 2:12 pm.

Oscar Silva met me in Austin, but he missed me crossing the finish line. I chatted with him for a while. He is the son of Alex and Audrey's Godmother, Amparo. Took the day after the ride off. Muscles hurt a little bit, but not bad.

Nutritional information: drank Crank Sports eFuel almost exclusively outside of regular meals (basically high-end Gatorade), took ibuprofen with lunch. Oh, and LOTS of Hammer Nutrition Endurolyte electrolyte capsules, 2 per hour. My skin was crusted with tiny little cubical salt crystals on Sunday, my clothing stained white with salt.



Mechanical highlights: Got my heel into my rear wheel, had to pay \$10 to have it trued (I had no spoke wrench), but they did a nice job. My tire was flat Saturday night, but I fixed it myself. Bicycle World guys gave me some lube, that freed up my sticky SPD pedals (why I got my heel in my wheel in the first place). So, no major problems with the bike.

As fun as the ride was, I missed doing the Amateur Radio volunteer thing with MS150, so I hope to be at that activity again for MS150 2007. Again, thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,
Peter Wang



PS

I heard this "crack – gasp – thud" just behind me a few miles west of Bellville lunch, a woman had gone down hard onto the pavement at 20 MPH! I stopped, pulled over to the side of the road, whipped out my new peanut whistle 1.5 watt Yaesu VX-2R HT (fortunately with full 1/4 wave flexi-antenna, not rubber-ducky), and managed to break into the main MS150 net. I was noisy and breaking-up into the repeater (was on the side of a hill, not on the top), but was readable after lots of repeating myself.

I had remembered to set my bike odometer to zero at lunch, so I knew exactly where we were down to 50 ft accuracy, I had her rider number and position reported into the net, but then she and her husband declined treatment; he was a Medical Doctor; so I informed the net of this fact, stuffed the HT back into my jersey, and kept on pedaling. Shortly thereafter, I saw a med unit rolling her way to check on her.

So even though I was a rider, the radio in my pocket still played a useful role on MS150 Saturday along FM529, "The Road of Death".

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Joe Chambers KF5AT.

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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Send all articles and materials for the
Newsletter to:

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

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

ARRL Club No. 2120