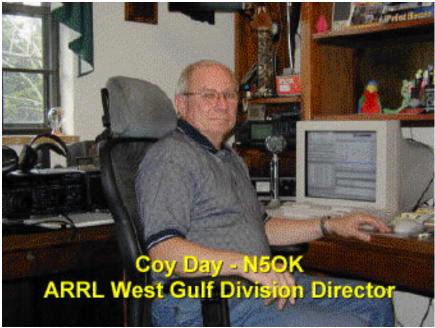


The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

October 2004

October Meeting – ARRL Division Chief



Oct 15th Friday Meeting: Speaker, Coy Day – N5OK, ARRL West Gulf Division Director, speaking on "Current Controversial Subjects", (including BPL & Restricting by Bandwidth).

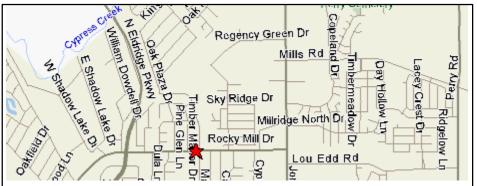
6:30 – 7:30 pm QRM Hour – meet some new folks, etc.

7:30 – 10:00 pm Presentation and program (may end early depending on actual program length

Here are the URLs that will help you find the meeting location.

http://www.cypressbible.org/Facilities/CampusMap.htm http://www.cypressbible.org/AboutCBC/Map.htm

Be there!



The new location will be at the Cypress Bible Church, 11711 Cypress North Houston, Cypress, TX 77429 (see map).

Important Dates

Friday, Oct 15, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Cypress Bible Church, 11711 Cypress North Houston, Cypress, TX 77429, QRM Hour – 6:30 PM

Saturday, Oct 23, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, Oct 26, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Contests

Oct 16–17 Worked All Germany, JARTS WW RTTY Oct 17 RSGB 21/28 MHz CW Oct 30–31 CQ WW DX SSB Nov 6–8 ARRL CW Sweepstakes Nov 20–22 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Nov 27–28 CQ WW DX CW

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Oct 13 Jason's Deli Oct 20 Neal's Restaurant Oct 28 Matthais' Restaurant Nov 3 Hill Country Kitchen Buffet Nov 10 Casa Imperial Mexican Nov 17 Red Lobster

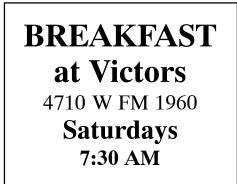
Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Oct 13 Charlie's Hamburgers Oct 20 Cafe Express Oct 27 Chili's Nov 3 Fuddrucker's Nov 10 Escalante Mexican Nov 17 Jason's Deli

Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch 12:00 Noon 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.



President's Corner

October 2004

Election of 2005 NARS Board of Directors

At the October meeting the names of the nominees for the following year Board of Directors election are typically announced. This year we extended an invitation to several other Houston clubs to attend this October's meeting, as Coy Day will be our featured speaker. So, this year will be a little different. I will announce the current slate of potential 2005 officers in this article and communicate any updates in future emails sent to the NARS reflector.

First let me thank one of our current Directors, Jerry Whiting, for volunteering to put this fine slate of candidates together. Jerry has been able to put together an excellent list of potential club board members to add to those members that will be returning for their second year. Nominations are still open and will continue to be open until we hold the election at the November 19th club meeting.

Returning to the Board for another year will be:

President: Lee Kinard (currently vice-president – will automatically become president)

Director: Jerry Whiting (second year of a two year term)

Director: Paul Frantz (second year of a two year term)

2005 Slate of Candidates: (voting at the November meeting)

Secretary: Chuck Sanders (running for a second year in office) Director: Cal White Director: Mike Lodge Treasurer: Joe Sokolowski Vice-President: currently open

If you are interested in becoming a member of the NARS Board of Directors, and at the same time, increase your personal involvement in the business portion of managing your club, please contact Jerry. His email address is on the Members Page of the club web site and his phone number is on the club roster.

The Board is there to help you, the club members – come join us!!

Bruce Meier N1LN

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

Events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (May), SIRE Ride-A-Thon (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 2004. Here is the 2004 announcement for Sunmart:

NARS members needed to provide radio communication for the SUNMART TEXAS TRAIL ENDURANCE RUNS on Saturday, December 11, 2004. We are looking for volunteers and their Ham radios. We need about 12 people to help with this event.

About 1000+ runners traverse a course through the tall pines of Huntsville State Park. They will be running in two races; one is 50 kilometers and the other is 50 miles. Yes I said MILES. This will last all day long. All of the runners, which are ages 18 to 80, have been the most appreciative for our continued help with this event.

Twelve volunteers will allow us to work in relief. Some will be needed in the morning and the others will be afternoon. You don't have to worry about lunch or refreshments. These will be provided by the race committee.

With this event, you can have a dinner, too!!! All volunteers, and spouses, have been invited to attend a pre-race banquet at the Sheraton Hotel on JFK Blvd. Friday December 10, 2004 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dress is extremely casual. What a deal!!!

So mark your calendars for December 11 and contact me to sign up for a most enjoyable time. If you don't believe me, ask someone who was there last year.

Paul Owen N5NXS n5nxs@flash.net

VE Session Results

The NARS VE Test Session held September 25, 2004, served three candidates. The result was one new Technician.

The VE's in attendance were Keith Dutson–NM5G, Eddy Reynolds K5WQG, Tom Rum–KD5QO, Jim Kirk–KJ5X and Kirby Van Horn–K7EC.

Thanks to all for your help. These sessions can't happen without you guys.

The next NARS VE Test session will be held on October 23, 2004. If you can volunteer I will appreciate it, greatly. Let me know as soon as you can. I will need at least five volunteers, three of which must be Extra class VE's.

Thanks, again and we'll see you there.

73

Norm Covey K5OS NARS VE Session Manager

Ham and "Sheez" News

Adopt-a-Platoon Update

Many thanks to the folks who contributed candy and other goodies for the Halloween package to the troops. We had quite a bit of candy and were able to put together individual bags for each of the soldiers. The bags were very full. In fact, we used quite a lot of tape on the shipping boxes in hopes that they would not burst from having so much candy! Thanks again – we are sure the soldiers will really enjoy the treats.

The theme for this October care package is We need to mail our Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving package in plenty of time to ensure it arrives by the holiday. We're going to take a little different tact this month. We would like you folks to write a letter or a card and tell the troops what you're thankful for and thank them for their efforts. The ladies will add our letters and thoughts and will also add a few Thanksgiving items for them. This will be the first Thanksgiving that this platoon will be stationed in Baghdad. Let's be sure to let them know how much we are thinking about them, how thankful we are for the work they are doing, and how proud we are of them. We will have our usual box available for your donations at the October meeting. Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to write your letter. It will be appreciated more than you may ever know.

September Activities

The Ham and "Sheez" ladies often get teased about the number of times the word wine appears in our monthly activities! Well, I could defend our group by taking offense to that - or, I could just admit that we have enjoyed a few wine-related activities. And, let me tell you about the latest. Tina and Eddie Sinclair graciously invited twenty folks into their home on a Saturday evening in September for the 2nd annual wine tasting party. We had an absolute blast - just ask anyone who attended the party! We organized the evening to have a mini-progressive dinner party and a wine with each of the foods. We learned quite a bit about several different kinds of wines and sampled absolutely outstanding food. In fact, we've decided to share some of the secrets with everyone. Beginning this month, we will include a recipe for one of the foods that we had and will note the wine that was served with the food. There has been a rumor that we may not wait a full year to have the wine tasting again. There may be a spring wine tasting that you won't want to miss.

Our monthly meeting was focused around packaging the Halloween boxes for the troops. We decorated several bags, filled them with candy and other Halloween items, sampled a few pieces of candy (only to make sure that they would be okay to send, of course), and got the boxes ready to ship. It seemed like deja vu all over again from the assembly line for the Easter Baskets last year! And, we had a great time getting everything together. We also talked about upcoming activities that you'll read about in the next section.

Upcoming Activities

On Saturday, October 23, we will be heading over to the Sam Houston Race Park for dinner and horse racing. We will have dinner at the Winners Circle Restaurant then enjoy the races from our seats. Group packages are available for parties of ten or more. If you're interested in joining the fun, please let me know no later than Saturday, October 16. I'll make reservations for the group. More information can be found at the following URL: http://www.shrp.com/. If you want to learn more about the restaurant, go to the "about SHRP" drop–down menu on the far bottom right and choose "Winners Circle." Hope to see you there!

Our October meeting will be held on Monday, October 25, at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church. In preparation for the holidays, we will be having a jewelry party. Melanie Scott, a representative from Silpada Jewelry, will be joining our meeting. If you would like to get a sneak preview of some of the jewelry items, please go to the following URL: http://www.silpada.com. This will be a very casual evening full of fun. Who knows? You might even get some of your holiday shopping done.

Our 3rd annual holiday party will be held in November. We will keep you updated on the details. Also, there is a rumor that the 3rd (or is this the 4th??) annual holiday baking party is in the works. That is another event that you will definitely want to be part of. As usual, we're ending the year on a busy note.

Monthly Recipe – The recipes for the next several months will be for the foods that were served at the September wine tasting party. Since many of us have a sweet tooth, we're going to start with a delicious dessert.

Italian Ricotta Cheese Cake from the kitchen of Georgina Frantz

One package of Duncan Hines yellow cake mix (without butter). Mix according to directions. Pour batter into greased and floured $13 \times 9 \times 2$ inch baking pan. You can use Pam cooking spray to grease the pan. Separately, mix together one cup sugar and 2

lbs. ricotta cheese (32 oz. size). Add one cup unsweetened, drained crushed pineapple to ricotta cheese mix. Pour pineapple mixture over batter. Bake one hour or more, if needed, at 350 degrees F. Test center of cake for doneness. Cheese mix should hold together.

This recipe received rave reviews.

Enjoy!

Best regards, Laurie Meier – N1YXU 936–271–1096 n1yxu@arrl.org

NARS 2004 Raffle – Final Report

To say that this year's raffle was a success would be an understatement. It was a tremendous success!! First and foremost --a sincere thank you to EVERYONE who sold and purchased raffle tickets.

The winner of the \$1,200 cruise gift certificate and family radios is Cheryl Tompkins, KD5AXC, a member of the Ham and "Sheez" group. Cheryl – Congratulations from NARS!! We look forward to seeing pictures from your cruise!

The NARS/H&S member who raised the most from raffle ticket sales is Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD. Jerry raised \$311 in sales. As you'll remember, there was also a \$50 prize for the person who raised the most in sales. Jerry very generously donated his \$50 winnings to the fund raising efforts for the Redd School radio group. Jerry –– Sincere thanks for your tremendous generosity and your work in the raffle!

A few quick stats:

* The net profit to the club is \$1,780.50!!! An absolutely tremendous job from everyone.

* Twenty-six NARS and H&S members sold tickets.

- * The five top money raisers were:
 - 1. Jerry Whiting, K5BVGD, with \$311
 - 2. Bob Walworth, N5ET, with \$300
 - 3. Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL, with \$272
 - 4. Bruce Meier, N1LN, with \$251
 - 5. Nancy Kinard with \$190

Thanks again to everyone for making this year's raffle so successful!

Best regards,

Laurie – N1YXU

^{*} Total sales were \$3,303!

QUA* Lee Kinard K5AVY?

I sure hope everyone is having as much fun reading these articles as I am writing them! [You can be sure we do! – Ed]

Thursday evening I talked with K5AVY. We had to reschedule from 7:30 to 7:00 so we could be finished in time to watch the debates – and we all know who we were really watching.

I can tell when Lee Kinard answers questions that he is at the happiest point in his life. Like most of us he has gone through some difficult and unjust times, but he is really having a good time now, and a good part of that fun is HAM radio.

Lee was born in Corpus Christi. His father received his Pharmacy degree from the University of Texas, but had been stationed in San Diego and was transferred to the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station just before Lee was born at Sphon hospital. Then they moved to Sanford, Florida.

Sphon hospital again played a role in Lee's life when his daughter was serving as an officer at the same Naval Air Station and had her two daughters there!

Lee considered Austin his home and graduated from Temple High School in 1961. He received a BS in engineering in 1966 from his father's alma mater, UT.

Lee took a job with Collins Radio in Richardson, Texas doing digital design work on the Voice of America monitoring system.

From there he was with E Systems for ten years and participated from the proposal stage forward with the FAA on the FSS (Flight Service Stations) found in most FBO's (Fixed Base Operations). They were designed to allow pilots to file flight plans, check weather, etc. by phone, at the location or after take-off, by radio.

This was his favorite work.

He then moved back to Austin and took a position with Radion. They measured "weight in motion." Trucks could drive through the station and the system would measure distance between axles and calculate the weight while the truck was moving.

In 1983 he took a position with Lockheed working on classified reconnaissance. He didn't give me any more information and I was afraid to ask – you know the saying – he might have to kill me. But you can ask, if you like.

After eleven years Lockheed decided to leave Austin and Lee didn't want to move, so he found a job with a Taiwanese company named SIS (Silicon Integrated Systems). To his surprise, they hired him for sales. He had an account in Houston that purchased 50,000 chips per week. (I wonder who that was?) In 1999 they annoyed Compaq, who took their business elsewhere. Lee was laid–off in 2002.

He has since begun working the oil field equipment business. He is in the test group for marine motors to be used on off-shore rigs.

In 1994, the same year Lockheed decided to leave Austin, Lee's wife of 28 years decided to leave also and his favorite cat died. It took him over a year to recover.

He had finally decided to try a barbeque at a friend's property. He kept arguing with himself that he wouldn't have fun and was ready to turn around, but the road was too narrow and the house was suddenly in front of him. There was beer, Dixieland music and barbeque, so he decided to stay for a while.

Guests invited him for a boat ride and he was headed down the dock when a green-eyed blond blocked his path. In less than two minutes he felt he had known her all his life. Someone called her from the boat and she told them that she wasn't going to leave this blue-eyed man. We all know her as Nancy.

They were married in 1996 and between them have one son and two daughters who have provided four grandchildren from three years old to college age.

They now have two cats, Punkin and Buffkin. Franny has met them and she

approves. They have never been around dogs, but they didn't mind her invading their house!

K5AVY was licensed in 1959 as a novice with the call sign, KN5AVY. He has since upgraded to Advanced.

Lee was away from the hobby for 20 years and has found his latest equipment on E-bay and eham.net. He has a Yaesu FT747GX transceiver, and an Ameritron AL8A. His antenna is a Cushcraft R8 vertical.

He enjoys 20 meters most, but finds less QRM on 17 meters. His favorite contact was Svalbard, an island in the Arctic Circle off Norway. His contact said that at times talking to Texas was like being on the phone! The hardest contacts are the Slavic countries with heavy accents. He has to listen for a while to train his ear. He has never contacted Asia. He figures he must be working the wrong hours.

He plans on solving that with a log-periodic when they build on their seven acres near Lake Buchanan. They have a natural spring which has never dried up and a rise to build their house overlooking the 15 foot waterfall which falls to a 12 foot diameter pool, surrounded by lichen and ferns. Sounds nice doesn't it!?!

Lee's other special interest is in Bible Study (a man after my own heart, and well – God's too!)

When I asked him my favorite question about summing up his life so far he said, "I'm at a very happy point in my life. I'm proud of my achievements, small though they may be. I consider myself blessed to be here with a wonderful wife and family. Can't thank God enough." Well, Lee we are also thankful we have had the opportunity to get to know both you and Nancy and are secretly hoping we get invited to see that beautiful property some day!

Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL Ham & Sheez Reporter

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

DX News "For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print"

Hi Gang, another month has passed us by and while not a very good month for DX, things are starting to pick up. The Fall Equinox is here and conditions will surely improve.

Well enough of that, the big event of the year for NARS has come and gone. Thanks to H.O. and Anita N5AOK for making it a memorable one for many again. H.O., don't think I would like to handle all the logs you have or will receive. My lone run on 15M meters about 2300 UTC on Saturday was pretty dismal. Made a few contacts, but as is my habit, started to rag chew with everyone. I guess I'll never be a contester. That same night, did make a contact with FK/KF4TUG in New Caledonia. That was a new all time contact for me.

OK, OK, I hope you haven't deleted the whole newsletter because of me.

Now for some interesting reports.

Jim KJ5X is still bragging about that ZS8MI contact a few months ago and I don't blame him.

The big news in the KJ5X shack is the arrival of a QSL card from ZS8MI, Marion Island, #325. Was lucky to get him. He gave me a 4x1 and I lied and gave him a 5x1. But who cares. Had hoped to do some radioing in August from a vacation spot in CA, but a malfunction in the mobile rig

sidetracked that deal. Worked a little DX in September including PY2, SO6, ON4, FO/I1SNW and PJ4. Not too exciting but better than I had been doing. The DX calendar indicates an expedition to FT8X, Kerguelen Island next year. I'm going to pounce on them for #326. I hope. I'm ready right now. There's still a reward out there for help on a 9N and S2 contact. 73 DE KJ5X

From Bruce N1LN

Still inching closer to DXCC - 160:

As of Aug 30th: 103 worked / 91 confirmed As of Sept 29th: 103 worked / 92 confirmed

FY5KE - French Guiana - 160CW

Other than that – not much DX but LOTS of TOP

Best DX in TQP – KC2CDX/DU9 – Philippines – 15 SSB worked by W5PF, way to go Paul!

Cal W5FW took a trip to Dolly Parton land and had this to report.

Just back from a fantastic week end with all the Ten Tec'ers at Sevierville; about 1500 attended the gathering – felt like we were the Saturn love in; brought some goodies from the tail gate sale and left a few; beautiful weather, great trip. Last card in ZS8MI and N5ET checked it and sent it off; now just waiting for the mailbox to confirm the Honor roll.

Also, I almost forgot what happened before our trip; we had that great time at the Redd school with all of you guys (10 in all) -2 ele tribander up, 40 meter dipole up 5/8 wave 2 mtr up and with the generous assistance of almost all the NARsoleons – we have a new IC 718 for their use. Proud to be a member of this group.

Well Cal, So am I.

From Lee K5AVY

Not much is happening around the shack this month. Worked the TQP and contributed close to 40K points to the club. Nothing else worked of any consequence. I have missed more DX than I worked due to humongous pile–ups and poor conditions into the Houston area.

QSLs rx: HI3/ON4QX, Belgium; 6Y2RZ, Montego Bay, Jamaica; KH8/DL1VKE, American Samoa; ZK1USA and South Cook Islands. Also N1DX, IOTA contest expedition to Baily Is. Maine and W7PX, Lewis & Clark SE stn 2004 Ft. Missoula, Montana.

Till Next Month 73 Al Fritsche W5ADF

Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on September 28 at the Terranova Clubhouse. Along with guest Laurie Meier, the following board members were in attendance: Bruce Meier, Lee Kinard, Tom Hoherd, Jerry Whiting, Keith Dutson, and Chuck Sanders. Highlights of the meeting:

• **Programs** – Bruce gave an update on the special program in October by Coy Day N5OK, ARRL West Gulf Division Director. Chuck volunteered to provide transportation for Coy inbound from the airport to the hotel.

• **Voice Repeater** – The group discussed the continuing performance problems with the repeater and the possibility of relocating it. Bruce agreed to pursue that possibility.

• NARS Fund Raiser – Laurie reported that her work on this year's raffle has been completed and that a complete set of documentation has been finalized for use by next year's coordinator. The group gave her a round of applause for a job well done and a very successful money-raising effort for the club. They also discussed ideas for changes for next year including the possibility of having an alternative cruise/radio prize to be at the choice of the winner.

• **Nominating Coordinator** – Jerry Whiting reported that he is still in need of a nomination of a person to serve as vice–president for 2005.

• Ham & Sheez – Laurie reported that twenty–two people attended the recent wine tasting event and a good time was had by all. Plans are under way for an October 23 dinner outing to the Winner's Circle at the Sam Houston Race Park.

On the last Tuesday of each month the board meets at 7:30 pm at the Terranova Club House to discuss club business and to set direction for the club. All members are invited to attend the board meetings and if interested should contact any board member if directions are needed or if they desire a specific item to be on the agenda.

C. W. Sanders, NO5W NARS Secretary

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Congratulations to Laurie Meier N1YXU on the highly successful 2004 raffle!

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@houston.rr.com Larry McCain KN5Z 281–469–6709, kn5z@arrl.net Deral Kent K5WNO – RS 12/13 281–548–7476, k5wno@juno.com

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VE SESSION (ARRL) Manager: Norm Covey K5OS 281–252–8285 k5os@arrl.net

REPEATERS 2M: 146.060 / 146.660 (KA5AKG) Tone: 141.3 70 cm: 449.375 / 444.375 (KA5AKG)

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 6000 Spring Cypress Road

Saturday Breakfast Victor's Restaurant 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