



NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2007

Important Dates

Field Day 2007 Planning



The program for the NARS May General Meeting will focus on Field Day Planning for 2007. There will also be some video and photo memories of Field Days Past. Bill W5SB is Field Day Coordinator this year and we will be using a new site located in Tomball. There will be some other changes including a simplified set up on Saturday morning instead of Friday afternoon.

Come see what the plans are for this year and volunteer to help NARS make this a "Fantastic" Field Day.

The pre meeting dinner is at Gringo's Mexican as usual.

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My apologies for a small issue this month. The timing and logistics of our move to Montgomery have left little time for publishing the NEWS.

Paul W5PF Publisher

Friday, May 18, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

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

Tuesday, May 29, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

All Year 2007, CQDX Marathon
May 19-20 US Counties QSO Party SSB
May 21 Run for the Bacon QRP
May 26-27 CQWW WPX CW
June 9-11 ARRL VHF QSO Party
June 23-24 ARRL Field Day

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

May 23 Pepperchino
May 30 Luby's
June 6 Jason's Deli
June 13 Baker Street Pub & Grill
June 20 Sweet Tomatoes - Willowbrook

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

May 23 Charlie's Hamburgers
May 30 Cafe Express
June 6 Willie's Grill - 290
June 13 Fuddrucker's - 290
June 20 Fajita Willie's - 290

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

May 23 Fred's Italian Corner
May 30 Jason's Deli
June 6 Buffalo Grille
June 13 DJ's Olde Timey Hamburgers
June 20 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille

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

Again our new venue has provided a large attendance, 59 were present for Madison Jones DX expedition to the South Indian Ocean. Madison unique way of telling a story made it a very interesting program. We also had 4 new members join the club.

This month there are a lot of programs going on that are of interest to Hams in which you can participate, Sky warn, Airmail Work shop put on by local ARES.

Check the web page or reflector for more details. Increase your Knowledge of a new part of Ham radio.

At the request of several students from the Redd School I've restarted the Wednesday night 2-meter Rag chew net. I have called it "Net for new hams and those of us who are not so new" the net starts at 8:00 PM on 146.66. Tune in and help give our new Hams some good experience.

May is the month of preparation for Field Day. This year the NARS Field Day is going to be a "Fantastic" one. We will be at a new site in a field next to the fire station on Quinn Rd in the heart of Tomball. I will even predict that the weather will be "fantastic". We will have all of the bands covered, including 6-Meters and Satellite. This month's general meeting will be focused on Field Day. Join us for an interesting meeting and remember this year's motto, "What can you do for the NARS Club"

Jerry KB5VGD

Public Service

The MS150 has come and gone for another year. It was a great weekend for both the riders and volunteers. The weather was overcast and there was a slight tailwind for most of the day on both Saturday and Sunday.

The ideal riding conditions and the MS Society's emphasis on safety training and training rides for the participants paid off with a ride that was free of serious injury. There were the expected cases of road rash, dehydration and fatigue treated on the side of the road and a few were transported to local hospitals by medical transport vans or ambulance for injuries that were treated and released but there were no heart attacks or serious head, back or neck injuries requiring Life Flight as in years past. The SAG vans even had a relatively light duty weekend as most of the riders rode the whole route on their bikes instead of in the vans. There was some malcontent who scattered tacks along the roadway on Saturday and caused a rash of bike tire flats. This kept the SAG people, motorcycle escorts and bike repair people busy for a few hours.

Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, Richard Driscoll, KD5URB, Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, Bill Rimmer, N5LYG and a few other ARES members initiated a new traffic control program in the rest stops to smooth the flow of bike and SAG van traffic into and out of the rest stops. With the ride getting larger each year and the rest stops staying the same size, traffic in them is a nightmare. ARES could use some more help with this program next year.

NARS had another good turnout of volunteers this year. A couple of the regular participants from past years could not go this year but we picked up a couple of new faces too. Mark Tyler, K5GQ and Virgil Stamps, K5OOR, went for their first ride this year. Also, Paul Owen, N5NXS, Tom Atkins, KD5EIJ, Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, Ken Mitchell, KD2KW and yours truly, K5ZTY, made up the NARS team. Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, the President of BVARC and Communications Coordinator for the MS150 did a remarkable job of covering the necessary communications needs of this enormous moving event that stretches out for approximately 60 miles with fewer hams than he had last year. Come on people, raise your hand and volunteer. It is an adventure in mobile communications, great training for emergency communications and a fun two day weekend on the road. Put the MS150 for next year on your calendar on April 19 and 20 and go with us.

Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF, is the digital guru for Harris County ARES. He is scheduling several Winlink/Airmail workshops for the month of May. There will be one late in May at the Cypress Creek education center on Seven Pines Dr. The date for it is not set at this writing but I will pass it along as soon as I have it. If you are interested if doing e-mail via VHF radio, plan to attend one of these meetings. Alan will take you through an overview of how Airmail and Winlink work then in a hands on workshop he will help you connect and configure your radio, TNC and computer to do Airmail.

Continued on next page

Public Service

The following is from the ARES E-Letter of April 18, 2007.

Opinion: TSA Wants Staffers as Amateurs

I think we are seeing an increase in the speed with which our federal government is formally adopting Amateur Radio as their supplemental and backup communications service, and their intent to use government employees as the primary operators. The camel has more than his nose under the tent.

From an ARES EC who attended a Houston, Texas, Amateur Radio club meeting Monday night April 9:

" We had an unusual guest at the ECHO [Society} meeting tonight. The 'Assistant Federal Security Director' for the TSA, as in Homeland Security, was there gathering assistance and information on establishing training, licensing and mentoring TSA employees to get their ham tickets. It would appear that they are setting up HF/VHF stations at all 27 key Gulf Coast airports."

On March 28, Army MARS conducted a regional communications exercise with stations operating at the Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth airport TSA offices, FEMA Region 6 HQ in Denton, Texas, Texas state operations center in Austin, and 5th Army HQ in San Antonio. This EC's report hints at TSA's Amateur Radio infrastructure and resource expansion beyond the Army MARS-TSA agreement. Perhaps TSA recognizes the limited Army MARS resources and facility access obstacles. -- Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, SEC South Texas

Become Active!

Bill, K5ZTY

Mike K5UO Update

Good news, Mike has been moved out of HealthSouth Hospital and to the Woodland's HealthSouth Rehab center. He will be an in patient and he will be doing Rehab there and he has requested the accelerated course. This means that he will be in therapy for 3 or more hours a day, 6 days a week. After 2 weeks he should go home and do therapy as an out patient 3 times a week. With some good work he might be able to visit for field Day, we will just have to wait and see.

Mike's new room # is 2096, visiting Hrs are 12 noon to 8 PM, your best bet to call him is to call the cell # 713-553-3509. If he is in bed the other phone is hard to get to. The other # is the switchboard - 281-364-2000.

The HealthSouth Rehab is on the south bound I-45 feeder road just south of 242. It is next to Outback and the Red Lobster. There is a big sign, so if you are to visit you should not miss it. Visiting hours should be open but you might want to call because the work schedule is not out yet.

Jerry Whiting
KB 5 VGD

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

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VHF/UHF:

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Terry Myers KQ5U
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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:
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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League.

ARRL Club 2120