

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 2005

## February Meeting – Journey to the Falklands CQ WW 2004

As promised last year, Cal White WF5W/VP8WFW and Paul Frantz W5PF/VP8WPF will present a travel show on the recent VP8WWW DXpedition.

Keith Dutson NM5G/VP8DXL and Madison Jones W5MJ/VP8WMJ will be on hand to add to the show.

You will see and hear first hand photos and stories of the Trees, the Winds, the Penguins, the Mine fields and, last but not least, Wall to Wall DX from those distant Islands.

QSL cards will be distributed, IF they show up on time (as promised by the card maker)

## SKN Houston Style

The highly anticipated Straight Key Night Houston style was held Tuesday, February 2 at 8:00PM. Participants were asked to judge the best fist they heard so that a "winner" of the coveted Morse Express Christmas Key traveling trophy may be chosen. Don't forget to get your comments in the e-mail to WF5W on this test of our SKN styles.

It has been said that George ran out of straight keys to sell this past month. They are said to be going for 20% over sticker price they are so much in demand!!

Hope all had fun with it; look for more e-mail updates on the NARS reflector for this year's SKN Houston events.

Cal White WF5W

## Outstanding Service Award



## Important Dates

**Friday, Feb 18, 7:30 PM** – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

**Tuesday, Feb 22, 7:30 PM** – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive. This is one signal light west of Ella on 1960, go north about 200 yards and park on the south side of the fire hall, NOT in front of the big doors.

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

### Contests

Feb 19–20 ARRL DX CW, YL ISSB QP CW  
Feb 26–27 CQ 160M SSB, NA QP RTTY, NC QP, YLRL YL–OM

Mar 1 Houston Straight Key Night

Mar 2 Spartan Sprint QRP CW

Mar 06–07 ARRL DX SSB, Ukraine RTTY

Mar 13–15 QCWA QP SSB

Mar 14 NA Sprint RTTY

Mar 14–15 WI QP

Mar 21 QRP Homebrew Sprint CW/PSK31

Mar 20–21 YL ISSB QP SSB, Bermuda, Russian DX, AK QP

Mar 20–22 VA QP, BARTG RTTY

Mar 27–28 CQ WW WPX SSB

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Feb 16 Jason's Deli

Feb 23 Neal's Restaurant

Mar 2 Olde City Pub & Grill

Mar 9 Red Lobster

Mar 16 Casa Imperial Mexican

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Feb 16 Chili's

Feb 23 Fuddrucker's

Mar 2 Escalante Mexican

Mar 9 Jason's Deli

Mar 16 Luther's BBQ

### 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 Joey D's**  
5918 W FM 1960  
**Saturdays**  
**7:30 AM**

## President's Corner

February 2005

Thank you to all who helped us kick off 2005 with a big bang by attending the banquet. A good turnout (103) and a good time was had by all and some took home a nice gift thanks to others who contributed to the door prizes. The Wyndehaven Terrace welcomed us with open arms and did their annual bang-up job with everything including the food. The outgoing and incoming officers were recognized as well as many others who contributed to another successful year. The photo galleries were excellent and everyone enjoyed eyeball QSOs with the photographers. Paul Flagg, WD9HCB, volunteered to take photographs of everyone who attended and they are now available and will be distributed. And what photos! They are excellent studio quality. I think everyone will be pleased. Thank you, Paul!

Your new board met at a new location on 25 January. The new board members are listed elsewhere in this issue and on the web site. Thanks to Jerry Whiting, KB5VGD, we are now meeting at the Ponderosa Fire House on Rolling Creek Drive just north of FM1960 close to Ella Blvd. And what a meeting place it is! Wow! The digs are great (and free) and the Fire Chief has generously welcomed us to his fine facility including free coffee and copies. Thank you, Jerry!

We continue with our standard list of initiatives and are beginning to look into providing more effort in the recruiting and education areas of Amateur Radio. Tuesday night we voted to provide the new licensees from our VE sessions with an opportunity to join NARS at a reduced rate for the first year. The VE Exam Coordinator, Norm Covey, K5OS, will be provided with \$5.00 coupons for those who pass the tests, redeemable with our Treasurer, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR effective at the next VE session. Another discussion began as a result of an initiative from last year to try to provide amateur radio classes to help promote development of new HAMs. This discussion is still in that stage, but it spawned a new thread begun by Paul Flagg, who attended the meeting mainly to discuss banquet pictures. Paul has experience with Elder Hostel and their "Life Long Learning" initiative. It was his thought that we expand the HAM education to the elder folks through Elder Hostel and he will be doing some preliminary checking with that organization and get back with us. We also began to develop ideas for general meeting programs and believe we have most of the programs laid out for the year. Wow! What a meeting! We are under way folks. The board is looking forward to an exciting year and with everyone's help, it will be so. Come join the general meetings the 3rd Friday of each month. For that matter, if you would like to come contribute to the board meetings, we would love to have your ideas. See you between 7 & 7:30PM 18 February for the Falkland Island DXpedition presented by Cal White and Paul Frantz. What a club! What a hobby! I think I mentioned it's "The Greatest Show on Earth," or close to it. Huzzzzah!!

73, Lee K5AVY

## 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 2005.

### 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 16-17, please contact:**

**Jerry Irwin, WAØGLD**

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

**email: F16Jock@earthlink.net or visit: <http://www.ms150.org>**

### HAM RADIO INTENSIVE STUDY and TESTING SESSION

**To be held all day Saturday, February 19th near I-45 and Rankin Road. Study provided for the no code Tech license. Testing available for all levels of license including Morse code. Fee for the course is \$20.00 including first exam. If interested please contact:**

**Jerry Irwin, WAØGLD**

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

**email: F16Jock@earthlink.net**

*Pre-registration required to assure a seat in the class.*

## VE Session Results

VE Test Session 01/22/2005

The session this month tested thirteen candidates, who took a total of nineteen elements. Two of the candidates took Element one and both passed. Nine candidates took the Element two exam and all passed. Four candidates took Element three and all passed. No Element four exams were given. The results produced nine new Technicians, four new Generals - well done, candidates.

The candidates from today's session were;

David Walla, KC5MZS, General, Houston, TX William Thomas, KE5CWC, General, Humble, TX John Clarke, new licensee, General, Spring, TX Daniel Thomas, new licensee, General, Humble, TX Aaron Greene, new licensee, Technician, Houston, TX Austin Schilling, new licensee, Technician, Hockley, TX Matthew Richard, new licensee, Technician, Spring, TX James Taylor, new licensee, Technician, Spring, TX Gerry Toval, new licensee, Technician, Lissie, TX Eric Bressler, new licensee, Technician, Katy, TX Jay Brumfield, new licensee, Technician, Willis, TX Dominic Lakhota, new licensee, Technician, Houston, TX Marylou Labao, new licensee, Technician, Tomball, TX

The VE's in attendance were Tom Rum-KD5QO, Keith Dutson-NM5G, Bob Walworth-N5ET, Kirby Van Horn-K7EC, Eddy Reynolds-K5WQG and Walter Holmes-K5WH. My thanks go out to each of you because we can't do it without you.

The next NARS VE session will be February 26, 2005. Please mark your calendars

73, Norm Covey/K5OS  
NARS VE Session Manager

# Ham and “Sheez” News

## Where Did January Go?

Well, I woke up one morning this week and it was already February. I guess you could say that the hustle and bustle of Christmas and the New Year were closely followed by even more places to go, things to do and people to see.

## January Activities

The Ham and Sheez had two whole weeks of “inactivity” followed closely by some genuinely good times. Although yours truly was not able to attend the NARS Annual Banquet this year, I have taken statements from several of those in attendance and I am happy to report that the Ham and Sheez group had a wonderful evening of door prizes (Schalee told me what she won!), food, laughs, and tributes that topped even last year’s event. That was pretty difficult to do, but from all accounts, they did it. I am not exactly sure of the order of events, but this is what happened.

Last year, we began the tribute to the Ham and Sheez Member of the Year. Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL, was honored with that title for the first year. This year, the award was given to Tina Sinclair, KD5FME. Tina was there at every turn this year. When it was time to hold the annual Wine Tasting party, she made it happen. At Christmas, we almost didn’t have a time and place to have the annual Christmas Party and gift exchange, but Tina came through again. Her spirit and her never-ending smile welcomed all of us to her home on more than one occasion. When our platoon was in need of some moral support, Tina recruited some children at a local restaurant to prepare posters and letters to include in her packages for the troops. Because of her unselfish spirit, Tina’s grandmother was impressed and joined our efforts. She furnished the cost of shipping for these very heavy packages on several occasions. Always there to help with the monthly meetings, always there for our monthly events, she is truly a special Ham and Sheez deserving of this year’s award. Congratulations Tina. We are very proud of you.

Schalee Lodge was escorted to the podium to present another award. Since I was not there, I can only imagine how difficult it was for her to express what must have been bubbling over in her heart. Schalee explained to me that she had prepared a wonderful speech to honor the NARS Club Outstanding Service Award, but her hands were so sweaty that she could not read the Braille on the paper. Therefore, she gave an abbreviated version of the speech which is included below.

“I have been asked to present the Outstanding Service Award which reads:

In appreciation for your dedication and success in fostering the service and enjoyment of NARS,

Northwest Amateur Radio Society, 2004.

This award is not about contesting, the size of your tower or whether you have a Yagi or a di-pole. I believe it is about the heart and soul of NARS. The People, our outreach to the community, individuals and even our nation. See if you can figure out who it is – maybe it is you. You can pick just one item this year and begin to work toward this award.

Here are some accomplishments and some physical clues: Encouraged me and I’m sure many others, to become licensed. Elmer. Does not wear glasses. SIRE event, worked three times. Is not bald. Is a TQP contester. Does not have a beard. At HAMCOM, this person helped with the NARS booth. Is/is not wearing a dress tonight. (I don’t know, because I was not there and Schalee is blind, so she probably had to ask somebody). For many Field Day events, helped with the points tally, meals, and welcome tent. Holds an Extra class license. Managed the most successful fund raiser in NARS history (cruise raffle). Has brunette hair. Coordinated the 2003 Easter baskets for the families of soldiers at Fort Sam Houston. Is 5 feet 2–3/4 inches tall, exactly. Coordinated the Adopt-A-Platoon effort from March to December this year. Her call sign is N1YXU. And, especially important, we in HAM and Sheez are very glad she started our organization and that she is our friend. Do you have it now, well, her name is Laurie Meier, N1YXU.”

I guess you could say that we have some pretty special people in the Ham and Sheez group, and the nice thing is we all share something in common: Our husbands are all Hams. That helps to make us all a little special.

If you think the first half of January was full, you haven’t heard about the last half of the month. One of the things that we find ourselves doing more and more of is crafts, maybe because we all have very hectic and busy lives, but probably just because it’s fun. January was the first month of the new Stamping Club that some of us have decided to start on the side. Once a month, we will meet at one of the Stamping Club member’s home and enjoy different stamping projects. This month, we met at the home of Desi Livingston, KB5YGG. Lots of goodies and Valentine fun was shared by all.

Our monthly meeting was held on January 31st at the Presbyterian Church on Spring Cypress. As promised, Cheryl Tompkins, KD5AXC and Schalee Lodge brought everything we needed to complete a new project known as plate decoupage. I had personally never heard of this before, but when I went to a local establishment and bought small quantities of fabric to use on the back of my plates, the lady at the register said:

“are you one of those plate ladies?” I naturally answered “yes,” even though I had never even seen the finished product before the meeting. She went on to tell me that there was a lady who comes into the store 4–5 times a week and purchases small quantities of material to do plate decoupage. I was so thrilled when she said she makes 10 to 12 a day that I bought some extra material. The plates that were started and some that have been finished this month are really incredibly lovely. I think we will all enjoy the finished product.

Jo Nan Carr distributed photos of the Ham and Sheez group that Paul Flagg took at the NARS banquet. Prints of individual couples are being distributed by the Board of Directors.

## Upcoming Activities

February is the month of another Ham and Sheez tradition – the annual Valentines celebration at Buca di Beppo’s. The Ham and Sheez members, along with our wonderful husbands will be going to Buca di Beppo’s the evening of February 12th. If you plan to attend, please let Laurie Meier know your plans by Monday, February 7th.

The HAM and SHEEZ meeting for February will be held on the 28th. The meeting this month will be “Girls Night Out” for dinner and a movie. We have several choices already for a movie, but we will probably have to wait until later in the month to know exactly what will be “showing” then. Watch for email updates as it gets closer to the end of the month.

**Monthly Recipe** – This is a special request from Darlene Buoy

## **Forgotten Cookies**

Preheat oven to 450 degrees  
5–6 egg whites (room temperature)  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 tsp vanilla  
Whip egg whites to firm peaks (but not dry). Gradually add sugar during last 2 minutes of whipping. Fold in Vanilla when the eggs whites are completely whipped.

Fold in a 12-ounce package of semisweet chocolate chips and 1 cup of coarsely chopped pecans. Drop by tablespoons onto two cookie sheets covered with non-stick aluminum foil. Place cookie sheets in the hot oven and turn oven OFF. Leave the cookie sheets in the oven over night. Do not open the door until the next morning. Cookies will be light brown and crisp on the outside but soft and chewy on the inside. Enjoy!

*Have a wonderful February,  
Anita – N5AOK*

# QUA\* Mike Bragassa K5UO?

OK, name the most unusual place you have ever been and my latest interviewee has probably been there – well, maybe not Yap! Just ask K5UO, Mike Bragassa, about your favorite place and if he hasn't lived there, he has probably been through at some time in his life. He has lived in nine states and had projects in 19 or 20 countries!

Mike started life in Tulsa, Oklahoma; you're thinking – that doesn't sound too exciting, right? But, when I asked him how long he lived there he said his parents were just visiting, they lived in Alberta! So, here we go. . .

His father was an oil drilling contractor and they moved to where the work was located. Mike met Sharon in Evanston, Illinois. In 1961 he was fresh out of The University of Wyoming at Casper with his Petroleum Engineering degree. He went to work at an oil and gas bank where she worked. They were there for two years.

Sharon has stayed settled in the States to keep continuity to their family life. They have three children who remained located where they were to attend college. Their oldest son is living in Michigan, after college at Mt. Pleasant. Their daughter went to Mike's Alma mater and now teaches school in Denver and their youngest son lives in Idaho after also graduating from the University of Wyoming.

Mike and Sharon have a cocker spaniel named Mandy who is one of several that kept her company on his long trips.

The company Mike worked for started out as one of the Hughes Tool group of companies and became Hughes Christiansen, then merged as Hughes Baker. He established offices for exploration in foreign countries. He has recently retired and is glad to be staying in one place.

Mike spent the last 12 years of his career based in Moscow. This was his most rewarding position because he went into the country alone and twelve years later turned over a company with ten engineers, several clerks and some ex-patriots (people from other countries working in Russia).

The company he was creating in Moscow covered from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic States and he spent much of the time traveling this territory. They traveled between the "stans" Pakistan, Uzbekistan, etc, usually aboard Aeroflot. It was often exciting. When a Republic would declare independence they would "claim" aircraft on the ground and getting back to Moscow would be a challenge.

One of the frustrating things about amateur radio from Moscow was that somebody kept taking his antenna. He replaced it a couple of times, but finally gave up, especially since he was traveling a large part of the time and it was too much work to maintain the equipment in his limited free-time.

Working in China was very different from most because he was always accompanied by an interpreter provided by the government to

monitor his activities. Therefore he had less reason to learn the language. He could speak enough to hold conversations, but reading it was impossible. He once fell asleep on a train while traveling from one province to another. The crew had been requested to wake him up. When they didn't he got off at the wrong station and they ran him down and put him on another train to the correct station.

Mike used to go to the local radio club to make contacts while in Beijing. He used the call BY1QH. He had over 1,000 QSOs while in China.

The office was on the street that ran through Tiananmen Square. When the events happened in 1989 the government cut all phone, fax and other methods of communication. He was on the radio and received a call from a person with a British accent. They were pressing him about what was happening. He responded that he should not discuss politics on the radio. When the person persisted he shut it down. He believes it was a reporter from Hong Kong trying to get information.

He left the nationals to run the office and found a room at the Holiday Inn a block from the airport. He left the next day, but was invited back six weeks later by the Chinese government. They wanted to keep good relationships with the rest of the world.

When Mike was living in Egypt he operated from an off-shore rig as maritime-mobile. He called CQ and was answered by N5DC, Jim lane from Kingwood. He wanted Mike to compare his signal with his friend, K5XX in Palestine, TX. Jim, said, "You won't like the answer, but his signal is 20 DB better!"

He talked regularly with his QSL manager, K8BK. He would hear him and say 10 up through the pile-up. They would then talk for a while and were finished one evening when an old-timer responded saying he didn't believe Mike was in China. His reasoning – he spoke perfect English! He then listened a while longer and finally contacted him again to say that yes, he did believe him after listening.

Mike was first licensed at 13 with the call, WM9BNL. His called changed every time he moved, which was often. He upgraded to extra about 20 years ago. 90% of his contacts are CW and he is beginning to get his speed up again after 12 years of little use.

I was not prepared for the response when I asked about his equipment, so, here are my notes.

Towers:  
Two 75 feet, 105 feet

Antennas:  
3 element KLM 40 meters  
WARC Cushcraft A3WS  
Tennadyne T-12 12 element log periodic, all band  
1/2 wave vertical wire 80 meters

Inverted "L" 160 meters  
2 Beverages 160, 80

He has just installed all new coax and would like to put up a 30 meter antenna.

I couldn't find any notes about his radios, so I guess you will just have to ask him – my eyes are crossed just keeping up!

He has received the ARRL DXCC and earned 1 honor roll award.

Mike has 333 of the current countries and 346 total, counting deletions (which become important when you get to these numbers!)

Since he received the honor roll they have added 15 and 20 meters. He currently has five bands and 600 QSL cards which he needs to submit, of which 500 are 15/20 meters. He will then have a nine band deck!

One of Mike's other hobbies is collecting the Russian Czar bank notes. He brought many back from his trips and is now enjoying selling them on E-bay. He is finding that most of the people buying them are immigrants from Russia and they are thrilled to have them. He has found that it is almost impossible to ship them through the Russian mail because they never make it to their destination.

I was very interested in how Mike would answer my favorite question about summing up his life. He responded, "Traveling man enjoyed it but traveled out, suitcases for sale." Well, Mike, I hope if our group decides to do any world traveling together you will pick-up those suitcases, bring Sharon and give us the tour of our lives!

Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL  
Ham & Sheez Reporter

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

## **Tomball Repeater Christmas Party**

**Saturday, February 19, 2005**

**Grand Prize**

**ICOM 2100H 2-Meter Transceiver**

*We will need help to set up, take down, serve etc. If you would like to help, please let me know. I will be sending out more information later. We just wanted you to have enough time to mail in the raffle tickets in case you are not able to attend the party.*

***Tomball Repeater Corp.***

**631 Percival St.  
Tomball, TX 77375  
281-351-0026**

# DX News

## “For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Hi gang,

Well another lackluster month for DX at this QTH. I've got to drag out of storage the old HF6V Butternut and see about converting it to 160 and 80 meters only. Should have done it this past summer as I will miss the winter propagation, but the thought of burying radials in the Houston heat kept me back. Nothing new was worked and one lone QSL card came in, TJ3SP, Cameroon for an all time new one for me. That brought me up to 224 confirmed on Phone. Wish I could put up a beam, but would be pressing my luck here. I know another sob story so I will be quiet. Let's see what the other folks have to say.

From our roaming cameraman *John*, W5PDW:

Got the year off to a good start. Polished my J-38 straight key and worked SKN. Most enjoyable. Worked N5ET and WF5W for locals and snagged W1AW, all 40 meters A-1 contacts. Had so much fun SKN that I am keeping my key close by and have made several contacts into Harris County running about 20 watts. Not a lot of contacts this month but look out Feb. Got a pkg from the buro, about a dozen cards. Some really nice photographic ones from VY2 Prince Edward Isle, VY2 Seacow Head Lighthouse, CE3, H44,JH4,7N4,JG3 and LU's.

Good work on SKN, I was on with my J-37 but probably sounded like I was clacking two beer cans together.

*Cal*, W5FW

Did work some stuff on 80 and 160, but the most important DX heard this month was at the Redd School. The kid's crystal radios (that they made in class) actually worked and KSVJ came in loud and clear. No DX we hear can equal that for an 11 yr old.

Cal, what you and Paul, John, Mike, Zed and others is what it's all about.

*Bruce*, N1LN has great news. Congratulations.

Well – finally made it his month!

As of Dec 29th: 106 worked / 97 confirmed  
As of Jan 29th: 107 worked / 100 confirmed for 160 mtr DXCC

New Band Countries Confirmed:

VK9LA – Lord Howe Isl – 15cw, 40 ssb  
VK9LW – Lord Howe Isl – 12 ssb  
OL9S – Czech Rep – 160 cw  
SO2R – Poland – 160 cw  
YV5MBX – Venezuela – 160 cw (# 100)

New Band Countries Worked:

SV9CVY – Crete – 75 ssb  
A22/JA4ATV – Botswana – 40 cw  
4S7CF – Sri Lanka – 40 cw  
S9SS – San Tome – 80 cw  
9J2CW – Zambia – 40 cw  
SV9CVY – Crete – 80 cw  
4X4DK – Israel – 160 cw

OTHER ITEM

If you like chasing DX and have a couple friends that enjoy the same you might want to try this. The three of us, Cal – WF5W, Mike – K5UO, and me, were all on 2 mtr simplex keeping track of each other while chasing 80 mtr CW DX. One of us would spot a DX station calling CQ – that person would announce it on 2 mtrs and we would all converge. The calling would start until we all had a good Q and then move on to the next station. We didn't work anything new but we did have a great time, checked out our low band RX and TX antennas and worked HA, LZ, YU, EA, YU, DL, OM and perhaps a few more.

Good Report Bruce, Thank you.

*H.O.*, has a great report for January, Hey I thought you were sick? Check out those credentials at the bottom of his report. Next thing we know he will be appointed as the Grand Puma of the Planet Xylophone. Glad you are feeling better.

Winter has been good this year at the K5CX teepee especially on the low bands where I needed about 18 countries on 80 meters to complete my 5BDXCC. Well, that is if I get the cards out and into the mail. In any event, I have 5 more to go using my inverted vee and no special receive antennas which I dearly wish I had!

57 DX countries found their way into the K5CX log. 20 countries in January alone were worked on 80-meters, and 3 countries on 40-meters. Here are the 80-meter countries: 9Z4GB-Trinidad & Tobago, CT1DVV-Portugal, DL6SN-Fed. Rep. of Germany, EI6S – Ireland, ER1QQ-Moldovia, HF75PZK – Poland, HQ2DMR – Honduras, KG4SB – Guantanamo Bay, OK2RZ-Czech Republic, ON4AEK – Belgium, P49MR – Aruba, PZ5RA – Surinam, T91S-Bosnia – Herzegovina, TG9NX – Guatemala, TR8CA – Gabon, V31LZ – Belize, XFIK – Mexico, YS1/HB9KNA – El Salvador, YU1AAV – Yugoslavia, and YV4GD – Venezuela.

The 40-meter countries included: I4LEC – Italy, KG4SB – Guantanamo Bay, and S9SS-Sao Tome & Principe.

Rounding out the month were 9 countries on 20-meters, 7 on 17, 7 on 15, 6 on 12, and 5 countries on 10-meters.

It's just possible I may get the last 5 countries worked on 80-meters this winter. WooHoo! 73 good DX to all.

H O. Townsend – K5CX  
ARRL, Asst. Dir., West Gulf Division  
<http://www.arll.org>  
Coordinator, Texas QSO Party  
<http://www.txqp.org>  
CQ Award Checkpoint  
<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>

*Mike*, K5UO as usual always has a great report.

SV2AVP\* 80M 0427Z 2/7; V51AS 80M 0418Z 2/7;  
AH6NF/KH5\*\* 17M 1809Z 2/6; ZD7BG 17M 1718  
2/6; 5Z4DZ 80M 0345Z 2/5; 9J2BO 80M 0415Z 2/3;  
CT9M 160M 0419Z 1/30; D4B 160M 0304Z 1/30; \*:  
A rework \*\*: Palmyra/Jarvis: # 3 from working  
all/SSB

0400 GMT seems to be the magic time

Thanks Mike for the report.

And last but not least *Jim*, K5JDB

Well, January was not a great month for DX for me. I did manage to make 40 contacts, but none of them were very unusual. I am still trying to string up enough wire around the trees to be able to load up on 160 meters. So far, my efforts have not been successful. However, I keep it in my mind and I am sure that I will eventually get something up that will be operable, if not effective. Probably just in time for 160 meters to go dead for the summer. Oh well, just wait 'til next year! Although it is not DX, I am having some fun on my straight key. Cal White has got me stirred up and I am trying to get proficient on the SK and hope to eventually make some DX contacts using it. 73 to all. Jim K5JDB

It looks like Cal has got everyone stirred up with his SKN Houston plan. Great!!!

Well I guess that's it for this month. Hope to work you on the bands.

73  
*Al Fritsche* W5ADF

## Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on January 25 at our new location, the Ponderosa Firehouse on Rolling Creek Drive. The following board members were in attendance: Lee Kinard, Joe Sokolowski, Jerry Whiting, Mike Lodge, Cal White, Mark Tyler, Paul Frantz and Chuck Sanders along with the following guests: Bill Stietenroth, and Paul Flagg. Highlights of the meeting:

• **VE Sessions** – It was reported that the VE session sponsored by the club on January 22, 2005 tested thirteen candidates, who took a total of nineteen elements. Two of the candidates took Element One and both passed. Nine of candidates took the Element Two exam and all passed. Four candidates took Element Three and all passed. The results produced nine new Technicians, and four new Generals. Kudos to all who took the exam elements and to the club members who participated as VEs. Paul Flagg made a suggestion that the club offer each new licensee or upgrade from a NARS VE Session \$5.00 off of their first year dues as incentive to join the club and as recognition for their achievement. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the board to adopt the suggestion beginning with the February VE session.

• **Programs** – The group reviewed the possibilities for programs during the upcoming months with the following results: February – Falkland Islands Expedition, March – Open, April – Open, May – Field Day. The group was of the opinion that programs outside of radio (e.g. photography) should also be considered. Paul Flagg agreed to offer a future program on photography. If you have suggestions for an interesting program please communicate it to any board member. The board is also looking for a new Program Chairman. If you are interested in serving the club in that capacity please contact any board member.

• **Technician Classes** – The group continues to consider the possibility of offering a Technician class. Anyone interested in helping to put on such a class is encouraged to contact any board member. As a side note, during the discussion Jerry Whiting informed the group that Dr. Pat Reiff has recently been granted approval to offer a class in amateur radio as a regular 14 week class at Rice University.

• **Field Day** – Mike Lodge reported that Field Day preparations have begun and will be accelerating in the coming months. Alternative sites to the previous venue are being considered with the goal of finding a site with better protection from the weather. More to follow on this in the coming months as plans are firmed up.

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 new meeting place 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 Lee Kinard.

*C. W. Sanders*, NO5W  
NARS Secretary

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Catherine Janzer KI5TTY.

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

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### PC Programming and Operations:

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### NARS Public Information Officer:

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## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

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TBA

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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### Send address, phone, email and other changes to:

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### VE SESSION (ARRL)

Manager:  
Norm Covey K5OS  
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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

Joey D'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)

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