

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

December 1985

DESECHEO ISLAND DXPEDITION WITH K5LZO FEATURED AT NARS DECEMBER 20 MEETING

Like to be rare DX? Enjoy an exotic QTH? Then journey to Desecheo Island with NARS guest speaker Chuck Coleman, K5LZO, at our December 20 meeting.

Desecheo is a 360-acre island that is between Puerto Rico and Hispaniola. Its rocky, craggy shoreline makes it an inhospitable spot for landing delicate radio gear, and the island is inhabited by lizards, land crabs, monkeys and a few aquatic birds. And little else.

But the KP5 prefix designates a DXCC country, and is therefore sought after by the world's DX operators in quest of a new one.

Chuck will tell you what it's like to be under a pileup, how to put a station on the air far removed from the convenience of HL&P, and how you satisfy your appetite when miles away from the golden arches. His experiences were all achieved during his March, 1985, trip to KP5 with several other adventurous Texans and fellow hams from KP4 land.

The successful Desecheo operation provided this country to some 17,000 radio amateurs around the world via QSOs on SSB & CW. With Chuck for this meeting will be Frank Wyatt, KC5M.

Bring a friend to enjoy Chuck's color slides and eyewitness account. The meeting starts at 8 pm with eyeball QSOs prior to the bell. The place? Cypress Creek EMS, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane, one block east of Kuykendahl and two blocks south of FM 1960.

NEWS OF NARS: MEMBERSHIP HITS 60; REPEATER NOW USED FOR NARS NET

A major membership milestone has been reached by NARS; there are now sixty charter members of the club.

Welcome to each of you, and we anticipate seeing you at meetings and joining in as you're able to participate in club activities. The strength of NARS rests with its active members, so please pitch in. NARS is an all-volunteer army!

Expanding membership has also been reflected in the weekly NARS net on two meters. The Wednesday night gathering at 8:00 p.m. local time is now held on the KA5BIP machine, which has an output on 145.43, and an input of 144.83 MHz.

Net control is on a rotating basis, with the schedule of NCs as follows:

Dec. 18	-	W5VHN, Dick
Dec. 25	-	N5CSP, Don
Jan. 1	-	W1HEO, "Dee"
Jan. 8	-	KA5AKG, Ken
Jan. 15	-	KD5KR, Joe
Jan. 22	-	KF5FZ, Max
Jan. 29	-	W5KMN, Jim

A record number of hams checked in for the Dec. 4 session -- 11 total -- including KC0LM, W1HEO, KF5FZ, W5VHN, KE5IC, N5HF, N5CSP, W5KMN, KA5AKG, W5BKK, and KD5KR.

Plans are being made to use the net for regular traffic handling, so that members will be familiar with the basics of message relaying before it's needed in an emergency. In the meantime, the net continues to provide a common on-air gathering spot for club news, ham radio information, DX tips and propagation updates.

**THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
BY KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG**

With the beginning of 1986 drawing very close, we are in the process of laying plans and organizing activities for the coming year. Mark your calendars now for NARS meetings set for the third Friday of each month at the Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Services building. We expect to continue to have high quality programs on subjects of interest. If you are interested in a particular subject or would like to present one, please let Henry N5HF, our activities chairman, know.

Other activities such as social functions, training in emergency traffic handling, transmitter hunts, visits to interesting facilities, to mention a few, are in the works. There are also such ongoing activities as Novice training, license upgrading, newsletter publication, the NARS net, and Interference Committee work either in progress or being developed. In short, there is a spot for everyone, so step forward and be active. The Society will only be as strong as its members; they are the key to success.

I think we can be proud of where we have come in the few short months since this club was born. It has not been without the contributions and efforts of a lot of people to whom I say thanks as this year closes.

To each of you and your family I send my best wishes for a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

73 de Ken

**NARS GOES INTO OSCAR ORBIT AT ITS
NOVEMBER MEETING**

The November NARS gathering was a far out affair, thanks to an outstanding program by guest speaker Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, of Kingwood. The meeting also featured the introduction of guests, new members, and the chance to join ARES as well as a drawing for a door prize - a 5/8 wave 2-meter mag mount antenna from Madison Electronics - won by Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ.

OSCAR, as KA5DNP reported, is a real "Fun Machine." It swings around the earth in a large orbit that reaches 25,000 miles in space and takes 12 hours to complete. The uplink for mode B is 70 cm (435 MHz) LSB, with the downlink on 2 meters (145 MHz). Jack says that what you need to work OSCAR can be a combination of homebrew antennas and commercial gear. For the downlink, you should have a 10db gain antenna, a 20db gain preamp, and a 2-meter SSB receiver. For the uplink, a 10db circularly polarized antenna is suggested, plus an amplifier of about 75 watts working with a 70 cm SSB/CW transmitter. FM is not used on OSCAR.

Jack played a tape recording of some of his more interesting contacts. DXers in the room who lament the sunspot cycle decline drooled while hearing such goodies as KL7, DL, G, C6 and Antarctica being worked via the bird on SSB with good signals.

You may want to listen for OSCAR SSB signals around 145.972 MHz. Questions? You may call Jack at 358-5172.

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE NORTHWEST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, PLEASE CALL
KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK, AT 376-7660**

**THE NARS MEMBERSHIP
ROSTER GROWS TO 60 WITH
THE ADDITION OF THESE
CHARTER MEMBERS**

The NARS charter membership grew recently, swelling the ranks of the club to sixty. The charter membership period runs through December 31st, so if you know a local ham who hasn't yet joined our society, invite him or her to act soon.

Welcome to these new members:

41. Matt Timm, KA0HFS
42. Alfredo Navarro, KA5BZM
43. Jack Douglas, KA5DNP
44. Bob Weist, KA5PQY
45. David Gaines, KA5WYT
46. Skip Leonard, KC5BO
47. Andrew Bounds, KD5CQ
48. Max Huff, KF5FZ
49. Terry Myers, KQ5U
50. Edward Thorn, WB5LTF
51. Jim Clarke, N5FIX
52. Joseph Coles, N5HQM
53. Joel Empie, N5HWV
54. Tom Roraback
55. Jerry Smith, W5NKZ
56. Bill Allen, W5NQR
57. Don Alexander, W5VCD
58. Shelby Alexander, WA5OBF
59. Don Quinn, N5CSP
60. Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ

To join, send a check for \$10 annual dues payable to NARS to Treasurer Dick Combs, N5DRM, 14923 Falling Creek, Houston, TX 77068.

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SEND NEWS TO "DEE" AT 17802 BIRCH FOREST, SPRING, TX 77379 BY THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH.

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Members with an interest in these areas are encouraged to contact the chairman and volunteer their help. Also, members with a need for assistance, or with a contribution of time or equipment, are likewise encouraged to get in touch.

The training committee thanks Mike Pfeiffer, K5WIM, for his donation of study material and cassette of CW practice runs. Other material is welcome for the library.

The usual agreement between the U.S. and Korea allowing third party traffic between HL stations and U.S. hams will be in effect from 0001Z Dec. 20 to 2359Z Jan. 4. (W1AW via KE5IC).

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