

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

November 1985

OSCAR 10 FEATURED AT NOVEMBER 22 MEETING

"OSCAR 10 the Fun Machine" is the title of the NARS program on Friday, November 22. Guest speaker Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, will join us for an introduction to ham radio using satellite relay as a means of ignoring the poor conditions created by few sunspots.

Jack will supply the basics of operating OSCAR mode B; that is transmitting up to the bird on 435 MHz and receiving down via 2 meters. We'll hear what it takes to work OSCAR, how to do it, locating the orbiting "bird", and the plain and simple approach to working DX even when deed restrictions keep your antenna on the ground!

If you're familiar with how fast DX conditions can change, you'll be pleased to hear Jack report that OSCAR sometimes allows DX for six hours at a time! The satellite covers 162 degrees of the earth, so it's no surprise that KA5DNP has already worked 85 countries via the bird. He's able to use homebrew antennas, and even uses the "armstrong" method of rotation to track the path of the orbiting repeater.

Join us for this interesting program! Bring a friend. The meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. at the Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Services building, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane. The building is one block east of Kuykendahl and two blocks south of FM 1960 at the water tower. The meeting room is upstairs on the right.

REPEATER AVAILABLE TO NARS MEMBERS COVERS NORTH HOUSTON

A two-meter repeater serving the north Houston and Harris County area is now available to NARS members according to Henry Freedenberg N5HF, chairman of the club activities committee. In an investigation of frequencies that would be potential sites for future repeater activity, Henry spoke with the licensee of the 145.43 machine, Kelly Myers, KA5BIP, who invited club members to use the repeater.

The repeater transmits on 145.43, with an input of 144.83. It's location is near Cypress, north of highway 290. The antenna height is 300 feet.

Specific plans for using the repeater for club nets and other on-air activities were not finalized as NARS News went to press.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANS BEING FORMULATED BY NARS

NARS has contacted local emergency preparedness officials and will soon begin inviting members to join ARES. Applications will be available at the next club meeting according to Henry, N5HF.

Contact has also been made with the RACES coordinator, Roger Schaper, who has agreed to meet with NARS at a future meeting to explain the function of this group.

REMINDER: NARS IS PREPARING A COLLECTION OF MEMBER QSL CARDS. IF YOU HAVEN'T DONATED ONE OF YOURS, PLEASE BRING ONE ALONG TO THE NEXT MEETING.

DON BUSICK, K5AAD, TELLS NARS WHAT'S HOT...WHAT'S NOT

"Packet radio is hot; it's the FM radio craze of the '80s," says Don Busick, K5AAD, of Madison Electronics. During his talk to the NARS October meeting, Don told members that the AEA Packet 64 is "very hot."

Best selling rigs? "The big sellers are the IC 735, the TS 430 and the FT 757 transceivers, all rigs priced in the \$750 range." Sales of the big rigs have slowed down, according to Don, and he reports that Kenwood will soon drop the tube radios such as the TS 830 and TS 530.

In the area of training materials, the "Morse University" program for the Commodore 64 is a best-seller. Don comments that code tapes by Gordon West are good, and that the Ameco study manuals "do the job."

Antennas? "The Butternut vertical is outselling any other antenna on the market," says Don. "But it does need a good ground system." He also is selling 20 & 40 meter monobanders.

Don predicts that the ham radio market will begin seeing lots of new gimmick accessories such as microphones with built-in audio shaping and VU meters.

An antenna tuner by Viewstar was donated by Don as the door prize, and it was won by lucky Scott Taylor. Congratulations! And thanks to Don from NARS for his generosity and great evening's program.

INTERFERENCE COMMITTEE SHAPING UP

The Interference Committee was formed to aid hams within the NARS area in achieving an interference free station, both to and from other services. We also plan to aid the FCC in their processing of complaints, particularly when the offender is presumed to be a ham.

At present a library of literature pertaining to radio frequency interference is being gathered from the various Ham magazines and directly from ARRL and FCC. This library will be available to all members.

On November 5th, your chairman met with three members of the FCC in their offices. Also attending were two members of the Texas DX Society and Don Busick of Madison Electronics. Our committee volunteered to service the NARS area including FM 1960-W and north through Magnolia. The Texas DX Society will attempt to organize groups within the Houston city limits. We hope to enlist appropriate employees of Southwestern Bell and Houston Lighting and Power to assist us. As a preventive measure we are preparing a guide by which each member may assure himself that his station is "clean".

At present we have only two Club members in this committee and are appealing to the rest of you for additional volunteers -- We'll need you!

Those who are interested in joining the committee should contact Ken Edinborgh W5BKK, 376-7660.

**AMATEUR RADIO UPDATE:
FCC TO NAIL PIRATES,
ARRL PROPAGATION REPORT**

FCC's monitoring network continues to investigate and fine illegal radio operators on a number of frequencies. Pirates have been found in such cities as Richmond; Miami; Washington, DC; Louisville; San Francisco; and Fort Smith, AR. One such pirate operated station "KRZY", and another "KBBR" on 7440 KHz. If convicted, fines can total \$10,000, one year in jail, and forfeiture of radio gear. Pirates can be reported to: FCC Engineer in Charge, P. O. Box 1588, Grand Island, NE 68802. Telephone (308) 382-4296.

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Canadian amateurs will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Trans-continental Railway by using special prefixes through Dec. 19: CH1, CH2 in Newfoundland and Labrador, CZ1 in Yukon, and VG1 through VG9 in the rest of Canada.

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The best overall propagation of the fall should be Nov. 20-28, with the highest MUF at the start of the period, says the ARRL bulletin copied by KE5IC. Solar cycle 21, while down, is not out. Sunspots appeared in mid-October after a quiet period back to July. American sunspot numbers for Oct. 24 through 30 were between 0 and 53, with a mean of 22.

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Amateur radio exams are given by the Brazos Valley ARC on the fourth Saturday of each month in Missouri City. Contact is Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, (713) 777-3345.
(Tnx B-VARC Bulletin)

**"OPERATION UPGRADE" BEGINS AS
MEMBERS WORK ON CODE, THEORY**

NARS began the first in a series of informal gatherings for the purpose of supporting efforts for Novice exams by club members. A meeting was held on November 7 at the QTH of Dee Logan, W1HEO of the Training Committee, with assistance by CW trainer Bob Welch, KE5IC.

So far, six members of NARS have joined the program. Individual objectives range from taking the Novice test to upgrading all the way to Extra class.

Each session will include Morse code transmissions, using tapes produced by Bob's facilities that approximate the tone (700-1000 Hz) and character formation speed (13-20 words-per-minute) that can be expected during an actual examination. Spacing is modified between characters to conform to the desired speed; however, by forming the actual character at the higher speed, students don't have to "relearn" the sound of a character as the rate of receiving increases.

NARS needs code practice tapes or other instructional materials that may be gathering dust in members' shacks. Donations are welcome. Please bring items to the meeting and pass along to Dee, W1HEO, Bob KE5IC, or Paul, WB5DBT.

Volunteers are also needed to lead informal theory discussions at the General level. Please consider helping out as an "Elmer".

JOIN NARS AT THE NEXT MEETING!

BE A CHARTER MEMBER!