

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

April 1986

APRIL 18 MEETING PRESENTS ANTENNA FORUM, Q & A TIME

How many radials are needed for a given vertical? How does the Yagi compare to the Quad? Is the length and type of transmission line important? What's the best antenna and band to fit available propagation during the current sunspot cycle we are in, and when will conditions get better?

For answers to these questions and to your specific antenna situation, you need to show up April 18 for the big antenna forum.

The April meeting will feature: antennas, theory, special problems, hidden antennas, specific topics presented by a panel of antenna experts, plus a question and answer period. Bob, N5AER, is coordinating the program. Your own unique antenna application will be discussed so be there!

The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Cypress Creek EMS building, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane, one block east of Kuykendahl and two blocks south of FM 1960. Come early and bring a friend!

NARS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY ENCLOSED

Included in this month's newsletter is the new NARS membership survey. Please fill it out and return it at the April 18 meeting or mail it to NARS, P. O. Box 11128, Spring, TX 77391. The purpose of the survey is to assess members' interest in equipment and capabilities. The survey asks you to evaluate past and future activities as well as your ideas on a wide range of topics.

We would like a 100% response for the best evaluation. Results will be published in the next newsletter.

NARS FIELD DAY ACTIVITY READY EXCEPT FOR OPERATORS

Plans are all set for NARS participation in the ARRL field day event scheduled for June 28-29. We will be based at 5518 Louetta at the Terra Nova traffic light, which is the same location used last year. Tom Roraback, KA5YSB, is coordinating the action. He said that the antenna and power supply situation appears to be under control. Help in all phases of field day activity is always welcome, so give Tom a call at 583-2661 and volunteer your assistance. Get lined up on his opsked if you want to be an operator.

MOD EVENT NEEDS 2 METER HAMS

The 1986 WalkAmerica March of Dimes 20km walkathon is set for 9 a.m. Sunday, April 27. At least 15 ham operators are needed for the start, check points, and the support vehicles. It will start and end at the Charter Bank building at Willowbrook Mall. Contact Bud, KA6JDT, on the Thursday 2-meter net.

The sponsors will greatly appreciate your efforts. Free lunch, drink, and T-shirt included. This can also be a good training exercise in message handling.

BICYCLE RIDE SEEKING 2-METER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to provide communication for the 1986 Kodak Liberty Ride, a 10, 20, 30 mile bicycle ride. The ride is a national fund raising event for the Statue of Liberty. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18. It starts and ends in the Astrodome. The club will not be officially involved but if you are interested in helping, contact Kurt, WA5BBW, at 462-0195.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
BY KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG

RFI NOTES #2: HARMONICS

Hams have long been known for the support they provide in their local communities. They are often found providing the communications for parades, charitable functions, and sports events. When disaster strikes or emergencies develop, it is often amateur radio operators who bridge the communications gap until normal conditions return.

Providing effective communications under emergency conditions, however, requires two important things -- organization and training. They go hand in hand and should be developed before and not during an emergency. Our Emergency Communications Committee, led by Dick Combs, N5DRM, is working to develop an organization that can supply emergency communications when needs arise in northwest Harris County. It will interface with local emergency services, government agencies, and ARES to supply the communications they may request. But your participation is needed to do an effective job. It is a real opportunity to put your hobby to use in a way which will benefit both you and the community.

All of us know how to talk on a radio, but do we really know what to say and who to talk to in emergencies? Under these conditions proper procedures should be a reaction instead of an experiment. Just as in learning the code, training and practice will provide effective results. The NARS Emergency Net meets each Wednesday evening at 9:00 p.m. local time to hone these skills. Tune in on 145.430 MHz (input down 600 KHz) and participate. If you are unable to tune in, give Dick a call on the land line and let him know you can be counted on for this service.

The harmonic is a well known producer of TVI. Fortunately today's amplifiers are linear and emit low-level harmonics. Although elimination is not possible, reduction is necessary.

I would hope that none of us is operating without an antenna tuner, even though it is not always necessary for a good match. Surely all are using a low-pass filter between transmitter and the tuner and/or antenna. The filter-tuner combination goes a long way toward achieving a low harmonic level.

Having done this, perhaps many have overlooked one rich source of harmonics -- corroded antenna connections. All antenna connections tend to corrode over the years, resulting in rectification. Remember the old copper-oxide rectifier? Nature loves to create one at each copper junction. Rectification distorts the signal increasing the harmonics.

Your maintenance schedule (you do have one don't you?) should include an annual cleaning of all metal contacts exposed to weather. If you are experiencing TVI these days, corroded contacts may be the cause. If you are not, start this annual inspection as a preventive measure.

TREASURER REPORT FROM N5DRM NARS RECOGNIZES NEW MEMBERS

The NARS treasury currently has a balance of \$1,006.84. The banquet paid for itself so no club expense for this event.

NARS welcomes new members Scott Byrd, Rich Richardson, and Tom Smith, N5AMA, to bring us to a grand total of 79.

DIRECTION FINDING TECHNIQUES DISCOVERED AT MARCH 21 MEETING

Locating foxes was the topic at last month's meeting. Henry, N5HF, veteran foxer, presented a slide show on DF and various methods for locating a hidden transmitter. WB5SRN and N5HF demonstrated home-made direction finding antennas and located a hidden transmitter in the building.

All of this was to prepare us for the NARS Fox Hunt scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 20. The hunt will start at the Randalls store at Louetta and Kuykendahl. N5HF will announce more details at the April 18 meeting.

Also at last month's meeting we had several guests, club net reports, recommendation for a Saturday outdoor flea market, plus lots of ham talk.

NARS 1986 BANQUET BIG SUCCESS

The 1986 NARS Banquet was held March 15 at Uncle Tom's Kitchen and drew a good crowd of hams and their wives, and even a soon-to-be ham couple from the Novice class. 31 attended and dined on chicken fried steak, chicken breast, beef tips and all the mashed potatoes, fried okra, green beans and rolls you could eat, plus a peach dessert. It was an excellent meal with good fellowship.

Next year new officers will be inducted at the banquet and there will be a program. Bob Haase, N5AER organized the event and did an excellent job. Thanks!

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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT NARS, CALL KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK, AT 376-7660

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NEW CHANGES ON BOTH NETS GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

Recent changes have been made to the VHF and HF club nets. The 2-meter net now meets on Thursday instead of Wednesday night for the duration of the Novice classes. It will still convene at 8 p.m. on 145.430 MHz.

The HF net has moved from 10 meters to 15 meters. Better band conditions are cited as the reason. The HF 15-meter net will continue to meet on Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at 21.350 MHz.

The Emergency Net will continue to meet Wednesdays at 9 p.m. local time on 145.430 MHz.

NOVICE CLASS UPDATE

The Novice class continues on with theory and code. The class now has 40 members registered. We are definitely meeting a need in the amateur community as evidenced by the large turnout for our first course. Class members are invited to the regular NARS meetings and to listen in on club nets (if it doesn't interfere with their Morse code practice). Joining the class since last month's report are Chris Aumauger, Hester Gilliam, Frank Moore, and Ed Hinds.

NEW NARS NEWS EDITOR

Jim Clarke, N5FIX, is now editor of the NARS News taking over from Dee Logan, W1HEO. He will perform this function in addition to his duties as club publicity chairman. Jim says he will welcome any and all news contributions directed to his home phone 859-5852.