

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

February 1986

## JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: NARS ARRL AFFILIATION MOVES ALONG, EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION BY W5CKC

"Everybody should be trained in traffic handling; the NARS net is an ideal spot for this," according to guest speaker Roger Shaper, W5CKC, at the club's January meeting. The district EC for southeast Texas gave club members an overview of the area's emergency organization, including ARES and RACES. Hams interested in emergency service should know traffic handling and net procedures according to Shaper. Field Day is an ideal time to flex our communication muscles before the real thing comes along.

Other matters covered: a NARS club banquet is being held on March 15; the club's first Novice Course will begin Wed. March 5 at the Lincoln Institute; an HF net for ragchews and general socializing on the air is being organized by Jim Clarke, N5FIX; and, the club's ARRL affiliation is moving along and awaits approval by the Executive Committee of the Board.

A door prize -- a copy of the 1986 ARRL Handbook donated by Madison Electronics -- was won by Dick Rooney, W5VHN. Dick has donated his prize to the NARS training library. Thanks!

## DISASTER & COMMUNICATIONS ACTION TEAM AT NARS FEB. 21 MEETING

D-CAT, which stands for A Disaster and Communications Action Team, will be explained to NARS members at the club's Feb. 21st meeting. On hand will be Jay Parker, K5CVD, chief executive officer for D-CAT and Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, executive officer.

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

## NARS BEGINS NOVICE LICENSING CLASS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

A new Novice Class licensing course will start Wednesday, March 5th, 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Institute, 7622 Louetta Road, west of Steubner Airline. The 12-week course will cover everything needed to pass the Novice Class FCC license exam, which will be given at the end of the course.

Classes will meet for two hours each Wednesday, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., and include periods of Morse code practice plus discussion of rules, radio theory, and amateur radio practice. There will be a nominal tuition of \$10.00 to cover the cost of materials, and the text used will be "Tune In The World With Ham Radio" from the ARRL.

The club needs volunteers to help with classes, since a "team teaching" approach will be used. Please help out by calling Dee, W1HEO, at 376-0626, or Bob, KE5IC, at 376-4814, or Paul WB5DBT, at 320-2108.

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMS FEB. 22

The Brazos Valley ARC, which sponsors ham license exams on the fourth Saturday of each month, will give its next tests at 9:00 a.m. Feb. 22nd. The exam site is in the Stafford area near highway 90 and the Southwest Freeway.

Reservations can be made by sending a completed Form 610 and a check made out to the ARRL/VEC for \$4.25 to:

Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG  
7401 Heilig  
Houston, Texas 77074

Reservations will be accepted up to one week prior to the exam date. Stu's number is 777-3345.



## NARS BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 15

The first annual NARS banquet will be held Saturday, March 15, at Uncle Tom's Kitchen in Spring. Members are invited to bring their spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, or if none of those is available, just bring yourself! Cost will be \$10 per person, which includes:

- Choice of entree (chicken fried steak, beef tips, or grilled chicken breast)
- Home-style vegetables & rolls
- Non-alcoholic beverage
- Gratuity

A cash bar will be available, and the group will gather at 6:30 p.m. with seating for dinner at 7:15 p.m. Uncle Tom's Kitchen is at 17500 Kuykendahl, between FM 1960 and Louetta.

Uncle Tom's is casual, so formal dress is not necessary. Please RSVP to Bob Haase, N5AER, at the February meeting or call him at 376-9098. Entree preference must be indicated in advance of the banquet. Tickets will be available at the February meeting or at the door.

This will be the start of a NARS tradition and a super event. Don't miss it! (de N5AER)

### TWO METER NET CONTROLS FOR FEB.-MAR.

The weekly NARS net meets at 8:00 p.m. local time on the KA5BIP repeater, 145.43 MHz. Net controls are:

Feb. 19 - W5VHN	Mar. 12 - KC0LM
Feb. 26 - N5CSP	Mar. 19 - N5HF
Mar. 5 - KA5AKG	Mar. 26 - W5KMN

### TREASURER'S REPORT FROM N5DRM

NARS currently has a cash balance of \$628.84 in the treasury according to Dick, N5DRM, club treasurer. The beginning January balance was \$664.84, with expenditures of \$36.00 for postage and training materials.

## HAM RADIO NEWS UPDATES

**ARRL NOTES:** The board has requested that the FCC correct the restrictive effects of Docket 85-105, which requires a control operator on duty at the digipeater when third party traffic is to be handled....A new 160-meter band plan has been adopted by the Board, with CW, RTTY & narrow band modes from 1800-1840 KHz, SSB, SSTV, CW & wide modes from 1840-2000 KHz, and intercontinental QSOs from 1830-1850 KHz.

**FCC NEWS:** The Commission has allowed automatic control for digital operation at 50 MHz and up. Automatic control privileges continue for repeater, auxiliary and beacon operations. Effective date: March '86.

**PACKET NEWS:** A packet voice net is on the air locally each Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. on 146.10/70.

**SOLAR STUFF:** "Solar activity does not rise and fall in smooth or cyclical curves," says the WIAW bulletin. It's likely that, except when we move from cycle 21 into 22, we won't see DX conditions different from those of the past year. With minimum sunspot numbers, most DX work at night will be on 10 MHz or below. (de KE5IC)

**NEW CALL:** Congratulations to Tom Roraback who has received his first call, KA5YSB. Please amend your club roster.

**LOW DOWN:** Explore the Very Low Frequencies from 10 to 535 KHz. There is a license-free band from 160-190 KHz with power limited to one watt and antenna length no more than 50 feet. European broadcasters use 150-180 KHz, and there are beacons from 190-410 KHz. Listen for IPA on Easter Island at 280 KHz or LEO from Leon, Mexico, at 365 KHz. How low can you get? VLF, that's how.

**HAMFEST FUN:** The Acadiana Amateur Radio Ass'n will hold its 26th annual hamfest March 8-9 in Lafayette, La. at the Holiday Inn Central.



## INTERFERENCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the November NARS NEWS, plans for the Interference Committee were discussed. These included a joint effort with the FCC and the Texas DX Society to process complaints that appear to involve Radio Amateurs in the Houston area. Through no fault of the NARS Committee, this plan has fallen through. We continue to offer the FCC help but do not anticipate that this will be a large effort.

The emphasis now is placed on helping our own in the prevention of and solutions to RFI problems. We do have quite a library of articles from QST, Ham Radio and 73 magazines and a copy of "Interference Handbook" edited by Bill Orr, W6SAI. These are housed at present at the home of the Chairman and are for the use of the club members.

We invite each of you to contact a member of the Committee with any problems or neighborhood complaints of interference which are known or imagined to be the fault of your ham equipment. None of us claims to be an expert in this field but we are offering any help we can give. We'll never be experts if you don't give us some work to do! Committee members are:

Ken Edinborgh W5BKK 376-7660  
Mike Pfeiffer K5WIM 440-8351  
Don Alexander W5VCD 356-2851

In future issues of NARS NEWS we will remind you briefly of some of the measures that can be taken to avoid creating RFI. Heeding these can perhaps keep peace in the neighborhoods and all will be well. (de W5BKK)

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NARS NEWS is published monthly by Northwest Amateur Radio Society. News deadline is the first of each month. Please share your news with the club. Call Dee, W1HEO, at 376-0626, Bob, KE5IC, at 376-4814, or Paul, WB5DBT at 320-2108.

The NARS Newsletter is being printed courtesy of the Klein and Spring Kwik-Kopy Centers. Your patronage of these centers would be appreciated.

KLEIN KWIK-KOPY  
8320 Louetta Road, Suite 125  
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713/251-1503

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next meeting of the club's board of directors will be held Friday, February 14, at the Lincoln Institute, 7622 Louetta Road, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Board meetings are open to members interested in attending.

### FCC TAKING LONGER TO ISSUE LICENSES

How long should you wait after passing an FCC license exam before you inquire about your ticket? Would you believe two months? The W5YI report says it is taking a week longer than last month to issue an Amateur license, with many delays caused by errors in FCC Form 610.

Allow 3 to 4 months for the paperwork to catch up if you've upgraded twice. Note that the FCC doesn't log in applications, so if you call FCC, they may tell you they have no record of your application which means that they haven't keystroked the data into the system. Of course every successful applicant is issued a Certificate of Successful Completion when upgrading that carries temporary upgraded operating privileges for a year. So relax!

### GREEN RETURNS TO 73 MAGAZINE

Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, founder of 73 magazine, has returned as editor. The April issue will be the first under his direction after his publishing firm was purchased by the CW Communications/Inc. publishing group in 1983. Expect large-scale changes in 73, since most of the previous staff has ended their association with that magazine.

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CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE TO NARS MEMBERS. SEND YOURS TO 17802 BIRCH FOREST, SPRING 77379.

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

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