

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

March 1986

DIRECTION FINDING FEATURED AT NARS MEETING ON MARCH 21

An airplane crash-lands and sends out an emergency locator signal. An amateur radio repeater is "jammed" by an unidentified station. Both call for the efficient application of direction finding techniques. How do you go about it?

At the NARS March 21 meeting, the basics of direction finding will be outlined by Henry Freedenberg, N5HF veteran direction finder. A demonstration of DF methods will be supplied by guest WB5SRN, who, with N5HF, will show members the typical antennas used and the various techniques developed.

Henry will also present two slide shows from the "Happy Flyers," one on techniques used and another on search and rescue procedures.

The fun side of DFing is using the method to locate a hidden ham transmitter -- usually on two meters -- in an activity called a fox hunt. NARS plans to hold such an event in the future, so be sure to take notes for your use at that time.

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 BANQUET IS MARCH 15

A reminder: If your're looking for some cheap ham frills, consider attending the festive NARS banquet March 15 at Uncle Tom's Kitchen. Late details from chairman Bob Haase, N5AER, at 376-9098. Tix are \$10 per person.

THREE NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN HEAD FIELD DAY, PUBLICITY, AND NET

Thanks to a trio of volunteers, NARS now has new chairmen for several key activities. Heading the upcoming Field Day effort is Tom Roraback, KA5YSB, while Publicity will be managed by Jim Clarke, N5FIX. The new two-meter Net Manager is Bud Hefner, KA6JDT.

With Field Day looming on the near horizon, Tom is anxious to form his committee of contest-minded NARS members who can assist with the details of this year's main outdoor event. No experience needed. Enthusiasm is a great substitute! Call Tom at 583-2661.

Jim, N5FIX, has already been at work publicizing the new Novice course, and managed to get articles printed in the Houston Post and several other papers. If you have something to publicize, Jim's number is 859-5852.

On the two-meter net scene, Bud, KA6JDT, will be stepping in to organize the weekly Wednesday night gatherings on 145.43 MHz at 8:00 p.m. He'll also be the keeper of the roster of net control stations. Bud's landline is 987-3041.

NEW NARS HF NET LAUNCHED

A new high frequency net has been started as a supplement to the two-meter sessions and as an alternative for members lacking VHF gear.

Organizing the new net is Jim Clarke, N5FIX, who convened the first meeting on Monday, Feb. 24. The informal ragchew met at 7:30 p.m. on 28.550 MHz. Stations checking in included: N5HWU, W5VHN, W5KMN, N5DRM, KA5LDP, WA5UZZ and NC N5FIX. Join the group each Monday.

This month NARS is taking another step in its march to support amateur radio and the community. We are beginning our first formal Novice Class licensing course. Through the dedication of Dee Logan, W1HEO; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Paul Frantz, WB5DBT; Don Alexander, W5VCD; Paul Pacior, KA5PUD; and Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, an excellent curriculum has been developed and material prepared to assist and instruct an interested group in basic radio theory, operating practice, rules, and Morse code. Two-hour sessions every Wednesday evening for 12 weeks will culminate with a Novice Class FCC license exam. The Lincoln Institute has graciously provided classroom facilities for the course.

The team teaching approach to be used will call on the expertise of a number of people. Why not be one of them? There may still be an opening for an instructor, so if you are interested, give Dee a call. I believe I can say with confidence that should any of the students need assistance, they need only ask a NARS member and receive willing aid.

We anticipate conducting many repetitions of this Novice Class course as well as supporting those deserving to upgrade. A Volunteer Examiner program will surely be one of the steps NARS will take in our march of service. If you think you might be interested in participating in a VE program, please let one of the officers know so that necessary arrangements can be made.

73 de Ken

NARS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The radio club has grown with the addition of three new members: Bill Profrock, W5RBJ; Bud Hefner, KA6JDT; and Frank Garnier, KA5OVI. Join in welcoming these newcomers at the next meeting. We now number 76. THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

A solid ground is primary in the prevention of RFI but is frequently neglected. The size of the ground rod and the length and size of the lead are important. Fortunate is the ham whose radio is located in a ground-floor room with an outside wall. A standard 8-foot, copper-clad rod may be driven just outside and connected by a short length of braid from a piece of coax-cable. The use of three rods in a triangular configuration with 8-foot spacing improves ground conductivity. A "moat" of rock salt around each rod results in further improvement.

Many of us, the writer included, have been forced to the second floor. My ground lead is 10 feet long -- greater than a quarter wave at ten meters. It is really no ground at all at that wavelength. Ground lead "tuning" using switched, fixed capacitors can be an answer to this problem. I'll let you know how it works for me after I try it!
de W5BKK

INSIGHTS INTO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PROVIDED BY D-CAT

"In an emergency, radios don't communicate, people do," says an experienced member of D-CAT (Disaster and Communications Action Team). The group presented a very complete overview of preparing for disaster communications during the NARS February meeting.

On hand were Jay Parker, K5CVD, along with N5IDD, WA5WCY, WA5UZZ and others who gave a multi-part insight into the basics of disaster preparations. Included: the role of the emergency coordinator, liaison stations, people, plans and practices, and marketing your capability.

One interesting fact: In an emergency, 60% of a disaster team's members will be victims of the emergency themselves. Thus, more volunteers are called for than forecasts might suggest.

NARS NOVICE COURSE KICKS OFF MARCH 5 AT LINCOLN INSTITUTE

A major step in the radio club's training effort has been taken with the establishment of the first NARS Novice course. The first class was held Wednesday, March 5, at the Lincoln Institute, 7622 Louetta Road, with 36 students signing up.

Classes will contain Morse code practice as well as theory, rules, and amateur radio practices and run from 7:30-9:30 p.m. each Wednesday for 12 weeks. The exam will be given during the last class.

Text for the course is the ARRL publication, "Tune In The World With Ham Radio." Students are encouraged to secure home CW practice tapes and to use a code practice oscillator.

Students will be invited to attend the regular club meetings, so if you notice a new face, please make the person feel welcome by introducing yourself and offering to help answer their questions.

VINTAGE RADIO COLLECTORS DISPLAY RARE MODELS WITH WIDE PRICE RANGE

Their names ring with rich history: Atwater-Kent, Crosley, Fada, GE, Arvin, Philco and more. Their shapes are classic: Gothic cathedrals, Mayan temples, New York skyscrapers, suitcases and torpedoes. They are all part of the fascinating catalog of the serious collector of vintage radios, sold during the Golden Age of Radio from 1920 to 1950.

The New York Times of February 16 featured an article concerning a display of vintage radios in Gotham, and the details are awash in nostalgic lore of yesteryear.

For instance, the oldest radios on display feature silvery tubes the size of popsicles placed in rectangular wood chests with lift-up lids for ventilation. The makers: A. H. Grebe and Hayes. The current: 90 volts DC. Their price: \$1,200 and \$1,000 each.

NEW NOVICE CLASS REGISTRANTS

Barb Alexander
Owen Anderson
Charlie Bardwell
Dr. Bo Bohannon
Scott Byrd
Tom Collins
Don English
Melinda English
Frank Garnier
Gladys Garnier
David Grice
Rose Marie Kavanaugh

Larry Lee
T. C. Martin
Nell McComb
Jim Minor
Vince Mo
Larry Nissen
Norm Nissen III
Al Oglesby
Erik Pacior
Julia Porth
Ed Rausche
Alex Romero

Eric Sarlls
Joy Smith
Lori Smith
Dick Turner
Barbara Van Havermaat
Laura Van Havermaat
Bob White
Johnny Whitson
Milton Williams
Mike Wisby
Murlin Wood
Ralph Zamarron

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

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KLEIN KWIK-KOPY
8320 Louetta Road, Suite 125
Klein, Texas 77379
713/251-1503

SPRING KWIK-KOPY
1414 Spring-Cypress Road
Spring, Texas 77373
713/353-7977