

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

October 1986

## OCT 17 NARS MEETING INTRODUCES YOU TO THE WORLD OF UHF

Not many of us know much about the upper world of UHF and the 1296 MHz band. Tom Smith, N5AMA, is this month's program coordinator. Tom has made many contacts on 1296 MHz on what he calls terrestrial communication. Activity on UHF can be divided into ground, or terrestrial communication, and communication via satellite. Tom will talk about the practical aspects of working tropo (earth-to-earth) and also discuss special problems encountered when operating UHF.

This meeting should be real interesting and perhaps give us a glimpse into where the future is going as far as frequency usage is concerned. As noisy as 40 meters can be, just imagine on the 23 cm band it can be deathly quiet!

## HAMCOM SKED FOR OCT. 3-5 IN HOUSTON

The annual Houston Com-Vention for the Texas Gulf Coast area is Oct. 3-5. This year it is back at the Astro Village Hotel located on the northwest corner of South Loop (610) and Kirby Drive (park in the Astrodome parking lot directly across Kirby from the hotel). The activities start Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Astro Village Hotel with the "good equipment" auction traditionally sponsored by the Houston Amateur Radio Club. Saturday & Sunday the flea market bargain tables, seminars, and commercial booths. Sunday morning there is a transmitter hunt sponsored by NARS (Henry, N5HF). HAMCOM should be better than last year so don't miss it! Also we can use people to help with parking and at the flea market tables: Parking - Jim, N5FIX (859-5852); Flea Market - Stan, K0IQH (320-9262).

## SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES

Program was Packet Radio by Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ...NARS 2-mtr. activity moves from .43 machine to 146.660 MHz (-600 kHz) repeater. Machine is located atop the Conoco bldg. in Greenway Plaza area. It has great coverage and audio quality...Around 40 in attendance at meeting...Door prizes donated by Texas Comm Center and Madison Electronics...Winners were Skip, KC5BO; Dick, KA4MFS; Bud, KA6JDT; Tom, N5AMA... de Jim, N5FIX

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

Board meeting held Sept. 12 at Lincoln Foundation...one of new committees, Upgrading committee, made up of four members headed by Ken, W5BKK, will meet to coord. those interested in upgrading...New Elmer program initiated to help new novices; coordinator needed. New Novice class sked for Jan; Joe, KD5KR, to be coordinator...Board discussed how to attract young people to ham radio...Administration of dues for those joining NARS late in year discussed. Final recommendation is to keep \$10 dues per year. Those joining after the last day of June will pay \$5 good for the rest of that year. Those who have already paid \$10 for 1986 after June will be credited \$5 on their 1987 dues... de Jim, N5FIX

## N5FIX APPOINTED LOCAL ARRL PUBLIC INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Jim, N5FIX, has been appointed the ARRL Public Information Asst. for NARS. Any possible news stories related to ARRL and Hams please route through Jim. He will include these items in his monthly report to our Southern Texas Section Mgr. The news is then printed in QST under our Section News column.



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
**by KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG**

**TEXAS VHF-FM SOCIETY KEEPS**  
**VHF-UHF AIRWAVES UNDER CONTROL**  
**by JACK DOUGLAS, KA5DNP**

There's a new sound on the air and it's NARS on 146.660 MHz (-600kHz). Our Repeater Group has acquired the machine that Bill Cordell, WA5KXG, has had located in Greenway Plaza, where it will remain. All reports are that it is an excellent performer and accessible from almost anywhere in our area, even with a handheld. Plans and procedures are still in the development stage and I'll let you know more as they happen. For now, if you have any problems let me know and we'll try to work them out.

Please remember this has been an active repeater so there are a number of current users. Reach out and make some new acquaintances. But most of all, remember that use of the airways is a privilege we all enjoy and should allow others to also. Use our best manners and enjoy the improved opportunities.

Through the generosity of Ev, KA5VIZ, we are also in the process of putting up a 450 MHz repeater in the Greenspoint area. Many thanks to Mike, KA5LUD, for finding the site. It will probably be another couple of months before it's ready for use, but you'll hear more on this as the time nears.

If you missed the last meeting you missed an excellent presentation by Walt, WD5GAZ, on the hottest item in Ham Radio - Packet. Don't miss the October meeting where Tom, N5AMA, will discuss the world of UHF and how you can be a part of it.

By the way, do you know some young people who might be interested in Amateur Radio? Tell them about it. Bring them along to a meeting. Let us know if you have any ideas about reaching out to our future - our youth.

Frequency Modulation and availability of solid state devices produced the VHF-UHF repeater revolution in Amateur Radio. The proliferation of repeaters made it clear that some kind of cooperative activity had to be undertaken if repeaters were to function without interference among the machines. "Uncle Charlie" did not choose to set up effective controls so Hams began to do it on their own. New regional organizations of Hams were formed or older ones expanded their charters and objectives and "volunteer" efforts to set up band plans and rules of the road took shape. COORDINATION, the practice whereby repeater frequency pairs were assigned within a coordinated regional plan, was born.

In Texas the organization that undertook the thankless but absolutely necessary job was and is THE TEXAS VHF-FM SOCIETY. They have done the job well but there have always been those who would not go along so the job remains difficult but thankless. The FCC has stood back all these years, but effective July 12, 1986 they did adopt a rule that said that where interference between repeaters develops involving one "coordinated" by a regional coordinating group and another "uncoordinated", the uncoordinated repeater operators have the primary responsibility for resolving the problem. This gave regional coordinating groups some teeth!

THE TEXAS VHF-FM SOCIETY has been our regional coordinating group for years. It is the logical group to continue the effort. To continue to earn this position it is working hard to update and improve its activities and service to the Texas Amateur Radio community.  
(See Texas VHF-FM Next Page)



## Texas VHF-FM (continued)

The TEXAS VHF-FM SOCIETY is a non-profit organization with membership open to all hams. To participate in the governing and regulating of repeater activities one needs to be a member who can express a position through a vote. Dues are \$6.00 per year and application is a simple job of supplying name, address, call, class, phone number and \$6.00 to TEXAS VHF-FM SOCIETY, Box 461, Jasper, TX. 75951. You get a quarterly newsletter and the right to participate in the semi-annual meetings at which policy is set by vote of attending members.

### HAM OP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 12, Sunday, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Some 2,000 riders are expected to show up for 9-mile and 18-mile bicycle runs to start and end at Rice Stadium. Event is the Cycle for Sight sponsored by the LIONS Eye Bank. To help please contact Bud, KA6JDT.

OCTOBER 18-19, The 29th Annual Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will take place from 0001 local time October 18 through 2400 local time October 19. For more info see Contest Corral in October QST. To volunteer for local activity call Jim, N5FIX.

NOVEMBER 8-10, Saturday-Monday. 150 mile bike ride from Houston area to Huntsville sponsored by Lung Association. To offer your help, please call Bud, KA6JDT.

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NARS NEWS is published monthly by Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX, Editor, 8638 Pine Falls Dr., Houston, 77095. Tel 859-5852.

DEADLINE FOR NEWS ARTICLES IS THE 1ST OF THE MONTH.  
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## NARS BULLETIN BOARD

- o NARS MEETS the third Friday of each month at the Cypress Creek EMS building, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane, one block east of Kuykendahl and two blocks south of FM 1960. Time: 8 p.m. Eyeball QSO's: About 7:30 p.m.
- o BARTER TABLE before each meeting.
- o BREAKFAST EYEBALL QSO - Every Saturday 8:30 a.m. at Uncle Tom's Kitchen, 17500 Kuykendahl. Informal ragchew.
- o NOVEMBER MEETING - Don Busick, K5AAD, to review ham radio equipment market trends.
- o NARS NETS Coordinators  
RAGCHEW - MONDAY 7:30 p.m.  
21.350 MHz (Jim, N5FIX)  
SLOW CW - TUESDAY 8:00 p.m.  
7.145 MHz (Ken, W5BKK)  
NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 p.m.  
146.66 MHz (Bud, KA6JDT)
- o UPGRADE - Congrats to new Technician Class amateur Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, graduate of the NARS Novice course.
- o NEW MEMBERS - Please welcome the following new NARS members:  
  
105. Mike Warnock, N5JQK  
106. Fred Juch, KA5WJA
- o HAMCOM RIBBONS - NARS club ribbons will be available at HAMCOM to staple to your name tag. Come by our Flea Market tables after you get your com-vention name tag to get your "official" NARS ribbon.

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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT NARS, PLEASE  
CALL KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK, 376-7660.  
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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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# N A R S

## The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

NARS WAS ORGANIZED in mid-1985 by a small band of radio amateurs for the purpose of serving the ham community in Houston north; in the short span of a year, it has grown to a membership in excess of 100. NARS is a general interest club offering a variety of programs to licensed radio amateurs as well as anyone interested in the hobby.

### NARS SPONSORS:

- Informative monthly meetings
- Ham radio news through weekly nets
- Technical assistance
- Club-sponsored repeaters
- Novice classes
- Upgrade assistance
- ARRL Field Day participation
- Emergency coordination
- Weekly breakfast - informal ragchew
- Activities

NARS MEETS the third Friday of each month at the Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Services Building, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane, located one block east of Kuykendahl, two blocks south of FM1960. Eyeball QSO's at 7:30 p.m. are followed by an 8:00 p.m. meeting and program.

FOR NARS INFORMATION please call: Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, 376-7660

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### NARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Nickname\_\_\_\_\_ Call\_\_\_\_\_

Street\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home\_\_\_\_\_ Work\_\_\_\_\_

License Class\_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$10 per year. After June 30, pay \$5 for rest of year. Please send check for dues made out to "NARS" to:

Dick Combs, N5DRM; 14923 Falling Creek; Houston, TX 77068

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