

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

April 1987

ASTRONOMY IS TOPIC FOR APRIL MEETING

For our monthly meeting on April 17, we are going to turn our eyes to the heavens. Davis "Mr. Z" Zwicky will present a program on amateur astronomy. Mr. Z is owner/manager of the Z Optical Shop in Stafford, TX; he sells telescopes, microscopes, and other laboratory items. This meeting will be real interesting. Don't miss it!! For time and place, please see NARS Bulletin Board on the last page of this newsletter.

MARCH MEETING RECAP

We packed the house again to hear Bill Schrader, K2TNO, explain how to evaluate receiver performance. It was very technical and very good. Best receiver: old Drake TR4 (tube type). Door prize was won by Scott Byrd, N5KEU (gift certificate donated by Texas Comm Center, 4120-A Directors Row, Houston).

NARS-ARES EVALUATES HOSPITAL

NARS - ARES ops Bob White, KB5AEF, Scott Byrd, N5KEU, and Bud Hefner, KA6JDT, patrolled the NW Medical Center on March 23rd with HT's to determine operating conditions; they also tested out the hospital communication equipment. The exercise provided very helpful; several "dead spots" were identified due to lead shielding, etc. Bob said that the hospital is impressed with our capability and willingness to help out. In the near future, the ARES group will assist in a mock disaster drill. Also they will have practice drills on two meters when the club repeater is operational. If you want to be involved, contact Bob White at 376-8338.

NARS PICNIC SET FOR APRIL 11

The First Annual NARS Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, at 3 p.m. in Spring Creek Park. There are BBQ pits and a "play area" for the harmonics. To get to the park, take Hwy. 149 north and turn left at the traffic light located about one mile north of FM 2920; proceed about a mile to the park. Talk-in on 146.46 MHz Simplex.

REPEATER UPDATE

At their March meeting, the NARS Board voted for the club to support two meter and 440 meter repeaters. The NARS repeater operating committee is now Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, Chairman; Ev Haines, KA5VIZ; Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; Mark Allen, KA5YPU; and Tom Smith, N5AMA.

As many of you know, the two meter machine has been off the air for some time; it has been fixed several times and was up again shortly before being hit by lightning. Another machine (commercial grade) has been purchased to replace it and is currently awaiting crystals; it will operate at a higher power level and will be matched to a better antenna. Expect a first class operation beginning in mid-April. The old machine will be repaired and used as a back-up. The 440 meter repeater has been up for a while now and is working great.

NARS NEWS is published monthly by Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX, Editor, 1842 Knoll, Houston 77080. Tel: 984-9028

**FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500**

Well I'm back from the cold wintery clime of New England where I got the chance to spend a couple of days at ARRL Headquarters.

Let me recommend to all of you that if you do have a chance to visit HQ, please take the opportunity. The staff is bright and pleasant and willing to spend time to explain how the ARRL works for all of us. Obviously the highlight of any trip there is the opportunity to operate W1AW. Compared to my TS-520SE squeaking out 100 watts into an all-band dipole, keying up W1AW's two kilowatts into a five element monobander at 65 feet is sheer pleasure. I got to work the station for several hours on two occasions and even managed to make a couple of contacts with NARS members in spite of poor propagation that Saturday afternoon. Thanks to W5BKK and KC0LM for hanging in there with me under sparse propagation conditions.

Obviously the top news lately is Novice enhancement, and the big news around NARS is the graduation of 17 new hams from the Novice class with hopefully more to come. Congratulations to Joe, KD5KR, and Bob, KE5IC, and all the NARS members who are assisting with the Novice class.

A very special thank you to Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, who has donated the beautiful sounding 440 machine that those of you with such facilities are now appreciating. Mark Allen, KA5YPU, donated the antenna and Heliac and assisted in getting the machine operational.

The two meter machine has been plagued with problems, but a solution is imminent as reported elsewhere in this newsletter. It's very appropriate to say thank you to Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, and Mark Allen, KA5YPU, along with others who have worked so hard over the last two months at trying to get our machines operational. Thanks guys!!

**RFI NOTES #10
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK**

Just one more column on ground systems and then we will move on. For upper floor shacks we have said that open quarter-wave wires, connected to the ground post of the transceiver, are a good solution to the RFI problem. A special case is that in which a vertical antenna is used just outside the window of an upper floor. This, in many cases, is the only solution for the apartment dweller.

I recently installed a Hustler mobile antenna, with three resonators, in my daughter's (KB5BMY) third-floor apartment. I used three wires of a four-wire rotor cable, cut to a quarter-wave length at 40, 15, and 10 meters for grounds. These stubs were tacked around the walls near the floor.

This is a special case because the ground stubs not only provide a reference ground to prevent RFI but are actually an active part of the antenna system. Vertical antennas must always have a good ground system to work against or tuning is impossible. (This is not true of the dipole in which each half is working against the other).

The system worked very well on the three bands. A low standing-wave ratio was observed on each band at the quarter-wave frequency of the antenna and ground stub. No TVI was noted on the commonly used TV channels.

Since the stubs are acting as a "counterpoise" for the antenna, high RF voltages can appear at the ends; be sure to insulate them well.

See the ARRL Handbook or the "Interference Handbook" for a discussion of this system.

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

NARS NOTES

UPGRADES - Congratulations to the following for their upgrade to Technician Class:

Nell McComb, KB5AEU
Robert Hasselmeier, KB5CBK
Mario Bosquez, KB5CFF (New call)

● PLEASE WELCOME these new members:

Monica Cross, KA5WVI
Jerry Reynolds, WB5GYA
Kim Hinds, New Novice
Pat Hinds, New Novice
Joe Lincoln, New Novice
Rich MacDougal, New Novice
Jim Sexton, New Novice

● CONDOLENCES to Bud Hefner, KA6JDT on the loss of his mother.

● FIELD DAY OPS needed for CW opn. Volunteer to Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK
Tel: 376-7660.

See QST, April issue, for NARS writeup on p. 136.

NARS NOVICE COURSE INFO

Hearty congratulation to the following NARS Novice course participants who passed their Novice exam and await their call from the FCC:

Fred Bailey; Roger Berry; Henry del Valle; Larry Earhart, Jr; Rod Fuller; Kim Hinds; Pat Hinds; Bob Kosa; Rich MacDougal; Mike Maldonado, Jr; Pat Myers; Kwame Osei-Bonsu; Dianne Pankau; Randy Pugh; John Self; Jim Sexton; and Don Wild.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP OK'D

At the regular meeting on March 19th, the membership voted for a change in the By-Laws of the NARS Constitution to include family memberships for the immediate family of members for \$5 annual dues each.

NARS BULLETIN BOARD

● 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: 8:00 p.m.
Eyeball QSO's: About 7:30 p.m.

● BREAKFAST EYEBALL QSO - Every Saturday 8:30 a.m. at Uncle Tom's Kitchen, 17500 Kuykendahl.

● NARS NETS coordinators

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 7:30 p.m.
21.350 MHz (Bob, KB5AEF); then
28.490 MHz (Dick, W5VHN)

CW PRACTICE - TUESDAY 7:30 p.m.
21.185 MHz (Scott, N5KEU)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 p.m.
146.66 MHz (Bud, KA6JDT)

ATTENTION NOVICES AND TECHS

Effective April 13, the NARS Monday night HF Net will start at the usual time (7:30 p.m. local time), and upon completion on 21.350 MHz it will move to 28.490 MHz so that Novice and Technician Class licensees can join in; listen to the 15-meter net, then participate in the 10 meter net that follows...

RACES INFO

Emergency Coordinator Bob White, KB5AEF, reports that NARS is not planning to sponsor a RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) group at this time. In preparation for future RACES participation, however, he suggests that individuals join the West Houston RACES group; they meet every Sunday night at 8:00 p.m. local time on the NARS repeater (146.66 MHz). For info please contact Bill Rimmer, 6146 Birchmont, Houston 77092; 681-9450.