

NARS NEWS

he Northwest Amateur Radio Society

August 1987

HEAR THE LATEST ON SATELLITE COMMUNICATION AT AUGUST 21 MEETING

It seems like every month in the real world that some kind of bug is going around. In the world of ham radio we have something "going around", but it's not a terrible bug; it's called - you guessed it - a satellite bug. Two new birds have really spread this bug around because now you can work a satellite with only HF equipment!

These two birds are RS10 and RS11, both clinging to their mother Russian satellite COSMOS 1861 (a navigational instrument used to identify Russian seagoing vessels and, naturally, others). That makes six birds up now for use in amateur radio communication which is fast becoming the New Frontier. Many NARS members are now making regular contacts so we may soon give "bird watching" a new meaning.

To introduce you to these birds and their characteristics will be Andy MacAllister, WA5ZIB, and our own Jack Douglas, KA5DNP. They will be coming to present the big picture of just what is going on in this area. Come to the meeting and hear the history of amateur radio in space; all about OSCAR 10 (still alive); about Fuji OSCAR 12, the latest Japanese bird; and about the two new Radio Sputnik (RS) birds.

JULY BOARD MEETING

NARS board met July 10 at the Lincoln Foundation... New collinear antenna has been installed for the 2M repeater; preamp installation will await evaluation of the new antenna, which so far has really helped out on both transmit and receive... The next NARS Novice class is scheduled for early 1988.

NEW RACES/ARES GROUP SIMULATED EMERGENCY TERMED SUCCESS

As reported last month a new Harris County RACES/ARES program is now under way; it had its first drill on August 2nd, when "Hurricane Ollie" moved through the Houston area. Net Control for the simulation was Roger Shaper, W5CKC, operating on the 146.34/94 MHz repeater, where he coordinated emergency traffic among the various entities participating.

Coordinating activities for the NW Sector were NARS members Bob White, KF5ZL; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; and Jerry Reimer, KA5QAP (Bob is ARRL ARES NW Harris County Emergency Coordinator, and Scott is Asst. EC). Other NARS members participating in this drill included Jim Minor, KB5AEL; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Skip Leonard, KC5BO; Jim Clarke, N5FIX; Bob Welch, KE5IC; and Matt Woodruff, KA5YYD.

JULY MEETING RECAP

At the July NARS meeting, everybody was on TV. Jerry Borg, N5APW, and Jeff Salmons, N5ECP, demonstrated Amateur TV with a live performance. Jerry walked around outside and inside the Emergency Medical Services building where we meet. Included was a demo on TV of the EMS communication center by one of the EMT's on duty as we all watched on color TV in the meeting room... Field Day total points were reported at 4434; this should put us well up in the final standings... If you missed the meeting, you also missed seeing the new NARS banner... Door prizes: a gift certificate donated by the Texas Comm Center, 4120-A Directors Row, Houston, was won by Bob Welch, KE5IC; a 1987 ARRL Handbook, donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston, was won by Joy Smith, KB5DTB.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500

Ham Radio really is a great hobby. It is so diversified that there are interests for everyone: Satellites, QRP, RTTY, SSB, Ragchew, DXing, ATV, QSL, UHF, Nets, Remote, Packet, CW, VHF, FM, Awards, Contesting, Clubs, Hamfests, Experimenting, Design, HF, Antique Radio, Computers, Microwave, Conventions, Field Day, DXpeditions, and the list goes on and on.

Have you ever stopped to think about what you get out of Amateur Radio - the friendships, the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment - truly a many faceted hobby that gives us each, in our own way, a great deal of pleasure. We do get a lot out of Hamming, but what do we put back for the betterment of our hobby? One of the primary purposes the Federal Government had in mind when authorizing Ham Radio privileges was our ability to assist in Emergency/Disaster Communications.

It seems to me that participating in Emergency Communications preparation is an obligation we all should take very seriously. It probably is the single most important way we can give something back to the hobby that gives so much to us.

NARS has really come of age during 1987 in the area of emergency communication programs thanks especially to the efforts of Bob White, KF5ZL, the NARS Emergency Communication Coordinator. Bob has worked very hard at getting our program organized and operational. He has been assisted by many, but particularly Scott Byrd, N5KEU, and Jerry Reimer, KA5QAP. They have all been involved in the ARRL ARES program as well as the new Harris County RACES/ARES emergency plan.

Many NARS members are involved but, unfortunately, many are not - give something back to Amateur Radio - get involved with our Emergency Communication program - call Bob, Scott, or Jerry for details.

RFI NOTE #12
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

Most hams nowadays have at least one computer to compliment their radio equipment. The combination is ideal in theory, but it is sometimes not compatible in its operation. My Commodore 128, used primarily for packet radio, produces terrible RFI. I have no difficulty on VHF but 20-meter packet is impossible.

Generally, if the computer itself is well shielded, radiation from some or all computer cables may cause problems. A simple filter can be made by wrapping the computer cable in and out of a ferrite toroid core such as produced by Palomar and others. Several turns should be used. However, some computer cables are one-half inch or more in diameter, requiring a very large toroid for even a single turn.

On page 41 of July QST, the "Texpro Snap-On Choke" is reviewed. It is unique in that the core is assembled around several turns in the cable instead of vice versa. The area inside the core appears to be much larger than that of most toroids, thereby accommodating larger cables. MFJ manufactures a similar unit. (These may also be used in place of a balun for a dipole antenna, but that is another story)

I wish I could say that I have used the Texpro and found it to be a solution to the problem, but no; I am still waiting for some of their cores to arrive in the mail. I'll let you know the outcome later.

Some of you must have found some effective means of reducing computer interference. Please share with us and we will compile a list for all to use.

And on behalf of the officers and members of NARS - Thanks, Bob, for all your efforts - it's working and you made it happen!!

NEW AGGIE GRAD BACK ON AIR

ter a month of work, I am back on the air again. I owe many thanks to the group of men that spent weekend hours with my antenna project.

It all started back in June when I commented my beam wasn't performing well and Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, came over and climbed the 60-foot tower. He discovered that the U-bolts on the rotor had come loose and the coax was cut. It was then that we decided to take my "hy-gain" TH5 Yagi and Cushcraft 11-element 2M beam down for inspection.

On July 4th, after the NARS Saturday morning breakfast, Ken, KA5AKG; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Joe Green, WA4FGH; and Tom Roraback, KF500, helped me lower my beams. All the hardware in both beams had rusted badly so after a short discussion, it was decided that I would order new hardware for both beams and the rotor. I also rchased new Belden 9913 coax.

The beams were installed on August 2nd with the help of Ken, KA5AKG; Roy Hradilek, AD5Q; and Bob Welch, KE5IC. The new installation has added much excitement to ham radio for me this summer. I sincerely appreciate the assistance NARS members have given to get me back on the air. Thank you one and all!!!
de Dan Wells, N5IDE

NARS NOTES

- o PLEASE WELCOME the following new NARS members:

Mike Maldonado, Jr., KB5DGA
David Northcutt, WB5KLH
Tom Davis, K5KTX

NARS NOW NUMBERS 131.

- o NEW CALLS:

Bob White, KF5ZL ex KB5AEF
Dan Cassiani, N5KPI ex KB5BLX

- o FOR NARS INFO see QST, July p.122 and August p.124

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 (beneath the water tower). Meeting time: 8 p.m. Eyeball QSO's: about 7:30 p.m.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday 8 a.m. Uncle Tom's Kitchen/17500 Kuykendahl Informal ragchew.

NARS REPEATER FREQUENCIES

146.660 MHz (-600 kHz)
444.375 MHz (+5 MHz)

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| Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX, |
| Editor, 1842 Knoll, Houston 77080. |
| Tel: 984-9028 |
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NARS NETS

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

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

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8 p.m.
146.06/66 MHz (Ken, KA5AKG)

EMERGENCY NETS

Northwest Harris County ARES
TUESDAY 8 p.m.
146.06/66 MHz (Bob, KF5ZL)

Harris County EM RACES/ARES
SUNDAY 7 p.m.
146.34/94 MHz (Roger, W5CKC)

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