

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

December 1987

NEW HAM VIDEO TO SHOW AT DECEMBER 18 MEETING

The new ARRL video "The New World of Amateur Radio", the one you've been hearing about in Ham radio circles recently, is here. If you're at the December meeting you'll see it. A professionally produced video, it is about 47 minutes long and is emceed by Roy Neal, K6DUE. Those who have viewed it say it is excellent. This would be an excellent meeting to invite prospective Hams to. Also, the installation of the new 1988 officers will be directed by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG. Come early and meet your fellow Hams in the area.

OCTOBER MEETING NOTES

Last month we heard an excellent presentation by Roger Shaper, W5CKC, Southeast Texas RACES and ARES guru. He explained the operational aspects of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), and the interrelationship between these two entities in the new Harris County Emergency Management RACES/ARES Operation. He emphasized that volunteers are certainly welcome in this new organization serving Harris and surrounding counties. He lauded two local Hams, Bob White, KF5ZL, and Scott Byrd, N5KEU, for their efforts in organizing the NW Sector ARES group. Bob is ARES Emergency Coordinator and Scott is Asst. E.C.

Election of officers for 1988 was held and is reported elsewhere.

Door prizes were donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston.

Bob Judd, WN5G, won a hard cover copy of the 1988 "ARRL Handbook"; Kenwood caps were won by Jack Douglas, KA5DNP; Henry Del Valle, KB5DFT; and Fred Bailey, KB5DFS.

NARS ANNUAL BANQUET SET FOR JANUARY 23

The 3rd Annual NARS Award Banquet is set for January 23rd, at Uncle Tom's Kitchen, 17500 Kuykendahl. Open cash bar at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15 p.m. is the plan. There will be award presentations, good food, and good fellowship. Don't miss the social event of the year! You will have a choice of entrees; cost is \$10 per person. For reservations call Bob Haase, N5AER, 376-9098, or Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, 370-5714.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1988

NARS annual election was held at the November meeting with the following officers voted in by acclamation:

President	-	Ev Haines, KA5VIZ
Vice Pres.	-	Bruce Cline, N5FD
Secretary	-	Rich MacDougal, N5LSP
Treasurer	-	Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD
Director	-	Paul Frantz, KF5SB

Congratulations to all!

NARS NOVICE CLASS SCHEDULED

The next NARS Novice Class licensing course will begin in early 1988, probably late January or early February. Exact dates for the class will be announced later. Plans are being formulated at this time, but it is expected to follow previous guidelines with a twelve-week course culminating in the FCC Novice Class exam. Text will be the ARRL book "Tune in the World With Ham Radio" (7th Edition). Cost for the course will be \$10 per person.

Chairman for this activity is Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR. Joe needs some volunteer instructors to help with this class. Please call him to volunteer at 353-2196.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500

Well, it's hard to believe that a full year has gone by so quickly, but here we are in December 1987 and NARS is now over two years old. As a newly founded organization, our club has really developed well over the last two plus years and our membership now stands at 140; that's an almost twofold increase from the 75 charter members in 1985.

Our success as a club has been dependent on one key element - our members. We are a broad based club with interest in all areas of Ham radio. Our members do get involved in club affairs, projects, and programs -- and members do make significant contributions to club functions. This is NOT a club of the few -- it IS a club with interest and activities for all.

We shall never forget our civic duties as amateur radio operators, but NARS is a club that remembers amateur radio is a HOBBY -- it's meant to be fun. Let's not get too complicated, serious, or political, lest we lose sight of the fact that the success of our organization is because a lot of Hams are having a good time.

I've enjoyed my year as president and would like to say thanks to everyone who has lent a hand, pitched in, and gotten things done. I'm sure that Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, our new president, and his team of officers and directors will receive the same super support that this year's team received time and again.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!

IT'S DUES TIME

1988 NARS membership dues may be paid any time now. Dues are \$10 per year; \$5 per family member. Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD, new treasurer, will be at the meeting to take your dues.

RFI NOTE #14
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

"Cable Television, Friend or Foe?" ARRL asks in their publication, "Radio-Frequency Interference". In attempting to respond to a complaint from one of my neighbors recently, I concluded that it is both. Cable systems are designed to be completely shielded from the outside world and in my subdivision, the whole system is underground except the subscriber taps and drops. This is good, both for the subscriber and for the Ham operator. But read on!

In the original plan for non-cable TV, a gap was left in the spectrum between channels 6 (82-88 MHz) and 7 (174-180 MHz) to avoid conflict with other services including the 2-meter Ham band. Not so for cable TV; it was reasoned that since cable was to be completely shielded, the gap was no longer necessary. But we know that no system can be "completely shielded". Cable channel E (channel 18 in my cable system) was assigned a carrier frequency of 145.25 MHz! And remember, the band width of the TV channel is 6 MHz, wider than the entire 2-meter Ham band!

Channel 18 carries the very popular "Showtime" for which a premium is paid. And that was made abundantly clear by my neighbor whose complaint I received. (Neighbors didn't even know I was a Ham until the 60-foot tower went up)

But we have a serious problem here, one which may be unsolvable. I have contacted the Cable Chief Technician who has promised to check the area for RF leaks. More next month.

In the meantime it might be well for you to identify channel E in your system, set the TV on that channel and key up your favorite 2-meter frequency on your handheld. Or simpler yet, set the handheld on any 2-meter frequency, key it and scan your TV for the channel that is blotted out. That is channel E!

NARS NOTES

- NARS OPS HELP with charity events. Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, and Bob White, KF5ZL, were both busy on Sunday, November 8th. They assisted with communications for the Moonlight Madness bicycle ride 2-5 a.m., and then helped out with the Village 5K Run that afternoon.
- HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS to Nell, N5KTA, and Bob, WN5G, who are now the Judd family. They announced their recent marriage at the October NARS meeting.
- UPGRADES - Congratulations to:

Bob White, KF5ZL, upgrade to Amateur Extra Class

Mario Bosquez, KB5CFF, upgrade to General Class

Rich MacDougal, N5LSP (ex KB5DFZ) upgrade to General Class

Charles McBride, KB5ESS, upgrade to Technician Class
- NEW NOVICE CALLS - Congrats to:

Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ
Charles McBride, KB5ESS
- PLEASE WELCOME the first official new NARS member for 1988:

Pat Dowdell, N5LRB
- FUTURE EVENT - Mark your calendars for the Houston Marathon set for Sunday, January 17, 1988. To volunteer your help, contact Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, at 694-8267.
- NICE TO MEET Bill Johnson, K0ABK, Dianne Pankau's (KB5DGD) father, who is visiting from zero-land. Bill joined us at the NARS breakfast Saturday and has been showing up on the club nets.
- 1988 NARS DUES can be paid at any time now. Please don't forget!

DECEMBER PROPAGATION

Solar flux figures for November set new records for Cycle 22. The high for the month, 121, the November average, 98.3, and even the low, 91, are unmatched since early 1984. Comparisons between Cycle 22, to date, and the corresponding months of Cycle 21 tell a different story, however. Cycle 21 leads Cycle 22 in 12 of the first 18 months of both cycles, and sometimes by impressive margins.

The new cycle was doing well in most respects last week, except for the loss of most high latitude DX on 21 MHz, after the solar flux dropped below 90 on December 2. The 21 MHz band continued lively, and the still lightly used 24 MHz band was not seriously affected. Until the past few days the writer was hearing 10 meter beacons from Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand almost daily, but only the W6's and W7's and the DX to the south have been good on 28 MHz recently.

Areas of the sun that brought the high solar flux in two previous rotations are facing the earth this week, but so far visible activity on the sun is far below that of November. Other formerly active areas including the one responsible for the November 22 flux high of 121 will come into view after about December 13. There must be something left of that show to give us a lift after about the middle of December.

Disregarding the solar flux, general conditions on all DX bands should be at or near their best December 14 to 17 and 27 to 30, and the new year should start us off well, at least on 21 MHz and all lower frequencies.

(ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin
NR 49 - December 7, 1987)

Ed. note: ARRL PFB's are updated weekly on all NARS Nets.

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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| NEWS DEADLINE IS 1ST OF THE MONTH |
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BOB WELCH-KE5IC
7811 THEISSWOOD RD.
SPRING, TX 77379

NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 7:30 p.m.
21.350 MHz then 28.490 MHz
(Ken, W5BKK)

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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