

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

February 1987

FEBRUARY 20 MEETING FEATURES D. A. JOHNNY HOLMES, W5ALG

We are in for a treat at the February 20th NARS meeting. One of the well-known hams in the area, Johnny Holmes, Harris County District Attorney, will address the club. Johnny can be heard on his 440 MHz repeater when he has time off from prosecuting villains. He has spoken to other ham clubs in the area, always with lively discussions. Don't miss this meeting!

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Mobile phone cellular technology was explained by Brian Fovel, W2PBJ, of GTE Mobilnet, using slides, pictures and the blackboard...Attendance was so high we ran out of chairs in the whole building! What a wonderful problem to have!...Members were invited to sign up for ARES team. See Bob, KB5AEF...Door prize a \$20 gift certificate donated by Texas Comm Center, was won by Glenn Commons, WA2MQJ.

NEW NARS TREASURER IS JOEL EMPIE, N5HWU

Elected unanimously at the January regular meeting, Joel Empie, N5HWU, will serve as NARS Treasurer for the coming year. He replaces Ted Thorn, WB5LTF, Treasurer elect, who resigned due to a conflict with his personal schedule.

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.

NARS BANQUET PACKED WITH AWARDS

Many members were recognized for their contribution to the club at the 2nd Annual NARS Banquet held Saturday, January 24th at Uncle Tom's Kitchen on Kuykendahl; it was attended by 47 people. NARS itself received two special awards.

Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, took top honors receiving the NARS Outstanding Service Award (\$250 gift certificate from Madison Electronics); ARRL Merit Award for his contribution to ham radio; and a NARS Recognition Certificate.

Recipient of other awards equally important were: Public Service Award, Bud Hefner, KA6JDT; "Elmer" of the Year Award, Bob Welch, KE5IC; Operator of the Year, Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; NARS Boner Award, Henry Freedenberg, N5HF (ask Henry to describe the award to you!). Also receiving NARS Recognition Certificates were: Paul Frantz, KF5SB; Dick Rousseau, N5JZY; Dick Combs, N5DRM, and Dee Logan, W1HEO.

NARS received a special Certificate of Merit from the ARRL for the club's growth, leadership and energy in amateur radio. Jay Parker, K5CVD, Asst. Director, West Gulf Division, presented the award and gave a speech full of glowing comments on all the activities of NARS the past year and what effect it has had for this area and for ham radio. Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, presented the club this year's D-CAT achievement award for the club's activity in general and in emergency communications. Alan is the ARRL PIO for the Southern Texas Section.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500

January has been a very busy month for NARS. First was the Houston Marathon, with several NARS members providing critical communications for the timing net. Many thanks to Bud, KA6JDT, for organizing the NARS efforts and Ken, W5BKK, who was net control and did a super job controlling a very busy frequency. Finally, a very special thanks to the NARS members who volunteered, braved the sub-freezing wind chill factor, and got the job done. Well done to all.

The second annual NARS Banquet was held on Saturday, January 24 with a great turnout of members and SYL's. Good fellowship, combined with fine food and drink make the evening a success. Special awards were made to several NARS members and the club itself received awards from the ARRL and D-CAT as presented by Jay, K5CVD, and Alan, WA5UZB. More on the awards elsewhere in this edition of NARS NEWS.

The new Novice class kicked off on January 22 at the Lincoln Foundation with 38 students registered. The program is very well organized and moving along extremely well thanks to the efforts of organizers Joe, KD5KR, and Bob, KE5IC, and the efforts of many NARS members who have volunteered to help teach the class. These classes take on even more importance now that the FCC has approved the upgrade of Novice privileges to include phone and digital. Bringing in new blood to our hobby is an investment in the future of Amateur Radio -- keep up the good work guys.

Just a reminder that the premier event of the year, FIELD DAY, is only five short months away -- Ev, KA5VIZ, is field day chairman and needs your help -- get involved -- we had a great time last year and this year will be bigger and better, even if we don't build a 23 element 15 meter wire beam.

RFI NOTE #9
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

Last month this column dealt with "The Capacitive Coaxial Ground Wire" as reported in two articles in one of the popular ham journals. My point was not clear to all and I would like to clarify it here.

I did not intend to declare the coaxial ground no good. Rather, I meant to say that there was no proof in the articles, either theoretical or practical, that such a ground wire was any better than any commonly used ground system. The author of the articles presented his solution as a breakthrough without evidence of that fact. Many articles in the ham literature that we take as gospel are actually no more than opinion and should be read with a critical eye.

Open quarter wave wires, one for each band, connected to the antenna tuner ground seem to be the best means of achieving a good r-f ground for installations on upper floors.

A quarter wave wire acts as an impedance inverter; an open quarter wave wire connected to the rig or antenna tuner will transform the high impedance at the open end to a low impedance at the connected end and in effect provide a very low impedance ground. The 1986 Handbook treats this on page 37-5.

Some have used multiconductor cable of various sorts, cutting each wire to a quarter wavelength of one of the bands to be used. In addition, an actual ground must be used for safety.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (cont'd)

Remember the next meeting is Friday 2/20 with a very special guest speaker you'll really enjoy. Also, the NARS directors meeting is Friday 2/13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Foundation - it's an open meeting - you are all welcome to participate.

NARS DUES DUE

Please renew your NARS membership! You can send a \$10 check made out to "NARS" to Bob Welch, KE5IC, at 7811 Theisswood Rd., Spring, TX 77379; or you can renew at the next meeting. Ante up so you'll be included in the first NARS Directory to be published soon.

NARS MEMBERS HELP OUT HOUSTON MARATHON

Seven members turned out to help with communications for the Houston Marathon. Race was held January 18th in the downtown area of Houston. Around 60 hams participated. Those NARS members assisting were: Ken, W5BKK; Jim, KB5AEJ; Fred, N5JXO; Ev, KA5VIZ; Bud, KA6JDT; Henry, N5HF; and Bob KB5AEF. Tom, KF500 was almost there when he became ill and had to return home. The 26-mile race had 4300 runners hitting the pavement in cold 40 degree temperature. There were 11 sites along the course which broadcasted to the crowd the status of the runners. There were hams at each site to spot and report on the runners to the race officials.

There was an administration net on one repeater and the timing net on another. All communication was on two meters. The net control for the timing net was Ken, W5BKK, operating at home some 25 miles north of downtown Houston. Bud, KA5JDT, coordinated the NARS effort in the Marathon and reported everything went real well. Hearty thanks go out to all those who helped.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING NOTES

Board met January 9 at Lincoln Foundation...1987 Field Day exercise planned to be class 2A...plans for NARS VE testing program are pending...Committee formed to plan a BS BBQ picnic - maybe as early as April... de N5FIX

NARS NOVICE COURSE ENROLLS 38 STUDENTS

Starting on January 22, the NARS Novice Course got under way at the Lincoln Foundation under the direction of Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR. Scheduled for twelve weeks, the last night will be devoted to giving the Novice Class license test.

The following are registered in the class:

Fred Bailey	Bob Kosa
Roger Berry	George Lentino
Sparky Blackman	Frank Lombardi
JB Brooks	Pat Myers
Onesimo Cavazos	Rich MacDougal
Gordon Coker	Kwame Osei-Bonsu
Cheri Comer	Dianne Pankau
Jack Criswell	Lupe Pena
Steve Curry	Julio Pena
Henry del Valle	Harold Powell
Larry Earhart, Jr.	Laura Profrock
Dick Fast	Randy Pugh
Rod Fuller	Tom Robinson
Bert Green	John Self
Kim Hinds	Jim Sexton
Pat Hinds	Joy Smith
Gary Johnston	Sid Stafford
Bill Kennedy	Kevin Townson
Cindy Kennedy	Don Wild

Assisting in class activities are Bob, KB5AEF; Jim, KB5AEJ; Scott, KB5AEN; Fred, N5JXO; Dick, N5JZY; Bill, W5RBJ, Dick, W5VHN, and Bob, KE5IC.

NARS NET NEWS

NARS INFO NET NETTED TWENTY on simplex as .66 repeater was out of service on February 4.

TUESDAY CW PRACTICE NET was joined in January by Gary Hatton, WA8VYC, from his QTH in Oxford, Ohio. He has been asked to join us whenever conditions permit. The net meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. local time. Hope we get some more local and distant participation.
de Bob, KB5AEF

HF NET ON FEBRUARY 2 saw 17 check-ins under able direction of Vince, KC0LM, Net Control.

NOVICE ENHANCEMENT INFO

FCC today (2-10-87) released the report and order in PR Docket 86 161, Novice Enhancement. The rules become effective 0001 UTC March 21, 1987, a Friday night, local time. Specific rules changes are, 1. Novices and Technicians may operate 28.1 through 28.5 MHz, using CW and digital modes from 28.1 to 28.3 and CW and voice modes from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz. Novice and Technician control operators are limited to 200 watts output in this band, but other licensees are not similarly limited. 2. Novices may use up to 25 watts in the 222.10 through 223.91 MHz band, with all authorized emissions. 3. Novices may use up to 5 watts in the 1270 through 1295 MHz band, with all authorized emissions. 4. No amateur station at which the control operator or station licensee holds a Novice Class operator license shall be in repeater, auxiliary, or beacon operation. 5. Two examiners will be required to administer future Novice exams, which shall consist of 30 questions. FCC form 610 will be revised to provide for certification by two VEs. 6. Present Novice and Technician licensees are grandfathered into the new privileges. 7. Element 3 is divided into two parts, 3A and 3B, with each examination to consist of 25 questions. Present Technician licensees will be given credit for having passed both elements. In the future, upgrades to Technician will only have to pass element 3A and future Technicians upgrading to General will have to pass both elements 1B, 13 wpm, and element 3B. The complete text of the new rules will appear in April QST.

de ARRL Bulletin NR 13A (2-11-87)
via KE5IC

PROPAGATION INFO

If you favor 7 MHz and lower frequencies, this has been a fine winter, so far. At no time has solar activity been high enough to degrade the DX picture on these bands. To the disappointment of those interested mainly in the higher frequencies, the new year has not maintained the pace set last October and early November. The solar flux has dropped below 70 only once since late September. It slipped to 69 on February 5, the only day that low since the long summer calm, when the flux was in the 60s much of the time for four months.

The ARRL propagation charts in February QST offer encouragement to users of the frequencies above 20 MHz, especially for transequatorial circuits and even a chance that 28 MHz will open at peak times. The timing in these charts is likely to be accurate, as it is principally a matter of where the sun is with respect to a given path. The actual MUF depends on several factors. The earth's magnetic field is important for circuits that traverse the high latitudes. Geomagnetic disturbances have little effect on low latitude propagation, and may even enhance the transequatorial picture, but any path that enters the auroral regions is endangered when the WWV K Index is above three. Since that information is changed every three hours, the WWV Bulletins are very helpful. Interpretation of them is described in detail in all recent editions of the ARRL Handbook, and in the 14th and later editions of the ARRL Antenna Book, Chapter 1.

de ARRL PFB NR 6 (2-9-87) via KE5IC

NARS NOTES

UPGRADES - Congratulations to the following:

Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, to Advanced Class.

Mario Bosquez passed his Novice exam and awaits his call sign.

Terrie, KB5BMY, harmonic of Ken, W5BKK, received her Novice call sign and upgraded to General Class.

- PLEASE VOLUNTEER to help with these events:

March 29 - Equestrian Cross Country Jumping Event, Bellville TX, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

March 29 - Houston Int'l. Bike Rally - Houston Festival, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10 mile/26 mile races.

To offer your assistance, call Bud Hefner, KA6JDT, at 987-3041.

- PLEASE WELCOME these new members:

Dan Cassiani, KB5BLX
Glen Commons, WA2MQI
Gary Harbour, N5GWA
Todd Heckel, KB5BLY
Matt Woodruff, KA5YYD
Roger Zell, K05Q

- Janice Douglas, XYL of Jack, KA5DNP, recovering from January surgery. We all wish you well!
- Shelby Alexander, WA5OBF, home and recovering following hospital stay. GL, Shelby.
- Dee Logan, W1HEO, reports in from Cleveland, Ohio with new job (Director, Public Relations - Parker Hannifin Corp.) and new home with lots of trees in a 300 ft. back yard.

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.
- NARS BOARD MEETS at 7:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month at the Lincoln Foundation, 7622 Louetta Road, just west of Stuebner Airline. Meeting open to all members.
- BREAKFAST EYEBALL QSO - Every Saturday 8:30 a.m. at Uncle Tom's Kitchen, 17500 Kuykendahl. Informal ragchew.
- NARS NETS Coordinators
RAGCHEW - MONDAY 7:30 p.m.
21.350 MHz (Vince, KC0LM)
CW PRACTICE - TUESDAY 7:30 p.m.
21.185 MHz (Scott, KB5AEN)
NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 p.m.
146.66 MHz (Bud KA6JDT)
- NARS CALLING FREQUENCIES:
2 meters 146.460 MHz (Simplex)
75 meters 3.880 MHz

NARS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN LISTED

ACTIVITIES - Bob Haase, N5AER
AWARDS - Bob Haase, N5AER
FIELD DAY - Ev Haines, KA5VIZ
INTERFERENCE - Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK
NARS NEWS - Bob Welch, KE5IC
PUBLICITY (PIO) - Jim Clarke, N5FIX
REPEATER - Ev Haines, KA5VIZ
EDUCATION - Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Bob White, KB5AEF, 376-8338

PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

Bud Hefner, KA6JDT, 987-3041

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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