

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

July 1987

DISCOVER TELEVISION AT JULY 17 MEETING

Are you ready to be on TV? Some NARS members were on commercial TV Channel 13 for Field Day. But for the July meeting we will back away from the bright lights and take a look at Amateur TV.

Two local hams, Jerry Borg, N5APW, and Jeff Salmons, N5ECP, will show us how ATV works and what it takes to use this mode of communication. They will have a video tape, a talk, and will try a live setup if local conditions permit. ATV is big in California. The hams there use ATV for monitoring events such as the Rose Bowl Parade. They even have ATV repeaters. This presentation will show how hams can use ATV for emergency disaster situations. It should be real interesting.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RACES/ARES OPERATIONS

Several NARS members attended an evening meeting on June 30th hosted by Harris County officials to announce plans for a new Harris County RACES/ARES program. The plan is to set up a network to coordinate all emergency operations in Harris County (including individual ham stations choosing to participate from within the County) as well as stations representing emergency management operations in cities and counties adjoining Harris County. A regular net has been established to meet each Sunday at 7 p.m. on the 146.34/94 repeater. Application forms for this activity can be obtained from Bob White, KF5ZL (NW Harris County E. C.). This initial meeting was attended by nearly 100 hams; from NARS were Jim, KB5AEJ; Ken, W5BKK; Jim, N5FIX; Bob, KE5IC; Scott, N5KEU; Alan, WA5UZZ; Monica, KA5WVI; and Bob, KF5ZL.

NORTHWEST ARES OPS TAKE PART IN HOSPITAL EXERCISE

NW Harris County ARES made a good showing on June 27th at a NW Medical Center disaster drill. Scenario for the exercise was a simulated chemical spill inside the hospital with the evacuation of patients to a nearby medical center. Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department personnel coordinated with the hospital and emergency ambulances for treatment and evacuation of patients. ARES members were present to provide backup communication between the hospital and fire department and the other location. Those participating were Bob White, KF5ZL, Coordinator; Scott Byrd, N5KEU, Net Control; with ops Dick Turner, KB5AKK; Jim Clarke, N5FIX; and Jerry Reimer, KA5QAF.

JUNE MEETING RECAP

Using 35mm slides and video tape, Bob Welch, KE5IC, gave a review of the NARS 1986 Field Day operation to lead into this year's FD event. The door prize, a \$20 gift certificate donated by the Texas Comm Center, 4120-A Directors Row, Houston TX, was won by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Board met June 12th at the Lincoln Foundation... membership reported at 120 (ed note: 127 at press time)... Board voted to send seed money to Houston Com-Vention '87 (Oct. 9-11 at the downtown Hyatt Regency); NARS will again do Parking (N5FIX) and Transmitter Hunt (N5HF)... Education Committee (KD5KR) reports 20 new hams from the NARS Novice Class and all now have their calls... 2-meter repeater info: installation of a preamp and IDer is planned for the near future, and possible antenna modification is in the cards.

de Jim, N5FIX

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500

Well, Field Day is over for another year and other than sunburn, red eyes due to lack of sleep, and indigestion from the wonderful mix of food we ate, we survived. Seriously, I can honestly say that this Field Day event was well worth the anticipation. The scores are not yet finalized but preliminary numbers indicate we made over 1300 QSO's totaling over 4400 points. That could put us in the top ten per cent or so of all clubs competing in Class 2A this year and that is quite an accomplishment for our first year running multi-transmitter.

However, the real purpose of the Field Day exercise was to test our emergency communication capabilities and most importantly, to bring club members together to share the excitement, the fun and camaraderie of pulling together to make a major project a success. And once again Field Day was a success in this regard -- we had a lot of fun.

We also had a number of visitors from the general public who were visiting Meyer Park or just driving by and wondered what the commotion was all about. During the Field Day activities a number of families toured the facilities which gave us a chance to explain a little better about amateur radio.

All in all, Field Day 1987 was a great success for the Northwest Amateur Radio Society and a hearty well done goes out to Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, FD Chairman this year. Those participating on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday know that Ev was at the center of activity and was the kingpin in our setup and takedown activities. Murphy tried to knock us off track early with some interesting new wrinkles involving interference when you have three Yagi antennas 50 feet apart, but Ev overcame; all four stations (including packet) operated 24 hours

RFI NOTE #11
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

Conditions on Field Day this year brought the subject of RFI into clear focus. Three stations were set up at very close proximity. Among other difficulties, the CW station interfered with the SSB station and vice versa. It was almost impossible to operate two stations on the same band; many QSO's were lost when this was tried. Working different bands did not completely clear the situation.

Some thought and consultation have revealed these remedies: (1) First and most obvious is the need to consult those who have been through many Field Days and contests using as many as 12 stations; the Texas DX Society is an example. (2) Each transceiver should be dedicated to a single ham band. Bandpass filters for each band should be used. Example: Transceiver No. 1 should be used only on 20 meters and should operate through a bandpass filter, attenuating signals outside that band both on sending and receiving. No. 2 should be on 40 meters, No. 3 on 15 meters, etc., each with its own bandpass filter. (3) There is no doubt that interference is conducted through the common power supply leads. If only one supply is used, then a line filter must be employed in the power line to each station. (4) We need to take advantage of the total area allowed in locating our stations. Ideally we should have a separate power supply for each station, eliminating common-supply interference and allowing each station to be located at its most advantageous spot.

Let's give the subject additional thought before next year.

with minimum interference when an effective band plan was utilized. Congratulations to Ev and the entire crew on the FD Committee for a job well done.

FIELD DAY - A REVIEW

Field Day '87 was top drawer, top gun, first class, surpassed all objectives, scored mega points in all areas, and besides all that it was just plain fun. We didn't stop there either; we also made Channel 13 News at 6 and 10 p.m. Saturday. Featured were Joel, N5HWU; Ken, W5BKK; and Allen, WA5REJ, operating; Roy, AD5Q, on a tower; and Jim, N5FIX, being interviewed by a reporter.

For those who couldn't make it out to FD, setup was at Meyer Park in NW Harris County. There were two A/C trailers (Joe, KD5KR and Paul, KF5SB), and the "SWAT Wagon" A/C mobile home (Ed, KB5AEL and Pat, KB5DFX). Each had a tower and beam; two had verticals and one had a dipole.

Calls used were N5FD (Thanks, Bruce) and KA5TMO (Thanks, Joe).

CW notes (Ken, W5BKK, Coordinator):
As been piling up dit dah points included W5BKK, N5FD, AD5Q, KA5QAP, W5VHN, and KF5ZL. Early operating problems were solved and station performed well. Roy, AD5Q, put up a 40M delta loop that worked like a champ in the early morning hours.

SSB/Packet (Joel, N5HWU, Coordinator)
On the packet keyboard were W5BKK, N5JXO, WA5REJ, and KF5SB. SSB ops were too numerous to get an accurate tally, but 20-25 gave it a try. Joel, N5HWU, and Ken, KA5AKG, say they held it from 3:30 to 7:00 a.m.

Novice (Stan, K0IQH, Coordinator):
Great activity at the Novice station included Rich, KB5DFZ, making his initial CW and phone contacts. Fred, KB5DFS, active on CW after modifying a Bencher paddle to a straight key? Kevin, KB5DKZ, seen racking up phone contacts like a pro. (Kevin's 12)

Misc: FD operation powered by 50 KW generator that consumed 96 gallons of diesel fuel. Bonus Points -- PR points by Jim, N5FIX; Ken, W5BKK, handled the ARRL SM message; ARRL FD message copied by Bob, KE5IC.

THE TOWER IS UP

Would you believe, 55 years as a ham without ever owning a beam? But now I have one, a KLM KT-34A, thanks to a group of 11 who made it possible.

One recent Saturday, after our usual club breakfast, the following hams followed me home: Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; Jim Minor, KB5AEJ; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Ev Haines, KA5VIZ; Joe Green, WA4FGH; Henry Freedenberg, N5HF; Dick Rousseau, N5JZY; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Tom Roraback, KF500; and Bob White, KF5ZL.

Ev had previously done the welding on the reebar cage for the concrete base which he later helped my grandson pour. Still later he and Tom mounted the metal base for the tower to J-bolts after the concrete had cured. Ed had prepared the 220-volt wiring for the motor which elevates the tower.

This installation required young muscles; the tower plus the motor and gear box weigh 600 lbs. and the collapsed assembly is 23 ft. long. The quality and number of volunteers allowed it to go up smoothly.

You can't imagine the joy this beam has given me. I would have had one long ago but had no facility until I joined NARS. Thanks guys for making this possible!! (de Ken, W5BKK)

NARS NOTES

o PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Phil Graves, KB5BXO
Roger Berry, KB5DFR
Bob Kosa, KB5DFY
Pat Myers, KB5DGB
Joy Smith, KB5DTB
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI
Terri Edinborgh, N5KID
Neal Findley, WB2KUI
Bob Perring, N5RP
Joe Empie, KA5TMO
John Monto, KA5YYL

o HAPPY BIRTHDAY Joe Green, WA4FGH, his 88th on July 9.

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