

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

May 1987

MAY MEETING: BE READY TO WEATHER IT OUT

For our May 15th meeting, Ron Stagno from the National Weather Service will present a show on "Severe Weather" using slides, video, and a Q&A session. The weather affects us in terms of everyday propagation, and in severe weather it challenges our emergency communication with power outages and area wide damage (remember hurricane Alicia and recent tornado damage at Hooks Airport). Mr. Stagno has given many weather presentations and this meeting will be a good introduction to weather and what makes it blow. Come ready to "weather" out a few storms in May.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

Dennis "Mr. Z" Zwicky, owner of the Z Optical Shop in Stafford TX, gave an excellent introduction to the basics of astronomy at our April meeting. He also mentioned observing recent sun spots which have manifested themselves with good radio propagation...NARS now numbers 111 members... Door prizes: Kevin Townson, new Novice at 11 years old, won an ARRL log book to record his first contact; Bud Hefner, KA6JDT, won a \$20 gift certificate donated by Texas Comm Center, 4120-A Directors Row, Houston TX.

NARS PICNIC HELD APRIL 11

About 20 members and wives enjoyed the First Annual NARS Picnic held April 11th at Spring Creek Park near Tomball. A 40-meter dipole was strung up between two trees with many contacts made by all, and horse shoes were thrown all over the place (some have asked for a rematch). The weather and fellowship were great; we'll do it again next year.

NARS "REEKERS" HELP OUT ON BAYOU RACE

Coordinated by Bob White, KB5AEF, NARS ops Jim Minor, KB5AEJ; Jim Clarke, N5FIX; Henry Freedenberg, N5HF; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Bud Hefner, KA6JDT; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Tom Roraback, KF500; and Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, provided communication for the 18th Annual Reeking Regatta Canoe and Kayak Races on April 11th on Beautiful Buffalo Bayou. Around fifty boats made the 16.5 mile expedition. Ops were stationed at six locations along the winding bayou where it became more of a challenge to monitor the water moccasins than the canoes (ask Tom, KF500, or Ev, KA5VIZ). Bud, KA6JDT, operated as net control from his home in north Houston. The event ended at Allen's Landing in downtown Houston with many media people participating in shorter boat races.

NARS HELPS 1987 WALKAMERICA FM 1960 WALK

Several NARS members helped provide communications for the WalkAmerica March of Dimes walk held Sunday, April 26th in the Willowbrook Mall area. Over 1,000 participated in the 12-mile trek.

Led by Bud Hefner, KA6JDT, NARS members helping out were Bob White, KB5AEF (control op); Jim Minor, KB5AEJ; Dick Turner, KB5AKK; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Todd Heckel, N5KGX; and Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK. A special thanks goes to Vince Hayes, KC0LM, for attending the organization meetings held during the day.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 a.m. and it's a beautiful day I thought, sipping a cup of coffee in the back yard - looking alternately at the 35' tower - then the 4 el tribander waiting on the ground. Everything was ready. Everything. I had worked two weeks putting the "thing" together - over 1,000 parts? so they say, if you count all the nuts, bolts, and washers. I had visions of Christmas mornings many years ago - trying to assemble the toys - skinned knuckles and a few parts left over. But not this time - I had beaten Murphy off - I used every part - every one! - nothing left over - it was perfect - perfect I tell you!

KA5VIZ arrived and we got everything ready - Belts, ropes, blocks, gear. I climbed the tower and with Ev's help we set up everything for the antenna party to come - positioned the rotator, all wires in place - everything was set - double checked - everything was just perfect.

Ev and I sat back - more coffee - time to chew the rag while we waited for the "crew" to arrive. The NARS breakfast broke up at Uncle Tom's Kitchen and the gang arrived around 10:00. It truly was a beautiful day - the tower and antenna looked great - everything was just perfect - perfect I tell you.

KA5AKG and I climbed the tower and on the ground N5HF, KF5SB, N5KEU, W5BKK, KE5IC, and KA5VIZ were moving the monster into position for lifting. I wondered, looking down, if KLM had contemplated this view of their Yagi as it moved in slow motion along the ground - it really was a beautiful sight, for a Ham, and it was perfect - perfect I tell you.

Up it went - into position - the tower and ground crew working together like a fine Swiss watch and in no time it was done just as I had

planned - everything went smoothly - antenna was in place - it was ready and it was perfect - perfect I tell you.

Quick - grab a soft drink - a beer - whatever - and follow me to the shack - DX AWAITS! - I couldn't wait - everything was ready and it was just perfect.

AGHAST!!! SHOCK!!! DISMAY!!! SWRs were everywhere - on the mike, on the radio, in the shack, in the speaker - on all three bands - DISASTER!! DISBELIEF!! MURPHY HAD STRUCK!! The "thing" would not play.

I couldn't believe it - what could possibly have gone wrong - I didn't measure wrong - or did I?? I assembled it correctly, didn't I?? I tightened every connection twice - I think?? The darn "thing" would not play.

As we checked each step, W5BKK suggested that I check the coax for continuity. Hey fella - I already did that - you know - when I soldered the PL-259s, I checked it then and it was perfect - just perfect I tell you. Ok, Ok, I'll keep him happy - can't hurt to check it one more time - it will show a dead short because it's connected to a balun at the antenna -- WHAT??? OH! NO! - AGHAST!!! - AGAIN AGHAST!!! it's open - it's wide open - totally wide open. And Murphy struck twice because the problem turned out to be a bad solder joint on the shield and guess which end of the coax - that's right - the one in the air - it couldn't be the one in the shack - that would not be in Murphy's plan.

The moral of my story - check the little things and spend more time with those PL-259s. I can tell you I will. Before we end this story - I must say thanks to all for the help, and to the earlier group let me add KB5AEF AND KB5AEL for their help.

The final result - FANTASTIC!!! - it plays like a champ - it's perfect - just perfect I tell you.

NARS NOTES

- UPGRADES - Congratulations to Bob White, KB5AEF, for his upgrade to Advanced Class, and to Todd Heckel, N5KGX (ex KB5BLY), for his upgrade to General Class.
- NEW CALLS - Bill Kemp's new Novice call sign is KB5CFI.
- PLEASE WELCOME these new members:
Mark Conrad, WT5S
Larry Lowry, WD5CFJ
Denny Townson, W5SWE
Kevin Townson, New Novice
Tom McDonnell, New Novice
- FIELD DAY NOVICE OPS NEEDED - Please volunteer to Stan Pedersen, KØIQH, Tel: 320-9262
- See QST, May issue, for NARS info on page 126.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

NARS Board met April 10th at the Lincoln Foundation...Main topic was insuring adequate funds to pay for having a two meter repeater back in action; time and money have been spent to repair the old machine, buy the new machine, and install both the two and 440 meter repeaters. Donations are needed to pay these bills and a letter will be sent to members by Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, NARS V.P....A general fundraising committee was formed with Jim Clarke, N5FIX, Chairman, with board members to make up the committee; direct any ideas to N5FIX...1987 ARRL Field Day site will be Meyer Park on Cypresswood just west of Stuebner Airline. More on this to follow next month...NARS-ARES report by Bob White, KB5AEF, indicates that RFI with audio/video equipment at the Lincoln Foundation may preclude emergency operation drill from that location. However, use of NARS repeaters for emergency procedures practice is planned for the immediate future...A budget will be set up to facilitate proper appropriation of club funds.

WHY BELONG TO NARS?

One of man's first instincts was to band into groups for protection, economical considerations, and sociability. The modern world was developed through those traditions and they played a part in the growth of NARS. No man lives unto himself.

In NARS, the Novice will find the availability of a vast Amateur knowledge and experience. The seasoned Amateur, be he Technician or Extra Class will benefit from that experience and exchange of ideas.

Membership in NARS affords a wonderful opportunity to cultivate new friends, fun in pursuing our hobby, and the feeling of belonging. In a short time you realize that you are receiving more than you give, analogous to the farmer sowing a few bushels of wheat in the Spring and reaping much more wheat later.

The by-product of all Amateur activities is a desire to serve the community with public service activities and in disaster situations when necessary. These acts alone, along with your participation as a club member, should insure our right to exist.

See you at the next meeting, and enjoy yourself. Strength is in numbers.

de Joe Green, WA4FGH

NARS NOVICE CLASS

The NARS Novice Class that started in January wound down to a close with a test given April 9th. Kevin Townson passed his exam to become the eighteenth successful graduate of this year's initial course.

Class director, Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, passes along his thanks to all from NARS who helped, including Scott, N5KEU; Ken, W5BKK; Vince, KCØLM; Fred, N5JXO; Jim, KB5AEJ; Bill, W5RBJ; Dick, W5VHN; Dick, N5JZY; Denny, W5SWE; Bob, KE5IC; and Bob, KB5AEF.

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: 8:00 p.m. Eyeball QSO's: about 7:30 p.m.
- BREAKFAST EYEBALL QSO - Every Saturday 8:00 a.m. at Uncle Tom's Kitchen, 17500 Kuykendahl, informal ragchew.
- NARS CALLING FREQUENCIES:
146.460 MHz (Simplex)
3880 kHz
- NARS REPEATER FREQUENCIES:
146.660 (-600 kHz)
444.375 (+5 MHz)

- NARS NETS coordinators:

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 7:30 p.m.

21.250 MHz (Bob, KB5AEF); then
28.490 MHz (Dick, W5VHN)

CW PRACTICE - TUESDAY 7:30 p.m.

21.185 MHz (Scott, K5KEU)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY, 8:00 p.m.

146.66 MHz (Bud, KA6JDT)

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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