

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

November 1987

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS -- THE FUTURE

Much has happened for Southeast Texas in the last several years in the area of emergency preparedness. An excellent organization has been put in place, and cooperation between Hams and local authorities and agencies is at an all time high. One Ham who has been instrumental in bringing this area to its current readiness peak is the speaker for this month's regular meeting on November 20th.

Roger Shaper, W5CKC, ARRL A.R.E.S. Southeast Texas District Emergency Coordinator, and RACES District 21 Coordinator, will present an overview of emergency communications today and what is needed for the future. He will touch on such topics as the need for more trained operators as well as the need for greater use of packet radio and packet bulletin boards.

There is a wealth of information available on this subject; as a ham radio operator you need to know what's happening. When another "Hurricane Alicia" incident occurs, you will be asked to plug into the system and help the community. If you're not ready you miss out, and the whole community misses out. Don't miss this meeting.

OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

Last month we looked at deed restrictions. Attorney Al Vacek, KN5A, presented the issue from both sides. The outlook for Ham ops appeared a little bleak, but Vacek gave several examples of what we can do to help out our position which includes: participating in your civic association; looking over the deed restrictions very carefully before buying a home; and being more creative in hiding your antenna.

ELECTION SET FOR NEW OFFICERS

Election of NARS officers for 1988 will be held at the regular meeting on November 20th. The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for office:

President - Ev Haines, KA5VIZ
Vice President - Bruce Cline, N5FD
Secretary - Rich MacDougal, KB5DFZ
Treasurer - Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD
Dir.-at-Large - Paul Frantz, KF5SB

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Except for the Director-at-Large who serves for two years, all officers are elected for a term of one year by ballot of the members present at the meeting. All members are urged to attend. Elected officers will be installed at the December meeting.

Past presidents Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, and Tom Roraback, KF500; Director-at-Large Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; and an Activities Chairman will complete the board positions for next year.

The Nominating Committee was made up of Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, as Chairman, with Bob Haase, N5AER, and Joel Empie, N5HWU, assisting.

HAMBASH ANNOUNCED

The Houston Area "SHOT" Chapter of 10-10 International has announced that their 11th Annual Houston "HAMBASH" will be held on Sunday, November 15, at Bear Creek Park - Shelter #4. Schedule calls for a Flea Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a Barbeque from 12 Noon to 1:30 p.m., with a Grand Prize drawing at 1:45 p.m. for a 2-Meter hand-held; you must be present to win. BBQ tix for adults go for \$6.50, children under 13 at \$3.50. Extra Grand Prize tix are \$1.00 each or 3/\$2.00.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500

The Galveston weekend DX trip did not start out very well. Interstate 45-South was being pelted by severe rainstorms as we drove through the predawn. The 2-meter rig was full of amateur weathermen but we pushed on regardless, and were glad we did because by the time we hit the causeway, the sun was shining and things were really looking up.

After breakfast we drove to Jamaica Beach where Ken, W5BKK, had arranged with the local sheriff for us to set up and operate from the beach; he had also arranged for a nice three-bedroom beach house for us to use during the weekend.

After much discussion and very careful consideration, the motor home (and our operating position) was positioned just slightly north of the last high tide mark. The nautical and meteorological expertise we displayed was absolutely uncanny -- we were only twenty feet off in our calculations and, as the tide rose, the first wave washed under the motor home. "Great ground plane!", I said. --"Let's get the heck out of here," said Ed, KB5AEL, as the motor home began to slowly sink into the sand. Needless to say, the Swat Wagon was moved in the nick of time and we continued to enjoy great DX on 10, 15, and 20 meters until about 9 p.m. when the bands crashed.

We began again at 6 a.m. as soon as things opened and continued until about 11 a.m. Sunday when we decided to head for home. All in all a great weekend, a good shakedown for the Swat Wagon, and nice DX, too. We ended up with 199 QSO's and made contacts in 22 of 40 CQ Zones around the world and 57 different countries including some rare ones.

A great time was had by all, and my special thanks to Ed, KB5AEL; Henry, N5HF; Ev, KA5VIZ; Dick, N5JZY; and Ken, W5BKK, for their contributions.

NEW PACKET NET
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

Packet radio is touted as the traffic handler of the future and, therefore, will be widely used in emergencies. Karl Medcalf, WK5M, runs two packet training nets. One is a beginner voice net on 146.34/94 MHz, Sunday at 9 p.m. It gives all of us a chance to ask questions on packet problems. The other is a packet net for advanced operators on 145.07 MHz, Thursday at 8 p.m. Those who participate on Sunday are encouraged to meet with the Thursday group when they feel they are ready.

We on the north side of Harris County had not been able to hit the digipeaters on .07, so a NARS Packet Net was born. It can be considered a supplement to Karl's net and is in full support of it.

It is a loosely organized group that meets most weekdays during the day and is attended by retirees and those working other than the day shift. This is just the way it developed with not any intention of shutting anyone out. We meet on 145.09 MHz and use the COMPAQ digipeater. We explore the use of packet bulletin boards, multi-connections, "transparent mode" file transmission, and other weird and wonderful things. There isn't an expert among us; we just try to help each other out as best we can in a sort of stumbling way.

We are presently able to join Karl's group on Thursday night by using John Conley, N5GQW, or Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, as the first hop to the HOU digipeater, and we try to do that each week. Anyone who can join up with us is cordially invited to listen on 146.06/66 about 9 a.m. for packet net plans for the day. We learn as we go and really enjoy it.

Ed. Note: Checking in regularly so far are Ken, W5BKK; Ed, KB5AEL; John, N5GQW; Joe Green, WA4FGH; Allen Majeski, WA5REJ; Jack Douglas, KA5DNP; and Vince Hayes, KC0LM.

NARS NOTES

OCTOBER DOOR PRIZES were donated by Madison Electronics, at 3621 Fannin, Houston. The new ARRL book "W1FB's Antenna Notebook" was won by Rich Richardson, KA5YFU. Kenwood caps were won by Dan Cassiani, N5KPI; Bruce Cline, N5FD; and Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR.

- HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES go to Fred Bailey, KB5DFS, on the loss of his XYL, Anita, on October 20.
- NARS OPS PROVIDE COMMUNICATION for some recent charity events. The Juvenile Diabetes Walkathon held November 1, drew over a thousand walkers over a 12-mile course; Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, and Tom Jakubec, N5ZR, worked it. Jim also worked the Lions Eye Bank "Cycle for Sight" on October 11th where 500 cyclists took part.
- BIKE RIDE HELP NEEDED November 14 through 16, for a 200-mile bicycle ride to raise money for the American Lung Association. Packet will be used on Saturday with two meters used all three days. The ride starts at Conroe High School and ends at Huntsville State Park. Please volunteer your help to Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, at 694-8267.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

George Sellnau, W5LIA
Charles McBride, New Novice

NARS NOW NUMBERS 140

- KØIQH's CHICAGO CAREER short lived as new opportunity arises further north. Stan Pedersen has accepted a position with a company based near Madison WI. Again, Stan, GL!!
- ICOM'S GAIN is the area's loss as NARS member Mark Allen, KA5YPU, leaves to accept a position as National Service Manager in their Bellevue WA corporate HQ. Best of luck, Mark!

NARS NOTES

- BOY SCOUT TROOP 1332 sent five scouts and their Scoutmaster to the shack of Bob White, KF5ZL, on the afternoon of October 18, where they participated in the annual Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Bob reports that they made several domestic and DX JOTA contacts during their visit.
- TEXAS COMM CENTER, 4120A Directors Row, Houston, has a new manager. He is NARS member Tom Davis. GL in your new endeavor, Tom.
- A SKYWARN TRAINING PROGRAM was presented on October 16th by Ron Stagno of the National Weather Service. Several NARS members attended this session including Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Bob White, KF5ZL, his XYL Jeanette and his harmonic Jenny; Johnny Rumsey, WD5GQD; Jim Minor, KB5AEJ; Matt Woodruff, KA5YYD, and his XYL Margaret; Alan Cross, WA5UZZ and XYL Monica, KA5WVI. The Houston Amateur Radio Club is to be commended for making their club facilities available for this excellent presentation.
- DECEMBER MEETING will present the new ARRL video "The New World of Amateur Radio" as well as the installation of new officers.
- FOR NARS INFO see November QST, p.118, and November "73", p.74.

SIDEWALK SALE

Beginning November 21st, Mission Communications, 11903 Alief-Clodine, will sponsor a Sidewalk Sale on the third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located at the corner of Alief-Clodine (extension of Harwin) and Kirkwood in West/Southwest Houston, it will be "open to everyone...no strings attached...no cost at all...", with free parking and free spaces. For more information call (713) 879-7794.

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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| NARS NEWS is published monthly by |
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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
(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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