

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

October 1987

DEED RESTRICTIONS FOCUS OF OCTOBER 16 MEETING

No doubt the single most important issue facing Hams right where they live is antenna restrictions or, as the general public knows it, deed restrictions. Many have seriously analyzed deed restrictions before buying a home or moving into an area. In Houston we have many areas that do not allow antennas - period - and others that allow some as long as they can't be seen from the street. How do you hide a forty foot tower with a beam antenna - or do you have to?

At this month's meeting, attorney Al Vacek, KN5A, will advise us on the ins and outs of interpreting deed restrictions; this will be of particular interest in light of PRB1 as well as recent new Texas state legislation in this area. This whole issue hits home to every one of us so you won't want to miss it.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR NEW OFFICERS

It's time again to consider who will lead NARS in the coming year. The Nominating Committee of Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Bob Haase, N5AER; and Joel Empie, N5HWU, are searching for candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director at Large to serve in 1988. If you are interested in serving in our leadership or know of someone who may do well in one of these positions, please let one of the Committee know. There are many jobs other than these club officers, so let us know if you are interested in other areas, too, so we can pass the word along to the incoming officers.

Candidates for the various offices will be announced in the November NARS News and voted on at the regular November meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

Bob Perring, N5RP, presented an overview of DX, from history to techniques, as the main program. One point that he made was that despite changes in technology and our own usefulness to the community in terms of emergency communication, the big positive aspect of Ham radio is that it makes the world a smaller place and promotes international understanding. "That is something no other hobby or government agency can accomplish like we can," he said. "We can have a major influence in the world."

Some of the tips he gave for working the airwaves were listening to WWV at 18 minutes after each hour for propagation reports, listening for beacons, and listening to foreign broadcast stations for checking open areas of the world. He suggested judicious use of an amplifier in initializing contacts, and using computer charts to maximize operator time effectiveness.

Also at the meeting, president Tom Roraback, KF500, displayed an award plaque presented to NARS for member participation in the recent March of Dimes WalkAmerica walk. Bob White, KF5ZL, NW Harris Co. ARES E.C., gave a recap of emergency activities and solicited participation in ARES. News from the Ham community was shared by Jim Clarke, N5FIX, courtesy of "Westlink" and the "W5YI Report." Door prizes: a \$20 gift certificate donated by the Texas Comm Center, 4120-A Directors Row, Houston, was won by Mike Furrey, WA5POK; an ARRL "Operating Manual" donated by Madison Electronics, at 3621 Fannin, Houston, was won by Bob Haase, N5AER; and a stack of new QSL cards donated by Tom Jakubec, N5ZR, was won by Carlos Gonzalez, KD5ZK.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT
by TOM RORABACK, KF500**

You have all heard the old slogan many times "Uncle Sam Needs YOU"; well, fellow members:

NARS needs YOU, too!!

During the past year our club has grown - 138 members at last count - and we are still growing. One of the things that has made our club so successful has been the many varied interests within Ham radio that are included in our club.

This all takes work and, sometimes, a lot of it. We really need to get more of you involved in the operations, programs, and activities of NARS.

How about running for club officer or director? See Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; he heads up the nominating committee and is looking for candidates now. Act quickly - elections will soon be upon us.

If not officer or director, how about working on one of our standing committees? Each month at our regular meeting we'll pass around a sign up sheet where you can indicate preferences; we would really welcome your contributions to the future of NARS.

Let's make NARS bigger, better, and stronger - get involved - make a commitment - NARS and YOU will be better for it.

**BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE ON THE AIR
SKED FOR OCTOBER 17-18**

The World Scout Bureau is sponsoring the annual Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) event October 17-18. To volunteer your shack and a few minutes of your time to share Ham radio with some eager young faces, contact Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, NARS Community Services Coordinator. For more info, see October QST, page 86.

**RFI NOTE #13
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK**

Admittedly, this note is not primarily about interference. Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, is the NARS king of satellite communication and as one of his disciples, I have become addicted. I've found that it is fun to communicate with and through RS10, the Russian satellite which along with RS11 is circling this old earth these days. For the first time, a Novice license will allow you to communicate through a satellite (on CW) without special equipment.

Although it is quite possible to communicate using an HF rig with two VFO's, it is much easier to do it with two rigs, or one rig and a second receiver. A simple dipole or vertical is sufficient although two antennas are helpful. One can send a CQ in the band, 21160-21200 kHz, and expect to receive a reply in the band, 29360-29400 kHz. If you send a signal in the 21 MHz band, it is possible to hear your own signal coming back to you in the 29 MHz band. In fact, it is helpful to do this before you call CQ in order to spot the frequency at which you can expect a reply.

The one thing that can spoil the reception of your own signal is the front end overload of the 29 MHz receiver while you're transmitting on 21 MHz. This reduces the gain of the receiver, sometimes drastically. Be sure that both rigs are solidly grounded. It is helpful to arrange the antennas so that they are perpendicular to one another. Reduce transmitter power to about 25 watts. Turn off the preamp if you have one.

Several of us in the club are using the satellite these days. If it sounds like fun to you, call me on the land line and I will be glad to discuss it with you and tell you when to listen.

NARS NOTES

- HOUSTON COM-VENTION '87 is slated for October 9,10,11 at the Houston Hyatt Regency Hotel. Talk in on 147.60/00 MHz. NARS will provide parking assistance for the meeting (call Jim Clarke, N5FIX, to offer your assistance). Sunday morning, the Transmitter Hunt will be run by Henry Freedenberg, N5HF. Call him to offer your help. Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, has arranged for NARS flea market tables and will coordinate that activity. If you have items for sale at the flea market, drop them off prior to October 8th with Bob Welch, KE5IC, at his home, or take them to the hotel - early.
- UPGRADES - Congratulations to:

Rich Richardson, KA5YFU, upgrade to General Class.
Pat Myers, KB5DGB, upgrade to Technician Class.
Bill Kemp, KG5CB, to Amateur Extra Class. Bill was KB5CFI.
- PLEASE WELCOME the following new NARS members:

Mike Furrey WA5POK
Ralph Cheek KB5DNT
Ken Busbee

NARS NOW NUMBERS 138

- READ ABOUT NARS on page 122 in the October issue of QST.

SKYWARN PROGRAM

On October 16th, Ron Stagno of the National Weather Service will present a SkyWarn program. The meeting, open to the public, will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Amateur Radio Club Headquarters located at 7011 Lozier St. in Houston; it should last for 2 1/2 to 3 hours. The SkyWarn program material regularly is being updated by the National Weather Service and is a must for those active in emergency communication activities.

NW HARRIS COUNTY ARES GROUP OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED IN COMMUNITY

The NW Harris County ARES group is now on the official list of agencies to be contacted in the event of an emergency in the northwest sector of the county. On September 24th, Bob White, KF5ZL, ARES E.C., and Scott Byrd, N5KEU, Asst. E.C., submitted a proposal to the Local Emergency Planning Committee of the FM 1960 area in Harris County; they were accepted for future emergency duty. The LEPC group manages the Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Services comm center (NARS meetings locale), as well as other local ambulance, fire, and law enforcement agency locations. The LEPC voted funds to put up a 2m antenna with coax at the CCEMS location. In the event of an emergency, an ARES Ham op could go the CCEMS comm center and, using his own personal equipment, set up a base station.

Frequencies to be used are:

1. 146.06/66 MHz (KA5AKG Repeater)
2. 146.49 MHz (Simplex)

As of now there are some 20 Ham operators signed up with the NW Sector ARES group.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is the "emergency" division of the ARRL Field Organization. It consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communication duty in the event of a disaster. Every licensed amateur, whether or not a member of ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in ARES. ARES is administered on a local, section-wide, and national basis.

Bob White, KF5ZL, is the Emergency Coordinator for NW Harris County ARES. Contact Bob at 376-8338 to sign up for this worthwhile endeavor and enjoy Ham radio more!!!

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 |
| 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
(Bob, KF5ZL)

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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