

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

September 1987

## DX TECHNIQUE FORUM PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING

Pileups... Patience... Split second timing... Exotic islands... More pileups... (Must be half of the stations in the States tuning on this same frequency and using max legal power!!)... The thrill of making "contact"... and then the satisfaction of receiving that QSL card a few weeks or months later... Does all this remind you of chasing that rare DX station?

To really operate DX effectively and make those contacts requires skill and lots of luck, not to mention an excellent antenna system. For our September 18th meeting, NARS member Bob Perring, N5RP, will conduct a DX technique forum and address these points and more. Bob is a member of the Texas DX Society and has made DXing a major part of his Ham radio hobby for many years. Tune in this month and pick up some good tips, tricks, and QSLing procedures.

Some current DX:

French Polynesia. K4UVT plans to operate from Tahiti starting on September 17 for about two weeks. Look for Dan signing FO0DRD on 80 through 10 meters, both CW and SSB.

Madiera. AA4UVT and WA4TLI plan on signing /CT3 starting October 19 for one week. Most activity will take place during the CQ contest. QSL to their home calls.

Mauritius. 3B8 stations will sign the special prefix 3B1 from September 1 to November 5.

Egypt. PA3AXU will be signing /SU for about one year. DF3CB plans to be active from here for the CQ DX SSB contest.

DX info de ARRL DX Bulletin (9-4-87)

## ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR NAMED AT AUGUST MEETING

NARS now has a new communication activities coordinator; he is Jim Minor, KB5AEJ. Jim will take over responsibilities formerly handled by Bud Hefner, KA6JDT, who moved back to California. Jim has been very active in many NARS activities including runs, walks, canoe races, etc. There are more activities coming up this fall where he will need your help; please listen for his announcements and be ready to volunteer your assistance.

## AUGUST MEETING RECAP

Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, and Andy MacAllister, WA5ZIB, gave an excellent presentation bringing us up to date on the status of all satellites of interest to Hams. Of particular interest is the new Russian bird RS10 which has uplink frequencies in the 15 meter Novice band - get with it, guys and gals. Keep up with the latest in satellite news by reading Andy's column, "Hamsats", which appears regularly in "73" magazine... Bob White, KF5ZL, Emergency Coordinator - NW sector, reviewed recent emergency activities; he asked for volunteers to join his Amateur Radio Emergency Services (A.R.E.S.) group... Jim Clarke, N5FIX, reported on late developments in our amateur radio hobby as gleaned from "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 Fred Bailey, KB5DFS; a 1987 Call Book donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston, was won by Henry Freedenberg, N5HF; and an ARRL Antenna Book (a door prize won at the Texas VHF-FM meeting in Austin) donated by Bob Welch, KE5IC, was won by Bob White, KF5ZL.

FROM THE PRESIDENT  
by TOM RORABACK, KF500

Definition: "LID"; a cover, a cap, a movable cover for the opening of a hollow structure, a Ham whose hollow structure" is between his ears. Good Grief!! I thought this hobby was a step above CB, but...?!? If you would like a good definition of a LID, a picture is worth a thousand words - tune in the 20 meter band - anytime - day or night.

Folks, I'm telling you there are wars going on out there, especially on 20 phone, but I'm not going to talk about those obnoxious types who "intentionally" interfere with others. The best thing to do with those "squirrels" is to ignore them, on HF, VHF, UHF or wherever, just ignore them. They are doing it for attention - do not acknowledge their existence - generally if they can't get your goat, they go away. The more persistent ones usually run afoul of Uncle Charlie.

No, radio amateurs, I'm not talking about squirrels - I'm talking about "LIDS" - Hams who don't "mean" to cause interference but are too dumb, uneducated, ill trained, bad mannered, or just plain insensitive, to give a darn.

These are the guys who figure that because they have a "sked" with someone, they can simply come in and "call" the other station even though you've been on frequency for quite while and it's clearly in use. These guys think that saying "on schedule" makes it OK - - LIDS.

Or how about the "tuner upper." These dummies don't give a hoot where they are when they tune up. The goofiest guy is the one who tunes up right on top of the DX station he's trying to work - what a way to win friends and influence people - - LIDS.

How about the guy who jumps in ending 20 or 30 CQ's followed by his call sign, once - - LIDS.

KE5IC APPOINTED OBS

At the August NARS meeting, Jay Parker, K5CVD, ARRL South Texas Section Bulletin Manager, presented a certificate to Bob Welch, KE5IC, appointing him an Official Bulletin Station (OBS). The "town crier" of Amateur Radio, the OBS transmits official ARRL and local bulletins of interest to all radio amateurs via local and section nets, on-the-air bulletin board systems, and other information outlets. The ARRL Official Bulletin Station network provides the vital communication link for informing the amateur community of the latest developments in Amateur Radio and the League. If you have any information to pass on that is of interest to all amateurs, let Bob help disseminate it for you.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

Sometime in the future at a club meeting we ought to have a "LID Night." I'll bet everyone has a story or two about the obnoxious Ham who totally blew out his QSO. I'll bet we could come close to filling up a book with examples.

My story has two messages. First, deal with the LIDS the same way you ignore a squirrel. Maybe when they have no one to talk to they will get the message that their operating practices leave a lot to be desired. You may want to point out the error of their ways to them - go ahead - but be prepared for a battle. The best way to let them know what they did improperly is to write them a firm but friendly note; it may help.

Secondly - don't be a LID yourself. The professional, considerate Ham will always be more sought after than the LID. Just think - when was the last time you went back to a Ham calling CQ who was overdriving so badly he splattered 20 kHz up and down the band? "Keep the Airwaves Clean - - Ignore the LID"

## N5FD TOWER PARTY (8-15-87)

...separate and count all pieces - three angle side members, 24 short braces, 24 long braces, three angle joint clips, 120 bolts and 120 nuts..." Let's see - times six is only 720 nuts and bolts to go into 144 short and 144 long braces - a piece of cake. If I tighten by hand, then a nut driver and finally with a box wrench - why that's only 2,160 tightenings; wow, this is starting to add up. Those thoughts crossed my mind as I started building my tower kit, but it went together like clockwork. Stainless steel carriage bolts slipped into square punched holes in the aluminum side pieces, a separate hole for each brace, stainless steel nuts with nylon locking inserts - why even I can do this assembly. The second 10-foot section was fun, the third took about 1.5 to two hours assembly time, the fourth was OK, I was still impressed, the fifth - boy, putting these together on the dining room floor in the A/C helps - and finally, now the sixth section (thank goodness!) and it's done.

The hole was dug, angle iron and rebars were set, cement was poured, guy posts were set in concrete. The grunt work was done.

Saturday was the big day. I dropped several "tower party" hints on the NARS .66 machine with each warmly received and encouraged. On Tuesday we decided it was a go for Saturday morning, so Wednesday evening on the NARS info net I asked for help in raising the tower. Bob Welch, KE5IC, net control, polled the check-ins and got a wonderful response. Friday the tower guys were made up, a pulley rigged, and a cable with hooks laid out so everything was ready to go.

I was awake well before dawn on Saturday thinking about the best way to raise the tower, what could go wrong, what could I have forgotten or miscalculated, what if nobody shows, etc. The kind of thoughts

## HAMFEST '87 - SEPTEMBER 12

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club is hosting "Hamfest '87" (flea market and auction) on Sept. 12th (rain date is Sept. 19th). Location is the Meadows Center parking lot; exit West Belfort off the S.W. Freeway - the shopping center is on the southbound feeder between Wilcrest-Murphy Rd. & Airport Rd. Talk in on 145.47 (-600). The gates open for business at 7:30 a.m. and general admission is \$1.00 per family. Auction bidding starts at 2:00 p.m. You may register items for auction at the admissions or auction tables. Auction fee for items selling for \$100 or less is \$1.00; for items more than \$100, the fee is \$5.00.

## N5FD TOWER PARTY (Continued)

that go away in the daylight.

The turnout for the NARS breakfast at Uncle Tom's was just right, the whole crew showed up. After the breakfast we left in a caravan for Tomball and on to the QTH. Everyone helped immensely. It's all a blur in my mind now but the tower went up very well due to the efforts of all present. All the help was greatly appreciated, the physical help as well as the moral support to one very tense guy.

Help of NARS members in antenna parties truly makes a difference in whether something gets done - some jobs are just too big for one person.

Special thanks to the following for raising a beautiful and glistening 60-foot tower: Joe Green, WA4FGH; Stan Pedersen, K0IQH; Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Ev Haines, KA5VIZ; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Tom Roraback, KF500; Paul Frantz, KF5SB; Henry Freedenberg, N5HF; Jim Clarke, N5FIX; OJ Quarles, WA1YIA; and Mike Johnson who photographed the whole thing.

TNX & 73 de Bruce Cline, N5FD

## NARS NOTES

- HOUSTON COM-VENTION '87 is slated for October 9,10,11 at the Houston Hyatt Regency Hotel. NARS will provide parking assistance (call Jim Clarke, N5FIX, to volunteer your help), and the Sunday morning Transmitter Hunt (volunteer your help to Henry Freedenberg, N5HF). Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, has arranged for the NARS flea market tables and will coordinate that activity. Please volunteer to help Ed in that endeavor! If you have items for sale at the flea market, drop them off prior to October 8th with Bob Welch, KE5IC, at his home.

- KØIQH OPTS FOR CHICAGO to start a new career. Stan Pedersen will be remembered at NARS for his work with the Novice station at this year's Field Day, his help to XYL Sandy and harmonic James at the NARS flea market tables during last year's Ham-Com, and for his work introducing Ham radio to Boy Scouts. GL, Stan, from us all!!

- FIRST CW CONTACTS were racked up by NARS members Matt Woodruff, KA5YYD, and Joe Green, WA4FGH. Matt made his first QSO on 80m with Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, and Bob White, KF5ZL; Matt's first words on the air were S-L-O-W D-O-W-N. Joe's first CW QSO was made via the magic of a new "KAM" computer interface.

- UPGRADE - Congratulations to Bob Kosa on his upgrade to Technician Class. Bob's new call is N5LCO replacing KB5DFY.

- PLEASE WELCOME the following new NARS members:

Bob Verdon, WB6LSB  
Johnny Rumsey, WD5GQD  
Lee DePue, KF5F  
Curt Furtado, KB5BCL

### NARS NOW NUMBERS 135

- FOR NARS INFO see QST, September issue, p.124

## 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 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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## A BIRTHDAY TO REMEMBER

ings got under way around the KA5AKG QTH in early August to install a tower and beam. With the assistance of Bob Welch, KE5IC, and Tom Davis, N5KTX, I dismantled a Rohn 45G tower and Hy-Gain Explorer 14 beam and moved them to the house. After excavating a cavity on the patio and planting a base section in a gob of concrete, the stage was set for an eye-opener party on Saturday, August 29th. The call had been put out and sure enough as dawn broke, the NARS faithful began to appear first on the air and then in real life. As the sun rose, so did the tower. The expert action of Tom Smith, N5AMA, and Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, high above Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Dick Rousseau, N5JZY; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; and Bob Welch, KE5IC, on the ropes under the direction of Joe Green, WA4FGH; Tom Roraback, KF500; Bruce Cline, N5FD; Matt Woodruff, KA5YYD; Joel Empie, N5HWU; and Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, put the antenna 50 feet into the sky in one and a half hours. Boy, that was slick!! Even though a substitute antenna was used because of space problems, everything went beautifully and my sincere thanks are extended to all for their efforts and support. As Joe Green, WA4FGH, said once before, "folks, this is Amateur Radio" - and it all happened on my birthday, too. Who could ask for anything more?

TNX AGN de Ken Harlan, KA5AKG