

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 1988

## ARRL WEST GULF DIVISION DIRECTOR SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 15 MEETING

The ARRL will be the topic for our April meeting as Jim Haynie, WB5JBP, ARRL West Gulf Division Director, will be our guest speaker. He has news from around the country first-hand and will address such topics as novice enhancement, 220 MHz band allocation, the recent ARRL board meeting, plus many other topics of interest and concern to Hams. If you're interested in hearing up-to-date information from the League, make plans to be present. Many show up early, so come around 7:30 p.m. for some eyeball QSOing before the regular meeting.

## AMATEUR RADIO RULES TO BE REVISED

The FCC has proposed to reorganize its rules governing amateur radio. According to the FCC, this has not been done since 1951 and the result of ensuing technological advances and operational changes is a patchwork quilt of rules that is often confusing, particularly to prospective licensees.

The extent of substantive changes being proposed is not known at this time, but is said by the FCC to be minimal. The actual text of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making, PR Docket 88 139, is said to be 87 pages long and may not be available for several weeks. Comment deadline will be August 31, to allow ample time for study and response.

de ARRL BULLETIN NR 29 (3-24-88)

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED

It was announced at the March NARS meeting that Dan Cassiani, N5KPI, has accepted appointment to the new position of Membership Chairman for the club. Congratulations, Dan!

## ANNUAL NARS PICNIC SET FOR APRIL 23

The 2nd Annual NARS Picnic will be held Saturday, April 23rd, near Tomball TX at the Spring Creek State Park. We'll start about 2 p.m. and go until dark.

There will be a lot of Hams there but you'll need to bring your own barbeque, chicken or whatever, and drinks. There are charcoal grills available, but don't forget to bring plenty of chairs, appetite, and picnic mood. This is a great opportunity to enjoy ham radio and bring all the family with you at the same time.

To get to the park from Tomball, take FM 149 north - turn left at the traffic light located about a mile north of FM 2920 - proceed about a mile to the park. Talk-in is on the 146.06/66 MHz NARS repeater, or on 146.46 MHz Simplex.

Chairman for this year's event is Tom Roraback, KF500. If you have any questions, call Tom at 583-2661.

## MARCH MEETING RECAP

The March meeting was really varied and interesting. First Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, introduced two home brew experts, Jerry Smith, W5NKZ, and Mike Furrey, WA5POK. Both of these guys showed some fascinating projects they are working on and some they have finished. And then Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, conducted demonstrations on soldering techniques as well as using test equipment. The program had just about everything for everybody... Winner of the door prize was Dan Cassiani, N5KPI. It was a 1988 "The ARRL Handbook" and donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston.



**PROPAGATION**  
by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

Springtime propagation patterns established themselves during March and will be with us for another two months. Conditions have been very good and will get better (!) as long as we don't get a lot of flares.

**HIGH BANDS:** 10 has been opening to western Europe and could improve during April, but will deteriorate as summer approaches. 15 has been excellent to Europe, Russia and the Middle East in the morning and Africa in the afternoon. There have been polar openings to central Asia about an hour after sunset and in the early morning. 15 has also been open to India and Sri Lanka around 11 a.m. local time with nice sigs over the pole. 20 is wide open in the morning and through the evening, but trans-daytime paths are no longer working due to higher MUF's. Our morning path to Europe was a winter path. For the next several months our 20 meter peak to EU will be in the late evening. We can catch the other end of this same path in late evening to east Asia, and in between: Russians!

**LOW BANDS:** 80 meter propagation is fading fast, and most northern hemisphere activity has shifted to higher bands. Concentrate on working those countries in the southern hemisphere who can't hear us during our winter (QRN). 40 is actually pretty good, but higher nighttime MUF's will favor 20 on some paths (or the 30 meter WARC band). Here too, activity is shifting to higher frequencies in the evening (20).

**20 LONG PATH:** The morning path to Africa has started to open and will be with us into the fall, peaking during summer. Catch this opening 1 to 3 hours after sunrise on a regular basis and you will work many good countries in Africa and the Indian Ocean and make some regular friends. Now the BAD NEWS: we are losing the Antarctic paths until fall - they are no longer reliable and will drop out entirely during

**NARS INSTALLS DIGIPEATER**  
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

The final touches have been put on a new digipeater and NET/ROM node for packet operation on 145.07 MHz. This endeavor combined the efforts of the Houston Area Packet Radio Society (HAPRS), and members of NARS. HAPRS contributed a Diamond dual-band antenna and an MFJ Terminal Node Controller complete with NET/ROM chip. NARS member Mike Pate, KA5LUD, installed the chip, did the necessary programming, and is "Sysop" of the node having the call KA5LUD-4 and alias (what else?), "NARS".

Under the local band plan 145.07 MHz is reserved for packet emergency operations. Those on the north side of Houston have been hampered in their ability to "hit" the digipeaters on this frequency, but no more. "NARS" is located atop the Hospital Building of the Northwest Medical Center, a spot acquired through the efforts of Bob White, KF5ZL.

Other efforts include those of Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, in erecting the antenna, and special thanks go to Jimmy Simpson, KB5QD, the hospital electrical technician, for his help in setting up the equipment on his day off. Other contributions were made by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Jack Douglas, KA5DNP; Allen Majeski, WA5REJ; and Joe Green, WA4FGH. And of course a big thank you goes to Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ, member of NARS and president of the HAPRS group.

All packeteers are invited to use the node which is in solid contact with HOU and ECHO on '07. We'll see you there!

-----  
summer. Afternoon VK should hang in there another month or so, but close in the summer unless fluxes get higher. Work Asia via short path.



## NARS NOTES

- "REEKING REGATTA" canoe and kayak race down beautiful Buffalo Bayou is sked for Saturday, April 16th. This is an official part of the Houston International Festival. NARS will handle the communications for the regatta as well as operate a Special Events Station, N5HF, near Allen's Landing (see April QST, p.98). To be a part of this fun event, call Bob White, KF5ZL, at 376-8338 and volunteer your help.
- NARS OPS NEEDED to help with the March of Dimes/Walk America, 1960 Area, on Sunday morning, April 24. We helped with this event last spring, and NARS has been asked to provide communications this year. Location will be in the Northgate Country Club area which is just west of FM 1960 and Kuykendahl. To volunteer your assistance, call Bob Welch, KE5IC, at 376-4814.
- NARS STILL NEEDS a Public Service Coordinator. There are many events coming up in future months that need the help of our amateur radio ops; we need someone to coordinate these activities for the club. If interested, please call Ev Haines, KA5VIZ: 583-9927; or Bruce Cline, N5FD: 351-1387.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS member Dick Milligan, W5RCG.
- UPGRADES - Congratulations to:
 

Phil Graves, KB5BXO, on his upgrade to Technician class.

Charles McBride, KB5ESS, on his upgrade to General Class.

Scott Taylor who went in for his Novice test and walked out with his General Class license.
- CONGRATS TO Dan Wells, N5IDE, who received notice of his acceptance to veterinary school at both Texas A&M and Mississippi U. Word is that he'll opt for A&M.

## NARS NOTES

- MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN Dan Cassiani, N5KPI, reminds us that NARS 1988 dues are due for those who have not renewed. Please forward your \$10 check made out to "NARS" to Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD, Treasurer, 6927 Worcester, Spring TX 77379.
- SPECIAL NOTE for those who have not renewed their NARS membership for 1988 - this is the last issue of the NARS NEWS that will be mailed to you.
- BRAZOSPORT ARC has announced the "BrazosFest '88" to be held on Saturday, April 16th, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds, Angleton TX. They promise an indoor swap fest, an ARRL Forum, AMSAT and Packet seminars, and family fun for all. Two meter talk-in frequencies are: 147.98/38 MHz and 146.52 MHz.
- SEE NARS INFO: April QST - p.126

## NOVICE COURSE NOTES

The NARS Novice Course is drawing to a close with a review session scheduled for April 13th, and then final test night on April 20th. All registrants in the class are urged to attend the review session on the 13th in preparation for the FCC test on April 20th!

Ron Harris, an early participant in the class, reports that he has received his Novice call, KB5FNY, and has upgraded to Technician Class. Congratulations, Ron!

## SKITREK EXPEDITION HEARD HERE

Four Canadian and nine Soviet members of the polar bridge Skitrek Expedition started their trip on March 3; all communications for the trip are being handled by amateur radio. They are advised of their location via UO-11, and local Hams report hearing the digitalker on 145.825 MHz FM as that satellite is in range over this area.



## 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)

-----  
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  
-----

## 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 (Curt, KB5BCL)

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 (Scott, N5KEU)

Harris County OEM RACES/ARES

SUNDAY 7 p.m.

146.34/94 MHz (Bob, KF5ZL)

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