

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 1988

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TOPIC FOR AUGUST 19 MEETING

We've had some interesting technical meeting topics lately, so this month and next we are going to have some people topics. This month's meeting on the 19th is about Emergency Communication, and in September we will hear about the Civil Air Patrol.

Bob White, KF5ZL, NARS member and Harris County RACES Radio Officer, will present an overview of Emergency Communication (EC) for Ham operators. He plans to review the why and how of EC and how it relates to community service as well as just plain saving our own hides in a situation such as a hurricane, tornado or with a hazardous material spill.

Basically we know what a message is and how to relay it to another party but in an emergency situation we don't want to be a part of the crisis; we want to be ready and able to assist. Bob will address the survival view of EC.

Another aspect of EC is how we work with public officials. We can pass traffic from point A to point B but we need to understand how to fit in with other organizations and how they operate. Bob will introduce Fred Windisch, Chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for the FM 1960 Area. Fred will fill us in on his operation and his thoughts about using Ham radio communication in his emergency plans.

There are many points to be covered so don't miss the meeting. We all need to be informed about EC and be mentally ready to help when a real emergency comes upon us. Get to the meeting early and meet your fellow Hams for an eyeball QSO.

## OSCAR 13 IS UP AND WORKING! by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

On July 6, the second and final AO13 burn was executed and broadcast - live - through the 20M rig of "Rip" Riportella, WA2LQQ, Editor of the "Amateur Satellite Report". Those who listened were witness to the fact that it had its anxious moments as the telemetered data slowly spelled out the progress of the interminable five and one half minute burn. Finally, we heard the words, "The burn appears to be a success." And so it was!

Then came the long wait for news that AO13 was ready for operation. On about July 15 we were told that "Magic Time" would be July 22 at 1500 UTC. Unfortunately for us in the Americas, Oscar was on the other side of the world... we had still another few anxious hours. Those long hours came to an end with the appearance of the beacon at 2326 UTC as predicted, and wall-to-wall QRM filled the mode B band.

The activity witnessed that first day was phenomenal; many a QSO was consummated, including several from this QTH. It was truly a thrill to be a part of that very first day.

Signals range from S3 to S7 as further tests and adjustments are made. For those of you who can't resist the calling, Rip's article in June QST is "must" reading for guidance to still another exciting facet of our great hobby. GL!

(Ed Note: Ken volunteered this AO13 article to fill in for Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, our usual satellite info contributor; Jack is temporarily out of pocket. Thanks very much, Ken!)



PROPAGATION  
by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

Moving into August, we are still dragging through the dog days of summer. Daytime absorption has been very high during July, and daytime DX paths have been poor on all bands in spite of the sunspots. 20 is excellent from late afternoon until about two hours after sunrise. Many rare countries come up between midnight and morning from the Pacific and Asia. They can ragchew each other while the unruly mob of American lids is in bed. 40 is still good - better than 15 anyway - and the sunrise peak will still get you into Asia. Not much else is happening right now, but there is much to look forward to.

Autumn: The daytime absorption problem should start to clear around mid-August. We have had pipeline conditions to the Far East for the past few months because that is where the morning grey line leads. This is swinging back over the pole so we will be hearing more from south and central Asia. 15 will improve dramatically during September, but the big news this fall will be TEN METERS! Everyone will be there and it will be wall-to-wall DX on phone and CW. 10 meter conditions will peak during October and November, and will be very good into December. This should keep you busy, but 15 through 40 will also be good.

Long Path: On 20 we still have our morning pipeline to Africa and the Indian Ocean, but other paths are about to open. The afternoon path to Australia will be back soon, and we won't lose the morning Africa until late fall. Antarctic paths will also return - in the morning to India, the Middle East, Russia and Europe; then in late afternoon to the Far East and Indonesia. There will be times when both long and short paths are open at once, especially to Europe. This is usually the case when LP opens on 15. Signals are difficult to copy, but here is a tip that can save wear and tear

JUNE MEETING RECAP

Last month Jim Sanford, N0AIH, gave an excellent presentation covering the commercial aspects of meteor burst communication... An election was held and Bruce Cline, N5FD, was elected president to fill the spot vacated by Everton Haines, KA5VIZ, who resigned that post for business reasons; Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, was voted in as V.P. replacing Bruce... The door prize, a 1988 N.A. Callbook which was donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston, was won by Ann Shearer, KB5GEQ.

JOE SAYS THANKS

I wish to say thanks for the cards, best wishes, and for the wonderful Birthday Party for me last month. It proved to me that NARS members are a very special breed - no two alike with different personalities, but with one aim... to create a better club.

Great literature, including The Bible, have stressed the value of characterization of Society. If you eliminate one or add another, you change the value of that group. So it is with NARS. It behooves us, therefore, to train our Novices well because the future of NARS depends on them. This training need not be made on our tendencies to create a Ham of our own thinking, but rather to strengthen the character of our organization.

Thanks again for a wonderful Birthday... may you all be with me 11 years hence for my 100th!

de Joe Green, WA4FGH

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on your rotator: If the signal off the back of the beam is strong enough to QRM the one off the front from the same station, then you are pointing the WRONG WAY. Find one long path station and identify others by the echo. They will all sound the same.



## NARS NOTES

- BEST WISHES for a speedy recovery to Phil Graves, KB5BXO, who is home recovering from open heart surgery. Drop him a line to his home address.

- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Dee Kramm, KB5GEW  
Mark Jacobs, KB5GTJ  
Bill Rimmer, N5LYG

- UPGRADES - Congratulations to Jay Chase, KB5GEU. A grad of the '88 NARS Novice course, Jay has passed the Technician, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class tests and is now awaiting a new call sign.

- FIELD DAY RESULTS: N5FD and KB5GET

Band	SSB	CW
10	216	45
15	220	145
20	113	343
40	9	337
80	-	-
Novice	235	90
Satellite	1	-
Packet	-	12
TOTAL QSO's	794	972

### Bonus Points:

Publicity	100
Satellite	100
Field Day Message	100
Packet	100
Emergency Power	200
CRRL QST Stations	120
	720

Total QSO points	2738
X 2 (Power multiplier)	5476
Estimated TOTAL	6196

- SEE NARS INFO in August QST, p.130

## HOUSTON COM-VENTION '88 SCHEDULED

The Houston Com-Venture '88 and The ARRL South Texas Section Convention are scheduled for November 11-13, 1988 at The Sheraton Crown Hotel - Intercontinental Airport - Houston. For info write Com-Venture '88, P.O. Box 800128, Houston TX 77280.

## NARS BREAKFAST SPAWNS WORK PARTIES

Following the July 16th NARS breakfast, a group headed out with Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, to help him take down his Gem Quad for moving to his new home. Assisting were Dick Combs, N5DRM; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Tom Roraback, KF500; Roy Hradilek, AD5Q; Bob Welch, KE5IC; and Bruce Cline, N5FD. Heading in another direction were Bob White, KF5ZL, and Scott Byrd, N5KEU, who went home with Joe Green, WA4FGH, to help install his new Diamond antenna. Both Ed and Joe express their sincere thanks!

## NARS PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT ON SKED

Help is needed on August 27th to man a Ham station set up in Ed Hind's "Swat Wagon" as part of the FM 1960 Shopper Fair hosted by the Northwest Chamber of Commerce. It will be held in the K-Mart Shopping Center parking lot at Kuykendahl & FM 1960 near Ponchos Restaurant, and will be an all day event - 9 a.m. to dusk. There will be displays from law enforcement, fire departments, and the military. Sounds like fun! Stay tuned to NARS nets for updated information. Volunteer your help to Scott Byrd, N5KEU, at 469-7374.

de N5KEU

## PROGRESS MADE TOWARD NW ARES STATION

After a meeting attended by Scott Byrd, N5KEU, and Bob White, KF5ZL, with Captain C. J. Harper of the Harris County Sheriff's Dept., the NW Harris County ARES is planning to put up an HF and a VHF antenna, along with radio equipment, at the District I Substation on Cypresswood Drive. Capt. Harper is providing space in an office for ARES use during drills and emergencies.

If all goes well, everything should be up and running by the end of September. This will be a great enhancement to emergency communication provided by both ARES and RACES in northwest Harris County.

de N5KEU (NW ARES E.C.)

## 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

146.06/66 MHz 449.375/444.375 MHz

### NARS DIGIPEATER - NET/ROM

Freq (145.07 MHz) Alias (NARS)  
Call (KA5LUD-4)

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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

## NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8 p.m.  
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)

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