

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 1988

CIVIL AIR PATROL SUBJECT AT DECEMBER 16 MEETING

"We're called out on an average of two to three search missions each month," explains Terry Alexander, Civil Air Patrol emergency services officer. "These missions involve locating an aircraft's Electronic Locating Transmitter (ELT). Many times the ELT is malfunctioning, but about every two years we will search for an actual downed aircraft involving injured persons."

"Communications is a very important part of our operations. Once we get word from Wing Command in Austin, our ground team goes into action. We operate on two meters through our own repeater and use special direction finding antennas. If needed we utilize an aircraft team to coordinate the search. Two meters and aircraft FM radios are used. You could say we provide a very necessary search service that even the Air Force is not equipped to conduct," says Alexander.

Terry Alexander, WB5EXY, or "Eagle Nest 1363" as he is known statewide to patrol members, is the Emergency Services Officer for Delta Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The Delta Squadron is stationed out of Hooks Airport. At the December 16th meeting, he will brief us on the mission of the CAP, the role they play in disaster relief situations with Civil Defense, as well as how they handle their own emergency communications.

The CAP is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and was chartered by an Act of Congress in 1947. Today their mission is threefold: to conduct air search and rescue missions; maintain a cadet program for young

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1989

NARS annual election of officers was held during the November meeting and the following officers were voted in by acclamation:

President	Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ
Vice President	Ed Hinds, KB5AEL
Secretary	Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
Treasurer	Joy Smith, KB5DTB
Director-at-Large	Bob White, KF5ZL

Heartiest congratulations to all!!

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

At the November meeting, Alan Cross, WA5UZB, NARS member and PIO for the ARRL South Texas Section, introduced us to several of the Section Hams who work for us in representing our needs and concerns to ARRL HQ... Jay Parker, K5CVD, Bulletin Manager, presented copies of the new ARRL Special Events Communication Manual to Rich MacDougal, Special Events Coordinator, and to Bob Welch, KE5IC for the NARS library... Bob White, KF5ZL, urged more participation in the Tuesday 8 p.m. ARES net... The door prize was won by Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; he received the 1989 version of "The ARRL Handbook" presented by courtesy of Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston.

people from 13 to 18 years of age; and to promote aerospace education. The CAP operates VHF on portions of the 2-meter band and HF on the 4 MHz and 7 MHz bands. They communicate on their own radio nets from local and national net regions.

The meeting starts at 8 p.m., but come early for some eyeball QSO's with fellow area Hams.

*** * P R O P A G A T I O N * ***
by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

The fall seasonal peak is behind us now and the propagation patterns are shifting to a winter configuration. We still have great conditions on 10 meters, but less of the world is easily workable. Very few signals are coming across the pole on either 10 or 15 because of the constant darkness there. Windows to the more remote areas of Asia are narrowing on 20, where the nighttime propagation we have been enjoying for many months is deteriorating rapidly.

HIGH BANDS: All the high bands will close early, but 20 will often remain open in the evening to points of lower latitude (e.g. Africa, South America, the Pacific and Antarctica). 10 & 15 will be excellent across daytime paths, but 20 will also be open to many parts of the world during the day. The early evening band closings will crowd many DX'ers to the low bands, with CW operators favoring 40 and phone ops moving to 75.

LOW BANDS: The expanding darkness in the northern hemisphere is lowering nighttime MUF's and the optimum operating frequency across many paths will drop below 14 MHz. 40 will, of course, be wide open and crowded. The new 10 MHz band could be an interesting alternative. Europeans are coming through on 80, but most signals on CW so far this season are the same regulars that were on last winter and their signals are weaker. A sunrise chart is a handy aid on low bands. Signals peak from areas where the sun has recently risen.

LONG PATH: Short path windows to remote points in Asia and the Middle East are becoming difficult, but we have much better LP propagation than those obnoxious lids to our northeast. Enjoy 20 long path today, and do not hesitate to jump into the big morning pileups.

*** * * FAR OUT * * ***
by JACK DOUGLAS, KA5DNP

Amateur radio operations from MIR (Peace), the Russian space station, began in mid-November. This satellite is in a circular earth orbit with a period of around 91.6 minutes or about 280 miles above the earth. The orbit varies, not only because it is low and subject to earth field effects, but also due to operational maneuvers including docking with and dispatching supply and relief spacecraft such as the Soyuz TM-7 docked in late November.

Even on the longest (overhead) passes MIR is accessible for only ten minutes. So, with numerous orbital changes it is very easy to miss MIR. The solution is to update Keplerian elements as often as you can get data. At this writing the best source of updates is the satellite info packet BBS operating on the 146.10/70 repeater as WA5ZIB-1. This BBS does not automatically transfer files to/from other BBS's so you should check the WA5ZIB-1 BBS direct, or if you do not have Packet have a friend do it for you.

When you have accurate knowledge of passes, sweep between 145.00 and 146.00 FM (if you can't sweep try 145.550 as the primary freq.). When there is a MIR operator on you will have no trouble hearing him. The call will be U(n)MIR where n has been 1 or 2 but may be anything up to 0 as time goes on. Most contacts have been made SIMPLEX on 145.550 but as more Hams get involved split operation can be expected with the primary up frequency probably being 145.525. But, try anything from .520 to .580! By December 1, some half dozen Hams in our area had made contact with MIR. So give it a try!

And to close, our congratulations to Andy MacAllister, WA5ZIB, upon his election to the AMSAT Board. We now have a "local" on the BoD!!

NARS NOTES

- 1989 NARS DUES are due. Please forward your check for \$10, made out to NARS, to Bob Welch, KE5IC, at his NARS roster address.
- UPGRADES AND NEW CALL SIGNS - Congratulations to the following:

Gene Montgomery, KA5LDP, to Advanced Class.

Curt Furtado, KB5BCL, to Technician Class.

Roger Berry, KF5OW ex KB5DFR.

Len Salvner, N5MXA ex KB5GFD.
- PLEASE WELCOME the first new 1989 NARS member, Bob McBride, WA5RLU.
- MEET THE WINNER, Nell Judd, N5KTA, who won the Kenwood TS-140S door prize at the Houston HamCom.
- NARS REPEATER FUND donations have been received along with 1989 dues from several members including Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Joel Empie, N5HWU; and Ev Haines, KA5VIZ. Thanks!! Donations from all are welcome.
- MARK YOUR CALENDAR for January 22 and the Houston Marathon. Ops are needed. Contact Rich MacDougall, KG5LZ, our Special Services Coordinator, to volunteer your help.
- SEE NARS INFO, December QST, p.150

NARS BOARD AWARDS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Lonnie Strebeck, WB5EQX, has been appointed a life member of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society by the NARS Board of Directors. This is in recognition of Lonnie's contribution to the club's till as his thanks for assistance given to him by several NARS members (see last month's NARS News article from Joe Green, WA4FGH... ed.). Congratulations, Lonnie, and thanks for your donation to NARS!!

NARS NOVICE COURSE SCHEDULED TO START JANUARY 31, 1989

The next NARS Novice Class licensing course is scheduled to start on Tuesday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. It will again be held at the Prince of Peace Catholic Community thanks to the pastor there, Fr. Charles McBride, KB5ESS. The location is 19222 Tomball Parkway (FM 149), in Houston. Site is about a mile north of FM 1960 near the intersection of Perry Road and Tomball Parkway.

The twelve-week course will prepare one to take an FCC Novice Class exam which will be given at the last course session. Text to be used is the ARRL book, "Tune in the World With Ham Radio", which is available for purchase at local radio stores. Registration fee is \$10 per person.

Please volunteer your help with this program. For further information about the course, or to offer your help with the class, please call Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, at 353-2196, or Bob Welch, KE5IC, at 376-4814.

ARRL TARGETING YOUTH FOR 1989

One concern brought out during the NARS meeting in November was how to increase the ranks of amateur radio operators. The ARRL feels that we need to work much harder at attracting the youth of this country to our hobby. One way to do this is for a club, such as ours, to purchase a special set of Amateur Radio books for \$90 and donate the set to a high school or local public library. This set of books basically would consist of the ARRL Handbook, Antenna Book, and all the license manuals.

Another area to work on would be for a club to sponsor a student Ham radio club within a school and nurture it along. If you have any ideas or would like to help along these lines please relay your comments and offer your assistance to any NARS officer or board member.

de Jim Clarke, N5FIX, PIA

NARS BULLETIN BOARD

NARS MEETS the third Friday of each month at the Cypress Creek EMS Bldg. 16650 Sugar Pine Lane (beneath the water tower) one block east of Kuykendahl and two blocks south of FM 1960. Meeting time: 8 p.m. Eyeball QSO's: about 7:30 p.m.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday 8 a.m. Strack Farms Restaurant, located at 5707 Louetta Rd. - Informal ragchew.

NARS REPEATER FREQUENCIES

146.06/66 MHz 449.375/444.375 MHz

NARS DIGIPEATER

Freq. (145.07 MHz) Alias (NARS)
Call (W5BKK-1)

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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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BOB WELCH, KE5IC
7811 Theisswood Rd.
Spring TX 77379

NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8 p.m.
28.444 MHz (Dick, W5VHN)

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

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 |
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