

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 1988

METEOR BURST COMMUNICATION IS TOPIC OF FEBRUARY 19 MEETING

This month we will explore something different and a little exotic in radio transmission. Forget those F layers - we're going to experience meteor burst communication.

Meteor burst technology allows for long range communication between two or more stations by using ionized trails created by meteors entering the earth's atmosphere. There's more to this, but you'll have to show up in February to find out.

To tell us about meteor burst is Jim Sanford, N0AIH; he has installed the only commercial meteor burst system in the U.S. Last year he moved from Nebraska to the Houston area. Jim is an electrical engineer, an Advanced Class amateur, and is author of "The Radio Amateur's Tower Installation Handbook" to be published later this year by the ARRL.

Don't you dare miss this meeting!

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Meeting topic: Greg Lefebvre, K5LTW, gave us an excellent and informative discussion on AMTOR communication. Greg lived up to his reputation as the "digital communications guru" in the Houston area after surviving a lively question-and-answer period. Announcements: Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, needs volunteers for net control on the Wednesday night 2M net... Bruce Cline, N5FD, needs volunteers for the NARS sponsored NW "Hamfest" (fleamarket) scheduled for March... Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, is on the Board for the Houston Ham-Convention '88; direct any comments or suggestions directly to him. Door prize: Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, won a copy of "The ARRL Handbook" - 1988 edition.

GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL AT NARS AWARDS BANQUET

Next year if any more show up for the Annual NARS Awards Banquet, we may have to reserve all of Uncle Tom's Kitchen. We had a full house, an excellent meal, and we did have a bunch of fun recognizing those who were outstanding last year.

The "Madison Outstanding NARS Member Award," went to Bob White, KF5ZL, along with a \$250 gift certificate from the award's sponsor, Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston. The award is based on contribution to the club, willingness to help, technical competence, leadership, and service to the community. Bob was also recognized with the NARS Public Service Award.

Other awards presented were the Past President's Plaque, Tom Roraback, KF500; NARS Elmer of the Year Award, Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR; NARS Operator of the Year Award; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; and a Special Recognition Certificate to Bob Welch, KE5IC, for his efforts as NARS News Publisher, work with new Hams, door prizes, and other behind-the-scenes activities.

The annual traveling "Boner" Trophy was passed on to Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, for his Galveston expedition. Ev survived new rig problems, water problems, and back problems. A special plaque was awarded to Joe Green, WA4FGH, entitled "Lord Give Me the Strength to Get Along With Computers!" You'll have to ask him sometime what that all means.

The banquet came to a close with the announcement of another "banquet". A special evening is planned for July 9th to say Happy Birthday to our oldest Ham; Joe Green will be 89 this year, so mark your calendars.

PROPAGATION
by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

INTRODUCTION: This is the first of a series of articles for NARS News. Our topic is HF propagation with special emphasis on the seasonal changes that effect each band. Other services concentrate on sunspot numbers and the readings available on WWV, which are also important. Forecasts presented in this report, however, are one operator's opinion and come from being active on the bands. We hope members find this series useful and interesting.

HIGH BANDS: It is winter, and there is a large area to the north where the sun don't shine. DX paths across this area will be difficult on 10 thru 20 with existing low fluxes. Expect little or no EUrope on 10, no polar openings (Russians) on 15, and abbreviated polar openings on 20. East/West paths and So. America will be fine, with daily openings to Africa around mid-day on 10 & 15, and from late afternoon to evening on 20. Africans are mostly SSB ops. 10 & 15 will shut down by sunset (except for short skip), and 20 will close early, too.

LOW BANDS: These are in season. 40M is red hot, with lots of rare stuff in the evenings (e.g. Africa). EU peaks at our sunset, then again around midnight to wherever the sun is rising. The 80M season is at its peak, but is not as good as recent years. The sunrise peak sweeps across EU around midnight. Our sunrise peak opens the band to Asia and the No. Pacific. DX on 40 is mostly CW (shortwave QRM) and 80 activity mostly SSB.

20 LONG PATH: Grey line paths are wide open to exotic places in southern Asia via the Antarctic. The morning path peaks first to India 1330-1430Z, then to the entire Mid-East, parts of Russia, and finally to all EU. EU remains available on short paths after LP drops out about 1500-1530Z. The afternoon LP starts with VK and swings south around the sunset. This opening is to the Indonesian area and SE Asia, but

RFI NOTE #14
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

In December, this column concerned two-meter interference with Channel E in the cable television system. This is Channel 18 in our local cable system (Scott Cable). Channel E is centered at 145.25 MHz and has been a continuing source of trouble between the ham community and cable systems. The frequency has been assigned to both services with the stipulation that the cable service keep their signals tightly shielded. The author has had a confrontation with a neighbor and has asked the local cable service for relief.

Since December, Mr. Virgil Allen, Chief Technician for Scott Cable, has checked for leaks, found and repaired a few, but interference continues. Fortunately, the relationship among the author, the neighbor, and Allen remains amiable, a requisite if progress is to be made in any case like this.

Al Lee, WA4EWV, a packet radio enthusiast and neighbor has been working with us; he also has had complaints. Our suggestion to Scott was that Channel 18, presently carrying "Showtime", be changed to carry a free and not so popular program.

Fortunately, new management is coming in and wishes to give the Scott system a new look. They have considered and granted the change to be made in the near future.

This, the authors first real encounter with a cable system, has been most gratifying and shows what can be accomplished if all concerned keep a proper perspective.

also listen for signals from or near Antarctica. LP sigs have funny beam headings, but I'm out of room. More on this next month. Just listen carefully and have fun!

NARS NOTES

- NARS DUES DUE - Please send a \$10 check made out to "NARS" to Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD, 6927 Worcester, Spring TX 77379.
- SINCERE CONDOLENCES to Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, on the loss of his mother on January 13.
- TX EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE sked for Austin, February 16-18. Call Bob White, KF5ZL, at 376-8338 for further information.
- MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS) bike ride April 9 & 10. Contact Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, at 694-8267 to volunteer.
- NEW CALL SIGNS:

Mario Bosquez, N5LWX ex KB5CFF
Mark Allen, N7KAG ex KA5YPU
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS member:

Mike Laskey, N5EAR
- READ ABOUT NARS - QST, Feb. p.130

NEW NARS NOVICE COURSE UNDER WAY

Under the tutorage of Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, and Bob Welch, KE5IC, the '88 version of the NARS Novice Class training course started on January 27th with 28 registrants. Signing up to assist with teaching assignments are Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Paul Frantz, KF5SB; Dan Cassiani, N5KPI; Dick Rousseau, N5JZY; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; and Bob White, KF5ZL.

Registered for the class so far are: Melvyn Adams, Joanne Ashland, Corky Bauer, Dave Bauer, Henry Borgstedt, Lou Colacurto, Greg Carker, Jay Chase, Jack Cotter, Mike Framme, Pamela Harlan, Ron Harris, Vince Hoffman, Brian Howell, Jim Kee, Dee Kramm, Marly MacDougal, Kathy Moore, Rusty Nace, Ray O'Neill, Barbara Peat, George Peat, Pam Progule, Len Salvner, Jim Sexton, Ann Shearer, J-Bird Shearer, Kay Von Heeder.
Good Luck to all!

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 |
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| Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX |
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| Tel: 984-9028 |
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NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 7:30 p.m.
21.350 MHz then 28.490 MHz
(Joel, N5HWU)

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 (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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