

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 1988

JANUARY 15 MEETING FEATURES AMTOR COMMUNICATION MODE

Come to the January meeting and be introduced to one of the newest forms of digital communication, AMTOR, which stands for Amateur Teleprinting Over Radio. It was first authorized by the FCC in January of 1982 for experimentation by amateur radio operators. As a result of a January 27, 1983 FCC order, AMTOR was made part of the U.S. Amateur Radio rules. It is a virtually error-free RTTY system featuring special error detection and correction properties. There are currently hundreds of stations operating in this mode in the U.S. and around the world.

Greg Lefebvre, K5LTW, a local Ham, has been quite active in AMTOR and will present details about this new and exciting transmission mode to the club. The newer packet TNCs include this new mode as well as Morse code, plus Baudot and ASCII RTTY. AMTOR is still somewhat of a mystery with all the popularity centered on packet right now. The January 15th meeting will be real interesting so don't miss it!

DECEMBER MEETING RECAP

New officers for the upcoming year were installed at the December meeting so we're now in good hands for the new year. The program was the new ARRL video "The New World of Amateur Radio"; it was excellent. If you missed it and would like to borrow the tape for viewing, or would like to use the tape for presentation to interested groups, the club has a copy or two for you. The door prize was the 1988 "Radio Amateur Callbook" donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston, and won by Bob Judd, WN5G.

NARS NOVICE CLASS SCHEDULED TO START JANUARY 27

The next NARS Novice Class licensing course is scheduled to start on Wednesday, January 27, at 7:30 p.m. Location is the Prince of Peace Catholic Community, 19222 Tomball Parkway (FM 149), Houston. Site is about a mile north of FM 1960 near the intersection of Perry Road and Tomball Parkway. Classes will be conducted in the two-story classroom building located at the north end of the parking lot.

The 12-week course will prepare one to take the 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" (Seventh Edition), which is available for purchase at local amateur radio stores.

Registration fee is \$10 per person.

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

ANNUAL NARS AWARD BANQUET SET FOR JANUARY 23

The 3rd Annual NARS Award Banquet will take place at Uncle Tom's Kitchen, 17500 Kuykendahl, on January 23rd. Open cash bar will be available starting at 6:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be award presentations, good food, and warm fellowship. Cost is \$10 per person with choice of entrees. For reservations, please contact Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, at 370-5714, or Bob Haase, N5AER, at 376-9098.

REPEATER OPERATING RULES

The licensee of an Amateur Radio Station may permit a third party to participate in amateur radio communications from his station provided that a control operator is present and continuously monitors and supervises the radio communication to insure compliance with the rules.

There shall be no remuneration for use of the station.

Broadcasting is prohibited.

No business use of the radio is permitted.

Music is prohibited - turn your radio off when using a repeater.

No licensed radio operator shall transmit unidentified signals. Be sure to identify even if you are just testing to see if you can access the repeater.

No person shall transmit obscene, indecent, or profane language or meaning.

No licensed operator shall maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communication.

Suggestions

Keep your transmissions short and pause between transmissions to permit someone with urgent traffic to use the repeater.

Remember to identify properly - at least every ten minutes and at the end of a transmission. Remember that there may be someone out there that isn't familiar with your call.

Your conversation may be monitored by many monitor radios, so, leave a good impression of our hobby with the people that may be listening.

(de QSP, CKARC, Salina KS, W0CY-Ed.)

MY FIRST CONTEST

by KEN BUSBEE, ESquire, KB5ESQ

As with any new novice, the team giving the examination tells you it will take the FCC six to eight weeks to process the license. Maybe it would arrive by Christmas. It was a pleasant surprise to receive my license the day after Thanksgiving - just three weeks. I finished installing my new vertical antenna and I was set. I had purchased a used rig that covered all the HF bands. I tried my fist. I realized that more study on the code would be necessary. I thought then about voice on the Monday night NARS 10M net; I gave it a try with success.

A friend at work had given me a copy of QST. In looking through it I found some information on the 10M contest. Maybe I had time. I sent an SASE to ARRL Headquarters for the entry forms. Other unexpected events within the family monopolized my time during the week before the weekend of the contest. The forms arrived the Saturday of the contest.

Late Sunday afternoon I found a little time to participate in the contest. The time was 2253 UTC and I turned on the radio. I started at 28300 kHz; I tuned up the dial a little and within a few seconds a QSO with Florida. Within a few minutes a QSO with Ohio. Fifty minutes in the contest I was having fun. The contest would soon be over, but for me it was how many QSOs could I do in an hour. Last QSO at 2352 UTC with Colorado. I don't expect to win anything in the contest, but what fun! Fifteen contacts from 11 states in one hour.

Reality for me is returning to my study text for the Technician license and improvement of code speed. The contest was a real encouragement! Now my goal -- General Class.

(Ed note: If you have any stories or experiences similar to Ken's, please share with us)

NARS NOTES

- UPGRADE - Congratulations to Roger Berry, KB5DFR, for his upgrade to General Class.
- HOUSTON MARATHON set January 17. Call Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, 694-8267, to help out with this big race. Operators are needed plus it is great experience for you to practice handling traffic.
- NARS DUES DUE - Please send a \$10 check made out to "NARS" to Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD, our new treasurer, 6927 Worcester, Spring TX, 77379.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Brian Howell
Melvyn Adams

Both are Novice Class candidates.
- READ ABOUT LOCAL ARES on page 122 of January QST.

AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

Nominations for this year's NARS Awards are now being accepted. The awards are "Public Service"; "Elmer of the Year"; "Operator of the Year"; and "Outstanding Service". To propose someone for an award, please contact Bob Haase, N5AER, or Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, either by phone or at the upcoming meeting.

TEXAS STATE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

A Texas State Emergency Management Conference will be held Feb. 16-18 in Austin. Registration is \$25. Meeting HQ is the La Mansion Hotel. A host of speakers and workshops is planned for emergency personnel. The Amateur Radio operator community is invited, especially RACES/ARES members. There will be a special packet radio organization for disaster workshop. Contact Bob White, KF5ZL, at 376-8338, for more information..

NARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Nickname _____
Call sign _____ Class _____ ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Dues are \$10 per year. After June 30, pay \$5 for rest of year.
Family members pay \$5 per person.

Please send check made out to "NARS" to:

Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD; 6927 Worcester; Spring TX 77379

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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| 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 (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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