

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 1988

## 1988 ARRL FIELD DAY EVENT TO BE JUNE 17 MEETING TOPIC

Catch up on your sleep and your contest skills because June is ARRL Field Day month. The NARS meeting on June 17th will be our last minute briefing before the big 24-hour event. Field Day will start on Saturday June 25 at 1 p.m. local time with conclusion Sunday June 26 at 1 p.m. Equipment will be set up and put into position on the Friday afternoon before the event. The site for the NARS FD operation is at Meyer Park located on the south side of Cypresswood Drive just west of Stuebner Airline. Bruce Cline has again consented to the use of his call sign, N5FD.

For the meeting program on June 17, Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, 1988 Field Day chairman, will go over all the particulars for the event such as schedules, strategy, and equipment. Bob Welch, KE5IC, will show a video tape of last year's NARS Field Day operation as well as a few 35mm slides of past NARS FD activities.

For those who haven't participated in Field Day, this exercise is a time every year for amateur radio operators to practice portable communication procedures under emergency conditions. Events such as this give us an idea of what is required to set up and operate a station without commercial power. The exercise is organized in the form of a contest to see how many contacts a group can log in a 24-hr. period. Groups around the country compete in categories according to the number of transmitters being operated. NARS will compete in the "2A" category; two regular stations plus a Novice station will be used. All bands and modes of communication can be used.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOE!!

On Sunday, July 10th, we will get together to help Joe Green, WA4FGH, celebrate his 89th birthday. All NARS members and their families are invited to a BBQ dinner at the home of Nancy and Tom Roraback, KF500. Nancy asks that you bring a covered casserole, salad, or side dish (serves 8-10) to accompany the BBQ. Also bring a lawn chair and swim suit. Please RSVP by July 1 to Nancy at 583-2661.

Date: Sunday, July 10

Time: 5 to 9 p.m.

Place: 14915 Benfer Rd.

(Woods of Wimbledon)

Talk-in: 146.06/66 MHz

This has the makings of a really big fun time!! Let's all get together to show Joe what a NARS birthday party is all about.

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Even if you have a tight schedule that weekend, make plans to drop by and check it out. There will be three or four different antennas, trailers, operating stations, and a Ham radio booth. Bring the family, friends, and neighbors. Don't miss this month's meeting and also this special weekend.

More operators are needed. Please contact Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, 894-6108, to get on the list.

SPECIAL NOTE: Again this year there will be a constable on duty at the entrance to Meyer Park from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. (hours when the park is normally closed) both Friday and Saturday. To get in during these hours you must present your amateur operator's license.



**PROPAGATION**  
**by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q**

We are now approaching the summer solstice. The sun is low in the sky everywhere north of the Arctic Circle. Propagation across this region is very good, but for the rest of the northern hemisphere the MUF's are higher than optimum and signals across the daytime paths are weaker.

**HIGH BANDS:** We have had fluxes over 140 again. If this were fall, 10 meters would bust wide open. Much of the southern hemisphere remains accessible on 10, and sporadic E season is peaking. The heavy action remains on 15 & 20, but the best propagation across the northern hemisphere is on paths where it is marginally daytime or nighttime. Daytime paths across the southern hemisphere are also usable. 20 is open all night, so openings are very broad. In the morning starting about an hour after sunrise it is peak time to much of the world at once. The grey line leads to SE Asia, the entire Pacific and VK/ZL, plus the long path to the Indian Ocean and southern Africa. Odds favor something exotic workable during this peak time on any day of the week. On 15 the grey line peak is usually later when the fluxes are low toward noon, with pipeline conditions deep into SE Asia and beyond (Indonesia). In the late afternoon and evening 15 & 20 open best to Europe, Russia and the Middle East. During periods of higher flux there are excellent openings of long duration covering a greater portion of the world.

**LOW BANDS:** 40 is open to less of the northern hemisphere at night, with more QRN. Low bands are peaking in the southern hemisphere, which will also be workable on 40. Most of the nighttime activity, however, is on 20 & 15. Forget 80.

**LONG PATH:** Not much activity, but the path is open to the Indian Ocean and Africa in the morning. When fluxes climb above about 170 we get summer LP on 15 to Europe and Africa in the morning.

**FIELD DAY '88**  
**by ED HINDS, KB5AEL - CHAIRMAN**

The Field Day committee met Thursday June 7th to iron out last minute details of the upcoming event. The members present at the meeting were Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Bruce Cline, N5FD; Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR; Roy Hradilek, AD5Q; Tom Roraback, KF500; Rich MacDougal, KB5DFZ; and chairman Ed Hinds, KB5AEL. It was agreed that setup would start at 1300 CDT on Friday, June 24, and throughout the day we will erect towers, put up antennas, check out generators and equipment, and be ready to go on the air at 1300 CDT on Saturday.

Your Field Day committee extends a personal invitation to all to come out and join in the fun. A special welcome is extended to Novice class operators, especially those recent "graduates" of the NARS Novice Course; Rich MacDougal, KB5DFZ, will be your Field Day Elmer.

If you have any questions about Field Day, or if you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please call any of the Field Day committee members. Ed Hinds' phone number is 894-6108.

**NARS NOVICES RECEIVE CALL SIGNS**

Hearty congratulations to all of the following who passed their Novice exam and received their call signs:

Melvyn Adams, KB5GES; Dave Bauer, KB5GER; Henry Borgstedt, KB5GET; Jay Chase, KB5GEU; Jack Cotter, KB5GEV; Dee Kramm, KB5GEW; Marly MacDougal, KB5GEX; Kathy Moore, KB5GEY; Barbara Peat, KB5GEZ; George Peat, KB5GFA; Len Salvner, KB5GFB; Ann Shearer, KB5GEQ; and Joe Shearer, KB5GFC.

Kathy Moore has upgraded to Technician Class. Mark Jacobs has passed the Novice exam and is awaiting his call sign. Passing his test earlier was Ron Harris who upgraded to Technician Class and is now N5MKO.



**POLLY VII EXERCISE A SUCCESS**  
**by BOB WHITE, KF5ZL**

I would like to thank all of those who participated in the "Polly VII" hurricane exercise on June 7 and 8. (The exercise was considered a success). We will build on what we did and learned. Hopefully, our next exercise or emergency will be a smooth operation and we can be of real service to our community.

Remember, regular participation in emergency management nets is very important to keep in touch with the old and new ideas that the group will be working with on these occasions. I'll be looking for you on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. local time on the 146.06/66 ARES net, and Sundays at 7 p.m. local on the 146.34/94 RACES/ARES Harris County net.

Again, thanks for your support!

**NORTHWEST ARES GROUP PARTICIPATES  
IN EMERGENCY DRILL LAST MONTH**

The Northwest Harris County ARES group took part in an emergency drill on Sunday morning, May 15, in conjunction with the FM 1960 Local Emergency Planning Committee. The drill involved a hazardous material spill necessitating evacuation of hospital patients, a separate building fire, and arrival of a Life Flight helicopter on the scene.

ARES ops participating were Scott Byrd, N5KEU (NW Harris County E.C.); Ed Hinds, KB5AEL (Asst. E.C.); Jerry Reimer, KA5QAP (Asst. E.C.); Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Jim Clarke, N5FIX; Bob White, KF5ZL; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; and Bob Welch, KE5IC.

**NARS DIGIPEATER UP AND RUNNING**

Designed and installed by Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, and Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, with an assist from HAPRS and Mike Pate, KA5LUD, a NARS digipeater and NET/ROM have been installed at the Northwest Medical Center. See NARS Bulletin Board column for details.

**NARS NOTES**

- VOLUNTEERS WANTED to fill several very important areas of club activities. Members are needed to head the following committees:

1. Awards - to set up awards and recipients for the NARS Annual Banquet in January.
2. Nominating - to offer a slate of officers to members in Nov.
3. Public Service - to coordinate club participation in public service events.

This is your chance to be active in the club! Please volunteer to Bruce Cline, N5FD, at 351-1387.

- Please welcome the following new NARS members:

Dave Bauer, KB5GER  
Brad Killebrew, N5LJV  
Don Zielinski, K0PVI

- UPGRADE, NEW CALL - Congrats to:

Mario Bosquez for his upgrade to Advanced Class and new call sign KG5JU ex N5LWX.

- FOR NARS INFO see June QST - p.136

**MAY MEETING NOTES**

All of those at the regular NARS meeting in May received a good sound intro to packet radio followed by a wide-ranging update on current advancements in this fast moving mode of communication. The program, including a demo of packet radio on the air, was ably presented by the packet guru in this area, Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ, president of Houston Area Packet Radio Society (HAPRS).

Two door prizes were donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston; Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, won a "Beam Antenna Handbook" by Bill Orr, and the ARRL book "W1FB's Antenna Notebook" was won by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q.



## 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 444.375/875 MHz

### NARS DIGIPEATER - NET/ROM

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

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| NARS NEWS is published monthly by |  
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| Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX |  
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## NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8 p.m.  
28.490 MHz (Ken, W5BKK)

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

### IN EMERGENCY DRILL LAST MONTH

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