

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 1988

MARCH MEETING TO FEATURE POTPOURRI OF SUBJECTS

For the March 18th meeting we are going to see everything but the kitchen sink.

First we will start with home brew projects of all sorts. Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, will introduce this part: Jerry Smith, W5NKZ, will talk about antenna tuners and coils; then Mike Furrey, WA5POK, will show some simple test instruments and some other types of home built projects.

This will be followed by some mini workshops on topics such as using basic test instruments as well as elementary soldering techniques. This section will be coordinated by Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR.

March's meeting is guaranteed to be varied and interesting. Come early and take part in the eyeball QSO's before the formal meeting starts.

DECEMBER MEETING RECAP

We had another great turnout for our February meeting. Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, and Bob Welch, KE5IC, said that the NARS Novice Course is progressing well with 32 enrolled... Scott Byrd, N5KEU, and Bob White, KF5ZL, reported on their trip to Austin and the Texas Emergency Management Conference... For the program, Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, discussed RFI problems and various solutions. Then Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, updated us on what the satellites are up to these days and how best to work them. The whole meeting was a good mix of subjects. The door prize was a 1988 "Radio Amateur Callbook" donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston, and won by Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD.

SECOND ANNUAL NARS FAMILY PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 23

Come one, come all, to the Second Annual Northwest Amateur Radio Society Family Picnic to be held April 23, 1988. Please circle your calendar that on Saturday, April 23rd, we will hold the second annual NARS family picnic in Tomball TX at the Spring Creek State Park from approximately 2 p.m. until dark.

Bring your own barbeque and drinks, there are electricity and charcoal grills available, and bring a few extra folding chairs.

Last year we had an HF rig set up with a 40-meter dipole strung in the trees, and even worked some South American stations on 15 meters. This year we may do the same and, if possible, we may even bring the swat wagon in for a mobile station.

VHF talk-in will be on 146.46 MHz Simplex as well as 146.06/66 MHz.

Again -- mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23 -- this one is as much for the XYL's to get together as it is for us Hams.

de Tom Roraback, KF500

NEW RACES OFFICER ANNOUNCED

Bob White, KF5ZL, has been appointed the Harris County RACES Officer by Capt. Ken Berry, Deputy Coordinator. He will take over from Roger Shaper, W5CKC, who was temporary officer until the program got up and going. Roger continues to be the State District 21 RACES Coordinator for Harris and 11 surrounding counties. Basically, Bob will coordinate local amateur radio operations with Capt. Berry's Harris County Office of Emergency Management.

2

PROPAGATION
by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

We are moving into the spring, and this will change the bands dramatically. The area of darkness over the north pole will give way to a gray-line path deep into Asia and Russia. **HIGH BANDS:** 10 meters will improve, with likely openings into western Europe. Fluxes probably won't be high enough to really open 10 up, and this band seems to be best in the fall anyway. Look for big things to happen on 10 this fall, but as for spring, the action will be on 15 & 20. Both bands will be staying open later into the evening throughout the northern hemisphere. This makes for longer and broader openings into Europe and Asia via the short path. Russia should be easily workable on 15, with some polar stuff in the early morning and evening. It is at least hunting season on 20, which will echo with the hollow sounds of countless Soviet CW sigs. **LOW BANDS:** 40 is still in good shape and is a good place to be after 20 closes. The sunrise sweep across Europe is earlier: 11-1 a.m. local time. The Pacific starts to come in before midnight. Northern paths on 80 will begin to fade, but southern hemisphere activity should improve with declining summer QRN. Look for a gray-line path over the pole on 40 at sunrise. **20M LONG PATH:** Gray-line Antarctic paths should remain open to India, the Middle East and Europe in the morning, and Indonesia and SE Asia around sunset. The East/West circuits are not gray line and different rules apply. These are essentially nighttime paths with stations on both ends in daylight, but in opposite hemispheres and opposite seasons. There is a critical point along the path toward the eastern end where it is 4 a.m. It is winter at that point, then the path is closed. This is why we have not been getting the long path to Africa in the morning, even though we get VK in the afternoon. Africa and Indian Ocean LP should start to

RFI NOTES #15
by KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK

For most of my ham radio years I had no trouble with interference in my telephone. But that was before the advent of solid state instruments with memory. Rectification occurs easily in these phones and sometimes they seem to be better receivers of r-f energy than those designed for the purpose.

This trouble began for me several years ago, and only affected one out of three telephones. To cure it I bought a filter (AT&T Z100A) for ten dollars. It connects right at the instrument to isolate it from the telephone lines which pick up the r-f energy. It worked! However, the price has increased to twenty dollars per filter which gets to be prohibitive if you have trouble in several phones.

In his "Interference Handbook", Bill Nelson, WA6FQG, recommends the use of Amidon FB-75-101 ferrite beads. These are slipped over the incoming wires inside the instrument. This necessitates loosening the wires, slipping the beads over the wires, and then reconnecting them. I had intended to compare this method with the purchased filter but now I can't reproduce the interference I used to have (I didn't make notes!). The beads that I prepared to use were originally bought for suppression of parasitic oscillation in vacuum-tube amplifiers and should be about the right mix for this application.

It's a pity I couldn't determine how well they work; I have a supply of these which I would be glad to donate to anyone having a telephone problem. I'm curious and would welcome the chance to try the method out. Please call me if you have the problem.

open sometime this spring 1-1/2 to 2 hours after sunrise. Have fun!!

NARS NOTES

- NARS NEEDS a volunteer to handle the Public Service Coordinator position with the club. We have many events coming up in the summer months and need someone to coordinate volunteer radio ops. If interested, contact Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, at 583-9927.
- 1988 DUES ARE DUE and payable to Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD, Treasurer, 6927 Worcester, Spring TX 77379. Please make your \$10 check out to "NARS". Thank you.

A new NARS Roster is being put together and only dues paid NARS members will be listed.

- UPGRADE - Congratulations to Neal Findley who has upgraded to Technician Class. His new call is N5LDY ex WB2KUI.
- "REEKING REGATA" canoe race down Buffalo Bayou will be on April 16. NARS will provide communication for the race as well as operate a special events station (submitted to the ARRL as N5HF). Volunteer your help to Bob White, KF5ZL.
- MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS) 150-mile bicycle ride to be held west of Houston toward Austin, April 9,10.
- MARCH OF DIMES Walk America - 1960 Area - Sunday, April 24. NARS has been asked to supply communication for this event. More information will follow.
- READ ABOUT NARS - QST, March p.120

NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR NORTHWEST ARES GROUP

The new ARES Emergency Coordinator for the Northwest Harris County sector will be Scott Byrd, N5KEU. Scott takes over from Bob White, KF5ZL, who has been appointed Harris County RACES Officer. Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, will be a new NW Harris County ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator.

WHAT CAN I SAY?

Where else but at the NARS Saturday morning breakfast at Uncle Tom's Kitchen could you find a group of crazy guys, in February, to help put up a beam and a tower?

After it had been sleeting off and on all day, I reluctantly called Bob White, KF5ZL, and Ken Harlan, KA5AKG to help with the beam the next a.m. Probably just as reluctantly, they agreed to help. I was to meet Bob at the breakfast locale and Ken later at my house.

A new change in deed restrictions, and having to catch a 2 p.m. flight out of town that afternoon, were the reasons for the push to get the tower up even in bad weather. The restrictions had been passed, but were not in effect yet (I hoped). I had been working temporarily out of town and didn't have a chance to get it up earlier.

The weatherman was completely wrong about the weather; the next morning was beautiful, but windy and cold. After meeting for breakfast I picked up some extra help from Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; Bruce Cline N5FD; and Tom Roraback, KF500. These extra guys really saved the day.

I had built the beam and put up the tower the day before, and thought that all we would have to do was hoist the beam to the top of the tower - wrong! Due to some poor planning, I found that the ginpole clamp was too small to fit the tubing on the tower. It was then decided to lean the tower over and put the 2M and TH7DXX beams on the mast at ground level; then with lots of muscle power we pushed the tower and beams up all at the same. And believe it or not, everything went up without a hitch.

The beam was up by 11:30 a.m. and I still had time to catch my flight out of town. What Can I Say?
THANKS GUYS!!

de Bob Judd, WN5G

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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
Northwest Amateur Radio Society
Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX
Editor, 1842 Knoll, Houston 77080
Tel: 984-9028

NEWS DEADLINE IS 1ST OF THE MONTH

NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 7:30 p.m.
21.350 MHz then 28.490 MHz
(Dan, N5KPI)

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)

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

Bullalo Bayou will be on April 18.
NARS will provide communication
for the race as well as operate a
special events station (submitted
to the ARL as W5HV). Volunteer
your help to Bob White, K5ZL.

A MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS) 150-mile
bicycle ride to be held west of
Houston toward Austin, April 9-10.

A MARCH OF DIMS Walk America - 1989
Area - Sunday, April 24. NARS has
been asked to supply communication
for this event. More information
will follow.

A READ ABOUT NARS - QST, March p.100

NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR NORTHWEST ARES GROUP

The new ARES Emergency Coordinator
for the Northwest Harris County
sector will be Scott Byrd, W5KRU.
Scott takes over from Bob White,
KB5ZL, who has been appointed Harris
County ARES Officer. Ed Hinds,
W5KRU, will be a new NW Harris
County ARES Assistant
Coordinator.