

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 1988

MAY MEETING TOPIC FEATURES BASICS OF AND LATEST IN PACKET

At the May 20th NARS monthly meeting we're going to be catching up on the latest developments in packet radio from one of our own members, Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ. Walter is president of HAPRS, the Houston Area Packet Radio Society.

Walter will cover the basics of packet radio and then explain some new developments such as NET/ROM and TCP/IP; he will also compare the different multi-mode TNC's on the market. In addition, he will set up an on-the-air packet station to show packet radio in action.

For the beginner or the experienced operator, this meeting will have something for everyone. You don't want to miss out on all this good information. Come early, starting about 7:30 p.m., for some eyeball QSOing before the meeting.

NARS 15M NET CANCELLED!! CHECK INTO THE 10M NET AT 8PM MONDAY

Beginning May 16th, the NARS Monday night schedule is down to only one net; the 10M SSB net will begin at 8 p.m. on 28.490 MHz. The 15M net, which met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, has been cancelled.

This change is being made with the hope of increasing activity as well as encouraging novices to get on the air. Much of the traffic passed on the 15M net was being repeated on the 10M net. In addition, it will get rid of the confusion created by switching from one net to the other with an indefinite starting time for the latter net. The later hour should enable more Hams to get home and be situated prior to net time. See you Monday night at 8 p.m.!

NORTHWEST ARES GROUP TUNING UP FOR EMERGENCY EXERCISE MAY 15

The Northwest Harris County ARES group will take part in an emergency drill scheduled for Sunday morning, May 15. The drill will be held in conjunction with the FM 1960 Local Emergency Planning Committee. Scott Byrd, N5KEU, NW ARES E.C., asks that participating ops be at the staging area, Luby's Cafeteria parking lot near the NW Memorial Hospital, at 7:30 a.m. Specific assignments will be made at that time.

ARES operators will coordinate with six local fire departments, the Cypress Creek EMS group, Harris County Sheriff's Department, and the NW Memorial Hospital staff. The basic scenario is that a tank truck emitting toxic gas will require the evacuation of patients from Gulf Pines Hospital to NW Memorial.

This exercise will help everyone see how well each unit works together with the others, and what to correct so that we will all be ready for an emergency in the area. Another emergency exercise, the Poly VII hurricane drill, is scheduled for June 6/7. Check into the ARES net at 8 p.m. on Tuesday for details about this and other events.

NARS PICNIC BRINGS OUT ANTStennas AND GOOD TIME

NARS members enjoyed a great time in beautiful weather for the 2nd Annual NARS Picnic held April 23 at Spring Creek State Park near Tomball. More than thirty were there to enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and chocolate cake. 40M and 10M dipoles were strung up between the trees and DX was off and running. Many thanks go out to Tom Roraback, KF500, for coordinating the event.

PROPAGATION
by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

April brought us a mostly disturbed ionosphere for the first two weeks of the month with significantly higher fluxes. The A-Index returned to normal first, leaving fluxes in the 140's and excellent band conditions for the second half of the month.

HIGH BANDS: 10 meters improved with the higher fluxes, opening to eastern Europe and briefly into Russia. May will bring deterioration, as 10 meter conditions are seasonally poor in the summer regardless of fluxes. 15 has been staying open into the evening - even later toward the equator. We have had access to Europe most of the day, with a broad opening to the Far East in the evening. The rest of Asia has been workable over the pole with many spectacular openings in the morning and early evening. Equatorial stations on the other side of the world are able to work the USA over the pole in late evening (their time). This path seems to skip over Siberia, where 15 is already closed. 20 meters is even better. The seasonal peak and high fluxes keep the band open most of the night. Most noticeable are the polar openings to Russia, but tune carefully and you will find the band open to over half the world - at once! High MUF's have turned 20 into a nighttime band, with pipeline conditions into morning and evening zones. 20 meters peaks during late spring, but much of what you hear will continue through the summer.

LOW BANDS: This is not where the action is, and we will not have much to say about the low bands for the next few months. 40 is actually in good shape, and will remain open to Europe thru the summer. Hardly anybody is left on 80. If you need southern hemisphere countries on 80, tune patiently thru the noise and you may get lucky.

20 LONG PATH: There is an excellent morning path to Africa and the Indian Ocean, but the other LP

FIELD DAY 88
by ED HINDS, KB5AEL

This year the NARS Field Day exercise will be held June 25/26 at the Elizabeth Kaiser Meyer Park located on the south side of Cypresswood Dr. just west of Stuebner Airline Rd. This is the same location as last year's FD operation.

We are looking forward to a full member turnout! We will be running Class 2A again this year and will attempt to operate SSB, CW, packet, and satellite modes - something for everyone. There will be a special Novice station, so all you Novices come out and participate. The object of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible, to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less than optimum conditions, and most of all, to HAVE FUN!!

Volunteers are needed to help with set up as well as operate the three FD stations. If you would like to help, contact Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, this year's FD Chairman, at 894-6108.

NARS NOVICE COURSE UPDATE

The 1988 NARS Novice Course came to a formal end on April 20th with the giving of the FCC Novice test. As a result of the class, we now have fourteen new Novice Class amateurs. Several were unable to make the test session in class and they will be rescheduled in the near future. Those checking their mail boxes daily for their new licenses are: Melvyn Adams, Dave Bauer, Henry Borgstedt, Jay Chase, Jack Cotter, Dee Kramm, Marly MacDougal, Kathy Moore, Barbara Peat, George Peat, Len Salvner, Ann Shearer and Joe Shearer. Ron Harris passed his test earlier and has already upgraded. Heartiest congratulations to all!!

circuits are out of season. Later in the sunspot cycle we will get good LP most of the year, even on 15 meters.

REEKING REGATTA RACES KEEP NARS OPS BUSY

NARS operators provided communications for The Nineteenth Annual Reeking Regatta Canoe and Kayak Races on Beautiful Buffalo Bayou held Saturday, April 16. This year for the first time, this event was an official part of the Houston International Festival. The race started near Voss and San Felipe and ended (sixteen long miles later) at Allen's Landing Park, located under the Main Street Bridge over Buffalo Bayou. This is the second year for NARS to help out with this event and everything went very smoothly with no major problems (no snakes this year!). Those participating were: Jim Minor, KB5AEJ; Jim Clarke, N5FIX; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Ray Dillard, WA5F; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Jerry Reimer, KA5QAP; Paul Frantz, KF5SB; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Jack Douglas, KA5DNP; Ed Hinds, KB5AEL (net control); and Bob White, KF5ZL, who coordinated the whole thing.

Also that day NARS operated Special Event Station N5HF (Houston Festival) as a part of the Reeking Regatta and Houston International Festival. Ops for the event were Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, and Henry Freedenberg, N5HF. They set up just outside Ed Hind's mobile home, the "swat wagon", which was located by Buffalo Bayou near Allen's Landing Park. They erected two inverted vees; one covered 15M and 40M, and the other was on 10M. Quite a few contacts were made; they will receive a very special commemorative QSL designed by Charles McBride, KB5ESS.

NARS OPS MONITOR MARCH OF DIMES WALK

NARS members provided communications for the March of Dimes and their 1988 WalkAmerica, FM 1960/Northgate Forest Area, on Sunday morning April 24. The walk was moved to this location this year from the Willowbrook Mall area, and it appeared to be quite successful.

A good group showed up to help. Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, arrived in his mobile home, the "swat wagon"; he set up at the start/finish line and acted as net control. Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, travelled with Bill Smith, the MOD event chairman, and Terri Edinborgh, N5KID, stayed with John Cerwin, the MOD staff coordinator. Rest Stop #1 was covered by Scott Byrd, N5KEU, and Rest Stop #2 saw Paul Frantz, KF5SB, manning the mike. Special check points A & B were handled ably by Vince Hayes, KC0LM; his main duty was to keep walkers on course and point out Akeem Olajuwon's abode. Bob White, KF5ZL, rode the Borden's truck where the ice cream was. Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, rode sweep in his truck, transported ice and drinks, and assisted the "poop-out" van when needed. Bob Welch, KE5IC, coordinated the NARS effort.

NARS member Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, coordinated amateur radio communication efforts at the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, Kingwood Area, on the same day.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

At the April NARS meeting, guest speaker Jim Haynie, WB5JBP, ARRL West Gulf Division Director, gave us some interesting information about the League. A few highlights from his talk follow:

Currently there are about 450K licensed U.S. amateurs, but about 100K of them are inactive. ARRL membership is at an all time high, about 160K, or about 50 percent of the active Hams.

Results of an ARRL survey of novices whose licenses were about to expire revealed that few of them belonged to a radio club and 60 percent had never been on the air.

It will be recalled that the FCC has proposed reallocation of the 220 to 222 MHz band (the bottom two MHz of the amateur 220 MHz band). Jim forecasts that the bottom two megs will be taken away from the amateur service.

The ARRL will become active with NASA, especially the space platform program sked for 1992, with the hope of interesting more young people in ham radio.

The League is preparing an RFI book written in layman's language aimed at educating the general public in the complexities of the problem.

On assigning call signs, the League says it is FCC's responsibility, but ARRL will do it if the FCC wants it done on the outside.

ARRL publication of the Repeater Directory is nearing an end.

NARS thanks go to Jim Haynie for an interesting and informative talk well presented.

The door prize was won by Fred Juch, N5JXO, who received Sam's "Easy Up Antennas", a book donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston.

NARS NOTES

o THE MS BIKE RUN was worked by both Bob White, KF5ZL, and Jim Minor, KB5AEJ. They were part of a group of local Hams giving comm help to the 150-mile Multiple Sclerosis bike ride from Houston to Austin. Bob acted as net control for the last leg of the three-day event.

o PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Andy Francis, WB5FZA
Linda Francis, KA5RSF
David Lalor, WA5OUW
Bob Patterson, N5MJB
OJ Quarles, WA1YIA
Joe Shearer, new Novice
Ann Shearer, new Novice
Lonnie Strebeck, WB5EQX

o UPGRADES AND NEW CALL - Congratulations to the following:

Bob Moore, N5JWW, to General Class
Kathy Moore, new Novice to Technician Class
Mike Maldonado, KB5DGA, to Technician Class
Scott Taylor's new General Class call is N5MJQ

MORE ON 220 MHZ

Calling the UPS proposal seriously flawed, the Department of Defense has filed reply comments strongly supporting amateur radio in response to the UPS comments in Docket 87 14, the FCC proposal to take away two MHz from the amateur 220 MHz band. The DOD said that any reallocation of the 220 to 222 MHz band would displace packet networks and other data links which could not be re-accomodated in other amateur bands. In a related development, ARRL executive vice president Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, met with UPS officials and presented a study outlining an alternative solution to their communications requirements by using land mobile frequencies in the 30 to 50 MHz range. More details will appear in the ARRL Letter and July QST.

de ARRL Bulletin No.45 (5-9-88)

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 |
NEWS DEADLINE IS 1ST OF THE MONTH

NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8 p.m.
28.490 MHz (Vince, KC0LM)

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