

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

October 1988

## LATEST ON SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 21 MEETING

Space, the last frontier, is back in the news as the shuttle "Discovery" mission has been successfully completed. With all this interest in space, it only seems natural that we look at the latest developments in satellite communication.

At the October 21st meeting our very own satellite guru and resident "bird watcher" Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, will be our "uplink" and "downlink" to what is going on up there and what we can do about it down here.

The biggest event lately in satellite communication was the launching of Amsat Oscar 13 (AO-13) last July. Jack will describe the different modes of communication and also talk about Oscar 10 and the other birds. Other topics will include necessary equipment, operating pointers, and just what to expect. Several members already have full satellite stations set up and they will be able to add to the discussion.

If you want to know the latest about satellites and how you can communicate through them to other Hams around the world, don't miss this meeting. Starting time is 8 p.m. but you can come early and enjoy an eyeball ragchew with other Hams.

## NARS MEETINGS SCHEDULED

October - Satellite Communication

November - Civil Air Patrol

December - ARRL

January - Propagation

February - Direction Finding

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 1989 NARS OFFICERS

It's time again to consider who will lead NARS in the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee this year is Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, chairman, with Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Bob Welch, KE5IC, and Tom Roraback, KF500. They are now searching for candidates to fill the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director at Large to serve in 1989.

If you are interested in working in the club leadership or know someone who would do well in one of these positions, please let the Committee know. There are also areas of leadership on various committees; if you are interested, please contact the Committee.

Candidates for the various positions will be announced in the November issue of the NARS News and will be voted on at the regular NARS meeting in November. Of course, nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting.

## NEW NARS BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCED; COORDINATOR VACANCY FILLED

Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, has accepted the appointment to Director at Large on the NARS Board of Directors. Ed will fill the unexpired term (through the end of 1989) of Paul Frantz, LA0FV, who has been transferred to Norway.

Rich MacDougal, N5LSP, volunteered to fill the important job of Public Services Coordinator for NARS. Call Rich if you need help coordinating community service events.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION  
FOR ARRL WEST GULF DIVISION DIRECTOR**



**\* \* P R O P A G A T I O N \* \***  
by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

The real Ten Meters has arrived. The band is open to everywhere and everybody knows it. There are lots of pileups on both phone and CW over the rare DX, and there are laid back portions of the band higher in frequency where you can get away from the 30 second phone QSO's and actually TALK to the DX. Ten meters is a big band. If your goal is to work a lot of countries, keep in mind that propagation on 10 is mostly across daytime paths and the sun has already set at the North Pole. The grey line window into central and southern Asia is narrow and the grey line is moving away from the pole. Deep Asians are easy to identify because their signals have the most echo. Work them now - we will have access to Europe until late next spring. 20 is still the best nighttime band, with an excellent path to Europe in the late afternoon. 15 is in great shape too, but will become more of a daytime band like 10 as MUF's decline in autumn. Last spring 15 had better 24 hour propagation than any other band with polar openings day and night. This excellent 15 meter propagation will emerge in the southern hemisphere in the form of long path opportunities that will usually pass unnoticed.

Long Path: This writer will try to gain a better feel for 15 meter long path during the current cycle peak and the seasonal peak this fall. 20 meter paths are very predictable and are all open daily at this time, but there is less activity. Is everybody on 10 meters? The morning path peaks from 1300Z to 1500Z, beginning with south Asia (VU/4S7) bearing about 200 degrees. Opening gradually swings to westerly heading, opening to Russia and the Middle East, then Europe and east and southern Africa. Afternoon opening begins around 2000Z for sunrise peak in western Pacific (beam heading east). This sweeps across VK, then becomes grey line path via antarctic to Far East. These paths are well known.

**\* \* \* FAR OUT \* \* \***  
by JACK DOUGLAS, KA5DNP

Those of you among the "newly interested" might appreciate a thumbnail guide to information on AMATEUR SATELLITE ACTIVITIES.

The definitive work on the subject is "THE SATELLITE EXPERIMENTER'S HANDBOOK" by Dr. Martin Davidoff published by the ARRL and available directly from the ARRL or the local "candy store" (\$10). A new publication, "THE ARRL SATELLITE ANTHOLOGY" compiles over 30 QST articles (\$5). It should be a very good one.

On-the-air nets offer a great way to become involved. On Tuesday evenings you can join in on the AMSAT Mid-America Net at 9 p.m. Houston time on 3840 MHz. The Houston AMSAT Net follows at 10 p.m. on the WB5RDK repeater (144.85/145.45). Sunday at 1900 UTC the AMSAT International Net is held on 14.282 MHz.

The key to the SATELLITE area of AMATEUR activity is AMSAT, the non-profit Radio Amateur Satellite Corp. This is THE group that gets the birds in the air, controls their operation, and keeps members informed through the AMATEUR SATELLITE REPORT distributed to members bi-weekly as a benefit of membership. Membership (\$26/year) is available through AMSAT, P.O. Box 27, Washington, DC 20044.

The AMSAT Software Exchange (same address) is a source for tracking programs (in the order of \$25 for members). By writing to Project Operations Branch (code 513), NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771 you can get on the distribution list for AMATEUR SATELLITE PREDICTIONS (prepaid by your taxes!) so you will have the latest satellite "elements" each week to feed your computer program.

If you have questions about any of this, I'll be glad to answer them at the NARS meeting on October 21st.



## HURRICANE GILBERT - 1988

Hurricane Gilbert roared into our part of the world last month. At one time it was a Category 5 storm with the lowest barometric measured in the last 100 years. All indications were that it could hit Houston and if it did it would be the worst ever experienced. Fortunately for us, the predictions were wrong and Gilbert missed this area. It did, however, wreck much of the Caribbean and NE Mexico and some of them are still trying to recover. At one time the island of Jamaica was without power, water and electricity. Just a handful of Hams were able to get out with makeshift antennas as all the towers were blown down. If you monitored the emergency frequencies on 20M you heard stories of Hams themselves tending to the injured, trying to fly out people in need of medical attention, and all of the various efforts to fly in medical supplies, water and food.

Here in Houston we proved to be about as ready as possible. Scott Byrd, N5KEU, NW Harris County ARES E.C., relates the sequence of events as we got ready for a hurricane:

Wednesday (9-14) - 2M antenna installed up 20 ft. at Cypresswood Annex EOC and coax run to room set aside for amateur radio operation.

Thursday (9-15) - Station made operational. Scott set up his 2M rig and ran communication checks. At 7 p.m. Harris County RACES set up administration net on 146.34/94 MHz repeater. Scott activated local ARES telephone tree and all members informed of the situation. NW Medical Center is notified of radio readiness and several ARES ops put on call if needed at hospital.

Friday (9-16) - (Gilbert is making landfall in NE Mexico and no threat to the Houston area) RACES net shut down at 7 a.m. and all NW ARES activities closed down.

Scott said, "Everything worked just

## NARS NOTES

- THE HOUSTON COM-VENTION & ARRL South TX Section Convention will be at the Sheraton Crown Hotel - 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd. - Houston, November 11-13.

NARS club activities during the meeting include the transmitter hunt, parking assistance, and vendor setup assistance.

Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, will conduct the transmitter hunt on Saturday afternoon. He needs your help! Please call him to volunteer your assistance at 370-0513 (home) or 759-0914 (office).

The parking help group will be headed by Ed Hinds, KB5AEL. To offer your help, call him at his home phone, 894-6108.

Vendor assistance will be coordinated by Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK. He will be accepting volunteers at his home number, 376-7660.

- NEW CALL SIGNS - Congrats to Jay Chase who received his new General Class call sign N5NEF ex KB5GEU; he sent it to the ARRL VEC to swap it for his Amateur Extra Class call sign already earned.

Paul Frantz has received his new Norwegian call, LA0FV, and has promised to be up on 10M pronto.

- SEE NARS INFO in October QST p.144

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as planned with no major problems. The new operator position at the Cypresswood Annex EOC is basically ready. The antenna will be mounted in a permanent position in the near future." He then added, "I'm glad we didn't have to go through with the actual emergency situation, but if we had to we would have been ready with operators at all the necessary locations." de N5FIX



## 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 449.375/444.375 MHz

### NARS DIGIPEATER

Freq. (145.07 MHz) Alias (NARS)  
Call (W5BKK-1)

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| Tel: 984-9028 |  
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BOB WELCH, KE5IC  
7811 Theisswood Rd.  
Spring TX 77379

## NARS NETS

RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8 p.m.  
28.444 MHz (Dick, W5VHN)

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 |  
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