

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

September 1988

SEPTEMBER

NARS

MEETING

CANCELLED!!

At press time, the threat is so great that major hurricane Gilbert will cause an interruption to normal activities on the regular meeting night, it has been decided to cancel the September NARS meeting.

FCC DESIGNATES EMERGENCY FREQ'S

14.325 MHz

The FCC Miami field office has designated ~~14.235 MHz~~ and 14.275 MHz plus and minus 5 kHz as emergency frequencies for hurricane message traffic on behalf of the National Hurricane Center. All amateur transmissions on these frequencies must pertain directly to relief work and emergency service.

de ARRL Bulletin NR 99 (9-13-88)

NARS NET CHANGES ANNOUNCED

A new frequency is planned for the Monday night 10M NARS Ragchew Net. Effective with the net at 8 p.m. on September 19th, the net frequency will change from the current 28.490 to 28.444 MHz. Net Control Dick Rooney, W5VHN, suggested this change because of improved band conditions on 10M, and subsequent DX QRM at the old net locale.

Another net announcement is the cancellation until further notice of the Tuesday night CW Practice Net.

NW ARES PARTICIPATES IN FM 1960 "SHOP THE STRIP" ON AUGUST 27

NARS members of the Northwest ARES group participated in a shopper's fair held in the K-Mart shopping center parking lot at the corner of Kuykendahl and FM 1960. The fair was sponsored by the NW Chamber of Commerce to help support businesses along FM 1960 (which is currently under construction).

Many emergency related agencies were present including the Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Dept. with all types of fire trucks; the Harris County Sheriff's Dept. with their communications trailer; and the U.S. Army with several vehicles and two helicopters. Many other groups were there to inform the public about their role in the community.

Amateur radio was represented by ARES operators manning a Ham station on site. Scott Byrd, N5KEU, NW ARES Emergency Coordinator, organized the effort. Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, supplied his "Swat Wagon" and Bob White, KF5ZL, brought his TS430 which played well into the 3-element beam on site. Several times visitors were given the mike and allowed to talk to a Ham on the air. This was exciting for them and great public relations for us.

In addition to those mentioned above, other Hams participating in this activity were: Jim Clarke, N5FIX; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Tom Roraback, KF500; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR; Joe Green, WA4FGH; Bruce Cline, N5FD; and Ev Haines, KA5VIZ. A good time was had by all and their help was greatly appreciated for making the outing a success.

de N5FIX & N5KEU

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

Ten meters is waking up from a long sleep. As this is written, openings to Europe are still marginal with good signals from Japan in the late afternoon. Ten meters (and also 15) are the bands of choice among many operators who lack the heavy hardware (and arrogance) required on 20 phone. Ten is also preferred by operators in many of the more exotic DX countries, especially in Africa. The fall season is off to a good start, and conditions will be much better by the time you read this. DX propagation on ten is mostly across daytime paths, with east-west propagation across evening areas and short polar openings at grey-line time. 15 has recovered from summer burnout, propagating over the same daytime pattern as ten. 15 stays open later in the evening, giving us longer and broader openings working into or out of evening areas. The extended evening stuff on 15 is at its best in late spring, however. 15 will be good this fall, and less sensitive to wide swings in solar flux that will probably affect ten. 20 will continue to work well across the dark regions, with polar grey-line into Asia. 40 never quits, but don't forget 80 and a sunrise chart. Countries like VK, ZS, and LU are uncommon during our winter, but are workable now.

Long Path: A variety of paths are opening up on 20, taking advantage of improved nighttime propagation in the southern hemisphere. We now have a path to SE Asia around sunset, daily morning openings to southern Asia and the Middle East, with expanded openings into Africa - especially the northeastern portion. This is a good season to work the Antarctic short path, but signals from the Indian Ocean side often come via the north. Opening soon will be afternoon VK and the morning pipeline to Russia and Europe.

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

OSCAR 13 continues to be the focus of attention for the Amateur Satellite Community. AO-13 had been in use for a month before I got to try it out. My first evening (Early on August 27 UTC) was great. My first contact was with Norman, GW8UCQ, in Cardiff, Wales. Then I talked with Russ in Wellington, Ohio. Next I heard familiar voices and joined a round table (one of the real joys of full duplex) which included Rex and Stu in England, Lee in California, and Ed in New York. We talked for 20 minutes before I shut it down for the evening! All of these fellows are "Friends" from OSCAR 10. It's just like a group on an FM repeater but spread over seven time zones.

If you want to become involved, the key item is the capability to receive 2M CW and/or SSB. This can be done with a relatively inexpensive receive converter for your HF rig or a used all-mode 2M rig. You will need a beam antenna and a preamp which can be homebrewed if the ready mades require too much green stuff. Sure, to really get into it you will need a transmitter (440 band) via a transverter or independent rig, but all I need to do is get you to equip yourself to listen. Once you do I know you will take the next steps on your own!

The above refers to MODE B operation; Uplink on 435 (70 cm) and downlink on 145 (2M). There are other "MODES" but this is by far the most popular and accessible.

My most sincere thanks to Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, for the excellent article he contributed during my recent extended absence and to our resourceful and dedicated publisher Bob Welch, KE5IC, who dealt so effectively with my unannounced departure!

NARS NOTES

- HOUSTON COM-VENTION '88 & ARRL South Texas Section Convention will be held at the Sheraton Crown Hotel-15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd.-Houston, November 11-13.

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

- UPGRADES AND NEW CALL SIGNS - Congratulations to the following:

Pat Myers upgraded to General Class and reports in with new call sign N5MZL ex KB5DGB.

Henry del Valle upgraded to Technician Class and his new call sign is N5MSO ex KB5DFT.

Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ, upgraded to Technician Class.

- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Len Salvner, KB5GFD
Howard Narvaez
Yeshwant Lotlikar

- SEE NARS INFO September QST, p.152

FCC PROPOSES NEW HAM BAND

The FCC has issued a proposal, docket 87 467, to permit amateur operation in the 17M band, 18.068 through 18.168 MHz. In this proposal, the entire 17M band will be available to general, advanced, and extra class licensees with a maximum of 1.5 KW PEP output. The band would be divided into a CW and digital subband at 18.068 through 18.110 MHz and a phone subband at 18.110 through 18.168 MHz. In its proposal, FCC said it desired to make this band available to amateurs by July 1, 1989. Further details will appear in November QST and the ARRL Newsletter.

de ARRL Bulletin NR 97 (9-6-88)

AUGUST MEETING RECAP

For our August meeting Bob White, KF5ZL, presented emergency communication procedures and problems. Fred Windisch, Ponderosa VFD Chief and FM 1960 LEPC Chmn., conveyed concerns about potential hazmat emergencies in this area. He urged Hams, or "Hamnet" as we are known in their operating procedures, to become involved with other emergency groups to become aware of their capabilities and SOP's. Scott Byrd, N5KEU, NW ARES E.C., talked about the local ARES effort. He also announced a future ARES station to be set up at the Harris County Sheriff's Department District I substation on Cypresswood Drive.

Door prize books were won by Jim Clarke, N5FIX, (Easy-Up Antennas); Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, (Bill Orr's Antenna Handbook); and Mike Wisby, N5HIA, (ARRL Antenna Compendium). All prizes were courtesy of Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston.

BON VOYAGE PAUL

Many thanks to all of you who showed up at the NARS Saturday morning breakfast on July 30th to wish me and my family a pleasant trip to our new home in Norway. I'm taking my HF gear with me and look forward to working all of you from there. Those signing my Bon Voyage card at breakfast included Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Ev Haines, KA5VIZ; Bob White, KF5ZL; Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; Jerry Reimer, KA5QAP; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Dick Rousseau, N5JZY; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Bruce Cline, N5FD; Kirby Van Horn, K7WOC; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Jim Clarke, N5FIX; Tom Roraback, KF500; Joel Empie, N5HWU; Dick Combs, N5DRM; Dan Cassiani, N5KPI; Brad Nelson, WB5GNI; Roy Hradilek, AD5Q; Allen Majeski, WA5REJ; Joe Green, WA4FGH; and Henry Freedenberg, N5HF.

Thanks again, and drop me a line:
Paul Frantz, Expatriate - Norway,
P.O. Box 4381, Houston TX 77210.

de Paul, KF5SB

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 - NET/ROM

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

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