

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 1989

DIRECTION FINDING TECHNIQUES TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY 17 MEETING

Direction finding techniques as well as other technical aspects of locating a hidden transmitter will be our program this month, and helping us to discover the world of DF is NARS member Henry Freedenberg, N5HF.

Henry has been involved with coordinating the transmitter hunts for the last several Com-Ventions here in Houston and has been involved in many himself. He is very interested in and quite knowledgeable about DFing, so be prepared for an excellent presentation. This meeting will be more technical in nature so come ready to learn how direction finding works, how to build a DF antenna, and other super sleuthing hints from the master.

Come early also to enjoy some eyeball QSOing with local Hams, and to get a good seat. We've been having some good crowds so don't miss out.

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Activities Chairman, Dan Cassiani, N5KPI, introduced our speaker, Roy Hradilek, AD5Q, who spoke on "Propagation". Roy said the best time to work long path is Saturday morning during the NARS breakfast. Hi. He said, basically, that the best time on most bands is about 20-30 minutes after local sunrise. For 20M, point your beam 200 degrees for Sri Lanka and then follow the shift. There were a lot of helpful hints that you missed if you weren't there... Many visitors on hand; a good showing overall... Door prize was won by Mario Bosquez, KG5JU. He received a 1989 North American Call Book given by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston. Phone: 713-520-7300.

1989 NARS NOVICE COURSE OFF TO GREAT START

The first session of the '89 NARS Novice Course met Tuesday night, January 31st at the Prince of Peace Catholic Community, 19222 Tomball Parkway. A total of 35 have registered for the course so far. After introduction of those who will be participating as instructors, the ARRL video "The New World of Amateur Radio" was presented.

Unfortunately, the second session scheduled for February 7th was "iced out", so now everything will be on schedule, just delayed a week.

NARS APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Several new club appointments have been announced by president Rich MacDougall, KG5LZ. Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ, is a new director-at-large and will also be the new Education Committee chairman. This is a new position in response to emphasis by the ARRL on creating a greater presence of amateur radio in the school system to attract our youth. Ken has already recruited a teacher at Klein Forest High School to act as faculty advisor for a potential Ham club. He has several ideas and welcomes volunteers, contacts, and ideas from you... Dan Cassiani, N5KPI, has been appointed Activities chairman and becomes a director. His primary responsibilities will be arranging NARS meeting programs and events... Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, is the new RFI Committee chairman. If you're experiencing RFI problems in your house or in the neighborhood, N5HF's your man... Roy Hradilek, AD5Q, has agreed to be antenna coordinator for ARRL Field Day this year. It's time to get serious about planning for this event coming up June 24/25.

*** * * P R O P A G A T I O N * * ***

by ROY HRADILEK, AD5Q

We made it through January pretty well, with fluxes in the 200's much of the month. This kept the high bands open later in the evening, resulting in better than expected northern latitude propagation. European Russia remained workable on 10, with excellent openings on 20 late in the evening. We can expect an early spring.

HIGH BANDS: 20 will resume all-night propagation very soon, opening to at least half the world starting around mid-afternoon. Work the more distant parts of the world at sunrise peaks (our end or theirs), which on 20 occur around an hour after actual sunrise. 15 will stay open later into the evening, with plenty of polar propagation. Later in the spring it will also become an all-night band. 10 meters will be excellent for at least the next three months, with increasing morning and evening polar propagation as spring progresses.

LOW BANDS: The east coast has Europe on 80. We can work the louder eastern Europeans (the ones with linears), but new countries have been hard to come by this season. During Pacific DXpeditions it is a good idea to check 80 at our sunrise. 40 has been very good, and should not be neglected after all-night propagation returns to 20. Grey-line paths are excellent to remote points of the globe.

LONG PATH: During peaks in the sunspot cycle long path propagation is reliable on 20 all year long. The morning path to southern Africa has been out of season lately, but it should return shortly. The other 20 meter circuits are wide open. Long Path is usually your best route to countries anywhere near the Indian Ocean. Many exotic countries are workable if you catch LP openings habitually, especially the morning ones.

*** * * F A R O U T * * ***

by JACK DOUGLAS, KA5DNP

Ham satellite activity is a dynamic area! There are many projects "in the works" for the immediate future. The Russians are working on RS 12/13 which will probably be launched this summer. It will have transponders for Modes A,K,T and "Robots" just like RS 10/11.

Meanwhile, AMSAT groups have teamed up with Weber State College, Ogden, Utah and are well along the way with what are called MICROSATS. TAPR is providing some financial support and ARRL is assisting with design and construction.

At least four of these small (9-in. cubes weighing less than 10 Kg) satellites are being constructed. Each satellite consists of a bus of common design which carries a mission-specific payload. AMSAT North America (AMSAT-NA) and AMSAT Argentina (AMSAT-LU) payloads are packet radio transponders (PACSATS). These will be packet store & forward "boxes" utilizing AX.25 protocol.

AMSAT Brazil's (BRAMSAT) effort is aimed at producing "the first satellite specifically designed to transmit spoken messages that implicitly promote peace between nations." It should produce signals that can be heard on scanners and other inexpensive receivers. It will have voice synthesizer outputs in various languages to interest students in technical skill development.

The fourth MICROSAT will investigate video imaging from space using a low resolution color CDD camera.

These "birds" are so small that all four of them are on the manifest of an Arianespace rocket presently on schedule for a June 1989 launch. The orbit will be sun-synchronous inclined at 98.7 degrees at 822 km. This is low, resulting in about 105 minute revolutions and "passes" in the order of ten minutes.

NARS NOTES

- UPGRADE - Congratulations to Brad Killebrew, N5LJV, on his upgrade to Amateur Extra Class.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS member Bert Fisher, AC5Z.
- SEE NARS INFO - February QST p.132

ARES NET MOVES TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Scott Byrd, N5KEU, E.C., NW Harris County ARES, reports that the ARES net which had been meeting on Tuesday night now meets on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. local time, or immediately after the NARS Info Net which starts at 8 p.m. that night.

ABOUT THAT "ELMER" AWARD...

The NARS Banquet January 26th was great. Congratulations to the Banquet Committee on a job well done. The Awards Committee made excellent selections except the "Elmer of the Year" award. In accepting this award my remarks were, "Looking around the room I believe there are many who are more deserving." Then I added the facetious remark, "On second thought, I can't think of anyone." The first remark I fully believe; the second one I regret!

Struggling to pass my test for my amateur license thirty years ago, my wife would say that Ham activities would make an old man out of me. It sure did! Those activities afforded me the means of surviving the transition from full employment to retirement, and then the more serious problem of moving from Florida to Texas in '83, and subsequently the loss of my wife after 64 years of marriage. The need was great, and I say to you that the "Elmer" award should be presented to NARS for the past four years. I know other members with the same attitude.

Thanks NARS!

de Joe Green, WA4FGH

FROM THE PRESIDENT by RICH MACDOUGAL, KG5LZ

Did you know that NARS is a "Special Services Club" (SSC) under the auspices of the ARRL? I didn't realize this until our November 1988 meeting and learned that it has significant meaning! As an SSC we were challenged by our ARRL Section leaders to adopt a high school or Scout group in order to help foster the interest of young people in Amateur Radio. How do we get young people interested in Amateur Radio? We can start by befriending and encouraging young folks that we have in our club now. How about our young Brad Killebrew, N5LJV? He just passed his Amateur Extra Class exam! Heck, I've taken the 20 wpm code test three times and still haven't passed it! I guess he doesn't need my help, but we can at least let him know that we appreciate his coming to the meetings. Or how about young Dee Kramm, KB5GEW; she brought a friend with her to the January meeting. When you see her again thank her for coming and let her know we want her to keep coming and bringing more friends. Finally, let's all endeavor to recruit young people into NARS, bring them to the next meeting, encourage them to get their license. Our young Hams are our insurance that our hobby will stay healthy. And maybe for us old-timers, we will still be able to enjoy QSO's with our grandchildren.

ELECTION OF NEW TREASURER IMMINENT

NARS treasurer Joy Smith, KB5DTB, has tendered her resignation for personal reasons. Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD, is acting in her stead pending election of a new treasurer.

Dee Kramm, KB5GEW, has agreed to accept the nomination for treasurer. In accordance with the NARS Constitution and By-Laws, her name will be submitted for confirmation by the membership at the next regular NARS meeting on February 17. Other nominations for treasurer will be accepted from the floor.

FOURTH ANNUAL NARS BANQUET ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS

There was more barbeque sausage, beef, and ribs than could be eaten, but everybody did their best. Oh yes, there were awards presented, too. There's just not a better banquet than barbeque, rag chewing on antennas, rigs, DX contacts, band openings and short speeches. It just doesn't get any better.

The banquet room was packed for the NARS Annual Awards Banquet held Saturday evening, January 28th, at The County Line restaurant on Cutten Rd. Besides the great food, many awards were presented. Some were no surprise to anyone present; some other awards took the recipients off guard (no speech prepared). Speeches prepared or not, everyone was well deserving of their recognition for helping make NARS the best all-round club in the Houston area.

Our president Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ, started off the festivities by introducing the officers and board of directors of the club. He then zero-beated in on the long path history of the recipient of the "Past President's Award", Bruce Cline, N5FD. Bruce did a great job of carrying the NARS torch last year.

Bob White, KF5ZL, board member, presented the "Public Service Award" to Scott Byrd, N5KEU. Scott has put in a lot of time coordinating emergency operations for the NW Harris County ARES group. Bob then presented the "Most Progressive Beginner" award to Jay Chase, AA5IM. Jay is a graduate of the '88 NARS Novice Course and has already advanced up to Amateur Extra Class.

Tom Roraback, KF500, board member, presented the "Operator of the Year/Multi Mode" award to Bruce Cline, N5FD. Bruce gets on just about every mode but packet, and he's working on that. "Operator of the Year/CW-DX Contests" went to Roy

Hradilek, AD5Q. No surprise here. Roy writes the propagation column for the NARS News and consistently places very high in contests.

Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, presented the "Elmer of the Year" award to Joe Green, WA4FGH. Joe has been helping a fellow Ham get on the air while going through a time of great need. Ken also announced the "Operator of the Year/Specialist", Jack Douglas, KA5DNP. Jack is very active on satellites, is a participating member of AMSAT, and has conducted several programs on Ham satellites.

And finally, subbing for Don Busick, K5AAD, of Madison Electronics, Ken Edinborough, W5BKK, with a dramatic flair announced the recipient of the "NARS Outstanding Service Award", Bob Welch, KE5IC. Bob does more behind the scenes work than anybody in keeping NARS "on the air" and is well deserving of the award. He produces, prints, and distributes the NARS News every month along with being an ARRL Official Bulletin Station, a NARS Novice Course instructor, the keeper of the NARS roster and mailing list data base, the Walk America 1960 area coordinator, and the list goes on and on.

This award is sponsored by Madison Electronics and is accompanied by a \$250 gift certificate to the "candy store". Bob has a tower under construction so there should be little problem finding a use for the award.

Many thanks go to the YL's who decorated the tables with Ham radio caps with little Yagi's mounted on top. Jim Clarke, N5FIX, brought mounted pictures of NARS members from club activities last year. Many thanks go to the Banquet Committee chairman Ken Edinborough, W5BKK, for booking the restaurant and seeing that everything was decorated and run smoothly.

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT (Board Chairman)
Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ 363-5030

VICE PRESIDENT
Ed Hinds, KB5AEL 894-6108

SECRETARY
Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR 353-2196

TREASURER Pending

DIRECTORS

Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ 999-1587
Bruce Cline, N5FD 351-1387
Dan Cassiani, N5KPI 376-0215
Tom Roraback, KF500 583-2661
Bob White, KF5ZL 376-8338

NARS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ACTIVITIES Dan Cassiani, N5KPI

COM-VENTION Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK

EDUCATION Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ

FIELD DAY Pending

INTERFERENCE Henry Freedenberg, N5HF

NARS NEWS Bob Welch, KE5IC

PUBLIC RELATIONS Jim Clarke, N5FIX

REPEATER Ken Harlan, KA5AKG

TRAINING Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR

PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR
Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR
(469-7374) Scott Byrd, N5KEU

NARS BULLETIN BOARD

NARS MEETS the third Friday of each month at the Cypress Creek EMS Bldg. 16650 Sugar Pine Lane (beneath the water tower) one block east of Kuykendahl and two blocks south of FM 1960. Meeting time: 8 p.m.
Eyeball QSO's: about 7:30 p.m.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday 8 a.m. Strack Farms Restaurant, located at 5707 Louetta Rd. - 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)

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

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8 p.m.
28.444 MHz (Ed, KB5AEL)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8 p.m.
146.06/66 MHz (Ken, KA5AKG)

EMERGENCY NETS

Northwest Harris County ARES
WEDNESDAY 8:30 p.m.
146.06/66 MHz (Scott, N5KEU)

Harris County OEM RACES
SUNDAY 7 p.m.
146.34/94 MHz (Bob, KF5ZL)

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS) is an ARRL Special Services Club. ARRL Club No. 2120.

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