

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 1989

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS SET FOR JULY 21

When a massive hurricane in tropic waters heads for the Gulf of Mexico, what happens in the emergency operations headquarters of a major Gulf Coast city like Houston? To give us an insight into this at our July 21 meeting will be Dick Hawkins, W5DWI. Dick is currently Division Manager, Emergency Management and Operations, for the City of Houston. He has been with the City for 13 years, is now president of the Texas Gulf Coast Emergency Management Association, and is chairman elect of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for the City of Houston. Dick received his Ham radio license in 1954.

For the meeting, Dick will discuss use of amateur radio as a resource to help in his overall emergency operations efforts. Hopefully he will give a look at past City communication history and describe "The Cave" for the benefit of our many newcomers to Ham radio as well as Houston.

Meeting time - 8 p.m. at the Cypress Creek EMS building, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane, Houston.

JUNE MEETING RECAP

June meeting topic was Field Day... Rich Richardson, KA5YFU, chairman, briefed club on preparations; Bob Welch, KE5IC, presented slides and video of past NARS Field Day fun; Dallas HamCom convention activities were ably reported by Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, and Jack Douglas, KA5DNP... The door prize was won by visiting NARS member Paul Frantz, LA0FV. He won a new ARRL Book, "Antenna Impedance Matching", donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston. Phone: 713-520-7300.

TWO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Bob White, KF5ZL, has been appointed to two management positions involving amateur radio emergency communications. Under the ARES program, he was appointed by the ARRL as "District Emergency Coordinator" for Harris and five surrounding counties. He will coordinate activities of the local ARES Emergency Coordinators such as our own Scott Byrd, N5KEU, NW Harris County EC. Then under the RACES program he was appointed by the State of Texas Office of Emergency Management as the "District Radio Officer" for Harris and 13 surrounding counties. All RACES activities in this area now fall under his direction. In both of these positions he replaces Roger Shaper, W5CKC, who is rotating out.

ARES UPDATE

The NW Harris County ARES group participated in the 1989 "Polly" Hurricane Exercise on June 14-15. Those participating were Bob White, KF5ZL (Harris County EOC); Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK (Sheriff's Van); Scott Byrd, N5KEU (Cypresswood EOC); Bob Welch, KE5IC (Net Control); Curt Furtado, KB5BCL; and Jerry Reimer, KA5QAP. There was a low turnout of operators, but those involved "did a great job and gave 100%," commented Bob, KF5ZL.

TECH/GENERAL UPGRADE GROUP

A Tech/General Upgrade group met during May and early June. Headed up by Bob Welch, KE5IC, with able assistance from Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, this concept has borne more fruit. Please check the "NARS NOTES" column in this issue and note two General Class and four Technician Class licenses have been awarded attendees of this "Operation Upgrade."

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

10 meters: Moving into midsummer, most DX activity is confined to 20 and 15 meters. Summer absorption has burned up the northern latitude paths on 10, so propagation to Europe and Asia is very limited. 10 meters is in excellent shape in the southern hemisphere. Conditions to all points south of the equator will remain good, with opportunities for contacts in many other parts of the northern hemisphere via long path. Look for 10 meter LP to Japan in mid-morning, and to Europe in late evening. These signals are usually weak and the countries are not rare. Most rare long path DX is on 20.

15 meters: June has been very good, especially on nighttime paths. As this is written, it is early July and conditions are still good. Europe and Asia are accessible for much of the day and night. Long path to Europe is workable for over an hour after our sunrise, and JA via LP comes through from 1900Z to 2130Z. The Indian Ocean and Africa also come in via LP in the morning while the same path is open on 20. Deterioration of northern latitude propagation is expected for the next 4 - 6 weeks.

20 meters: Propagation peaks to Europe and Asia have been of shorter duration than on 15 because the daytime paths are not easily crossed. Summer propagation occurs over nighttime paths, or over daytime areas where the sun is low in the sky. This will continue until winter. We have mentioned the reliable morning long path to Africa and the Indian Ocean often enough. We have also emphasized the northwesterly pipeline to Asia in the morning, which also extends across the Indian Ocean. There is hardly anybody in that part of the world to talk to, but there are about a half dozen island countries in the South Indian Ocean that are very rare. This northwesterly path also peaks in the summer, and three of these countries are currently active.

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

FIELD DAY - some comments after the fact. A satellite station was part of the effort. It was successful, but not without its share of Murphy problems. My experimental concentric 2M quad - 70cm Helix (from field day onward known as "The Ray Gun") did not abide being wet - at least not very well. The effectiveness of the 70cm antenna was drastically reduced. However, a late night dry-off performed by Gary, N5GBR, from the top of a Suburban and the presence of good CW operators like Bruce, N5FD, and Ken, W5BKK, resulted in CW signals such that 40 contacts were logged (one of the 40 was an SSB contact). OSCAR 13 was utilized on its one usable orbit during the Field Day period. If you were not there to catch the CW test contact with KA5DNP from his home QTH about midnight (with N5GBR on the Field Day key) you missed the "low-light" of the evening.

Of course, without the equipment of W5BKK and N5GBR there would have been no station; without the motor home of Vince, KC0LM, there would probably have been no operators. There are many others to thank, but those cited made satellite operation possible at this NARS Field day. (As far as the writer is concerned, the real stars of Field day were the generators provided by Ed, KB5AEL!!)

As to life after Field Day, we now have word that the Russian's launch of RS 12/13 has been postponed; the best guess is sometime in November. Stay tuned.

The launch of the much discussed MicroSats is now scheduled for the second week in November. We'll keep you posted.

A new AMSAT net has been activated. This net is held at 2300 UTC Sunday evenings on 18.155 MHz. Tune in for updates on Amateur Satellite and Space news.

NARS NOTES

● PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Bud Miles, N5MFD
Steve Miles, N5MBN
Steve Farlow
Steve Lhamon

● UPGRADES - Congratulations to the following who have upgraded:

To General Class:

Barbara Peat, KB5GEZ
Miguel Chiusano, KB5JPY

To Technician Class:

Ann Shearer, KB5GEQ
Dave Bauer, KB5GER
George Peat, KB5GFA
Joe Shearer, KB5GFC
Steve Farlow
Steve Lhamon

● CONGRATULATIONS are also in order for Billy Taylor, N50TX, who got his new call sign ex KB5JFX.

● BEST WISHES to Joe Green, WA4FGH, whose 90th birthday was July 9.

● MOVES AND TRANSFERS take NARS members away from the area:

Ev Haines, KA5VIZ, has accepted a position with the Waukesha Engine Co. in Waukesha, Wisc., where he will head up their North American marketing operations. Ev has been very active in NARS activities and served as both V.P. and president of the club. His presence was particularly noted during Field Day operations where he supplied both equipment and brawn.

Doug Seyler, WB5TKI, has accepted a promotion with UNOCAL and is moving to Oklahoma City.

Bert Fisher, AC5Z, is abandoning the big city lights for a quieter retirement life in Nacogdoches.

Good luck to all! Stay in touch.

● FOR NARS INFO see July QST, p.134

1989 FIELD DAY REVISITED

"We had another successful Field Day event this year, and, in many ways it was more successful than for Field Days held in years past." That seems to be the general consensus of those that were most active during this year's activity. They mention fewer technical and equipment problems, little antenna interference between stations, and better overall grounding. Another big point made was all the new and old Hams who showed up to operate. NARS has always shown great participation and this year was no exception. Field Day is a good time to create excitement in amateur radio for those Hams who have been inactive for whatever reason. Many went away that weekend with the excitement to finish that antenna or other project.

Thanks go out to all who participated this year; Rich, KA5YFU, estimated that in excess of 75 hands took part in the operation this year.

1989 NARS FIELD DAY RESULTS (N5FD and KB5EYR)

The following are the anticipated NARS scores for 1989 Field Day:

Band	SSB	CW
10	390	-
15	509	93
20	326	297
40	-	243
80	-	11
Satellite	1	33
Packet	-	14
Novice	(381)	(48)
TOTAL QSO'S	1226	691

Bonus Points:

Emergency Power	200
Publicity	100
Location	100
SM Message	100
Field Day Message	100
Satellite	100
Packet Radio	100
	800

Total QSO points	2608
X 2 (Power multiplier)	5216
Estimated TOTAL	6016

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society
is an ARRL Special Services Club
* * ARRL Club No. 2120 * *

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

BOB WELCH, KE5IC
7811 Theisswood Rd.
Spring TX 77379

QSO	Band	Power
10	10	10
15	15	15
20	20	20
40	40	40
80	80	80
100	100	100
150	150	150
200	200	200
250	250	250
300	300	300
350	350	350
400	400	400
450	450	450
500	500	500
550	550	550
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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)

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

NARS REPEATER FREQUENCIES

146.06/66 MHz 449.375/444.375 MHz

NARS DIGIPEATER

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