

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 1989

## FCC VISITS NARS FOR MARCH 17 MEETING

"The FCC - Your Local Field Office" - - that's the title of our meeting topic for March 17th. Stephen Lee, Electrical Engineer in the Enforcement Division of the Field Operations Bureau of the FCC office for this area of Texas, is our guest speaker for the month.

Mr. Lee represented the FCC at last year's Houston Com-Venture so he has had contact with many of the local area Hams. This will be his initial visit to NARS and will afford you an excellent opportunity to hear from the FCC at the local level.

He will inform us about how they handle enforcement problems and public service in general. He will also fill us in on the types of equipment they use in their work, and he will have some stories to tell about how they have caught people violating the rules.

If you're not real clear on what the FCC does, especially in the enforcement area, this will be a good meeting to attend and find out. The meeting starts at 8 p.m., but come early for some good eyeball QSOing and some great ragchewing.

## FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

At the February NARS meeting, Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, explained direction finding techniques. Interest in fox hunts was really tweaked... Any ideas for the Houston Com-Venture this year? Contact W5BKK or KF500... the door prize was won by Gene Montgomery, KA5LDP, who received a copy of the 1989 edition of "World Radio TV Handbook" donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston. Phone: 713-520-7300.

## NEW NARS TREASURER ELECTED AT FEBRUARY 17 MEETING

Dee Kramm, KB5GEW, has been elected treasurer of NARS. Dee received her Novice Class license last year after attending the NARS Novice Course, and has been active on the air with her Kenwood TS-440S. More recently she has been spearheading the establishment of a Ham Radio club at Klein Forest High School, a project that is nearing fruition. Congratulations, Dee, and best of luck in your new endeavors.

## THE NARS NOVICE COURSE CONTINUES ON TARGET

The current NARS Novice Course is progressing on schedule under the tutelage of Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR. Assisting with the class this year are Bob White, KF5ZL; Dan Cassiani, N5KPI; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; and Bob Welch, KE5IC.

Registration topped out at 46 eager potential Hams. Of particular note is a participating group from Klein Forest High School attending at the suggestion of Dee Kramm, KB5GEW. Looks like their new Ham club will start off with a great foundation.

## HAM RANKS INCREASE

The number of FCC-licensed radio amateurs has surpassed 440,000 for the first time in history. FCC figures as of December 27, 1988, show a total of 440,311 licensed amateurs.

Novice	80,168
Technician	101,495
General	113,082
Advanced	98,681
Extra	46,885
TOTAL	440,311

(TNX The ARRL Letter)



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

We are now approaching the spring equinox, and the grey line now runs straight over the pole. With fluxes as high as they are, we can expect excellent polar propagation on several bands. This would also be true in the fall, but there are some important differences between spring and fall propagation. Ten meters is usually better in the fall, but with propagation in the 200's anyway, who cares? The most significant spring-time phenomenon is the 15M propagation over nighttime paths.

HIGH BANDS: The whole world will be workable on 10, though the windows over the pole will be narrow. Best penetration into Asia will be the two hours following either sunrise or sunset. Look for the Russian 8th call area, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, etc. in this window. The Middle East can be worked in the morning and the Far East just before 10 closes. 15 meter propagation will be outstanding. This band is remaining open well into the evening, and will be a nearly all-night band shortly. It is also open for DX most of the day. Openings are therefore very broad, since you can work into the nighttime areas during the broad daylight and vice versa. As with any band that is open all night, you can follow the sunrise peak in the evening as it crosses Russia and Europe. We will soon be hearing loud signals from Europe around midnight, and loud signals from Indonesia and the Far East in late morning. 20 will be wide open and crowded with Russians in the evening, but if you tune carefully you can find other goodies in the Middle East and Africa. After sunrise look for the Far East via the short path; and southern Asia, the Middle East and Africa via the long path. Also catch the southerly long path in late afternoon to the Far East, and the Pacific/VK in mid afternoon in with the short path Africans.

LOW BANDS: If the high bands don't keep you busy, 40 is still in great shape at night and at sunrise.

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

In December, our column discussed Amateur Radio operation from the Russian Space Station MIR. On December 21, U2MIR (Musa Manarov) came back to earth from MIR. He was one of the prime movers of the amateur effort, obtaining his license while in space. He played a major role in installing the Yaesu FT-209R transceiver, and erecting a 2-meter antenna during an extravehicular activity. He was the one that made almost all the contacts, and when he returned, MIR was pretty much off the air.

In early February Hams began reporting contacts with U4MIR. This information began showing on local packet BBS's about 2/19. Gil Carman, WA5NOM got the word out on updated Keplerian elements and began placing listings of passes on local boards. By 2/21 I was able to make contact on three different passes.

Since then numerous local Hams have been acknowledged by U4MIR. My list is by no means complete but I have heard W5BKK, KE5IC, and W5PDW make contacts. The operator does not have a broad command of English and says very little. He generally repeats call signs, says "over" and often closes with "do-svidanya." Twice I got him to repeat my name albeit "Jack" sounds a little different with a Russian accent. On 2/27 I asked his name and he came back with "Alexander." On 2/24, KE5IC and K7WOC made contact from the latter's car mobile in downtown Houston!

How do you work U4MIR? The only times I have heard him he had been on FM Simplex on 145.550 MHz. Give your call in STANDARD PHONETICS and hope he comes back to you. The other trick is WHEN. You can download updated MIR passes from the KA5KTH packet digi (via HUB and CLC on 145.09); you can download Gil's latest Element Sets from the WA5ZIB-1 BBS on 144.85/144.45; or, I usually have fairly recent info at 358-5172.



## NARS NOTES

- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for upcoming events:

The REEKING REGATTA will be held Saturday, April 8, this year and ops are needed. The Regatta is a canoe race down Buffalo Bayou starting at San Felipe Rd. and ending at Allen's Landing. NARS is the official group that handles communication for this event which raises money for beautification of Buffalo Bayou. Operators are stationed along the Bayou at strategic locations to report progress of the canoes and any problems. It is a lot of fun to work!! Please volunteer your assistance to Bob White, KF5ZL, at 376-8338.

MARCH OF DIMES WalkAmerica 1960 Area will be Sunday, April 30th. NARS will handle communications for this event. Activities center around Northgate Forest which is just west of the intersection of FM 1960 and Kuykendahl Rd. This is a delightful morning's diversion and fun for a good cause!! Please volunteer your help by calling Bob Welch, KE5IC, at 376-4814.

- CONGRATULATIONS are in order to Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ, for his upgrade to Amateur Extra Class.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Norm Kalson, KB5HZS  
George Peat, KB5GFA  
Cippy Rodriguez, N5NPS

- NARS DUES ARE DUE! If you haven't paid your dues, this will be the last copy of the NARS News you'll receive by mail. The new NARS Roster will issue next month.

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT by RICH MACDOUGAL, KG5LZ

In the rush to start the New Year, and in the aftermath of the Annual NARS Awards Banquet, I overlooked recognizing the selfless efforts of our club's past treasurer Dianne Pankau, KB5DGD. Dianne has kept us going until Dee Kramm, KB5GEW, can assume her new duties in this position. The next time you see Dianne please take time to acknowledge her contribution to our club.

Also I wish to offer our thanks to Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, for his efforts as vice president. Joe took over the VP duties in the footsteps of Bruce Cline, N5FD, when Bruce took over the club presidency in midstream last year. I also failed to recognize Jim Clarke, N5FIX, for his work as ARRL PIA and his editorializing of the NARS News.

And I never did recognize Bob White, KF5ZL, for his coordination of the Reeking Regatta, his assistance in helping others to upgrade through classes and encouragement, and of course his RACES leadership position. Bob also probably worked every public service event the club had or helped support. Others I wish to recognize, and who gave so much of their time and effort, include Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Tom Roraback, KF500; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; and Ed Hinds, KB5AEL.

As I think about the club I realize that there are more unsung heroes - the point is that "the blessing" of this great club is its fine membership. And I mean all of our members. As Bob Welch, KE5IC, so wisely puts it, "Even our less active members are important because of their financial support and their behind the scenes participation." Please bring to my attention any contribution made by our members even if it is just to acknowledge that it is good to see them after a long absence. My goal is to make every club member feel appreciated.

## 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

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  
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

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