

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 1989

THE "MIGHTY BIG ANTENNA" WILL BE SUBJECT FOR MAY 19 MEETING

There is a popular saying that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, but this month we will put that bit of wisdom to the test. The shortest way to make DX contacts on 2 meters is not a straight shot or "on direct" - you may be listening forever that way. Dave Blaschke, W5UN, is going to tell us the way to do it at this month's meeting on the 19th.

Dave talks around the world on 2M by bouncing his signal off of the moon. This technique is known for its antenna called an Earth-Moon-Earth array, or EME. He will offer us some basic tips on what is needed, and describe his EME system using slides and videotape. His "little" antenna array works just fine. It works so well, in fact, that his station is featured in January 1989 QST. How do 48 stacked Yagis with a 32.5 dBi gain sound to you?

Dave lives near Manvel TX, has been a Ham for 37 years, and he made his first EME contact in 1982. He has talked to many groups about EME so be ready for a really informative meeting. Come early and enjoy some eyeball QSO's with other local Hams.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

Spunky Busick, K5AAD, gave an excellent talk about practical antennas. Ranging all the way from delta loops to slopers, he told it like it is about workable antenna systems!

Winner of the door prize was Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, who received a copy of the ARRL Handbook courtesy of Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston. Phone: 713-520-7300.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES KEEP NARS MEMBERS ACTIVE IN APRIL!

The Twentieth Annual Reeking Regatta Canoe, Kayak Races and Anything That Floats on beautiful and not so reeking Buffalo Bayou were held on April 8th. Bob White, KF5ZL, spearheaded the event for NARS, and everything went smoothly from a communications point of view. Those participating this year were: Jim Clarke, N5FIX; Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ; Jerry Reimer, KA5QAP and his YL; Jay Chase, AA5IM; Tom Roraback, KF500; Brad Killebrew, N5LJV; James Maynard, K5ZC; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Ev Haines, KA5VIZ; Mel Godbold, KD5YA; Bob Welch, KE5IC; Jim Minor, KB5AEJ; and Curt Furtado, KB5BCL.

Following the Reeking Regatta, Bob White, KF5ZL, and Jim Minor, KB5AEJ, went out and worked the MS 150-mile bicycle ride, an event that started in Houston and journeyed to Austin.

And then on April 30th the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 1960 Area event attracted a record group of walkers and record pledges. Coordinated by Bob Welch, KE5IC, communicators from NARS included Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Terri Edinborgh, N5KID; Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Cippy Rodriguez, N5NPS; Bob White, KF5ZL; and net control Ed Hinds, KB5AEL, ably assisted by his YL Pat Hinds, KB5DFX.

NARS PICNIC HELD APRIL 23RD

The Third Annual NARS Family Picnic was held at Spring Creek State Park. Organized by Curt Furtado, KB5BCL, over 30 showed up on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Curt brought his HF rig, and many contacts were made using a dipole thrown way up in the trees. A great time was had by all!

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

It is late spring and we are moving into summer. This is mostly bad news. Have you noticed what has happened to 10 meters? DX signals are weaker and activity is way down. This is called the "summer absorption" and it is going to get worse. 15 will deteriorate during June, but will bounce right back during August. 10 is in for a longer drought, and won't come roaring back until September. The optimistic DX'er, however, will find what he is looking for on lower frequencies and on nighttime paths. Summer absorption affects daytime paths, especially in northerly directions.

SHORT PATH: We still have an excellent month of 15 meter propagation left before it is absorbed. It is open most of the night and all day, with pipelines to the Orient and YB in late morning. The USSR comes through in the evening and Europe around midnight at their morning peaks. The Pacific remains open very late. Paths are open at other times of the day to those same areas. 20 meters will be excellent at night through the summer, with a wonderful grey line path to the Far East after sunrise. Russians and Europeans will pound through all evening, with exotic Pacific and Asian workable during the pre-dawn hours. 40 will remain usable, but everybody will be on 20. 80 will be rough, but VK can be worked at sunrise on weekends.

LONG PATH: The primary LP circuits fade away during the summer, which is the Antarctic winter. The southerly grey line no longer leads all the way to Middle East. Our afternoon path to VK is less reliable, but the morning path to the Indian Ocean and the southern part of Africa will be FB for several months. Indian Ocean countries become very active on this path, and the pileups are fun. With summer absorption affecting the north, it will remain possible to work southerly long path on 15 and 10. Look for Europe on 15 around 1200Z - 1330Z.

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

Questions following last month's piece on RS-10/11 indicated that a follow-up might be helpful... The ROBOT is capable of reading a call sign transmitted on 145.820 MHz +/- doppler shift when sent in the specific format related last month i.e. RS10 DE xx5xxx AR where xx5xxx is your call sign. When it detects such a signal it will address your call sign, identify itself, and send a short message including a sequence number for the QSO in CW at about your xmitted speed. The stored QSO info is downloaded later by the Russian operators. So, if you send a QSL to Box 88 relating the date, time, and sequence number you should receive a confirming card.

Some have found RS-10 harder to copy than I have implied. I accept the criticism but I have some comments. First, since the bird is above you a vertical antenna is not as effective as some type of flat top. Second, if 10M is "open", meaning reflections from the ionized layers above us, then the bird's 10M signals have trouble getting down through the same reflective layer! And, if you are using a fixed antenna, the path from RS-10 to you will vary widely so varying signals must be expected.

Finally, for your first operation pick an xmit frequency and call CQ (CW or USB). Start with your 10M receive set to the same last two digits of frequency (example: up on 145.891, down on 29.391) and tune down until you hear yourself. Tune your receive down from your own signal and back to it. If you find someone answering, don't move your xmit. He has heard you even if you cannot now hear yourself! Carry on the QSO with xmit frequency fixed, moving your receive as needed to copy the other station. If you move both frequencies, you will climb across the band trying to keep up with each other and your QSO will be unrewarding.

NARS NOTES

- CONGRATULATIONS are in order for:

Dee Logan, W1HEO, who upgraded to Amateur Extra Class. He will keep his present call sign.

"Tee" Bowden, KB5IZL, who received his Novice Class call sign.

- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Billy Taylor, KB5JFX
Carolyn Abbruscato, New Novice
Alan Cain, New Novice
Miguel Chiusano, New Novice
Don Ferguson, New Novice
Tommy Harris, New Novice
Doug Hutchins, New Novice
David Learned, New Novice

- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with the 1989 Field Day activities. Please call Rich Richardson, KA5YFU, this year's FD chairman, at 448-1624.

- VISIT THE FIELD DAY SITE to see a beautiful FD location. Fritsche Park is at the end of Fritsche Cemetery Road which runs south from Grant Road just to the west of Telge Road. (Key Map: p. 327Q)

- SEE MAY QST for NARS info: Club news, p.146; AD5Q news, p.97

KLEIN FOREST RADIO CLUB

Students at the Klein Forest High School met on April 19th for a packet radio demonstration. Six students and the Faculty Advisor, Keith Glazener, were present. Equipment at the school was provided by a combination of Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ (radio and antenna); Roger Boston, K5BXA (packet controller); and the Houston Community College (Compaq computer). With Ken Busbee as control operator, contact was made with Ken Edinburgh, W5BKK, and several students were given an opportunity to chat with Ken via packet radio. Students enjoyed the demonstration and thanked NARS for its efforts.

de Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ

NARS NOVICE COURSE

The NARS Novice course for this year came to a formal close May 2nd with the giving of the FCC Novice exam. New novices from this class to date include "Tee" Bowden, KB5IZL; Billy Taylor, KB5JFX; Carolyn Abbruscato, Miguel Chiusano, Tommy Harris, Doug Hutchins, David Learned, Alan Cain, and Don Ferguson.

Those assisting "The Professor" Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, this session were Bob White, KF5ZL; Scott Byrd, N5KEU; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Dan Cassiani, N5KPI; and Bob Welch, KE5IC. Joe passes his thanks along to all those who took the time and effort to make this class a success.

TECH/GENERAL UPGRADE GROUP MEETS

A Tech/General upgrade group started meeting May 9th with 12 amateurs in attendance. Meetings will be in the Prince of Peace Catholic Community classroom building at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. If interested, call Bob Welch, KE5IC, at 376-4814 for info.

STERLING BANK NOW HAS NARS ACCOUNT

Banking for the Northwest Amateur Radio Society will now be transacted at the Sterling Bank, 6500 FM 1960 West, Houston. Tel: 444-5252.

•Sterling Bank•

THOMAS W. ROBINSON, JR.
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

6500 FM 1960 West
P.O. Box 690449
Houston, Texas 77269-0449

713/444-5252
FAX 713/444-5336

If you have the need for a true "community bank" for your personal or business account, please consider Sterling Bank. Contact Tom Robinson or Shirley Walton who will be happy to meet you and discuss your needs.

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.

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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

NARS 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

NARS REPEATER FREQUENCIES
146.06/66 MHz 449.375/444.375 MHz

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