

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 1990

SEEING IS BELIEVING! ATV THEME FOR AUGUST 17 MEETING

Did you ever wonder what the Ham at the other end of your QSO looked like (With some of us maybe not)? The meeting this month will look at the equipment needed to get going in Amateur TV (ATV), and some of the novel uses for this interesting and exciting technology. Learn how to not only talk to your fellow Hams, but to be able to see them. Rather than say, "The rig is an ICOM 837" - show them what it looks like.

Advanced Electronic Applications, Inc. (AEA) has put together a presentation showing the latest ATV technology. The specifics of the equipment needed will be discussed, from transceiver to linear amp to antenna. We will also see some of the ways ATV is used in balloons, special events, aircraft, etc.

Some of the other interesting uses for ATV will be discussed and some recent articles will be available for the taking. Meeting time is 8 p.m., but show up early for some eyeball QSO's. Hope to SEE you there!!

de Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI

JULY MEETING RECAP

The program was a video on DXpedition to MV Island, the first joint Russo-Finnish effort... Gary, N5GBR, reported that Field Day this year went very well despite the heat... NARS Annual Picnic now on sked for October 20... There was a great turnout for the meeting. If you're missing the meetings, you're missing a very good time... The door prize, a 1990 "The ARRL Handbook," was won by Ed Hinds, KB5AEL. Prize was donated by our friends at Madison Electronics, Houston. Tel: 729-7300.

HOUSTON ECONOMIC SUMMIT SPECIAL EVENT STATION A SUCCESS

It all happened at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center radio room from Friday, July 6, to Wednesday, July 11. Houston Hams were busy 24 hours a day at seven operating positions and signing KK5W/W90ES for a special event station celebrating the Houston Economic Summit. Two meters and all HF bands were available on SSB, CW and Packet. Richard Gilbert from the Brazosport Club set up and operated his complete satellite station on all available passes of Oscar 13.

This event was conceived and headed by Dr. Al Zermeno, KK5W; Tom Sellers, K5CNU; and Bill Dessens, N5KXU. And we cannot ignore the beautiful tee shirts made up by Elton Kytyle, N05C. The event was unique in that it was the first time to our knowledge that so many local clubs were involved in a common endeavor. Ten clubs were represented and a number of unaffiliated Hams joined in. The total numbered over 160 Hams of which 32 were NARS members. These devoted volunteers managed to rack up 3,790 QSO's in 56 countries.

A number of manufacturers came to our aid: Kenwood allowed us the use of a fine TS-950SD transceiver; a pair of "IsoLoop" antennas came from AEA; MFJ supplied two TNC's; and Hewlett Packard came through with a pair of computers for logging. Al Zermeno and the M.D. Anderson Radio Club provided the rest of the equipment.

The certificates should be ready for the printer by the middle of August. If you managed to make contact with KK5W/W90ES or were a volunteer, get your SASE in! Congratulations to Al and the MDA Club for a job well done!

de Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK

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

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

July was a boring month. Daytime DX activity was sparse, as both 10 and 15 were seriously effected by summer absorption. Night path conditions on 15 peaked during June, and will continue to deteriorate for the rest of the year. During August, however, 15 will start to improve over daytime paths as the summer absorption problem dissipates. In the next couple of months, 15 will make the transition to the daytime DX configuration most are familiar with. Fall approaches.

Remember 10 meters? It is still nearly dead, but soon will come roaring back. Expect some improvement in DX conditions during August, and an especially dramatic transformation during September. The sunspot cycle is on the decline now, but this fall should be very good - better than it will be for another 10 years or so.

For August, the best DX opportunities will continue to be on 20. The whole world is workable every night, with access to these DX pipelines starting about 2 hours before sunset and continuing about 3 hours after sunrise. Long path in the morning is good in several directions, with India coming through regularly even though this path is seasonally at its worst. Lots of exotic Asiatic activity is on in the morning, and Indian Ocean, Pacific and African activity is also good.

Routine short path openings to Europe are good on 20 before sunset (their evening) and later in the evening (their sunrise peak). If you stay up past midnight, you will find a rich variety of Asian and Pacific activity workable with little competition. Insomniacs pass time ragchewing VK's.

If you don't have a beam, however, DX on 20 doesn't come easy. If you have a tall tree, put up a 40 delta loop. Follow the sunrise peak across Europe in the evening, and though summer activity is sparse, there is enough DX to keep things interesting.

The international flavor of amateur radio in space was enhanced at 0940Z on July 16 when BADR-1 was launched. This UoSat-2/FO-12 class satellite is supposed to have been constructed by students associated with SUPARCO (Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission - Pakistan). The satellite was launched by a Long March Rocket (you do remember the country that celebrates the "Long March!").

AFSK telemetry at 1200 bps has been heard from this satellite on 145.825 MHz. It is a weird low earth orbit (LEO) with a 220 km perigee and 1000 km apogee at an inclination of 28.5 degrees giving it a period of 98 minutes. It is estimated that it cannot stay up more than a few months (six or so) in this "unstable" orbit.

So we now add China and Pakistan to the list of involved countries which already included Russia, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil, France, and the FRG.

DX (on Oscar 13) that is rare on satellites has increased after a late spring lull. The Netherlands group (JW/PA3FMK, JW/PA3CDO) put out a good signal from Svalbard. Slava (UT5/DL) went across the border into Moldavia (UO5) for a day or two. I've talked to Iceland (TF8/K4HPB), South Korea (HL9CK), Peru (OA40), and to Gabon (TR8JLD) recently. Operations from 6W1 (Senegal) and two channel islands (GU & GJ) are expected before Labor Day and several other DXpeditions are expected in the fall.

Regarding Oscar 13's decreasing perigee, a consensus seems to have developed around the projections of our own WA5NOM (Gil Carman of JSC) that the decline will be fairly linear until early 1992 when the perigee will begin to increase. The trend will reverse, again, in 1994 with perigee decreasing to below 200 km by the middle of 1996. That means AO-13 will be with us for some time to come.

NARS NOTES

- HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS go to Dan Cassiani, N5KPI, and XYL Janet who announced the arrival of harmonic Mark, born July 16th.
- POTPOURRI - Jay Rubens, N5QVT, upgraded to General class. Receiving Technician class call signs were David Hanus, N5RCQ; Ron Schneider, N5RBC; and John Paquette, N5RBD. Al Callender passed his Novice and Technician class tests and awaits his license. Susan Wells, from the NARS Novice Course, passed her code test and awaits her Novice license. Congratulations to all!!
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Scott Liebling, KS5N
Paul Owen, N5NXS

- SPECIAL EVENT STATION KK5W/W90ES had great representation from NARS members who filled key committee positions. Prominent among them was Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, who co-chaired the Operations Committee and who single-handedly scheduled the 160 plus ops who worked the event. Good work, Ken! And thanks also go to the many NARS members who volunteered their help.
- FOR SALE: Six sections of Rohn 25 tower including base plate, support bracket, no top section CALL FOR \$; Hustler 4BTV vertical antenna, \$50. Jim Clarke, N5FIX, 493-5908.
- FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-520, with new finals & driver, recently realigned (SSB & CW filters, manual) \$395. Dan Cassiani, N5KPI, 376-0215.

NARS PLANS TO SPONSOR RAFFLE

Plans are being developed for NARS to hold a raffle to be culminated at the 1990 Houston Com-Vention November 11. The prize will be a Kenwood TS-140S. All NARS members will be asked to participate in the sale of tickets for the raffle, and details will be announced as the project proceeds.

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society
is an ARRL Special Service 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, 14800 Memorial Drive #200
Houston 77079 Tel: 493-5908

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, K5HUT)

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)