

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 1990

## AMATEUR RADIO AT THE MED CENTER TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY 16 MEETING

What does cancer and Ham radio have in common? Actually quite a bit. For starters, cancer patients are using Ham radio for therapy, and on another note several research papers are showing a possible link between leukemia and exposure to high RF energy power lines. These intriguing topics are just a few of a wide range of topics that we will examine from the medical field at this month's NARS meeting.

To help us with all this examining will be Al Zermeno, KK5W. He has a PhD in Physics and as a research physicist has been on staff for 26 years with M.D. Anderson Center and, of course, he is a Ham. He will tell us about several Ham related projects operating at the center.

One of his projects is the Ham radio station at M.D. Anderson. The station is located on the top floor of the building. It is fully equipped with a TS-940, TS-930, A-78 amplifier plus other equipment, and an array of antennas that can put you just about anywhere the propagation will let you go. Dr. Zermeno and a group of Ham volunteers also have an ambitious plan for a special events station to operate during the Economic Summit to be held in Houston later this year.

Besides the station, Dr. Zermeno will discuss current research on the effects of high power 50 Hz RF energy on humans. There have been some links discovered between childhood leukemia and exposure to certain types of power lines. Obviously this is a complex topic, but Dr. Zermeno will simplify it and bring us up to date on where the research is at the present time.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT by ED HINDS, KB5AEL

For those of you who missed the NARS Annual Awards Banquet this year, you really missed a great time. The food was wonderful and the eyeball QSO's even better.

I was especially happy to see so many non-Ham family members present. I won't go into detail as to the recipients of the individual awards as it is covered elsewhere in this newsletter, but personal congratulations go out to each of you. There was one, the "Madison Outstanding NARS Member Award," which was presented to your's truly and left me totally speechless. I can't think of ever being so surprised or happy about anything in my life. THANKS NARS MEMBERS - "YOU'RE THE GREATEST!"

A special thanks goes to Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, who took care of the banquet arrangements in the absence of Rich Richardson, KA5YFU, who was in the hospital. We wish you a quick recovery Rich. Last but not least, thanks to the awards committee for their work in selecting the recipients of this year's awards.

Our Professors report a great turnout for this year's Novice course; how about dropping by on Monday night and giving our prospective Novices a hearty welcome. This writer just can't say enough about the work our instructors are doing as they bring new Hams into our hobby.

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This meeting promises to be full of information to broaden your world. It starts promptly at 8 p.m. at the Cypress Creek EMS building located at 16650 Sugar Pine Lane. Come early for eyeball QSO's starting at 7:30 p.m.



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

Like winter temperatures, MUF's are at their lowest during January. This has moved evening hamming activity to lower frequencies, but the trend has just reversed. With the help of the higher solar fluxes, 20 meter night-time paths will be reliable shortly. We are making the transition to springtime.

**DAYTIME BANDS:** 10 Meters is not as spectacular in the spring as in the fall. Still, the band is loaded with DX. There will be opportunities to work the difficult polar windows into Asia and the band will be wide open to nearly everywhere else. Enjoy now, because 10 will only be good for another couple of months. Summer absorption starts to effect this band in March & April, and that is the end of the party until fall. 15 is in good shape, and will begin staying open later in the evening. This will widen the windows on some of the more difficult paths, but the most interesting 15 meter propagation is still a few months away.

**NIGHTTIME BANDS:** Those of you that can't get a beam up can still have a lot of fun on 40 CW with a delta loop hung in a tree. Minimum tunable apex on a 40 loop is about 55 feet (90 feet on 80). You can start working DX about an hour before the sun goes down, and catch a nice sunrise peak for about an hour after sunrise. Wire antennas don't cut it on 20. Still, it is the best DX band of all - even though the phone portion is wall to wall turkeys and 75% of them have the same beam heading as Europe from W5 land. They don't get in the way much during morning long path openings, which are excellent through the winter months to southern Asia, the Middle East, Russia, Europe and northeast Africa. The southern USA has the advantage in long path pile-ups. Since these windows are narrow, competition from W6 isn't bad either. The W6 long path peak is two hours after ours. Just about any night path is workable on 20, beginning around mid-afternoon with long path VK & Pacific.

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

As this is being written, the MICRO-SATS successfully put into orbit on January 22, 1990 (UTC) are in the hands of the control stations and the software teams. Reports are that all four are operating nominally although one of the UoSats from the Univ. of Surrey is having troubles. It is anticipated that by the time you read this the birds will have been released for general use. As related in our December column, you can become involved with the one called DOVE (now designed as OSCAR 17 and not 15 as previously reported!) without having to have any equipment more exotic than a receiver capable of copying FM at 145.825 MHz. It began transmitting telemetry on its first orbit and can be heard on a handheld. If you have standard VHF FM packet you can copy the output directly. By downloading a program from the PC-EVE telephone BBS (713-955-7564) owners of COMPAQ compatible computers can translate the telemetry into meaningful measurements data. Upon full activation, this bird will transmit voice bulletins and messages and should be a lot of fun to listen to. (Some lucky operators including our own Jerry Smith, W5NKZ, heard voice testing as early as the first week in February!). The others will require more specialized equipment. Here is the lineup:

BIRD	AO#	FREQ.	DOWNLINK MODE
PACSAT*	16	437.025	SSB/BPSK
DOVE	17	145.825	FM/VOICE
WEBERSAT	18	437.075	SSB/BPSK
LUSAT*	19	437.125	SSB/BPSK+CW

\*These will be store and forward packet mailboxes when released for use. Each will receive FM/FSK on four "gate" frequencies:

PACSAT 145.900, 920, 940, 960;  
LUSAT 145.840, 860, 880, 900.

As anticipated, these birds make two good passes each morning and two more each evening centered around 10:30 local time. Start listening about 90 min. before 10:30 or call me for exact times as they do vary each day.



## FIFTH ANNUAL NARS AWARDS BANQUET ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS

Once again NARS members gathered to feast on barbecued beef, sausage, and chicken, enjoy a little ragchewing, and recognize the service to the Club of some very deserving folks. Every seat was filled at The County Line restaurant for the Annual Awards Banquet on January 27th. It was great to see so many spouses at one of our gatherings.

Chairman of the event, Rich Richardson, KA5YFU, unfortunately was in the hospital so Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, substituted to lead the program. Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ, was recognized with a plaque for his service as President of the Club last year. Rich has recently moved to Pakistan with a new employer and was not able to be present. The other officers for the past year, V. P. Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; Secretary Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR; Treasurer Dee Kramm, KB5GEW; and Director-at-Large Ken Busbee, KB5ESQ, were also recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for the fine job they did to keep us running right. Officers for the coming year were then introduced by President Hinds.

Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, presented the "Field Day Special Award" to Gary Johnson, N5GBR, in recognition of the enthusiasm, effort and unending assistance he provided during that activity last year. In the process, Gary also picked up a rare DX QSL card (CW) - from KA5DNP.

The recipient of the "Operator of the Year" award, Roger Berry, KG5OW, was recognized for his continuous effort and improved skill in chasing those elusive states and rare countries, particularly on 10 meters. He has become an ardent fan of that band where he is broadly recognized for his prowess in chasing 10-10 numbers. He just recently completed requirements for the WAZ Award. Roger was out of town at banquet time and will receive his plaque later.

## NARS NOTES

- CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Gary Johnson, N5GBR, who upgraded to General Class.

### JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Roy Hradilek, AD5Q, our contest guru, clued us in on DX techniques. Well done, Roy! The door prize, a "1990 World Radio TV Handbook" was donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston, and won by Ed Hinds, KB5AEL.

### NET CHANGE

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY ARES NET  
now meets TUESDAY 8 p.m.  
146.06/66 MHz - N.C. Scott, N5KEU

Ken Harlan presented the "Elmer of the Year" award to Bob Welch, KE5IC, for the unending assistance he has provided to new amateurs. Bob has been a leading participant in the NARS Novice Course, and has spent many hours coaching new Hams.

And finally, representing Don Busick, K5AAD, of Madison Electronics, Ken presented the "NARS Outstanding Service Award" to Ed Hinds, KB5AEL. Ed's continuous participation and support in all NARS activities, meetings, and programs have made our hamming life more fun, easier, and more satisfying. His "swat wagon" regularly appoints our functions, antenna raised on high. He was a powerful force in Field Day and when there's tower work to be done, you can expect to find him on top of the situation. This award is accompanied by a \$250 gift certificate from Madison Electronics.

Many thanks to all who helped make this year's banquet a success and particularly to Pat Hinds, KB5DFX, for the great decorations that graced our tables.

de Ken Harlan, KA5AKG



## FIELD DAY IS COMING

It may be slightly early but I want everyone to begin thinking about this year's Field Day. As Chairman, I am beginning to plan and look for help and ideas now because my schedule won't allow me to wait until later. Last year was my first field day experience and I loved every minute of it. We have a great club and a lot of interest which should make this year just as much or more fun! One of my goals for this year will be to come up with some form of weather-proof housing for those who choose to stay all night. If you have any ideas please let me know. If you (or anyone you know) have a jobsite office trailer or travel trailer that the club could use for that weekend, just to let people sleep in for a couple of nights, please let me know.

If you have ideas or comments or would like to be involved, call me at home: 682-3178 or work: 550-5101.

de Gary Johnson, N5GBR

## JOE SAYS THANKS

On Monday around noon December 11, 1989 I had the misfortune of being admitted to the Tomball Hospital, being unconscious at the time. Early Wednesday morning, December 13, was the first knowledge that I had of my being in the hospital. That was my first recognition of any visitors. I wish to thank those that visited me prior to my awareness. Especially I wish to thank Bob White, KF5ZL, who I have been told stayed most all of Monday night, wishing that I would recognize a familiar face if I should awake. That is again proof of what NARS is all about. To those that visited me in the hospital, and to those wishing my speedy recovery, I will always be grateful. I have been told that my recovery has been rapid for one my age. (90 yrs. 7 mos. at press time. Ed.) If this is true, then NARS deserves credit in playing a vital role in my recovery. Only way I know how to show my appreciation is by saying "thanks".

de Joe Green, WA4FGH

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, 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  
TUESDAY 8 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)