

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 1990

WIDE WORLD OF DXING IS TOPIC FOR JANUARY 19TH MEETING

This month we're going to talk about bug bites. Not the flu, ant, spider, or roach type. This species of bug is DXCCitus QSLletus. He has a close family member in Contestae Allhourus. Both of these bugs have antennas, fly around the atmosphere at all hours of the day and night, and are known to have a high frequency rate for biting Hams. The reaction from the bites of these varmints inflicted on Hams can be life changing, too.

To help us with a remedy for this "malady" will be Roy Hradilek, AD5Q. Roy writes the "Propagation" column for the NARS News, and is an avid DXer and contesteer. Roy says that when the bug bites, and it can bite at any time, you will have questions. So here is your chance to learn how to maximize your time and energy.

Last year Roy presented a program on propagation. This time he will mix some propagation trends and some DX tips into a medication prescribed by the DX doctor himself. Some of the topics covered will be: How to find rare countries using seasonal characteristics of propagation; Picking off the last countries for DXCC; How do IRC's work for getting confirmations back?; Pile-up techniques & antennas.

Of course, there will be time for questions and answers, so jot down your questions now and be ready to find out all about DXing. When the bug bites you, you will be ready to bite back. Don't forget to come early and enjoy some local eyeball QSOing, too.

FROM THE PRESIDENT by ED HINDS, KB5AEL

Happy New Year 1990! And how time flies; it seems like only yesterday that I graduated from the first NARS Novice class - boy what a happy day!

Since that time I have been continually amazed at the many, many times that I have felt that same warmth again when NARS members have extended their hand of friendship. It is with great honor that I start this New Year as your President and if I can give back just a part of what NARS has given to me, then I will have done well.

My special thanks go out to the past officers and directors for their dedication and hard work that made NARS what it is today.

As I sit here and look back over some past issues of NARS News, we've come a long way, accomplished many goals, increased our membership and our participation in community affairs. We have had to watch great friends leave our group and new friends come. Saturday 1/6/90, at the NARS breakfast, we had just such an occasion. We had to say good-bye to our outgoing president Rich MacDougal, KG5LZ. He and his family are moving to Pakistan. Anyone need APland? GOOD LUCK Rich on your move; we'll miss you and Marleah!

Does anyone have an idea for new club activities? An Amateur Radio Club can only survive if it is active. Help us keep NARS strong, meet the challenge, get involved. I'm looking forward to working with you!

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

It is now mid-winter. Both 10 and 15 are closed at night; certain night paths we take for granted on 20 are no longer reliable. With fluxes as high as they are, this situation is temporary. It is not so serious anyway, as 10 and 15 are jumping during the day and 20 is still open to all parts of the world. Some of the DX windows are of shorter duration, and on 10, some of them do not open at all. All this is easy to adjust to unless you specialize in 10 meter operation. Propagation patterns have shifted around some, providing opportunities on other bands that should be exploited.

LOW BANDS: DX is very workable on 40 CW right now. Europeans are coming through all evening, and African CW stations seem to like this band, too. Pacific stations come thru late at night, and we have a sunrise peak to Asia with a brief grey line opening to northern Europe. A southerly long path is available on 40 to southern Asia along the grey line, but a 40 meter beam is almost a necessity for this path. 40 meter delta loops are not much good for long path or polar work. There have been some surprises on 80 - like copyable signals from the 3Y operation. A nice stateside ragchewing band in the evening is 160 SSB.

HIGH BANDS: There is no shortage of DX on 10 meters, which will remain good for a few more months. 15 is also good right now as a strictly daytime band. During spring, 10 will deteriorate and 15 will improve. All night 20 meter openings will return in February, but morning long path is good right now. Use the afternoon and morning long path openings for the exotic southern Asian stuff that is now so difficult via the north. We also have improved daytime conditions on this band. Keep in mind that it is only winter in the northern hemisphere, and that 20 is open all night everywhere south of us. Long haul pipelines across the southern hemisphere are accessible from mid-afternoon. The easterly path includes Af-

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

If you are familiar with Linear Translators (we call them Transponders when they are installed on Satellites) you know that input signals share the output in relation to their strengths. Two equal input signals equally share the output capacity. If a third signal comes on that is twice the level of the others, it hogs 50% of the output and the other two get only 25% each. So, the unthinking of the LID can screw up everybody on a satellite transponder by cranking up EIRP. Or, you can do it unintentionally. Suppose you have a receive sensitivity problem. Since you like to hear your own satellite signal, your reaction is to crank up your output power until you hear yourself. You begin to hog the transponder simply because your receive sensitivity is inadequate. By extension, YOUR RECEIVE SENSITIVITY CAN RESULT IN YOUR AFFECTING EVERYONE ELSE ON THE TRANSPONDER! This is so important that AMSAT has generated a contest that allows operators to compare their receive capabilities with others. It is called the K2ZRO memorial contest and is held on OSCAR satellites at pre-announced times. The test station has extensive test gear and calibrates his signal against the satellite beacon so that his downlink signal is exactly equal to the beacon. Then he sends a series of five numbers in CW. Then he cuts his output in half (down 3 dB) and sends another set of numbers. This is continued down to level nine (1/532 of the original signal or down 27 dB). Copying down to level 6 (1/64 or -18dB) is average while one of two stations in the world have reached the ninth level. (By level 8 the transmitting station is usually in the milliwatt power range!). If you are a "paper hanger," AMSAT will provide a certificate for cost when your numbers are sent in and verified. A fun contest that helps improve Satellite Operation!

rica, the Indian Ocean, and the long path to VK.

NARS NOTES

- o CONGRATULATIONS to Curt Furtado who received his new call sign, KI5AK ex KB5BCL.
- o NARS REPEATER FUND donations have been received along with 1990 dues from several members including Joel Empie, N5HWU; Tom Roraback, KF500; and Ken Harlan, KA5AKG. Thanks!!! Donations from all are welcome.
- o FOR SALE - LA1000A LINEAR, 160-10M. \$250. Dick, W5VHN. 713-288-8424.

NARS NOVICE COURSE SCHEDULED TO START FEBRUARY 5, 1990

The next NARS Novice Class licensing course is scheduled to start Monday evening, February 5, at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Prince of Peace Catholic Community in the two-story classroom building, Room 208. The location is 19222 Tomball Parkway (FM 249), Houston. Site is about a mile north of FM 1960 near the intersection of Perry Road and Tomball Parkway.

The 8-week course will prepare one to take an FCC Novice Class examination which will be given as a part of the program. Text to be used is the ARRL book, "Tune in the World With Ham Radio" (Eighth Edition), which can be purchased at local radio stores. The registration fee is \$10 per person. To preregister for the course, send a \$10 check made out to "NARS" to Bob Welch, KE5IC; 7811 Theisswood Rd.; Spring TX 77379.

Please volunteer your help with this program. For further information, or to volunteer your assistance, please call Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, 353-2196, or Bob Welch, KE5IC, 376-4814.

1990 NARS ANNUAL BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

The 5th Annual NARS Awards Banquet is scheduled to be held Saturday evening January 27th at The County Line restaurant at 13850 Cutten Road. This is about a mile north of FM 1960. A cash bar will be open at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7:30.

The dinner will be BBQ beef, sausage, and chicken with all the trimmings served family style. Cost of the meal will be \$16 per person and reservations must be paid in advance. Bring a good appetite and enjoy an evening of good Ham fellowship. Annual awards in many categories will be presented following the dinner.

For reservations, please send your checks (made out to "NARS") to Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, at 12034 Laneview Dr. Houston, TX 77070, no later than January 21st.

DECEMBER MEETING RECAP

Joe Staples, W5ASP, took us hamming down in the tropics (Cayman Islands) at the December meeting. Solid copy, Joe - many thanks! The door prize was won by Scott Byrd, N5KEU. He won the 1990 Call Book donated by Madison Electronics, 3621 Fannin, Houston. Phone: 713-520-7300.

1990 NARS DUES ARE DUE

NARS membership fees are due and payable. 1990 dues have been set at \$15 per person, \$5 for each additional family member, and \$10 per person for full time high school students. Forward your check (made out to "NARS") to: Bob Welch, KE5IC; 7811 Theisswood Rd.; Spring TX 77379. Remember that donations to the NARS Repeater Fund are always welcome.

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

BOB WELCH, KE5IC
7811 Theisswood Rd.
Spring TX 77379

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)