

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 1990

## HOW TO PUT ON A DXPEDITION PLANNED FOR JULY 20 MEETING

Have you ever wondered how those Hams who go to exotic islands and work thousands of contacts from all over the world get it all together? Just trying to get out of town can be a major project. Field Day itself takes dozens of committed and resourceful Hams several months of planning to put it all together.

This month we have a special video tape that shows how one group planned a major dxpedition to an isolated island behind the Iron Curtain. This tape is a story about how some Hams from Finland took on the Russian-controlled island of Malyj Vysotskij, located off the coast of Finland.

On the tape you will hear from Martti Laine, OH2BH, one of the top guns of DX from Finland, and others who will show you what you need to consider before that first fist hits the key and the world comes back at you.

The tape is also not just about the trip but how to plan a dxpedition and some of the nuts and bolts involved with equipment, clearances, weather, and other unforeseen circumstances.

This meeting should get you in the mood to dream of some exciting locations you have never been to before. Just imagine stations who would never come back to you in 5-land now climbing all over each other to make that contact. Your CW fist should be itching now and your signal meters starting to deflect just thinking about it.

Don't miss the meeting this month. There will be lots of eyeball QSOing and feedback on Field Day experiences. Come early, it will be fun.

## FIELD DAY '90 by GARY JOHNSON, N5GBR, F.D. CHAIRMAN

Well once again, just like Christmas, Field Day has come and gone its way. It seems that we just get going when it's time to pick up and go home. I really enjoyed this year's effort and hope all those attending had a good time as well.

I could not begin to list all those who made this Field Day a success but there are some who should be mentioned. First, thanks to Bruce Cline, N5FD, for allowing us to use his call sign for the contest stations, and to Fred Bailey, KB5DFS, for allowing us to use his call sign for the Novice station.

And special thanks go to Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR; Vince Hayes, KC0LM; and Bud Miles, N5MFD, all of whom donated their RV's for our comfort during this exercise. Field Day would have been a lot different without the comfort of air conditioning! We really make a mess of their vehicles and they are left to clean the units after our use - we are in their debt.

We couldn't have had that comfort without those generators. The "NARS" generator was bought by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, and rebuilt by him and Ed Hinds. After a slight glitch was repaired, it worked beautifully. Ed Hinds also brought an extra unit from his work place just in case, and we used it for the phone station.

Thanks also to Kirby Van Horn, K7WOC; Curt Furtado, KI5AK; Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Roy Hradilek, AD5Q; Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; and Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, who donated major pieces of equipment. And thanks

(See FIELD DAY on page 3)



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

DX conditions during June were very good on the two bands that are in season now. Our solar fluxes have been high enough to provide many spectacular openings on 15 in the evening and well into the night. When the fluxes were lower, these night path openings didn't perform as well. Since it is now midsummer, daytime absorption is at its worst, and will continue to effect day path propagation on all bands.

The best DX openings are across nighttime paths. 15 is open most of the day as well, along paths that span both day and night. Europe and the USSR are therefore workable almost any time. Absorption has taken out 10 for the summer, and propagation has moved to the less populated southern hemisphere. When fluxes are especially high, look for 10 meter long path: into Europe in late evening and into the Far East in mid morning. Most of the activity on 10 will be from the stateside 10-10 paper chase via evening sporadic E.

20 is reliable over any nighttime path. During the evening we get the sunrise sweep across Europe, with Asia and the Pacific opening around midnight and good until two hours after our sunrise. Africa comes in short path in late afternoon and long path (with the Indian Ocean) after sunrise.

On 15, look for an excellent European opening in late evening after 20 peaks to the same area. The exotic Asian stuff comes in with Indonesia in late morning, also after 20 peaks to the same area. When fluxes are high enough, 15 opens to the west for long path shortly after sunrise. 15 meter nighttime paths will deteriorate for the rest of the year starting now.

There is not much activity on 40, but it peaks to Europe nighttime along with 20 and to westerly areas at sunrise.

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

The Satellite effort for Field Day was successful due to the efforts of many NARS members. Radios from Gary Johnson, N5GBR, & Vince Hayes, KC0LM; amplifiers, a power supply and various adapters from Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, and antennas from the writer made up the station. Key to all of this was Vince's motor home in which the stations were set up. Numerous others aided in set-up and tear-down and in operating. 36 contacts were made including one on RS-10.

The May FAR OUT column provided basic information on RS-14. The word is that it could be launched any day and might be in orbit by the time you read this. In case it is, here are the frequencies:

Linear Transponder #1 -  
Beacons: 145.822 (CW) & 145.952  
(1100 bps PSK)  
Downlink: 145.852 - 145.932  
Uplink: 435.102 - 435.022  
(this will be linear inverted)

Linear Transponder #2 -  
Beacons: 145.948 (CW) & 145.838  
(100 bps PSK)  
Downlink: 145.866 - 145.946  
Uplink: 435.123 - 435.043  
(probably inverted but not sure!)

There is a special RUDAK-2 "packet" downlink 145.983 (1200 BPSK) and uplinked on 435.016 FSK as with FO-20.

The decreasing perigee of OSCAR 13 is of concern and is being studied by experts within the Amateur Satellite community. Computer modeling of the perturbations of the sun and moon as interrelated with the earth's gravity field is the tool. We'll keep you posted as the various experts refine forecasts. For now it can be said that OSCAR 13 is up there and will stay up there for some time to come.

While not official as this is being written, we understand the new date for launch of STS-35 carrying SAREX will be 12 AUG. 90 at 5:04 UTC.



## NARS NOTES

- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND BEST WISHES** to Joe Green, WA4FGH, who reached 91 years of age on July 9, a day that was highlighted by a congratulatory telephone call from his 94 year old sister in Wisconsin.
- **UPGRADES** - Congratulations go to Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, and to Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, for upgrading to Advanced Class; and to David Hanus, KB5NBB, who received his call sign and upgraded to Technician Class.
- **NEW CALL SIGNS** were received by Jay Rubens, N5QVT ex KB5MKU, and "BT" Burk, N5QVS ex KB5MKM.
- **PLEASE WELCOME** new NARS members:

Jon Littmann, KB5MKP  
John Paquette  
Ron Schneider

Both John and Ron have passed their Technician Class tests and await their licenses.

- **BEST WISHES AND GOOD LUCK** to Dick Sloan, W6TTG, and XYL Carolyn who are moving back to California.
- **FOR NARS INFO** please see July QST, pp. 43, 124.

### "HAMFEST 90" BY TARS

The Tideland Amateur Radio Society will hold their fourth annual Hamfest at the Nessler Center in Texas City on July 28, 1990. Doors will open at 8 a.m. with hourly prizes and a Grand Prize (Uniden HR2600). There will be a flea market, several interesting forums (DX, Generator, +), and FCC exams will be given at 9 a.m. Advance registration is \$3/person or \$4 at the door. Preregister to TARS, P.O. Box 73, Texas City TX 77592.

**DIRECTIONS** from Houston on I-45: take Exit 16 (Texas City), go 7.1 miles, turn right on 21st at the Jack In The Box, turn left on 5th Ave. The Hamfest is two blocks down on the left in the Nessler Center.

## FIELD DAY (continued from page 1)

to those others who brought standby equipment and miscellaneous hardware which we could not have done without. In short, thank you all for a job well done! There is no way we could set up the type of "first class" station which our club is so proud of without total support from everyone involved. It is a group effort and our group deserves a pat on the back!

As for scoring, we ended up with 1,752 QSO's. Rich Richardson, KA5YFU, has done the scoring and the final score for total Q's is 5,344 as opposed to 5,216 in 1989. Total overall points were 6,144 which is better than last year's 6,016. All operators should be congratulated, especially the CW ops who racked up 920 Q's.

Let's look forward to next year and think of ways we can have a better operation overall.

### 1990 FIELD DAY RESULTS (N5FD and KB5DFS)

The following are the anticipated NARS scores for 1990 Field Day:

| <u>Band</u>        | <u>SSB</u> | <u>CW</u>  |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| 10                 | 204        | -          |
| 15                 | 382        | 173        |
| 20                 | 146        | 468        |
| 40                 | 6          | 250        |
| 80                 | -          | 6          |
| Satellite          | 36         | -          |
| Packet             | -          | 9          |
| Novice             | 58         | 14         |
| <b>TOTAL QSO'S</b> | <b>832</b> | <b>920</b> |

### Bonus Points:

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Emergency Power   | 200        |
| Publicity         | 100        |
| Location          | 100        |
| SM Message        | 100        |
| Field Day Message | 100        |
| Satellite         | 100        |
| Packet Radio      | 100        |
|                   | <b>800</b> |

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Total QSO points       | 2672        |
| X 2 (Power multiplier) | 5344        |
| <b>Estimated TOTAL</b> | <b>6144</b> |

(de Rich Richardson, KA5YFU)

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

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)