

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 1990

FIELD DAY 1990

by GARY JOHNSON, N5GBR - FD CHAIRMAN

Last year, while we were packing up to go home, I remember commenting that I wished it was next year already and we were setting up rather than taking down. When I said it, everyone around expressed the same feeling. We all had a great time. It was nice to be able to sit at a rig for as long as we wanted and not feel hurried to go do some chore. This was my first Field Day and I was able to work with modes of communication I had never used before. I think it gave me the desire to get after the code and upgrade to General Class.

This year's field day should be no less exciting. The club will be operating class 2A with the call sign N5FD, Bruce Cline's call. We will have stations for CW, Phone, Satellite, Packet, and Novice. There will also be a special station in operation for some 30 Boy Scouts who will be in the park on Saturday. These Scouts will be putting together a camp for about 500 scouts to be held during the weekdays of the two weeks following field day. The National Guard will also be in the park bringing equipment for the camp. All this activity will be in a different area from ours but should be interesting to watch. It is possible that we will have a balloon supported long wire for experimentation.

Food, for the most part, is being provided by the club members. At the regular club meeting in May, we signed up for various items like sandwiches, chips, drinks, and other things normal to a picnic. There should be enough picnic type food for all. If you like any particular kind of soft drink, please bring it and maybe one or two extra. We might need a couple of extra coolers if you can bring one with you. There are a few restaurants within easy driving distance if hot food is more to your liking. No one signed up to provide ice or paper plates. If you could provide a bag or two of ice or some paper supplies, please call me (682-3178).

We are not scheduling operators for any strict time slots. I have asked Roy Hradilek, AD5Q, to make sure there are operators for the CW station during peak operating periods. If you like CW and want to work that station at some set time, please call Roy (443-2324) and let him know when you will be able to work the station. As for the rest of the stations, you will have your pick. We can move around and let you work wherever you want. If you have any preference or a time schedule to keep, then give me a call.

We are looking forward to the fun and fellowship. Please come out Friday, June 22, starting at about 10 a.m. if you can help set up, and plan to come back on Sunday after 1 p.m. to take down if you can.

FYI, those serving on this year's FD Committee are Ed Hinds, KB5AEL; Jack Douglas, KA5DNP; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; and Bob Welch, KE5IC.

It's gonna' be great!

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

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

Moving into summer, we can expect 10 meter DX to be very sparse, and 20 to be excellent as a nighttime band. This is the time for our seasonal peak on 15 meters, but due to lower fluxes, conditions probably won't be as good as last year. Last summer we had very high solar fluxes, and 15 took on many of the nighttime properties of 20. The 15 meter season extended itself into July, and August wasn't bad either.

Normally I don't follow the fluxes much, but the quality and duration of our 15 meter season depends on them. Nowadays fluxes in a typical month are ranging from about 120 to 200. When they are at the lower end of this range, the band will close earlier in the night and we will lose, for example, the sunrise sweep across Europe. When the fluxes swing to the high end of this range, we will get phenomenal EU/USSR openings at night and during much of the day. In short, 15 meter propagation will vary, depending on the solar numbers.

Our summer season this year will be much like in 1988, and not like '89. In '88, we still had strong openings to the Far East in late morning with lots of SSB activity from Indonesia in particular. We had long path in the morning, but not every day. Conditions were excellent into June, but did not last through the summer. Nighttime propagation faded, and we were left with a summer absorption problem on the daytime paths. There were, therefore, no good DX bands during the day.

This season we should keep an eye on the flux numbers for 15 meter propagation. Fluxes are plenty high enough to keep 20 open all night, so we will have this band to fall back on when 15 isn't working - but only at night. We will also have the 20 meter morning stuff to the Far East, with the Indian Ocean and southern Africa via long path.

Because of the well publicized hydrogen leaks, the launch of STS-35 with SAREX on board will not be until after the middle of June. So, these op hints should be timely.

Operation will be on "split frequencies." THERE WILL BE ONE AND ONLY ONE DOWNLINK FREQUENCY: 145.550 MHz (FM)! Transmitting on that frequency will make you instantly INFAMOUS - just don't do it! The primary uplink frequency will be 144.950 MHz. Try it first and most. Alternates will be 144.910 and 144.970. Because of the Doppler shift, as the satellite approaches you transmit low - 144.930 to .940. Slide up toward 144.960 as the bird goes away from you. Local chances for voice contacts are nil since the bird will generally not be over our part of the world during the limited times Ron can be available (after duty and before rest or after rest and before duty). But the packet ROBOT will be ON over us.

LISTEN! If you hear packets, try to connect. If you succeed, you will see something like this:

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cmd: CONNECT WA4SIR
*** Connected to WA4SIR
#191 -- Tnx QSO with the SAREX
Shuttle "ROBOT" automatic QSO
machine
*** Disconnected
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The 191 is an example QSO number. If you get such a number shut it down; the ROBOT will log no further QSO's from you even if you use a different SSID.

MONITOR! Every 2 minutes there will be a QSL beacon looking like:

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WA4SIR>QSL <UI>:
NI3F/186 WB2TNI/185 W5IRO/184, etc.
There will also be a QRZ beacon:
WA4SIR>QRZ <UI>:
#3405 - NE2W N5RE KA4ZRW, etc.
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If your call is on a QSL list you have made it; let someone else have a shot. If you are only on a QRZ list keep trying! (Get info on passes from 146.640 or on HF!)

**JUNE 15TH NARS MEETING
IS ABOUT FIELD DAY**

Traditionally, the June NARS meeting preps us for Field Day. This year's FD chairman is Gary Johnson, N5GBR. He will fill us in on FD plans and tell us how we can be of assistance. Bob Welch, KE5IC, will use slides and video to show us what we looked like at FD last year and before. The meeting starts at 8 p.m. on June 15. Be there for the fun of it.

NARS NOTES

- UPGRADES - Congratulations to Cippy Rodriguez, N5NPS, for his upgrade to Advanced Class; to Steve Farlow, N5PBD, for his upgrade to General Class; and to "BT" Burk, KB5MKM, and Ed Patterson, KB5MKS, on their upgrades to Technician Class.
- CONGRATULATIONS are also in order for Carol Busbee, KB5MYI, who received her new call sign.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Gene Lightsey, KA5ALZ
Fred Eduardo, N5DME
Ben Lycka, W5IYK
Jim Hamilton, KB5MKN
Matt Haws, KB5MKO
Calvin Burnham, WB5YYQ
D.L. Arrington
Al Callender

- NW HARRIS COUNTY ARES NET - The ARES weekly net meets at 8:30 p.m. local time Wednesdays on the NARS 146.60/66 machine.
- JUNE "73 AMATEUR RADIO" MAGAZINE features, on its front cover, "The 'Ray Gun' Special" antenna designed and built by Jack Douglas, KA5DNP. The picture was taken at the 1989 NARS Field Day site. Jack's lead article mentions Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK, and the pictures were taken by Vince Hayes, KC0LM. (That's Vince's motor home pictured). Nice going on the article, Jack!

**NARS OPS WORK THE 1ST ANNUAL
"CYPRESS CREEK" TRIATHLON**

Picture the deep woods and rugged terrain north of FM 1960 near its intersection with Cypresswood Drive. That is where the 1st Annual Cypress Creek Triathlon was held on June 2nd. The event was comprised of three stages. The first was a four mile trail for runners, the second was a seven mile biker trail (pedal bikes), and the final was a 12-mile horse trail. Thirteen teams competed in hot, sultry weather. Only two runners succumbed to the heat; one went to the hospital. NARS ops provided the communications. Spearheaded by Curt Furtado, KI5AK, in the field and Scott Byrd, N5KEU, as Net Control, others participating were Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Brad Killebrew, N5LJV; Vince Hayes, KC0LM; Bob Patterson, N5MJB; Bob Welch, KE5IC; and visiting op Ray Dillard, WA5F.

This fun event climaxed with an excellent barbeque feast. Many, many thanks to all who participated.

NARS HELPS MADISON'S SHUT DOWN

Armed with pickup trucks, a suburban, and a big diesel truck, NARS members showed up early Sunday morning, June 3rd, to help move mucho "stuff" out of Madison Electronics' shut down facility into storage. Participating on a HOT day were NARS members Allen Majeski, WA5REJ; Dick Rooney, W5VHN; Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK; Bob Judd, WN5G; Rich Richardson, KA5YFU; Ken Harlan, KA5AKG; Henry Freedenberg, N5HF; Curt Furtado, KI5AK; Ed Patterson, KB5MKS; Special Advisor Joe Green, WA4FGH; Bob McBride, WA5RLU; Spunky Busick, K5AAD; Bob Welch, KE5IC, and harmonic Kirk Welch who brought the diesel truck. Kirk summed it up quite well when he said, "This is a great bunch of guys - and they really work!"

The Busick family expressed their sincere appreciation for our assistance. Thanks everyone!!

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)