

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

October 1990

RADIO CONTROL AIRPLANES TOPIC SET FOR OCTOBER 19TH MEETING

Hams are lucky! We have HF, CW, ATV, AM, FM, SSB, DSB, VHF, UHF, PACKET, RTTY, AMTOR, FSK, AFSK, OSCAR, EME - and then we have R/C. R/C stands for radio control.

Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, has been very active with radio control airplanes for several years. For our October 19 meeting, he will bring several model airplanes and tell us what frequencies to use to control them. Bob also promises an excellent video showing recent innovations to this fascinating hobby.

This will be a different Ham Radio related topic. Don't miss this meeting and other local Hams. Remember that eyeball QSOs start early about 7:30 p.m. and the meeting gets under way at 8:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

Kim Mathews, of Mathews Rechargeable Batteries, Inc., told us all about NiCad batteries. He said that batteries and battery chargers must match for best results. Kim will present a battery seminar at the upcoming Houston Com-Venture '90. If you missed this meeting, you can hear him at the convention. . . If you need a portable battery pack for your HT, check out the battery packs used with Weedeaters and blowers. One model is the Paramount ParaPak 12 for around \$40. This model was shown during the meeting by Paul Owen, N5NXS. He only had to change out the connectors to make it work with his HT. . . The door prize was won by Matt Haws, KB5MKO, who won a tape measure courtesy of Honeywell, Inc. via professor Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR.

FOURTH ANNUAL NARS FAMILY PICNIC ON SKED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

As announced last month, the Fourth Annual NARS Family Picnic will be held Saturday, October 20th. The time will be from about 2 p.m. to dark and location will be the Spring Creek Park near Tomball.

This event is co-chaired by Melvyn Adams, KB5GES, and BT Burk, N5QVS. If you have any questions, call BT at 370-1955 or Mel at 686-9025.

Since this is a family affair, bring a picnic lunch for your own family plus a little bit more to share with others. Melvyn promises to have some grills fired up and ready to go, so bring hot dogs, hamburgers, ribs, or Chateaubriand for the group, whatever your specialty is. Remember to bring lawn chairs, coolers, etc.

To get to the park from Tomball, take SH 249 north - turn left at the traffic light located about a mile north of FM 2920 - proceed about a mile to the park. After entering the park turn left - our reserved area is on the hill to the left.

Talk-in is on the 146.06/66 MHz NARS repeater, or on 146.46 MHz Simplex.

INTERIM SECRETARY TO BE CONFIRMED AT OCTOBER 19TH MEETING

Barbara Peat, KB5GEZ, has graciously agreed to take over the position of NARS secretary for the remainder of the year. She will be replacing Curt Furtado, KI5AK, who has moved to California. In accordance with the NARS Constitution and By-Laws, replacement club officers are required to be confirmed by a majority of those present at a regular NARS meeting.

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

10 meters is already in the peak of its season. This peak only lasts a couple of months, so it is wise to make the best use of it. Though most propagation forecasters claim the 10 meter season peaks in November, this one prefers October. The grey line path has much to do with this. This path currently leads into the Middle East in the early morning, and to Southeast Asia at sunset. Every DX Hog prefers this DX to Europeans and JA's, which is where the grey line leads us in November. Those working on 5 band WAZ (or 5 band Honor Roll) should concentrate on 10 meters this month, because these Asian openings only occur at certain times of the day, in certain months, and only near the peak of the sunspot cycle. The CQ World Wide SSB contest is this month, and there is no better opportunity to work a lot of exotic countries in a hurry. Don't miss it. The situation on 15 is less critical, but the band is very good. Polar openings are much more common and available throughout the year. The fall season brings an increase in activity on all bands, and a greater variety of workable countries. To maximize the number of exotic calls in your log, spend most of your time listening. Tune carefully and methodically across all open bands, and don't just listen for pileups. In many cases, the reason a country is rare is because there are no operators that work large numbers of stations pileup style. They prefer their DXing at a more leisurely rate, away from the prime DX frequencies, or at times when arrogant American hoards are asleep. It used to take much time, patience, and skill to chase down all the DXCC countries. With packet, these factors are no longer important. Returning to the subject of propagation, 20 and 40 will be very good this fall as nighttime bands. On 20, the Antarctic paths will be in season through next spring. The morning short path to the Far East is not in season, but this exotic part of the

* * * F A R O U T * * *
by JACK DOUGLAS, KA5DNP

MICROSATS can be worked like PACKET digipeaters and/or PACKET BBS's. When STS-35 and STS-37 fly, PACKET will be on board. Thus, those involved in Amateur Satellite activity are drawn into the PACKET world; and an interesting world it is. If you are not currently "on packet", you are missing out on a major new system that has been growing and changing at a fascinating pace. It is a far cry from what it was yesterday, much less what it was three years ago!

Yes, you still need a computer. If you have that and a 2 meter FM transceiver you can get a TNC. New totally flexible "DSP" boxes are being sold at above \$500, but used TNC-2's and their clones are available for less than \$100.

At the TNC-2 level, you have the vhf/uhf FM Amateur Radio equivalent of the computer-modem-telephone system you have probably used before. However, through the dedication and investment of Hams throughout the world, you will have far wider communications capability without the involvement of telephones! You can get a message to any PACKET-equipped Ham in the world in a matter of hours. You may copy Bulletins from AMSAT, ARRL, etc. at times convenient to you. Need the latest KEP's for satellite tracking? They're on the local PACKET BBS. Want real time information on DX being worked locally? Connect to the local PACKET CLUSTER. Packet has moved from the area of chatting via real time connection to a highly versatile message and information service available to you on your time schedule! If you want to know more, HAPRS (Houston Area Packet Radio Society) has a voice net on 146.10/70 MHz, Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. Also, lest you have forgotten, the local AMSAT net is on 146.22/82 MHz at 10 p.m. Tuesdays!

world is accessible in late afternoon via long path.

NARS NOTES

- CONGRATULATIONS to Rich Richardson, KA5YFU, on his upgrade to Advanced class. Rich awaits his 2X2 call.
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to participate in the Boy Scout "Jamboree on the Air" (JOTA), October 20-21. Invite Boy Scouts into your radio room to operate. For info contact Bob Welch, KE5IC, at 376-4814.
- FOR NARS INFO see Oct. QST, p. 136.

IT'S NOMINATING TIME AGAIN

Every year about now is the time to consider who will lead NARS in the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee for this year is Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, Chairman, ably assisted by Tom Roraback, KF5OO, and Bob Welch, KE5IC. The Committee has met and proposes the following candidates:

President - Paul Frantz, KF5SB
V. P. - Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI
Secretary - Barbara Peat, KB5GEZ
Treasurer - BT Burk, N5QVS
Director - Brad Nelson, WD5GNI

NARS will hold election of officers for 1991 at the regular November club meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted prior to the meeting (tell a Committee member), as well as from the floor at the meeting.

ELECTION TIME FOR ARRL WEST GULF DIVISION DIRECTOR

ARRL members will elect a new director of the West Gulf Division November 20. You should be receiving your ballot in the mail soon. According to NARS member Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, ARRL PIC for South Texas, the voting response in the last election from the Houston area was very low, as in 15%. The voting response from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area was at 70% of the Ham population eligible to vote. Cross says there are more Hams in the Houston and South Texas area than up north, but since our turnout was so low, a candidate from Dallas became

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS NOW!!

NARS is raffling a Kenwood TS-440S transceiver with a drawing to be held at the Houston Com-Venture '90 on Sunday, November 11. Tickets are \$2 each, or \$10 for a book of six. The number of tickets to be sold is being limited to 1250; they're going fast!

Tickets will be available at the upcoming NARS meeting, at the NARS picnic, at the Saturday morning NARS breakfasts, or direct from Raffle Chairman, Dan Cassiani, N5KPI. Also a table will be set up for sales at the Com-Venture.

Some have already purchased tickets and need to turn in the stubs for the drawing. Please send the stubs to: Dan Cassiani, 18518 Hidden Bay Way, Spring TX, 77379.

HOUSTON COM-VENTURE '90

The Houston Com-Venture '90 is scheduled November 9-11 at the Sheraton Crown Hotel and Convention Center, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston.

Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, will present a paper on Direction Finding and will follow that up with the Com-Venture Transmitter Hunt. Please volunteer your help to Henry at 370-0513.

Mike Furrey, WA5POK, will give a talk about indoor antennas. Dan Cassiani, N5KPI, will need help with the raffle. Please call him at 376-0215 to offer your assistance.

director. The approximate percentage voter turnout from the last election was 50% from North Texas; 70% from D/FW area; 15% from Houston and 35% from South Texas.

In this election there is a candidate running from each of the North and the South Texas areas again. If you are interested in having a more receptive ear in ARRL activities this time around, then mark your ballot and get your vote in the mail!!

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. 6650 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)