

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 1991

## A RADIOACTIVE PROGRAM HEATS UP FOR AUGUST 16 MEETING

The hot subject this month is nuclear power. What is the state of the industry? Where will it be in the next century? After all the media publicity about Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, just what is the future of nuclear power?

These questions and an update on our own nuclear site, the South Texas Nuclear Project, will be presented by Sally Mathis, Senior Marketing Consultant for Houston Lighting & Power.

As Hams, we all depend on electrical energy from the wall outlet to power our equipment (except at Field Day, of course) so this month we will look at one of the sources that lights up those displays and puts your voice, or fist, "on the air."

This will also be a good opportunity to hear the other side of the energy issue. We always hear about the disasters and the budget overruns but as we know, it's not as easy as flipping a switch or plugging in a power cord. Anyone who has been at many Field Day operations knows just what all can go wrong just trying to get on the air.

The meeting starts at 8 p.m., so come early and enjoy some good eyeball QSOing before the festivities begin. This may be your night to win a door prize, too.

## JULY MEETING RECAP

Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, discussed the selection and erection of Ham antenna towers with emphasis on safety. The door prize, a 2M antenna donated by Madison Electronics (713-729-7300), was won by Vince Hayes, KC0LM.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT by PAUL FRANTZ, KF5SB

Here we are into August and the summer is almost over. There are lots of back to school ads on TV, and my younger son will be moving off to college this week.

One thing that means is that I will soon be without a computer unless I go out and buy a new one. I didn't realize how much I have come to depend on a computer until I considered what I would do when the one I am writing this on moves off to Rice University. I am sure many of us are in the same situation. What was a novelty five years ago is now a necessity - not only in our hobby, but also in our daily lives. People these days are constantly exposed to so much technology that we have a lot of competition when trying to attract new Amateur Radio Operators. How many of us have been asked why it is worth going to all that trouble to get on the air when it is so easy to call anywhere in the world on the telephone? The point is, we have to be a salesperson these days. If anyone you know shows the least bit of interest, give them a good sales pitch.

Another thing the impending autumn means is that the Com-Venture '91 is just around the corner. This year we are going to raffle two radios which will be attractive to the many new technician licensees. One is a dual band, FM, 2M/70cm handi-talkie, and the other is a similar frequency mobile rig. We will need to sell a lot of tickets outside the club, so talk it up to all your Ham friends who will be attending. We are in need of a volunteer to coordinate this effort so if anyone would like to help, let me know.



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

It is mid-summer, a time of year when most DX activity is concentrated on 20 meters. This is because the low bands are out of season, while the day paths on 10 and 15 are seriously effected by absorption. The only reliable DX paths span areas of darkness, and are primarily on 20. Whereas summer absorption shuts down DXing on 10 meters for several months, the effect on 15 isn't as severe. We can expect improvement across day paths on 15 during August and September, though evening propagation to Europe and Asia will continue to deteriorate. By autumn, 15 will be a day path band. August propagation on 15 is not the best, and the short path to Europe usually opens late. For the first couple hours of the day, long path is often open instead - to Europe and Africa. For one more month, most DX activity will remain on 20.

The fall DX season is just around the corner, and this is especially good news to contemporary novices who only work one band and mode. 10 meters is coming back! Expect some improvement on this band around the end of August with dramatic improvement all through September.

For now, the most reliable and predictable band will be 20 meters. All through the sunspot peak we have daily long path openings year-round. The low end of the CW band is home to many highly skilled and experienced DX'ers who enjoy competing with each other in pileups across a great variety of paths. There are, however, portions of this fine DX band where the competition is much less professional. The propagation is the same, but there is so much more to contend with. There are less DX stations to work in the phone bands, but more rare DX. There are aspects of SSB DX operation (especially on 20) which are distasteful to many, but not nearly as dreadful as the thought of dusting off the key and using it. It is not surprising that many SSB ops prefer 10 or 15 over 20, usually for reasons unrelated to propagation.

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

I was out of state last month and missed writing this column. A belated THANKS to all involved with the Field Day operation. Special thanks go to those who so diligently worked on the Satellite Station lending their assets both in equipment and energy to create the station, set it up, save the antenna from the storm, re-erect the antenna, make contacts, and dismantle the station. I regretted having to make an early exit.

I only recently got around to making contacts on the new Russian "Bird", AO-21. It has been in mode B and, as reported, it is "loud" and "easy". I have been using about 40 watts to a Ringo in the attic for the 435 MHz uplink and a 5/8 ground plane, also in the attic, for the 145 MHz downlink. Transponder #2 has been active. It is linear-inverting and the pass bands are 435.123 to 453.043 and 145.866 to 145.946.

There is a new one up there known as UO-22. The folks at the University of Surrey have done it again. This is a very sophisticated bird utilizing digital telemetry for a variety of experiments. There is a Charge-Coupled-Device (CCD) camera. With proper modems you can copy the data and convert it to pictures. Reports are that the pictures are great.

A major item on this bird is the ADCS (Attitude Detection and Correction System) which tells controllers which way the satellite is pointed and allows them to adjust the attitude so as to keep the antennas or camera pointed directly at the center of the earth. Tailored versions of this system will probably be on many future "Ham" satellites as antenna orientation has been an ongoing problem on past and present birds.

MIR remains active both on "phone" and packet (call U5MIR-1). I know Ken (W5BKK) and Vince (KC0LM) have been having a ball with it. If you haven't tried it you are missing out!



## NARS NOTES

- WELCOME TO HARMONIC David William, born 18 July 91 to Barbara, KB5GEZ, and George, KB5GFA, Peat.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:  
Paul Woodruff, KI5JT  
John Jackson, N5VCY
- CONGRATULATIONS go to Cris Borger, KB5PSA, for upgrading to Technician Class, and to Terry Parker, N5URG, for new call sign ex KB5POS.
- A NARS BBS is now in operation! Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, has initiated a telephone BBS on 713-370-8706. Be sure to connect for NARS messages, Ham Radio news, and general info. Bob solicits your suggestions for making this useful to NARS members.
- FOR NARS INFO see August QST p. 126

### 1991 FIELD DAY RESULTS (N5FD and KB5POT)

The following are the anticipated NARS scores for 1991 Field Day:

<u>Band</u>	<u>SSB</u>	<u>CW</u>
10	32	2
15	234	187
20	422	495
40	-	307
80	-	11
Satellite	10	14
Novice	63	41
<b>TOTAL QSO'S</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>1057</b>

Bonus Points 500

Total QSO Points  
2875 x 2 (Power multi) 5750  
Estimated TOTAL 6250

(This compares to 6144 in 1990)  
de Ken Harlan, KA5AKG - FD Chmn.

**SILENT KEY**  
Mac Miller, K5GVV  
27 July 1991

## DXCC AUTOMATION: ONE YEAR LATER

It has now been one year since ARRL's DXCC branch began the switch to computerization. Full automation of the DXCC awards program is scheduled to begin October 1, according to Special Projects Manager Tom Hogerty, KC1J. Beginning then, every application for endorsement of a DXCC award will be entered into the computer, including the applicant's past record.

Based on the number of such applications received in the past at an average of 215 country credits already posted for each endorsement application received, in addition to new applications, the DXCC Branch anticipates posting in excess of three million country credits on computer during the first full year of automation according to Hogerty.

Here is how the first year's new DXCC applications (representing more than 400,000 credit postings) broke down:

<u>Award Type</u>	<u>Applications</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Mixed	968	31.7
Phone	885	29.0
CW	447	14.6
10 Meters	387	12.7
40 Meters	141	4.6
80 Meters	108	3.5
RTTY	67	2.2
Satellite	29	1.0
160 Meters	22	0.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The backlog of DXCC applications that have plagued the branch is essentially a thing of the past; processing of new applications is current, and endorsement applications received in mid-June are now being processed.

September QST will formally announce the guidelines for field checking of DXCC QSL cards, and will solicit nominations for the position of DXCC field representative beginning the first of September.

(de *The ARRL Letter*, 25 July 1991)



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society  
is an ARRL Special Service Club  
\* \* ARRL Club No. 2120 \* \*

# MARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# MARS NETS

**PRESIDENT** (Board Chairman)  
Paul Frantz, KF5SB 351-8930

**NARS RAGCHEW** - MONDAY 8 p.m.  
28.444 MHz (BT, N5QVS)

## MARS 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.

## SECRETARY

Barbara Peat, KB5GEZ 893-9241

## TREASURER

BT Burk, N5QVS 370-1955

## DIRECTORS

Ed Hinds, KB5AEL 373-4219  
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934  
Bob Welch, KE5IC 376-4814  
Mike Furrey, WA5POK 583-7844

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday 8 a.m. Strack Farms Restaurant, located at 5707 Louetta Rd. - Informal ragchew.

## EMERGENCY NETS

**Northwest Harris County ARES**  
WEDNESDAY 8:30 p.m.  
146.06/66 MHz (Scott, N5KEU)

**Harris County OEM RACES**  
ALTERNATE SUNDAYS 7 p.m.  
146.34/94 MHz INACTIVE?

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT NARS, PLEASE  
CALL KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK, 376-7660

NARS NEWS is published monthly by Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX Editor, 8800 Hammerly #1107 Houston 77030 Tel: 468-6050

NARS BOARD MEETS the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Prince of Peace Catholic Community at 19222 Tomball Parkway, Houston. All members are cordially invited to attend.

## NARS REPEATER FREQUENCIES

146.06/66 MHz 449.375/444.375 MHz

## NARS DIGIPEATER

Fred. (145.07 MHz) Alias (NARS)  
Call (W5BKK-1)

BOB WELCH, KE5IC  
7811 Theisswood Rd.  
Spring TX 77379



SPONSOR

The following are the anticipated NARS scores for 1991 field day:

Mode	Score	Mode	Score
1A	10	2A	10
1B	10	2B	10
1C	10	2C	10
1D	10	2D	10
1E	10	2E	10
1F	10	2F	10
1G	10	2G	10
1H	10	2H	10
1I	10	2I	10
1J	10	2J	10
1K	10	2K	10
1L	10	2L	10
1M	10	2M	10
1N	10	2N	10
1O	10	2O	10
1P	10	2P	10
1Q	10	2Q	10
1R	10	2R	10
1S	10	2S	10
1T	10	2T	10
1U	10	2U	10
1V	10	2V	10
1W	10	2W	10
1X	10	2X	10
1Y	10	2Y	10
1Z	10	2Z	10
TOTAL	761	TOTAL	761

Bonus points: 500

Total QSO points: 2750

28V x 3 (power multi) 8250

Estimated TOTAL 6250

(This compares to 6144 in 1990)

de Ken Harlan, KA5AKG - FD Comm.

SILENT KEY  
Mac Miller, K5QVY  
27 July 1991