

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December, 1991

Ham Radio in the Classroom is Topic for December Meeting

This month's meeting is all about connections. When students are learning geography it's hard to make the connection from Texas to Europe, India or Chile. It's easy to read about the many different cultures around the world but difficult to relate to just the printed word or picture.

Ham radio can help. We can make that connection for the student and we do make that connection ourselves every time we are in radio contact with the outside world.

Myles Mustoe, K7GQB, is currently teaching and working on a Ph.D. in the geography department at Texas AM University. He has written several books on the subject of geography and ham radio. He helps students connect (not on packet yet) with the outside world by using General Coverage Radios SWL and his background in amateur radio.

Mustoe has many ideas on how to bring ham radio into the classroom. He helps students broaden their awareness of the world. This should be of great interest to us. We bring the world in close and connect with it all the time.

Ham radio can be applied in many areas and this is just another way for our hobby to connect with others and to encourage potential connectors, too. Join us Friday for some eyeball QSOing and then a great program.

November Meeting Recap

Hans Zorn, N5PBC and Steve Farlow, N5PBD, of TCAPS, presented and demonstrated packet radio to the group. They explained the new look in this mode and what the plans are in the Houston area. AARL Repeater Guides, door prizes donated by Gadgeteer (formerly Gateway Electronics), were won by Jay Goldberg, N5TRP, and Jim Clark, N5FIX.

Notes From the President by Paul Frantz, KF5SB

Time flies when you're having fun, so the saying goes. The time has certainly flown this year, and I have had a lot of fun along the way. It has been a good year in a lot of ways. We had an excellent Field Day and the Houston Ham-Com activities turned out well. We had a lot of fun doing communications for several public service events. In each case the success of the event was due to the participation of the members of NARS. It is the contributions and involvement of many members which make this club successful.

There are two efforts being organized at the present time which are extremely important to the future well being of NARS. In order to grow we must train new amateurs and then we need to test them. Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, discusses the upcoming Novice course elsewhere in this issue.

The second part of the equation is to provide for the testing of anyone who is ready. Availability of testing in this area is limited. Now is the time for NARS to set up a Volunteer Examiner organization to meet the demand for examinations caused by the recent increased interest in Amateur Radio. There have been some volunteers to participate in such a program, but we need to know all of the VE's in the club. If you are a VE, please contact me so that you can be included in the planning. I intend to have a meeting early next year to get things set up.

I have enjoyed my year as president very much. It has been a very rewarding experience, and I look forward to continuing to be involved as a director. I want to say thank you to everyone who pitched in and got things done throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all NARS members and families.

*** * * PROPAGATATION * * ***
by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q

The days now very short in the northern hemisphere. The sun doesn't shine at all on the north pole, so 10 meter opportunities into central and southern Asia are rare. Grey line paths in the morning lead to Europe, and there is plenty of activity on this popular path. The 10 meter season will continue for several months with openings to most of the world. The other fine day time band will be 15, which will have broader openings to more of the world. On 15, polar openings are still common.

Nighttime MUF's are lower now, and 20 meters is seriously effected. The band begins to close in mid-evening, and paths to the northeast are not open for the European sunrise. The band stays open in the early evening for polar paths to Asia and Russia, and then closes. In the morning, we no longer have that fine summer short path to the Far East. Instead, Antarctic longpath is at the peak of its season. Excellent morning long path to India, Russia, the Middle East and Europe is an every day occurrence. This is a favorite DX path for many experienced DX'ers, with plenty of activity on both ends of the path. It is near sunset at the other end of the path, but DX'ers in Europe and Russia know it well. There are also excellent long path openings around our sunset to the Far East that are not closely watched.

The early band closings on 20 move much North American DX activity to the low bands. New challenges await DX'ers who have already worked everything over and over on the high bands. There are also frustrations. SSB DX'ers find 40 meters loaded with foreign political propaganda and either move on to 75, or work on their 5 Band DXCC on 40 CW. This is one reason why 40 meter pileups are so quickly overrun with lids. (The main reason, however, is packet.) 40 meters is a great band, and many exotics tations appear in the evening hours. African CW ops in particular seem to like 40.

80 and 160 meters are also in season, but we are still too high in the sunspot cycle for serious DXing on 160. On 80, most of the activity is on SSB. On all the low bands, the east coast has a much greater advantage to Europe and Africa than they do on the high bands. Hoards of east coast packeteers dominate pileups most of the

NARS Officers for 1992
Elected at November Meeting

NARS officers for 1992 were elected during the November meeting. The following candidates were elected by acclamation:

President	- Dick Rousseau, N5JZY
Vice-president	- BT Burk, N5QVS
Secretary	- Keith White, N5RVZ
Treasurer	- Jay Rubens, KI5MD
Director	- Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI
Director	- Dan Cassiani, N5KPI

Rounding out the leadership for 1992 will be the past President, Paul Frantz KF5SB, carryover Director Brad Nelson, WD5GNI, and an Activity Chairman to be named by the President. Officers will be installed at the NARS Annual Banquet held in January.

KA5DNP - a Silent Key

Jack Douglas, KA5DNP, passed away in the afternoon of Friday, December 13th after suffering a stroke earlier in the week. Jack, a retired Schlumberger employee, was an avid Ham, a longtime member of NARS and AMSTAT, and an advocate of satellite communication. A colorful speaker, he often provided interesting discussions on his favorite radio subject. His satellite antenna testified to his innovative interest. Those traveling to work about sunup often spoke with Jack on his morning walk on the Kingwood trails with an HT linked through his shack to the 66 machine. He was the writer of the NEWS' satellite column, "FAR OUT".

Though his key may be silent we shall always cherish Jack having passed our way.

evening, and Europe is hard to work. It is important to note that European activity in the evening comes mostly from insomniacs with big signals. The real propagation peak is at the EU sunrise, which occurs after midnight here. By then, most of the east coast is in bed and 80 meter DX is very workable. You will still need an amplifier and a good wire antenna.

Ham Spectrum in Jeopardy

There is growing demand for radio frequencies and because of that, they are getting continuously more valuable. Other services like marine, business, and public safety are clamoring for more spectrum. With all the new devices being marketed that use radio frequencies, we will probably see much more interference, in both directions. There has been a bill before Congress to protect the present frequencies for Amateur radio but support activity by Hams has not been heavy. A valid argument can be made that much of the Amateur spectrum is underutilized. It is reported that Ralph Haller, chief of the FCC PRB, suggests that the tight restraints on business communication be relaxed and that the FCC would open a Petition for Rulemaking regarding this. Personal business, club business, news gathering, routine communications for charitable and public safety organizations, and similar activities may be permitted on the Ham bands. Phone patches would probably abound. How much could lightening up be controlled. Should new and innovative ways be developed to increase utilization of the spectrum that may shield it from further commercial encroachment. Our frequency privileges derive from a political body, Congress. This body is influenced by what it sees, hears, and feels. If we are to retain our spectrum allocation, Hams must make a case for it before the FCC and Congress. There is an election year coming up which some say presents the best opportunity for Congressional response. In short, if we care about what we enjoy in the way of frequency spectrum we had better make it known. If we don't and our privileges are reduced, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Speak out! Write your Senator and Representative requesting their support for the Bill to preserve Amateur frequencies.

Speak often! Get on the air and use our privileges. Don't let it be said the frequencies are underutilized. Unless they are used and used properly, we play into the hands of those who would establish a better use.

1992 NARS NOVICE CLASS PLANNED

The 1992 edition of the NARS Novice class is scheduled to begin February 6th and continue each Thursday evening at 730 for eight weeks next year. We will once again meet at Prince of Peace Catholic Community at 19222 Tomball Parkway which is about 1 mile north of Hwy 1960 on Hwy 249.

The course is designed to prepare students to take the FCC Novice exam which will be given as part of the course or to take the new codeless Technician exam. We have not formulated plans to provide the Tech exam within the course yet but this may be possible if a VE team is organized by then. If not, several opportunities will be available to take the Tech exam elsewhere.

As usual, volunteers are needed to assist in the teaching chores and introducing our candidates to Ham radio. Please offer your assistance by calling Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, at 370-2950 or Paul Frantz, KF5SB, at 351-8930.

NARS Notes

- o Ron Schneider, N5RBC, passed the code and earned his General ticket. Congratulations on the accomplishment and enjoy those new privileges.
- o Membership DUES for 1992 are due again. Use the attached form and envelope or remit them to Paul Frantz, KF5SB, 22911 Wren Lane, Tomball, TX 77375. The dues remain at \$15 per member, \$10 for student member, and \$5 for multiple family members.
- o The NARS Banquet is scheduled for Sat. January 18th at Strack Farms Restaurant. Mark your calendar and make your reservation for a good time among great folks.

See you at the meeting Friday evening or the breakfast Saturday!

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

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NARS NETS

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.

PRESIDENT (Board Chairman)

Paul Frantz, KF5SB 351-8930

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI 370-5182

SECRETARY

Barbara Peet, KB5GEZ 893-9241

TREASURER

BT Burk, N5QVS 370-1955

DIRECTORS

Ed Hinds, KB5AEL 373-9219
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934
Bob Welch, KE5IC 376-4814
Mike Furrey, WA5POK 583-7844

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

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
ALTERNATE SUNDAYS 7 p.m.
146.34/94 MHz INACTIVE?

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)

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Send News to Jim Clarke, N5FIX
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Houston 77080 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.

BOB WELCH, KE5IC
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Spring TX 77379



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