

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 1991

JULY 19 MEETING TOPIC IS "ARE YOU READY FOR A TOWER?"

Are you ready for your sigs to soar with the birds - to fly in the D and E layers of the heavens and then to land in far away cultures almost anytime they desire? Without much metal in the sky you're at the mercy of the propagation gods, but if you have a shiny 90-foot tower you can command the skies. OK, maybe you still need to pay attention to the indexes, the time of day, and the MUF, but there is another world out there to conquer and a tower is a mighty sword that can help accomplish that feat.

This month's meeting topic will prime you for that tower project you have been dreaming about. Towers are something that all Hams dream about if they don't have one, and if they do have one, they can't imagine not having one.

We have one among us that has scaled many a Rohn beast and is ready to impart information you need to get a tower off the ground and in the air. Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, knows about towers, and has a comprehensive program that will cover all areas of selecting and raising tower structures.

Here are just a few topics to be covered: Purchasing the right tower for your application; Safety installation points; Short and long term maintenance; And the whole issue of guy wires - how many and where. Ken will cover more using overhead slides and handouts, and will open the floor to a question and answer period.

It's going to be a real factual meeting so "a towering we will go this month." Don't miss it! Come early and enjoy the eyeball QSO's before the meeting which starts at 8 p.m.

FIELD DAY '91

by KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG, FD CHAIRMAN

On Friday, June 24, the gang gathered and once again the NARS Field Day began to take shape. By evening, camp was set up, towers erected, and everyone was enjoying Bob's (N5PJI) BBQ with beans, salad, and all the trimmings. Hearty thanks go to Bob and all who prepared the fine food. It was really appreciated and enjoyed very much by everyone.

Saturday morning saw completion of the final arrangements. With generator fueled and rigs on ready we set on a collision course with the weatherman. As the contest started, so did the storm. For about an hour or so we fought it through - and won. The camp dried out and we hounded the frequencies for contacts on phone, cw, and satellite. We managed to eat a little more along the way, too. We had a great time throughout the contest and those faithful operators amassed an unedited 1978 contacts. While dupes may erase a few, there were 1050 on cw, 804 by phone, 100 from the Novice station, and 24 via satellite. When sorted out and scored we will probably stand very close to last year's total of 6144.

As the operation drew to a close, the team sprang into action and in short order towers were lowered, antennas disassembled, equipment packed, and vehicles loaded. Within two hours we were cleaned up and moved out. Now that's teamwork!!

Needless to say this all could not have happened without the efforts and contributions of a lot of fine dedicated people. A great big THANK YOU to all who joined in to make this a

(Continued on page 2 - See FIELD DAY)

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE PROJECT

Our late spring DX season on 15 meters passed its peak, and was interrupted by some intense geostorms. Conditions were very good between storms, but now it is July and summer absorption is at its peak. Day path signals will usually be weaker than in June. The long haul paths on 15 in the spring and summer are a combination of day/night paths. For example, our best morning path leads to Asia (where it is evening), while signals across the day path (Europe) are mostly weak. True nighttime paths are open to lower latitudes, such as Africa.

Most DX activity will move to 20 due to the weaker propagation on 15. Early morning is still the best time to operate, with Asia, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean & southern Africa all open at once.

There are two important expeditions we need to mention here: Afghanistan and Burma. Paths to both countries are nearly over the pole - one to the east and the other west. On 15, these paths will be marginally open for many hours of the day. The YA will peak in late evening and the XZ in mid to late morning. Openings on 20 will be shorter, but the short path openings will be pipelines. The YA should be loud before and after our sunset, with possible long path to XZ at the same time. The best XZ opportunity is the first two hours after sunrise, coincident with long path propagation to YA! (These expeditions will probably not be active simultaneously). Both plan to operate the 17 meter WARC band, and this could be a good place to catch them without a massive pileup. Forget 10 meters; it won't be active again until later in the year.

The XZ may not be very easy to work. Romeo's signals from YA and 1S (Spratly) were very elusive, as he missed the narrow windows into North America almost every day. If he brings someone along who understands propagation, Burma should be very workable.

As announced here last month, the Ham folks at the MD Anderson Cancer Center are organizing a project that will require the cooperation of a bunch of Houston/Galveston amateurs. They held a kickoff meeting at the Cancer Center on June 29th which was attended by a group of Hams from the Houston area including NARS reps Bob Welch, KE5IC, and Jim Clarke, N5FIX.

Managers of the Ronald McDonald Houses at Houston and Galveston described the operations. They first contradicted the myth that the houses are in any way funded by the McDonald restaurant chain. Each house is autonomous in its operation and responsible for its own direction and support. Plans are to set up a Ham radio area in each house and schedule regular operations. This will include introducing young hospital outpatients to Ham radio, passing health and welfare traffic, and in general offering a specialized form of entertainment.

Dr. Al Zermenio, KK5W, volunteered to coordinate the overall activity. Call him at 792-6354 to volunteer.

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huge success. We appreciate Bruce (N5FD) and Chris (KB5POT) letting us use their calls for the contest and Novice stations. We were especially thankful for the fine accommodations furnished by Joe (KD5KR), BT (N5QVS), and Vince (KC0LM). We couldn't have made it without the towers of Bob (WN5G), Roy (AD5Q), and John (N5GQW). BT (N5QVS), Jay (KI5MD), and Kirby (K7WOC), provided us with rigs that served us very well. We appreciate the efforts of Jack (KA5DNP) in setting up the satellite station and of Keith (N5RVZ) for organizing the Novice station and Bob (KE5IC) for copying the ARRL Field Day Message. There was no problem finding us because of the signs made up by Brad (WD5GNI). And there were many more who supported the Club's activity in ways too numerous to mention. This was a first class operation from a first class bunch.

NARS NOTES

• PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:

Charles Kirkling, KB5JOG
Susan Wells, KB5NQC
Jay Johnson, WA5PJB
Jimmy Black, KB5PMT
Bob Rogers, N5SXB
Randy Robbins, N5SXF
Bernie Luksich, N5TES
Ed Russell

- CONGRATULATIONS go to Harry Gage, KB5PZT, upon receipt of his Novice call sign, and for making his first contact on ten meter phone the same day! And to Terry Parker, KB5POS, who made his first contact on the air with Harry that same day.

- REMEMBER TO VOTE - Ballots are in the mail to ARRL members to cast in the election of a South Texas Section Manager. Remember that the ballots are due at ARRL HQ no later than Friday August 16th (4 p.m.).

- FOR NARS INFO check July QST, p.134

STROKE STRIKES STU, WB5IGG

A speedy recovery is hoped for Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, who suffered a serious stroke May 26th. Stu is a well-known Ham in the Houston area and has been active with the Brazos Valley ARC since its inception in 1977. According to Harold Parker, ND5F, Stu's condition continues to improve and visitors are helping him regain some of his memory loss. He is home now, after several weeks in the hospital, and would welcome your well wishes.

HAMFEST ANNOUNCED

HAMFEST '91 by the Tidelands ARS will be held July 27th at The Nessler Recreation Center on 5th Avenue in Texas City. Doors open at 8 a.m. All the usual offerings will be available including flea market, door prizes, and vendors. Amateur Examinations will be held by the Clear Lake ARC. Pre-register for \$3 to the Tidelands ARS, POB 73, Texas City TX 77592.

MORE THAN A PEEP FROM THE VEEP by BOB CHMIELEWSKI, N5PJI

Well, Field Day is over and we all survived the storms and the food, the moon ate the sun (or part of it, at least), Paul (KF5SB) is somewhere in China eating things that are totally unrecognizable... (Why does the topic keep coming back to food?... Hmmm. Who knows?) Anyway, summer is well on its way and soon it will be over. And we all know what happens in the fall! The Com-Vention '91. As you may know or will soon find out, I am involved with Houston Ham Conventions, Inc. as a board member. (See, you found out).

The Houston Com-Vention '91 will be held on the weekend of November 8-10 this year at the Sheraton Crown Hotel and Convention Center, 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston. We have some exciting things planned for the Com-Vention this year. But I'm not going to tell you what... at least not yet. Actually we are negotiating with a famous Ham who really is out of this world and although everything looks like a go, we have not yet finalized all of the arrangements. When the program is set, you will be among the first to know.

The Com-Vention is a perfect opportunity to introduce your friends to Ham Radio. Now with the new codeless Technician Class license, it's real easy. So bring your friends, your family, your neighbors, your . . . ? Let's make it a big success!!

We are already working on plans for the Com-Vention '92 (talk about prior planning), and are looking for ideas. If any of you have any ideas on topics, guest speakers, activities, etc. please feel free to get in touch with me. The purpose of the Com-Vention is to make it an enjoyable Ham activity, so put on your creative thinking caps and let your imaginations run wild. We will accept all input.

Well, thanks for the opportunity to speak to you. Remember we can all work together to make Ham Radio fun for us and also help the hobby grow.

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

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

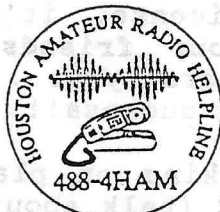
Eye-ball QSO's: about 7:30 P.M.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday & A.M. Strack Farms Restaurant, located at 5787 Louetta Rd. - Informal ragchew.

NARS NEWS is published monthly by Northwest Amateur Radio Society
Send news to Jim Clarke, N5FIX
Editor, 8300 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.

BOB WELCH, KE5IC
7811 Theisswood Rd.
Spring TX 77379



SPONSOR

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8 P.M.
28.444 MHz (BT, N5QVS)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8 P.M.
146.06/66 MHz (Ken, KASAKG)

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)