

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 1991

## JUNE MEETING FIELDS A DIFFERENT "LOOK"

This month you might say the June meeting takes after the popular Kevin Costner movie "Field of Dreams." We are all going to be meeting out in a field and getting ready for the 1991 ARRL Field Day event June 22-23.

We hope to knock a few home runs in a DX kind of way. Instead of meeting at our normal location at the Cypress Creek EMS building on Friday night, we are all going to a gathering at the Field Day site.

If you don't know yet where the location is exactly, you need to get on the radio, grab a friend, or refer to the enclosed map, and get ready for a really good time. The meeting will technically start at 8 p.m. with the usual eyeball QSO's whenever you get there.

There will be someone at the normal meeting place (for a short time) and a notice will be posted for those who still didn't get the word. We're all ready for a fist-pounding time so come out to the site and check in for CQ CQ CQ FIELD DAY!!

## MAY MEETING RECAP

Mike Furrey, WA5POK, presented indoor antenna program. . . Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, announced as club liaison for Houston ComVention '91 scheduled for November 8-10. . . NARS now listed on a flyer put out from HAMINFO telephone service. . . Ken Harlan, KA5AKG updated us on repeater antenna. He said lightning zapped the old antenna good and displayed the melted pieces of it. . . The door prize, courtesy Madison Electronics Supply, Houston, 729-7300, was a 2M antenna. Winner was Hernan Franco, a guest of Jerry Reynolds, WB3GYA.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT by PAUL FRANTZ, KF5SB

June '91 is here already and that of course means Field Day! We will have our regular June meeting at the Field Day site because of the way the dates fall this year. I urge everyone who can possibly make either the meeting or Field Day (or preferably both) to come out and participate in this premier Amateur Radio activity.

A worthwhile public service called The Ronald McDonald House demonstration project is being organized in Houston. The purpose is to introduce Amateur Radio as a therapeutic and entertainment activity for the children and families served by the Ronald McDonald Houses. This is an excellent way to use our hobby to serve the community and I strongly suggest that you participate in the program. Please respond to the attached letter from Al Zermينو, KK5W, and Charlie Prochaska, KG5KV.

In May a new organization was formed which will be of real interest to the packet radio community and to radio amateurs in general. The Texas Coastal Area Packet Society (TCAPS) has been formed with a goal of advancing the state of packet radio and making it more accessible to all amateurs. This is to be accomplished through the participation of individuals and other groups interested in packet. If you would like more information or a membership application, contact Phil Fell, WA4IMZ, (VIA IAH) or Hans Zorn, N5PBC, (on 145.01) or you can leave a message for Phil on LKJBBS (VIA IAH). TCAPS officers are Charlie Lafkoff, WD5GNW, Pres.; Herb Crosby, WD5EFC, VP; Hans Zorn, N5PBC, Secy.; and Steve Farlow, N5PBD, Treas. Note that Hans and Steve are members of NARS. I am sure that contacting any of these folks will get TCAPS info.



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

It is late spring, and 15 meters is supposed to be at the peak of its season. All is not right, and the awesome conditions I have been promising y'all have not materialized. Instead, we get awesome solar flares, geomagnetic storms and aurora borealis visible all the way to Florida. When the W4's on 40 start echoing like Russians, you know something is wrong on the sun. Fortunately the sun rotates, and this disturbance is on the other side at this writing. It will come around again, but hopefully not until after Field Day.

As things return to normal, we can look for great openings on 15 to Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Africa in the evenings. If these openings fail us on 15, we will still have them on 20. Europe should also be open for much of the day on 15, with openings to the Far East in the late morning to around noon. Since our solar fluxes are generally lower this year, these openings will be less reliable than in the past few years. Some long path signals are coming through in the first three hours after sunrise, and this westerly path should be watched for exotic African calls. Most DX activity, however, is on 20. As we move into summer, absorption will become more of a factor for 15 meter day paths. Since 10 is wholly out of season, summer DX activity will mostly be concentrated on one band: 20. No bands are really good for day path DX in midsummer.

To get the most out of 20, tune carefully across the band in the evening for calls from Africa and the Mid-East (most of the activity will be from Europe and Russia). If you are up after midnight, look for Pacific and Asian DX. The most spectacular openings, however, are during the first two hours after sunrise. Indian Ocean stations come from the southwest, Africa from the west (both long path), and all of Asia from the northwest. The NW route is a grey line path, and is open beyond Asia to the south Indian Ocean & Antarctica.

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

It is probably not news to some, but just in case you have not been informed, the call for MIR has changed since MUSA has returned to earth. The new call is U5MIR with the packet board being U5MIR-1.

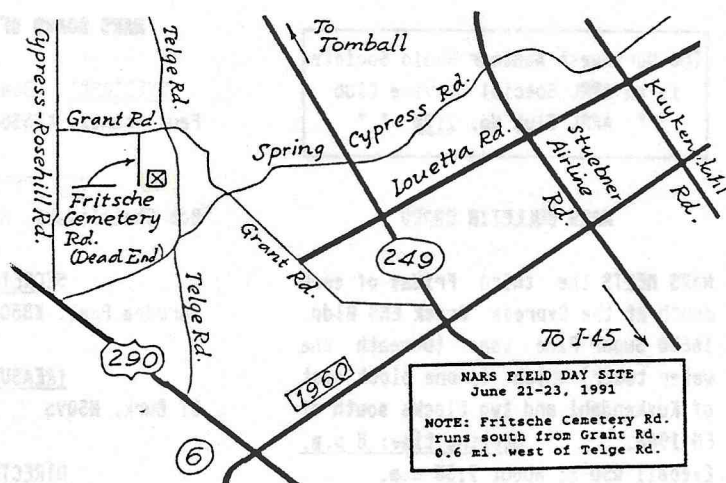
AO-21, the newest Russian bird which was announced in an earlier column, finally is operational on Mode "B" - that's 70cm uplink and 2M downlink. Reports are that signals are strong which is not surprising since it is an LEO (Low Earth Orbit) satellite.

While there is some disagreement, consensus is that AO-13 will get too close to earth and burn up sometime in 1996. So a replacement is of top priority to the Amateur Satellite community. In May, some 30 of the movers and shakers met in Marburg, Germany for an advanced planning meeting regarding AO-13's replacement. They are optimistic about being able to launch a satellite which will be the biggest, by far, ever built by Amateurs. (Much work was done on a Phase 4 - geosynchronous - bird which was to be large. So while that project has been abandoned due to cost restraints and the urgency of getting a replacement up for AO-13, the knowledge gained will be most useful). The best estimate is that the new bird will have a mass of around 600 kg. - that's 1300 pounds - and be in a donut shape with a diameter around 4 meters or 13 feet. With this much space and weight available, fantastic flexibility is planned. Power should be available for three-axis stabilization using servo motors. This will keep the antenna pointed toward the geocenter - no more low signals due to off-pointing of the satellite antennas. Larger antennas will be available so upwards of 15 dB improvement in sensitivity and signals is projected. Finally, through ingenious use of common IF's switchable from the ground, an almost endless series of up and down frequencies (10M to 10 GHz) is envisioned. There is realistic hope for a launch in either March or November of 1995 on a European Space Agency Ariane 5.



## NARS NOTES

- NEW CALLS GALORE this month include John Paquette, KI5NV ex N5RBD; plus call signs from the Novice course for David Stewart, KB5POR; Terry Parker, KB5POS; and Chris Evers, KB5POT. Also Cris Borger, KB5PSA.
- CONGRATULATIONS to Ron Schneider, N5PBC, for his upgrade to General.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS member Bill Buckner.



## NARS FIELD DAY 1991 by KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG

It's June and again we prepare to send the call - "CQ CQ CQ Field Day". The familiar rhythm of the Field Day contest will sound again the weekend of June 22 and 23. Limber up the fist, tune up the vocal cords, get a few extra winks of sleep, and plan to join the fun as we set up camp and operate throughout the weekend.

We'll be setting up in Fritsche Park again this year, and operating Class 2A. This means we'll have two stations, one on CW and one on sideband, plus a station for the Novice band. A satellite station and a packet station are also being prepared. Bruce Cline has again entrusted us with his appropriate call, N5FD. Propagation may be a greater challenge this year, but we have some experts to direct us to those rare contacts. For those who haven't experienced a Field Day, there is rarely a better opportunity for everyone to operate and learn something new. Novices and Techs: Now is the time to get experience and coaching and learn some DX techniques.

As in the past, we will move into the park about 10 a.m. Friday and get ready to begin setting up. Field Day rules state that we may begin set-up no earlier than 1 p.m. Don't worry - we didn't invite Murphy this year. With three stations and towers to rig up there will be plenty to do and we hope as many as can will join us on Friday. Once rigged up, we'll get on the air and do a little practicing and equipment checking. Some of the last minute chores will be completed Saturday morning. We will operate in the contest from 1:00 p.m. Saturday until 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Then we tear down, clean up, and head for home. If you can't help set up maybe you can help evacuate the site.

Since our regular meeting is scheduled for Friday evening, June 21, preceding Field Day, it will be held at the FD site. Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, is planning a BBQ and all the trimmings for the evening.

If you bring equipment, be sure to mark it so it will find its way home. Bring a lawn chair if you want to relax as well as anything you may want to drink or eat. If you have a large cooler, it would come in handy.

Fritche Park is located at the end of Fritche Cemetery Road which is about half a mile West of the intersection of Grant and Telge Roads. If you need directions en route, guidance will be available on both of the NARS repeaters at 146.06/66 MHz or 449.375/444.375 MHz.

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, 8800 Hammerly #1107 Houston 77080 Tel: 468-6050

**BOB WELCH, KE5IC**  
7811 Theisswood Rd.  
Spring TX 77379



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#### NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mike Furrey, WA5POK 583-7844

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 NETS

**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 (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)