

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 1991

"MORE THAN JUST RADIOS" VIDEO TO HIGHLIGHT MARCH 15TH MEETING

This month's program will be an interesting video story called "More Than Just Radios." It is a show about Ham Radio produced by Hams. The story line is the relationship developed between an older retired Ham and a young boy. The old timer "Elmers" the youngster and helps him develop an interest in amateur radio. The story follows the two through the years.

Amateur radio is a hobby that we all are involved in for many different reasons. This video presentation points out one of the more important aspects of our hobby - friendship. And as you will see, this friendship bridges both generations and time.

The importance of sharing our hobby with others is critical to the growth and success of what we enjoy. And as some of us have found out, it can be a lot of fun. That's the basic foundation under NARS - *having fun* - and that's the message of this presentation.

The video was underwritten by ICOM Inc., and was produced and directed by Hams. You may or may not like it, but it will sure make you think.

Come to the meeting early and enjoy some eyeball QSO's with fellow Hams.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Speaker at the NARS February meeting was Tom Taormina, K5RC. Tom's wide-ranging experiences in Ham Radio gave credence to his excellent presentation designed to prepare us mentally for the coming changes in our hobby. The door prize, provided by Madison Electronics, Houston, Tel: 729-7300, was won by Jim Clarke, N5FIX.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT by PAUL FRANTZ, KF5SB

The recent beautiful weather has me wondering where the winter has gone. We have had a very busy start to 1991 with the events in the Middle East holding our attention so much that the time has flown by. Now most of us have a lot of work to do around the house to get the yard and garden ready for the summer. I am trying to get my garden ready to grow an 80-foot tower! Anybody know what kind of fertilizer to use?

Seriously, for those who would like to find a good excuse to get outside and enjoy the spring weather, NARS has several events coming up which will provide plenty of opportunities. I have very pleasant memories of a Saturday morning a couple of years ago which I spent sitting along the banks of Buffalo Bayou counting canoes for the "Reeking Regatta." The bayou has been cleaned up and the name has been changed to "The Bayou Regatta," but I'm sure it will be just as much fun. It will be held on April 6th this year and our coordinator is Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, at 370-5714. Bob White, KF5ZL, has arranged to use the City of Houston emergency communications van as net control station, so this will be a fun event.

A little closer to home, the March of Dimes annual "WalkAmerica" event is scheduled for April 21st in several locations around the city. We will be handling communications for the 1960 Area activities. Again this year Bob Welch, KE5IC, at 376-4814, will be heading up the NARS efforts for this event. Now is the time to get out the handy-talkie and join in some of these activities. I can't think of a better way to enjoy the spring weather and Ham Radio at the same time.

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

It is spring, and the return of daylight to the polar north brings a rapid improvement in propagation into Asia on 10, 15 and 20. These conditions will not last long on 10 meters since summer absorption on this band will become a factor around the time of the vernal equinox. The 10 meter DX season is almost over, and we will see a steady deterioration on this band for the next two months. Activity on the low bands is also on the decline, but good nighttime propagation will continue on 40 in spite of the lower activity.

20 meters is in fine shape. During the spring we can expect excellent conditions via short path to the remotest reaches of southern Asia both at sunrise and sunset. In the summer this becomes a pipeline to the orient in the morning, and to the middle east in the evening. In the evening, however, most of the calls on 20 will be from the USSR. Tune carefully to pick out the more exotic DX, including Africa. All nighttime paths are wide open now, with propagation peaks to daylight areas within an hour or two of the grey line. Long path is also excellent in several directions, including a northerly path in the morning across the Indian Ocean to parts of Antarctica.

Spring, especially late spring, has a spectacular effect on 15 meter propagation. This has already begun, with openings over the pole after dark. Access to Asia will become almost constant during both day and night, as 15 will remain open later and later with the increase in MUFs. Watch for VK9NS this spring, who is expected in Bangladesh during March and in Bhutan in May. Both these operations should be easily workable on both 15 and 20 - the seasonal timing is perfect. Openings to Europe will increasingly extend into the afternoon, and when the MUF's get high enough a nighttime path will also open in that direction. There are many other unusual paths (including long path) that seasonally open on 15 in spring. More on this next month.

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

Near Space is filling with "AMATEUR" satellites; we have two more in LEO (low earth orbit) courtesy of the Russians.

RS-14 was placed in orbit on January 29, 1991. It has three more names: AO-21, Radio M1 and RUDAK 21, but AO-21 is the most commonly used. It is a rare bird in that it has a Mode B transponder (435 MHz up and 145 MHz down) as well as a digital store and forward system, made by German hams, and known as RUDAK-2. In addition there is a Digital Signal Processor that can be loaded with voice messages which the bird then transmits. To the best of my knowledge no one has had a QSO on this satellite, but strong CW telemetry has been heard on 145.822 MHz and voice messages have been heard on 145.983 MHz FM!

RS-12/13 was put in orbit on February 5th. It is the long-expected replacement for RS-10/11 and is very similar to it. Its launch was delayed for over a year because RS-10/11 simply did not need replacement (It still doesn't!). But we all hope the new one will be able to operate more in the special "K" and "T" modes that have been pretty much abandoned on RS-10/11 due to reported interference with and by the primary payload navigational satellite. Frequencies are slightly different on the new one and it is hoped there will be no interference with KOSMOS 2123 (the main payload) which is a civilian navigational package. However, as this is being written the KOSMOS is interfering with 2M signals sent on RS-12 frequencies, so Mode T is out for now on that transponder. We hope the same will not be true for RS-13. To refresh memories, Mode T is 2M up and 10M down while Mode K is 15M up and 10M down. When everything is operational, you can operate on this satellite with standard sideband or CW radios and there will be no need for special antennas; but some of the uplink frequencies fall in the Advanced and Amateur Extra Class bands. A listing of modes and frequencies is included with this newsletter.

NARS NOTES

- 1991 NARS DUES ARE DUE and payable. Please send your check to "NARS", c/o Bob Welch, 7811 Theisswood Rd., Spring TX 77379. *This is the last NARS News for those who haven't renewed.* Be sure to pay up and get your name in the 1991 NARS roster.
- NEWS FLASH!! Jay Rubens, KI5MD, up-graded to Amateur Extra Class. Jay attended last year's NARS Novice Class and said, "No one told me to stop, so I just kept practicing, practicing, practicing." Heartiest congratulations, Jay!
- NEWS WITH DUES from Pakistan - Rich MacDougal is sporting his new Extra Class call sign AA5QG ex KG5LZ.
- PLEASE WELCOME new NARS members:
Tommy Jackson, N5MGM
Jesse Sanchez, Novice Candidate
- NARS NOVICE COURSE is on schedule and progressing well. A total of 17 are participating and interest has remained high.
- THE BUFFALO BAYOU REGATTA is the new name for the Reeking Regatta of years past. This year's event will take place on Saturday April 6th, and NARS has again been asked to handle communications. The race starts where San Felipe crosses the bayou (Near Voss Road) and will end at the Sabine Street bridge. Operators will be stationed at strategic locations along Buffalo Bayou to report on race progress and to report on any emergencies or other needs. NARS has done this event for the past five years and it's a fun one!! Please volunteer by calling this year's Chairman, Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, at 370-5714, or see him at the March 15th meeting.
- SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB status for NARS has been renewed for another year.
- FOR NARS INFO see March QST, p.122.

COMPAQ R.C. SETS VE TEST SCHEDULE

The Volunteer Examining Team for the Compaq Radio Club issues the following (tentative) schedule for amateur examinations during 1991:

March 23	Saturday (all elements)
April 20	Saturday (all elements)
July 20	Saturday (all elements)
October 19	Saturday (all elements)

August 14	Wednesday evening (one element only)
November 20	Wednesday evening (one element only)

The VE Team requests that advanced registration be made whenever possible. Walk-ins will be accepted.

Please contact Alan Cross, WA5UZZB, ARRL Liaison, Compaq Radio Club, for registration by telephone:

713-374-5329	(voice)
713-374-5507	(data)

or by mail:

Compaq Computer Corporation
P.O. Box 692000 M050802
Houston, Texas 77269-2000

de Matthew Haws, KB5MKO

PROBLEM

by JOE GREEN, WA4FGH

*Looking into the mirror on the wall
It's for sure you've not been kind at all.
When I take another look in your space
And see again the reflection on my face
I wonder if the person I actually see
The question, is that person really me?*

*Sure I know its been a long while
Since I was called a juvenile
But I feel great, feel about the same
"Cept I'm stiff, and a little lame.
Hair is gone, what's left very thin
Lots of wrinkles, and a double chin.*

*But I feel younger, and really fine
Working at something all the time.
Uncertain, I still wonder what I see
That reflections it's got to be me
Which one of us is really real,
The person I see or the one I feel?*

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

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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)