

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

November, 1991

Be Introduced to Packet Radio at the November 15 Meeting

The word and the theory of packet radio is not new to anybody but if you are not using packet now it can all seem a little intimidating. This month's meeting is designed to introduce you to the basics of packet and get you up and "packeting".

Hans Zorn, N5PBC, and Steve Farlow, N5PBD, will walk us through a demonstration of packet and show us the possibilities of this digital form of communication. They will have two packet stations set up for a live demonstration and answer any basic questions you might have about packet.

Both hams are NARS members and officers of a fairly new group that has formed called the Texas Coast Amateur Packet Society, TCAPS. TCAPS has about 25-30 members from Huntsville to Galveston. Hans is the Secretary and Steve the treasurer.

TCAPS is actively involved in the process of creating an efficient network for the south Texas. The current set up needs improvement and that requires design and much cooperation of individual hams.

Zorn says you can get on packet for as little as \$25 (utilizing software and your computer, A/D I/O board); around \$100 for VHF TNC, packet only, or, for around \$300-400 you can have the whole enchilada with a multi-mode TNC that gives you packet and all the other digital modes of communication (RTTY, AMTOR, WXFAX, etc.)

If you're new to packet you will hear the basic steps for setting up a packet station. If you're already on packet you will hear what is the latest technology and what is being planned in terms of network nodes and digipeaters for this area. This month's program is going to be interesting so make plans to be there.

Notes From the President by Paul Frantz, KF5SB

This is the time of year that we start making plans for the annual NARS Novice Class. The past year has seen some significant changes in AmateurRadio which means that we should give some consideration to restructuring the novice class. With the advent of the No Code Technician license, we must consider the fact that there are now two entry level licenses. The purpose of the new license class is to encourage more people to become radio amateurs and discover the many pleasures and benefits of our hobby. Part of our function as a Special Service Club is to provide classes for prospective amateurs. In order to provide this service for both entry levels, we will have to provide either two different classes or expand the existing course to cover the technician class material. We, as a club and as individuals, should take this opportunity to provide proper training and guidance for all those desiring to become amateurs.

During the past several years the Novice class has been put on through the dedicated efforts of Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR, Bob Welch, KE5IC, and several others. Over the next couple of months we on the board of directors along with the above mentioned people will be trying to come up with a new program for the 1992 class. This will be a challenge, but it is one we need to meet if we want to have some influence on the future of Amateur Radio. An effective method of generating new ideas will be to get new people involved in the effort. We want input from recently licensed amateurs and from those interested in upgrading to determine the training needs that must be met. We also need ideas from those of us who are experienced and would like to pass this experience on. Please contact me or Ken Harlan, KA5AKG with your ideas.

Election of Officers Slated for November Meeting

NARS will elect officers for 1992 during the November meeting. The nominating committee is offering the following candidates for election:

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

Other nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Officers are elected for a period of one year, and the Director-at-large for two years. The new officers will be installed at the NARS Annual Banquet held in January.

October Meeting Recap

Scott Byrd, N5KEU, briefed us on ARES emergency communication Officers are to be voted on at the November meeting Door prizes, furnished by Madison Electronics were won by Cody Jackson (1991 Callbook), and Gladys Arrington (Hygain antenna kit).

Balloon Launch Comments

NARS members Ron, N5RBC, David, N5RCQ, and a friend Jay Goldberg, N5PRP, were on hand for the South Texas Balloon Launch Team's latest launching, October 26th. Ron reports the balloon was up for over two hours and reached a height of over 100,000 feet. There were some telemetry problems and some audio glitches but the video was much better than the previous launch. The balloon finally dropped somewhere around Arcola in a backyard in good condition. Ron said he returned home after the launch and copied the 10 meter beacon. He said other stations around the country were picking up the beacon too.

* * * PROPAGATATION * * *

by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q

The fall DX season is in full swing on all bands. Propagation over daytime paths is excellent on both 10 and 15. 20 40 are good for nighttime paths, and there is some DX activity on 80 every night for those that need a new challenge. Solar fluxes are trending down, and this will effect some of the bands that are at the peak of their seasons.

We will likely have periods where the solar flux dips below 150. Though this is plenty high enough to keep 15 in fine shape, on 10 meters it will narrow the windows over high latitude paths. In the morning, this would shorten the openings to Russia and Eastern Europe. After sunset, 10 would close too soon for an opening to remote S.E. Asia. As long as the ionosphere is not disrupted by geo-storms, 15 meters will remain a good choice on days when 10 meter propagation is off due to lower solar numbers.

Lower fluxes would mean better signals on 40 and 80, but we will likely pay a price for this as we move into winter. We would not have enough solar activity to keep 20 open at night. Last year's fall 20 meter season was disappointing, and this year's should be very similar. Evening paths to Europe and Russia are reliable for most of the year, but moving into winter we can expect early band closings to effect our primary DX paths. The DX activity will move to 40 (especial-ly CW) and 80 (especially SSB). Propagation on 40, and also on that WARC Band at 10 MHz, should be excellent.

The lower MUF's on 20 will not effect paths that traverse the southern hemisphere, and several months of great longpath are expected. At least 80 percent of long path activity from the states is on the morning path to India, the Middle East and Europe. The other end of that path occurs near our sunset. Tune carefully for Antarctic stations and for exotic longpath from S.E. Asia.

NARS Rates in the Top of 1991 Field Day Results

Field Day results show NARS, operating class 2A, placed 25th out of 546 entries in the class with 6,344 points. Considering the band conditions and Murphy, we did excellent. Another gain over the previous year.

NARS Notes

.. Our satellite column is missing this month due to the hospitalization of the author, Jack Douglas, KA5DNP. We wish him a speedy recovery.

.. Please pardon the tardiness of the NEWS this month. The activities of the convention and the inactivity of the computer were to much interference.

Com-Vention '91 a Hugh Success

The Houston Ham Com-vention '91 had record attendance and was considered a hugh success. Programs were well attended. Commercial exhibitor space was sold out and the swap-fest was crowded.

NARS operated the Ssap-fest and appreciation is sent to all who participated. There was a big crowd.

The drawings of the NARS Raffle were held Sunday afternoon at 2 PM and the winner of the Kenwood TM-741A was John Conley, N5GQW. The Kenwood TH-77A dual band handheld was won by Michael Lay, N5PTN.

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 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
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NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT (Board Chairman)
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Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934
Bob Welch, KE5IC 376-4814
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)

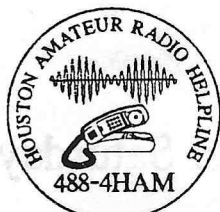
Harris County OEM RACES
ALTERNATE SUNDAYS 7 p.m.
146.34/94 MHz INACTIVE?

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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