

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 1992

ARSC & ARRL are Topic at February 21st Meeting

The Amateur Radio Serving Children Society, ARSC and the Amateur Radio Relay League, ARRL -- both featured in one evening! Now that's a real big Mac deal for you. The program this month points out the wide range of areas available in amateur radio.

The ARSC society is a group of concerned hams organized to serve the special communication needs of the children and their families staying at the Houston Ronald McDonald house.

NARS member, Jim Clarke, N5FIX, chairman of the Society, along with other members, will share with us this special ham service. You'll want to be present to see what you can do to help out. The ARSC has at its command a great ham shack with antennas that would make any ham envious.

Of course, equipment is always interesting but that is not where the emphasis lies with this group. All the excitement comes from the end of the mike. Holding the mike and holding the key to another world are the children. Their faces of wonder at hearing other people from all over the world and using our hobby as a way of taking their minds away from their present condition is what it's all about.

The other half of the meeting will be the ARRL, which hopefully, you have already heard about to some extent. New officers took over last October and some of them will be present to keep you up to date with league news. They also want you to get to know better the organization that sees to it that our interests are heard in Washington amid the loud din of other special interest groups.

NARS member Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, took over as the new Section Manager for the South Texas Section. He will present current league issues and brief us on what the league has to offer.

As you can see this month's meeting has variety, education, opportunity and entertainment. Surely there is no reason for you not making it. See you there!!

Membership dues for 1992 are due -- Please continue your support by sending the dues to Paul Frantz, KF5SB, 22911 Wren Ln. Tomball, TX 77375 if you haven't already renewed.

NARS Calendar

--- *plan now!*

Feb. 6 - Novice Course begins at 7:30 PM and continues each Thursday for 8 weeks.

Feb. 14 - Directors meeting, 7:30 PM at Dick Rousseau's home, 7826 Heathrow, Spring.

Feb. 21 - NARS General Membership Meeting, 8:00 PM. Eyeball QSO's from 7:00.

March 20 - NARS General Membership meeting, 8:00 PM at Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Center.

March 20-22 - Lafayette Hamfest; Programs, fun, and great food in Lafayette, La. Headquarters at the Holiday Inn Central.

April 11 - SIRE Triathlon; Spotters and control communication for race. Call Curt Furtado, KI5AK.

April 26 - Buffalo Bayou Regatta; Spotters and control communication for canoe race ending near Allen's Landing. Contact Curt Furtado, KI5AK.

May 9 - NARS Picnic; Feast and fun at Spring Creek Park from mid morning till ... for the whole family.

June 27-28 - Field Day; Set-up begins Friday afternoon, June 26 at Fritsche Cemetery Park. Special activities and a weekend of operating in the great outdoors.

*** * * * PROPAGATION * * * ***

by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q

With sunspot numbers still high in the cycle, 20 meters comes back quickly during February for all-night openings that continue until November. The wonderful night propagation we enjoy for most of the year on 20 (and the daily long path openings) are a product of high solar activity. Though we still have a couple more years of this, it doesn't last forever.

This paragraph is included to remind you of what conditions are like at the bottom of the cycle 20 closes at night most of the year. In late spring we get some extended evening openings over the pole, which are the same openings we get on 15 at the high end of the cycle. Openings into Russia are much less common on 20, and impossible on 10 and 15. 20 meter night path (and long path) propagation is sparse at the low end of the cycle. 20 becomes a daytime band, replacing 10 and 15 for the day path to Europe (though at higher QRN levels.) 10 meters is good for collecting 10-10 numbers and practicing Spanish. Openings to Europe are often better on 80 than they are on 15. Conditions on 40 thru 160 are great, and the low bands are where serious DX'ers will spend their time.

The past few months have been good for 40 and 80, and many rare DX stations have been workable on lowbands. A few of the better equipped stations have made some nice 80 meter long path contacts into Asia at our sunset (I was not one of them). This propagation is more common at the low end of the cycle. The 80 meter season is nearly over, but 40 will be good for several more months. The activity, however, will be moving back up to 20.

It is also late in the 10 meter season. Absorption starts to take over soon after the spring equinox. We therefore only have a month or two left of good propagation on 10 this season. The quality of next fall's season will depend on how much solar activity declines over the coming months.

There is currently DX activity on all HF bands from 160 thru 10. This freedom of choice will continue for at least a month. After March, DX activity will begin moving to 15 and 20.

Notes From the President by Dick Rousseau, N5JZY

If you missed our NARS Banquet, you really missed a big time! It was a RIP ROARING success. Excellent meals and fellowship along with some great awards to members who made big contributions to NARS last year. And, Joe Green, WA4FGH was there and I had the pleasure of reading his latest poem entitled "Maturity" or "How it looks from the other side of ninety".

The Novice class is moving right along. Ken Harlan, KA5AKG and his troops kicked it off on Thursday, February 6th for eight weeks duration. Not too late to talk your YL or XYL or a friend into enrolling and taking part in the best hobby around. Maybe you can at least make your XYL knowledgeable enough to complain about TVI. If nothing else, stop by and meet some of the students.

Our NARS picnic is planned for Saturday, May 9th, with Rich Richardson, KI5MH making the arrangements for a location. He will let us know the details at our February meeting. We plan to have a family picnic type activity with some equipment set up to give our new club Novices (and veterans) some operating practice for Field Day weekend in June.

Programs for 1992 are coming along well with several planned. But, we do need an able body to take the job of Program Chairman. Any takers? We have a lot of ideas and need a good organizer to make it all happen. Let me know if you're interested or even if you have any ideas for programs.

Two excellent public service activities are planned for April; the SIRE Triathlon which will take place April 11th in the 1960 area, and the Buffalo Bayou Regatta which will happen in conjunction with the Houston International Festival on Sunday, April 26th. Kurt Furtado, KI5AK is coordinating the events and can always use more operators to help. If nothing else, attend and have some fun with other NARS members.

Ken, KA5AKG has been having some excellent two meter nets on Wednesday evenings with good participation. Take time and check in with the group and keep up with other NARS members.

NARS Banquet Celebrates Another Great Year

NARS held its annual awards banquet Saturday evening, January 18th at Stracks Restaurant and it featured as much food as one could eat, good fellowship and recognition of those who contributed to the club's activities this past year.

Paul Frantz, KF5SB, past president, kicked off the event with words of encouragement. He announced that the club was at a crossroads. Several key members had become silent keys in the last few months. They had contributed greatly to NARS and will be missed. It was time for others to step forward and take up the reins. Paul awarded the past officers with certificates of appreciation Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, vice president, BT Burk, N5QVS, treasurer and Barbara Peat, KB5GEZ, secretary.

Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, new president-elect, introduced and installed new officers and directors BT Burk, N5QVS, vice-president, Keith White, N5RVZ, secretary, Jay Reubens, KI5MD, treasurer and directors Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, Dan Cassiani, N5KPI and Paul Frantz, KF5SB. Dick began by saying we had a big job to fill and needed to hitch up our britches and get to work. He read a poem about maturity penned by the NARS poet laureate, Mean Joe Green, W4FGH. Awards were presented to recognize those who have served faithfully this past year. Most Improved Active New Ham award was a tie and went to Cris, KB5PSA and Debbie, N5WHA Borger. Short Subjects Award went to Jim Clarke, N5FIX, for his efforts on the NARS NEWS and W5YI ham news at club meetings.

The Technical Innovator award was given to Mike Furrey, W5POK, for his efforts as activities chairman. The NARS ArmTwister of the Year was given to Iloe Richardson, N5VFI. She earned this award for manning the raffle ticket booth at HAMCOMM and selling tickets despite the professional caller next to the NARS booth selling tickets for their raffle.

Finally, the NARS Outstanding Member award was presented to Roy Hradlek, AD5Q. Roy received an engraved plaque and a \$100 certificate for needed ham equipment. He has been very active in all areas of the club. He has been active on all bands. His Propagation

NARS Notes

The NARS Novice class is well under way with 28 fine students enrolled. Most students indicate they are interested in the Novice license and are busy with CW. Stop by the class on Thursday evenings and give them your support.

Bill, WA5DWX, is organizing Hams who also are pilots and would like to hear from anyone interested in the group, Call 469-8331 for more information.

Advertizing space is provided free in the NEWS to NARS members for their personal equipment and information needs. Please contact Ken Harlan, KA5AKG by the first of the month if you have anything to publish.

Is it renewal time for your ARRL membership? Remember that NARS is affiliated with the ARRL and receives a small rebate from your dues if you identify your renewal with the club number, 2120.

You may not know breakfast on Saturday morning at Strack Farms Restraunt is for more than just hams. The XYL's have been enjoying a good beginning of the weekend there as well and they don't even have to listen to a lot of radio jargon. Don't let the XYL continue to feel left out, bring her along and join a good crowd at eight next Saturday morning. See the back cover for more information.

Think you've got RFI problems? Imagine what the Voice OF America has with 250,000 watts into 17.9 dB antennas. Maybe we should take some lessons from them. Effective public relations and affirmative action is their action. New generation telephones and VCRs are their worst problems too.

column is a monthly feature of the NARS NEWS. He was a leader during ARRL Field Day pulling big points when we needed them. Roy is the type of member that makes NARS a great club.

To conclude the evening Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, recognized the significant effort and time committed last year by Paul Frantz, KF5SB. our Past President.

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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is
a Special Service Club affiliated with
the American Radio Relay League.
ARRL Club No. 2120

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: 8:00 P.M.
Eyeball QSO's : about 7:30 P.M.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday
8 AM at Strack Farms Restraunt, located
at 5707 Louetta Rd. - Informal ragchew

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN
Dick Rousseau, N5JZY 370-5714

VICE PRESIDENT
BT Burk, N5QVS 370-1955

SECRETARY
Keith White, N5RVZ 820-5073

TREASURER
Jay Rubens, KI5MD 393-3023

DIRECTORS
Paul Frantz, KF5SB 351-8930
Dan Cassiani, N5KPI 376-0215
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934
Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI 376-0215

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 invited to attend.

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 P.M.
28.444 MHz (BT, N5QVS)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 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 SATURDAYS 7:00 p.m.
146.34 / .94 MHz (Inactive)

NARS REPEATERS

2 M - 146.060 / 146.660 MHz
70 cm - 449.375 / 444.375 MHz
Digipeter - 145.07 MHz
Call (W5BKK) Alias (NARS)

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL
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