

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January, 1992

## January Meeting Becomes the Annual Banquet

The regular monthly meeting for January will not be held as usual on the third Friday because of the Annual Banquet scheduled for the following Saturday evening.

The Banquet will begin with an eyeball QSO at 6:30 PM followed by dinner at 7:00 and a short program. It will be held at Strack Farms Restraunt, 5707 Louetta Rd. on Saturday, January 18th. The dinner is \$15 a person and those wishing to attend should contact Rich Richardson, KI5MH, by Friday for reservations. He can be reached at 448-1624. The meal will offer a choice from three kinds of BBQ and all the trimings.

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## December Meeting Recap

At our December meeting Myles Mustoe, K7GQB, described the experience he has had with the use of radio as a teaching tool in the classroom. Myles is a geography teacher in College Station and working on his Ph.D. at Texas A&M. He related the way in which radio provides live contact with the areas and cultures of the world.

He showed how even general coverage SWL adds a new demension to students learning by unconsciously enhancing skills in listening, concentration, and note-taking. He gave an interesting demonstration of the visioning considerations of listening to the radio. Myles says that his classes regularly have assignments of reports from radio listening.

Prior to the program Dick, N5JZY, conducted an interesting discussion of members needs and desires from their involvement in the club. John, N5GQW, captured the door prize of a mobile antenna contributed by Gadgeteer (formerly Gateway Electronics).

## KE5IC a Silent Key ... But Not a Forgotten One

by Jim Clarke, N5FIX, Editor

We morn the loss of one who embodies the spirit of NARS and who gave of himself tirelessly to the Club, its members, and the Ham community - Bob Welch, KE5IC. Bob became a silent key January 12, 1992 after developing complications from surgery. Memorial services for him were held Monday, January 12, 1992.

We are deeply indebted to Bob for many reasons. He was the one who was always there for whatever may have been the occasion as a Ham, a friend, or an advisor.

To reflect on his service to NARS is to return to the Club's beginning in 1985 for he was one of its founders. As a charter member, he served on the initial Board of Directors and continued that role for most of the intervening years until his death. His committment to leadership and service has resulted in a number of the activities we now regularly undertake. He was instrumental in inaugurating the Novice licensing class, originally called "Operation Upgrade." The CW instruction as well as much of the administrative work for the course was annually provided by Bob. Follow-up instruction, coaching, and generally assisting new Hams resulted in his recognition as the "Elmer of the Year" in 1987.

The "News" was Bob's baby. It bore his return address from its beginning until his death. His tenure as publisher has outlasted the committment of anyone else to a responsibility in NARS. He was committed to keeping us informed not only in writing but also on the air as an Official Bulletin Station providing bulletins and propogation forecasts regularly on our nets.

Few public service events lacked Bob's presence. He coordinated the MOD Walkathon

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in the FM 1960 area since 1988. Whether by foot, by bike, by horseback, or by canoe there was always a common thread - KE5IC. This commitment earned Bob the recognition of "NARS Outstanding Service Award" in 1989.

I learned of his final status at the January Board meeting and although I knew his condition was grave, I was not ready to accept that the Elmer of NARS and a good friend would not be around for another meeting or strategy session on the NARS News. As we discussed the Club's activities for this year the sound kept coming up "This is what Bob did," "You know, Bob ran that," "I think Bob gave out that information" and so on. He was in almost everything NARS.

We will miss Bob; his steadfastness and his many capabilities that he freely gave to NARS. But most important of all I think he would want us to continue the vision he and the original founders had of the of a first class amateur radio club for Hams, for the community of Northwest Harris County, for South Texas, and for the international comraderie of amateur operators everywhere. KE5IC - 73 FROM NARS.

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## NARS Novice / Technician Class Again to Jumpstart New Hams

The 1992 Novice class will begin Thursday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 PM at the Prince of Peace Catholic Community, 19222 Tomball Parkway, and last for eight weeks. There will be follow-up sessions for those who have difficulty completing the exam at the end of the course.

The course will follow the ARRL syllabus and use the new first edition of "Now You're Talking" as the text. We plan to offer as much hands on experience as possible. Jay Rubens, KI5MD, will be leading the code instruction this year.

Now is the time to enlist those folks who have said "I wish I could become a Ham." Don't send them; bring'em over and become their Elmer. We want to extend more than just a licensing opportunity to these students; we want to get them on the air. For more information on the course, please call Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, at 370-2950.

## Notes From the President by Dick Rousseau, N5JZY

Happy NARS New Year to all NARS members and friends! Your NARS Board is alive and kicking and is already working hard to make 1992 another GOOD year for NARS and its members. We will have had our first Board Meeting by the time you receive this NARS News Edition and I am sure that we will have taken big steps for the coming year. We'll have to work hard to out perform the outgoing President, Paul Frantz, KF5SB, and his team! Just a few comments as to what I see in 1992. A terrific opportunity to see old NARS friends and make some new ones at the NARS Banquet on January 18th at Strack Farms Restaurant. I understand that even Mean Joe Green, WA4FGH, will be there. Now, that will be a treat! Call Rich Richardson, KI5MH, (448-1624) and let him know you want to attend.

Our Novice class will begin on February 6th and will run for eight weeks. An excellent opportunity to talk one of your friends or neighbors into becoming a HAM! Excellent programs for the coming year, including emergency communications, new equipment on the market, ARRL up-dates by elected officials, satellite communications, propagation/DXing, and much more. NARS members enhancement activities such as antenna help, licensing up-grade help, operating practices help, etc. If you have any other ideas or needs, please let your officers know.

To round it out, we plan to have activities on ARRL Field Day, public service activities for the Buffalo Bayou Regatta, Sierra Club Brazos Bend Bike Hike, and more. So, that's just a little of what to expect during 1992. Please support NARS with your participation. The NARS Board meets on the second Friday night of each month, one week prior to the club meeting, and the Officers and Directors invite you to attend and let us know what you want for NARS.

If you would like to contribute an article or information to the News please give Jin Clarke, N5FIX or Ken Harlan, KA5AKG a call before the first of the month so that it can be included without delaying publication. Remember that as a member of NARS you can advertize equipment for sale free in the News.



**\* \* \* PROPAGATATION \* \* \***  
by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q

It is now mid-winter. MUF's are seasonally at their lowest, and so are QRN levels. It is this writer's opinion, however, that MUF's are not as low as they were last year. We are still near a sunspot peak, and solar fluxes still reach monthly peaks of over 200. As I write this, it is 275 and conditions are excellent on the high bands. On good nights, 20 meters seems to be staying open later, giving us better access to Europe, Russia, and Asia in the evening. Last year, this band was closing early even during November. I never did understand why the MUF's seemed lower than the fluxes would suggest, but this year things are back to normal for a sunspot peak. European signals on 80 have not been very strong.

On a typical evening, 20 meters is loaded with Russians. The band is open to other parts of the world, such as the Middle East and Africa. Activity from these areas is sparse, especially on CW. Exotic African countries tend to show up on 40, and time spent tuning for these stations is well spent. Pileups on 40 CW build very quickly. Most of the DX is on the bottom 10 KHz of the band, and astute DXers find the rare DX as soon as it comes on. What follows is a short window of opportunity - once the packeteers get their amplifiers warmed up you can pretty much forget it. You must copy the DX in order to work it. 40 SSB is a different story. There is much less DX and much more shortwave QRM, but the DX is down around 7050 - 7100 and listening on announced frequencies in our phone band. QRM on the DX station's frequency is not a major factor.

10 and 15 are in fine shape for day path work. Most of the rare DX pileups will be on 10, which has much more activity overall. Variations in the solar flux will effect 10 meters, and on days when the flux is especially high we can expect better penetration into Eastern Europe and Russia in the morning. Around sunset, look for signals from S.E. Asia. 15 meters can remain open for several hours after sunset with excellent access to Asia, but not on most January evenings when the flux is under 200.

The 20 Meter Dawn Patrol is looking down the long path in the morning. Ideally a rare CW contact with a middle eastern country will result,

**NARS Notes .....**

**Membership Dues** for 1992 are due now. The dues remain \$15 for members, \$10 for students, and \$5 for multiple family members. Please remit them to Paul Frantz, 22911 Wren Ln. Tomball, TX. 77375, if you have not already done so. Checks should be made out to NARS.

**A VE Group is bieng formed in NARS** to provide license examinations in our area. Those interested in participating or finding out more about the requirements may attend a meeting scheduled for Monday, Jan. 20th, at 7:30 at the Lakewood Forest Fund office building, 11330 Louetta Rd. or contact Paul Frantz, KF5SB.

**Our farthest member** is Rich MacDougal, AP2UTP, (formerly AA5QG) in Pakistan. Rich is working there with Union Texas Petroleum. Try to catch that DX.

**KE5IC Fund Created**

The Board of Directors, due to concerns expressed for the family of Bob Welch, will collect a personal fund to be provided to the family for application to their medical expenses. Those wishing to contribute should contact Paul Frantz, KF5SB.

**AN HISTORICAL NOTE**

The first experiment to test the biological effects of electricity was perhaps made by Count Alessandro Volta (1745 - 1827), the Italian physicist who invented the voltaic cell. He connected 50 cells in series, put the ends of the wires in his ears, and reported it felt like a strong blow to the head, followed by sounds of boiling soup. [Footnote, p582, University Physics]

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but more common are contacts with India, Russia, Europe, Africa and the Indian Ocean. Countries like A6, 9K, A7, YI, YK are far more available on 20 SSB via long path than they are on code. Point your beam at whoever is taking the list and repeatedly yell the last two phonetics of your call until somebody tells you to shut up. Then, if you can get the DX station to key his PTT for a CW contact, the League will count it for CW Honor Roll!



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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

KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG  
12034 Laneview Dr.  
Houston, TX 77070

## NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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  
KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK 376-7660