

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 1992

## Field Day to be Featured Topic for June 16th Meeting

Well, it's that time again for our biggest club activity of the year. ARRL Field Day 92 is upon us June 27-28th. No other event during the year will compare with the fellowship and the exposure to the many different modes of transmissions that are available in ham radio.

Naturally, our program this month will be on Field Day the past and the future. We are going to have a varied program including past tales of Field Day. A lot of old timers have some good tales to tell. Mr. Murphy has afforded anybody who has been involved in a Field Day many a yarn.

Along with stories will be some hints for preparing for FD and some strategies for holding on to your frequency as those fast talking 2s and aggressive 4s try to bump you over.

Roy Hradelik, AD5Q, the wiley DXer that he is, will share some hints, ideas and not-to's for your consideration. Of course antennas will be covered. You'll see and hear about all types of antennas at Field Day.

Field Day is working together as a team, training, and exposure to different methods of operation and all brands of radios. Whew! Sound exciting^ Need I say more^

You need to be present at this month's meeting and catch the excitement and anticipation of Field Day 92. Come early for some eyeball QSOing and then hear all about the last minute details. See you there!

## May Meeting Recap

Keith White, N5RVZ, was master of ceremonies. Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, talked about starting a code class for the teachers at North Brook Middle School.

Scott Byrd, N5KEU, gave a film presentation on emergency preparedness. He talked about how hams can help during emergencies by becoming members of ARES and RACES. Bob White, KF5ZL, who works at the Emergency Center in downtown Houston, showed slides of the offices in the center and described its operation. He also showed slides of the city taken during the last major flood. I-10 really looked like a raging river. The door prize, The ARRL Operating Manual, was won by Rich Richardson, KI5MH.

## NARS Calendar --- plan now !

**June 12 - NARS Directors meeting** at Dick Rousseau's home - 7:30 PM.

**June 19 - Regular monthly membership meeting** at the Cypress Creek Emergency Service building - 7:30 PM.

**June 20 - V.E. License Exam session** at Tomball Community Center - 8:30 AM.

**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.

**July 18 - V.E. License Exam session** at Tomball Community Center - 8:30 AM.

**Aug. 7-9 - Texas State Convention & Hamfest** - Austin, TX.

**Aug. 15 - V.E. License Exam session** at Tomball Community Center - 8:30 AM.

**Sept. 19 - Brazos Bend Bike Hike** at Brazos Bend State Park - 7:30 till noon.

**Nov. 6-8 - Houston Ham-Convention & Hamfest.**



## Field Day Cometh by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG

The rythm of CQ will ring out again for Field Day the weekend of June 27-28. Portable operation simulating emergency conditions will afford us valuable experience and good fellowship. Get a few extra winks of sleep, tune up the vocal cords, and come join the fun.

We will be setting up once again this year in Fritsche Cemetery Park which has proved ideal for this operation in the past. Operating class 2A, there will be two normal HF stations plus a station on the Novice bands and a satellite station. Propagation promises to offer some interesting challenges this year and how better to learn the tricks of the trade than to be on hand. There will be opportunities to see and do things we only think about the rest of the year. Those new to the sport can get a grip on those mysterious things you've heard about. Bring a friend along.

We will begin setting up about 1 PM Friday. With a 20x40 foot cover to erect and three towers and antennas to raise there will be plenty to do. We sent Murphy to 2-land this year so he should be out of sight. A little testing and practice will be in order after setup. Final tweaking will be completed Saturday morning before the contest starts at 1PM. At 1 PM Sunday we will conclude the operation, tear down, pack up, and head for home. Help on both ends of the operation will be appreciated.

On Saturday evening, Bob (cook) Chmielewski promises a repeat of the excellent BBQ we had last year but we need to know how many to expect. Please let one of the chairmen, KI5MD, N5QVS, or N5RVZ, know by the preceeding Wednesday if you will be there. Bring a couple of dollars to defray costs and whatever you want to drink.

Bring a lawn chair if you want to relax and whatever nibbles you desire and join the fun that weekend. Please mark your equipment so it will be sure to find its way home. Extra coolers will come in handy. A few fresh operators throughout the night Saturday will assist to relieve the weary and those craving pizza.

Fritsche Cemetery Park is located at the south end of Fritsche Road which joins Grant Road 0.6 mile west of the Telge Rd. intersection. (See the adjoining map) En route guidance is through the NARS repeater on 146.66 MHz.

## NARS Notes .....

New calls have arived for graduates of the NARS 1992 License Course. Congratulations to Willard VanDevender, KB5SGR, Eric Schoonmaker, KB5SGS, Joyce Moore, KB5SGT, Paul McCombs, KB5SGU, Marion Denton, KB5SGV, Jimmy Kirk, KB5SGW, Jesse Sanchez, KB5SGX, and James Sullivan, KB5SGY. All calls are now 2x3 because there are no more 1x3's available.

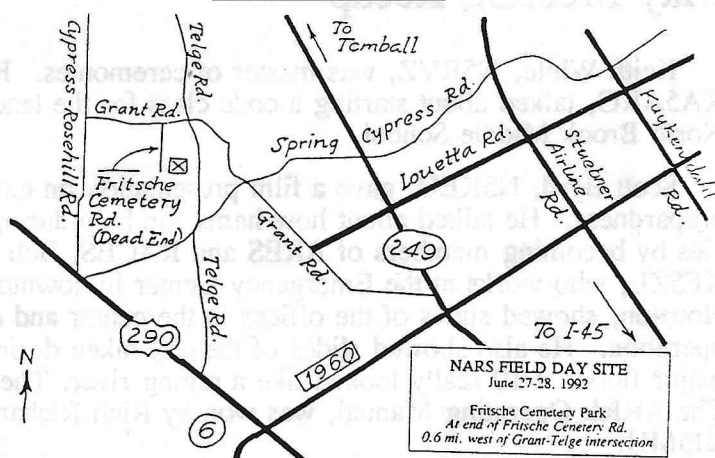
Welcome to new NARS members Tim Wallace, N5ZIR, and Steve Baum, AA6VO. We are glad to have you.

## NARS License Exams Continue by Jay Rubens, KI5MD

The NARS Volunteer Examiner Team held their second regular monthly testing session Saturday, May 16th at the Tomball Community Center. Five elements were given to four different people who were working on a variety of upgrades.

V.E.'s conducting the session were Mark Tyler, K5GQ, Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, Bob Walworth, AK5B, Jay Rubens, KI5MD, and Roy Hradilek, AD5Q.

The sessions are held on the third Saturday morning of each month, with registration at 8:30 AM and the testing commencing at 9:00 AM. For further information call Paul Frantz, KF5SB at 351-8930 or Mark at 587-0256. The next session will be June 20th. An applicant for the exam must have a photo identification, a copy of his current license or credits received, and a check for \$5.50 payable to the ARRL.





\* \* \* \* **PROPAGATION** \* \* \* \*  
by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q

We have had some fine conditions on 15. Paths have been open to all parts of Asia during the day, with excellent openings into the late evening. These conditions are seasonal and we have enjoyed them through the sunspot peak, but how now? For the first time in several years, the solar flux has dipped below 100. This occurred during the WPX CW contest. 15 Meter paths to Europe and Japan were marginal throughout the event, mostly because of the lower MUF's. Morning daypath propagation to Europe shifted to a lower frequency, and 20 Meters was found in excellent shape.

At this stage in the solar cycle we can usually expect fluxes to range between 100 and 150. Flux swings effect our HF bands more dramatically here than at higher levels. 15 will be less reliable, and fall conditions on 10 this year will remind many Novice & Tech DX'ers why they should work on their code and upgrade. We still have plenty of good propagation left on 10 and 5, and when fluxes are low, a corresponding DX path can be found on a lower frequency band.

Summer absorbtion starts to effect 15 during June as the spring DX season comes off its peak. Daytime absorbtion will be a noticeable factor by end of month (Field Day). With fluxes at the higher end of our range, good daypath conditions are still possible, but the late afternoon and evening paths will be better. There are no reliable daypath bands in July because summer absorbtion is at its worst.

Most of the nightpath stuff is on 20, but 40 is also pretty good. After sunrise (on 20) we get our usual summer pipeline to the Pacific and far east, with long path to Africa and the Indian Ocean. LP to VU and EU is out of season, and is especially difficult when fluxes are low. Watch for especially good short path instead, with morning high latitude paths broadly open from the NW to NE.

Please submit articles for publication in the NARS News to Ken Harlan by the 1st Friday of the month.

**Notes From the President**  
by Dick Rousseau, N5JZY

Field Day 1992 is almost upon us! Have you made plans to participate and make this a big Field Day Year? If not, it's time to mark your calendar and make plans. Give Keith, N5RVZ (820-5073), Jay, KI5MD (893-3023), or BT, N5QVS (370-1955) a call and volunteer to operate and/or assist in setting up the station location on Friday afternoon/evening. As usual, we will need help in both areas in order to keep the radios manned for the 24 hour period. And don't forget, to bring the XYL's, YL's, harmonics, and friends by for a visit. Location? In case you've forgotten - Fritsche Cemetery Park.

Just a reminder - A brief planning session will be held on Saturday, June 13th, at 9:00 AM following breakfast at Strack's Farms Restaurant. Try to attend and participate.

I would also like to acknowledge Roy Hradildk, AD5Q, for his continuing excellent articles on PROPAGATION in the NARS NEWS for the past four years. I have personally learned a lot from the articles and look forward to them each month. So, keep up the good work Roy!

**Field Day - Why?**  
by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG

In his National Contesters Journal column, "Contest Tips, Tricks & Techniques," Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, questions the Field Day contest. While FD is configured as a contest and intended to promote emergency preparedness, are there more valid alternative objectives? Contributor Roy Hradilek, AD5Q, questions the level of competition due to the relatively inexperienced composition of most groups, particularly related to CW. The pattern of scoring results supports a contention that a concentration serious contesters can dominate the contest results.

The article infers that there is more to FD than just scores. Roy suggests that the event should really be used to **introduce** Amateur Radio to the public and **introduce** other Hams to contesting. Paul Schaffenberger, KB8N, says it is a great time for learning and trying new things such as QRP contesting, new antennas and the like. George Fremin, WB5VZL, recognizes that along with other considerations it is just fun. We each have our individual reasons for participating. If they can be all these and more, **WHY NOT?**



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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 Restaunt, 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 893-3023

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  
home of Dick Rousseau, 7826 Heathrow  
Ln, 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)

CITY OF HOUSTON - EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT NET  
SATURDAY 9:00 AM 146.84(-) MHz  
SATURDAY 9:30 AM 3.905 MHz

## 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

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