

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

March 1992

A Look Behind the Scenes in TV to be Subject of the March Meeting

The regular general meeting in March will feature the experiences and encounters of Bill Denton, WA5DWX, behind the scenes of network television production. Bill worked for over 31 years on the other side of the cameras producing what we watch on our TV screens. With that much time in the kitchen he's gotten a good sense of the flavor of the pie. There have been interesting encounters with personalities and a fair share of bloopers. He will share a few of the things that make it all happen and a few of those that may stop it.

Have you ever wondered why your home videos don't quite measure up to what you see on the screen, or how they could be made a little better? Some of Bill's experiences may shed some light on that. How far has TV broadcasting come in the past 31 years. The improvement we see on the screen has been marked by equal or greater strides behind the scenes that will be interesting to see. Join the audience behind the set and get another view of network TV.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Jim Clarke, N5FIX, brought us some insight on Amateur Radio Serving Children, the Ham organization active in working with patients staying at the Ronald McDonald House. He described the involvement of amateur radio and the difference it can make to these young people and their families. Greg Farley, night manager for facility was his special guest. A brunch is scheduled for the morning of March 28th at Ronald McDonald house to acquaint those interested in working in the program (see NARS Notes).

Allen Cross, WA5UZZ, ARRL South Texas Section Manager, updated the group on current issues around the league including the possible desirability of a name change.

The door prize, a copy of the W1FB Design Notebook, was won by Don Bedell, KA3BKU. It was contributed by Alan Cross (WA5UZZ).

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. Members not renewing by the end of March will be dropped from the roll.

NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

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 5 - MS Foundation Walk; 9 - noon in the Woodlands to provide communications. Contact Vince Hayes, KC0LM.

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.

April 26 - March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon in the FM 1960 area; Communications support for the walk on Sun. morning. Contact Bill Denton, WA5DWH.

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

It is equinox time. Both the northern and southern hemispheres receive equal amounts of sunlight. Neither hemisphere is afflicted with summer absorption, and neither has a problem with early band closings on winter nights. There is world-wide propagation on several bands. A similar situation occurs at the autumn equinox, and many propagation forecasters treat spring and fall conditions as if they were identical. This is not quite true. Ten Meters seems to be at its best in the fall, and 15 peaks in the spring. Unscientific DX hogs need no explanation of this phenomenon, and routinely check all bands anyway.

As I write this, 10 meters is still in excellent condition. We are nearing the end of its season, and can expect a rapid deterioration over the next two months. Absorption begins to effect this band right after the equinox, but doesn't seriously effect 15 until June.

20 Meters opened up for all night propagation back in February, but night-time MUF's continue to rise until summer. This causes a steady improvement in after-dark propagation on 15. We are starting to get some nice evening propagation, and in late spring 15 stays open most of the night. For the next several months, make 15 Meters a regular part of your tuning routine during the evening hours. There will be plenty of activity, especially over the pole.

40 and 80 are still good. 40 Meter propagation will continue through the summer, but most of the activity along nighttime paths will move to higher bands. The primary night path band will be 20, which should be consistently reliable thru November.

After sunrise, we get the usual trans-Antarctic long path to VU/4S7, the Middle East and Russia. This is followed by excellent long path to Africa and the Indian Ocean. We can also begin looking for pipeline short path conditions to the west, north and northwest. This includes the most exotic parts of Asia (i.e. S2, XW, 3W, 9M, 9N, 9V, V85, BV, VS6, BY, JT, XX, HS, XU). If you need any of these, be on 20 in the morning regularly through the summer. Most will be active. Also look for long path to the Antarctic (via the north). This path is especially good in the

Supreme Court Clouds FCC's Regulatory Authority

It was recently reported in the Houston Chronicle that the Supreme Court, on March 2nd, refused to allow the FCC to ban 'indecent' radio and TV broadcasts by refusing to review an appeals court ruling that such a blanket provision would be a violation of freedom of speech. The administration had been attempting reinstatement of round-the-clock ban on indecent broadcasts.

To what extent this may impact amateur radio is yet unknown but as all licensed operators know, Part 97.119 of the FCC Rules specifically prohibits obscenity, indecency, and profanity in our radio transmissions. Broadcasters have argued that an absolute ban on indecent material would deter "innovative news and dramatic programming by stations worried about running afoul of the vague ban." Legislation passed in 1988 established the indecency ban on broadcasters.

The issue in the FCC vs Action for Children's Television now returns to the FCC to decide what hours indecent material may be aired. Apparently not at issue is the prohibition of legally obscene material in broadcasts. The FCC has allowed, during the progress of this case, broadcast of indecent material between 8 PM and 6 AM. This action will hopefully not impair the FCC's ability to reasonably govern use of radio and TV.

While there may be lengthy legal argument over the distinctions between indecency, obscenity, profanity and the right to freedom of speech we as Hams have to remember that we inexpensively enjoy a privilege in FR communications. Abused privileges are often lost or restrained. Hams attitude of cooperation and consideration has permitted a high degree of self regulation in the hobby. We can promote continuation of these privileges by acting responsibly on the air. To have greater involvement of the FCC or the courts in amateur radio would probably be less enjoyable and more costly - something we all want to avoid.

spring. Morning openings on 20 consistently provide the richest variety of exotic DX opportunities.

Notes From the President by Dick Rousseau, N5JZY

I just returned from the February meeting and feel that we really had a good program. Jim Clark, N5FIX, did an excellent job presenting our opportunity to participate in the ARSC (Amateur Radio Serving Children Society) activities in the future. I feel that this is a very special way in which we as Hams can show our appreciation to those needy children who can benefit in those activities.

Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, Section Manager-South Texas Section for the ARRL, gave us a thorough picture of the ARRL in our area and how we can participate in guiding our hobby. He emphasized that all of us are ARRL and the Ham community and our actions serve on a daily basis to strengthen amateur radio. If you are not a member, please consider joining to give your support and receive the benefits of membership.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Debbie Borger, N5WHA, for volunteering to act as "Greeter" at the general meetings. Her welcome of new members and guests was a welcome addition to the meeting format.

Saturday breakfast RAGCHEW (0800) at Strack Farms Restaurant is still going strong. Mean Joe Green, W4FGH, presides and keeps us under control! Try to make it. I am sure you will find it enjoyable.

Brad Nelson, WD5GNI, has agreed to serve as Coordinator for the new NARS Help Line which will be established in the upcoming months. The purpose of the Help Line will be to provide a ready reference for members who need help in any aspect of ham radio from operating practices to antenna problems. Next month Brad will be asking for Help Line volunteers so let him know if you are available to assist in this important project.

I would like to again mention the upcoming public service activities. Curt Furtado, KI5AK (376-6817) will coordinate the SIRE Triathlon on 4/26/92. Bill Denton, WA5DWX (469-8331) will coordinate the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon on 4/26/92. Please consider helping in one of these events. Each is very worthy and our help always adds to their success. Please give Bill or

NARS Notes

ARSC Meeting Set March 28 - Amateur Radio Serving Children announces a special meeting and brunch for members and curious prospective members at the Houston Ronald McDonald House Saturday 10 a.m. Cost under \$5. RSVP if possible. For information contact Jim N5FIX.

FOR SALE Signal Cushcraft 2-meter 5/8 wave mag mount mobile antenna, almost new 30 Heathkit HD-10 Electronic keyer/practise oscillator, exc cond. Practise code and then hook it up to rig and go. 30. Jim N5FIX 468-6050.

Congratulations to Keith White, N5RVZ, on his upgrade to General.

Congratulations to Trey Garland, N5RXZ, on his winning first place in recent regional bagpipe competition. How's CW on the pipes Trey?

With great sadness we recognize the passing of Carol Welch, wife of Bob, KE5IC, recently deceased. Carol, a beautiful lady with a vibrant personality, was an ardent supporter of NARS and Bob's radio activities. The News which Bob published in the early life of the Club was the result of a considerable effort of hers. She was overcome in her fight with cancer February 19. She is survived by her parents and four children. Carol's presence and contributions will be remembered and missed.

Curt a call.

ARRL Field DAY is coming up for the weekend of June 27-28th so please plan to attend and participate. BT Burke, N5QVS, Keith White, N5RVZ, and Jay Rubins, KI5MD, have agreed to coordinate the event and will be calling on many of the members for help. This will be another good opportunity to participate in a great activity.

Bill Denton, WA5DWX, has also agreed to serve as Program Chairman for the year and will be looking for suggestions from the membership for good topics. Please give him a call (469-8331) if you have any good ideas for programs.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the general membership meeting Friday, March 20th.

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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
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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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NARS

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