

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

September 1992

Satellite Antennas are Topic for September Meeting

Last month for our meeting program we had an overview of ham satellite technology. This month we continue to orbit with satellites but on a different angle. Chris Borger, KB5PSA, will present satellite antennas.

Once you know what and where the satellites are you need to be able to hear them. There is more to it than just pointing the antenna skyward. Chris will simplify it all for us and show us some alternatives in antenna considerations.

If you were at Field Day this year you may have seen one of Chris' satellite antennas. It was a homemade antenna designed with the pocket book in mind and it worked very well. He will share with us what we can get by with and what we can do to improve performance and gain.

There will be some good practical information presented this meeting so you don't want to miss out. Come early for some eyebal QSOing and then be ready to take some notes.

August Meeting Recap

Andy MacAlister, WA5ZIB, was the guest speaker for the August meeting. He gave a very informative talk on the state of satellites in use today. He stressed the ease of talking through satellite RS10/11 using a two-meter handheld and a HF receiver. Andy provided some information about the different satellites and their frequencies. His talk ended with a video showing the launch of the KITSAT satellite.

NARS Raffle is Under Way

The tickets are in and the chance is there to win Kenwood's finest dual band mobile radio or a great Realistic scanner. Scott Byrd, N5KEU, and Ed Russell, KB5QLX, are heading up the annual fund raiser that will make two people very happy at the drawing to be held at the conclusion of this year's Houston Ham Convention on November 8th.

Chances are \$1.00 each or a book of 11 for \$10.00. Scott and Ed will need some help in the sales effort, particularly at the convention. Don't pass this opportunity to win one of these great rigs and assist the club too.

NARS Calendar

--- *plan now!*

Sept. 18 - NARS Regular
Monthly meeting at Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Center - 8:00 PM.

Sept. 19 - 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. Call Dick Rousseau for information.

Oct. 9 - NARS Directors
meeting at Dick Rousseau's home - 8:00 PM.

Oct. 16 - Regular monthly NARS membership meeting at the Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:30 PM.

Oct. 17 - V.E. License Exam session at Tomball Community Center - 8:30 AM.

Nov. 6-8 - Houston Ham-Convention & Hamfest.
Drawing for NARS Raffle.

Nov. 14 - Weblos Scout Ham radio demonstration at Sealy campsite - 8:00 - 5:00.

Nov. 20 - Regular monthly NARS membership meeting at the Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:30 PM.

Nov. 21 - Weblos Scout Ham radio demonstration at Sealy campsite - 8:00 - 5:00.

Your Voice in the ARRL by Alan Cross, WA5UZZ

When someone mentions "involvement" in amateur radio we often think of operating habits or a particular area of interest. There is more than just this. To maintain our service, and to direct the path we want our service to grow requires the dedication of a small number of persons. These persons are most often associated with a national organization, the American Radio Relay League.

The people who guide this development are the policy makers of the League, the Board of Directors. The Board members are elected every two years. This year the West Gulf Division, of which we are all members, will elect a Division Director and a Division Vice-director to represent us.

While it is not my place to support one candidate over another, it is my place to make the strongest recommendation, that you vote in the upcoming election. The people who make policy have an impact on field operations, the long-term outlook of amateur radio, and how United States amateurs play in the international arena. The election for the position of Division Director and Division Vice-President will occur in October of 1992 for the West Gulf Division.

I encourage all who are eligible to vote as soon as the ballot is received. Review the candidates qualifications and cast an informed vote. It is your service, your Division, so voice your choice. Play an important part in the direction of the West Gulf Division by voting in the upcoming election.

Joe Green, WA4FGH Elected to Life Membership in NARS

In recognition of his continuous service and dedication to NARS and contribution to the club and its members, the Board of Directors, by unanimous vote selected Joe, WA4FGH, as the second Life Member. Number seven on the list of founding members, he is an inspiration to all at the young age of 93 this past July. We delight in his poems and recollection of the days when...

May his sage advice and ready wit always grace our gatherings. **Congratulations Joe.**

Notes From the President Dick Rousseau, N5JZY

This year is really moving along! Already September! But, we still have a lot to do before 1992 is out. The Brazos Bend State Park Bike Hike is only several weeks away on September 19th. We could still use a few good Hams if you can spend the morning and have a good time while serving a good purpose. Just give me a call and I'll find a place for you.

I want to also remind you of our Saturday breakfast QSO's at Stracks Farms Restaurant on Louetta. We meet at 8AM with Mean Joe Green, WA4FGH presiding. He sees that we stay in line so plan to attend if possible. If we play our cards right, he lets us read one of his latest poems.

At the last NARS Board meeting, the Board decided to help the local Webelos Cub Scouts by presenting ham radio demonstrations to them at their camp located in the Sealy area. We plan to set up portable HF and 2 Mtr. operations on Saturdays, November 14th and 21st for this purpose and will need a number of operators who would be interested in helping. Contact me, Ken, KA5AKG, or Paul, KF5SB if you can help. I think that it will be an excellent opportunity for public service and to get operating experience for those recently licensed hams. I would especially appeal to those recent graduates of our NARS Novice class to participate. The plan is to present seven one hour demonstrations each Saturday to a total of approximately 150 Webelos Scouts. We plan to have a lot of opportunity to operate!

The Houston Ham Com is only around the corner and we will need help for the Swap Fest area and the NARS raffle Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Scott Byrd, N5KEU, is handling the raffle and will be needing members to man the raffle table. Ken Harlan, KA5AKG is making the arrangements for the Swap Fest and will need help in various areas. Please give one of them a call and volunteer to help some while you are attending the convention.

In closing, I want to thank all of the NARS members for being so helpful when I need help with projects. I am always pleased at the positive reception I receive when I ask for help. The club could never operate successfully with the officers alone and you, the members, make the good things happen! Have a good day and I'll see you at the meeting.

* * * * PROPAGATION * * * *

by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q

Fall at last! In recent months, lower flux levels and seasonal absorption have substantially reduced DX activity across all day paths. September is a month of dramatically improving conditions on 10 and 15, but this year's fall DX season will be different than in recent years.

With flux levels swinging from the 90's to over 150 in a typical month, propagation on 10, 15, and 20 will vary greatly. Ten Meter propagation is reliable at flux levels above 150, but at the current stage of the cycle conditions will often be marginal. There will be much less polar propagation, and the path to Russia will often be difficult. When fluxes are in the 90's, any path to Europe is welcome. Sometimes openings will be mostly confined to western Europe, but the louder east European and Baltic stations will usually get through. The east coast will have better penetration into Europe and Russia than we will, especially before the band opens for us. The best response to weak 10 Meter propagation will be a move to 15.

Eventually solar fluxes will be consistently low, and European propagation will be scarce even on 15. For now, this band will usually supply day path propagation when it is lacking on 10. When even this fails, check 20 Meters for that morning path to Europe or try the 17 Meter WARC band.

Night path conditions will also be effected by the lower solar activity levels. The fall season on 20 Meters does not look good. Last year fluxes were off their peak of prior years, and the band started closing at night during November. We can expect these closings earlier in the season, forcing DX'ers down to 40 and 80. Some night paths will remain open, but not the ones taking a northerly route. 20 will often be open to Africa in the evening, and to all points south and west. Exploit the grey line path around sunrise and sunset for contacts in the Antarctic.

Any deterioration in 20 Meter night path conditions will benefit 40 Meters, where much of the CW activity will be concentrated in the bottom 10 Kc of the band. SSB activity is more likely to move to 75 Meters due to the short wave broadcast activity on 40.

NARS Notes

There were six elements administered to four people at the August VE test session. Two of the candidates gained license upgrades. The exam sessions are held the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM at the Tomball Community Center. If you would like to participate as a Volunteer Examiner give Mark Tyler, K5GQ, or Paul Frantz, KF5SB, a call.

Our condolences go out to Tom Roraback, KF5OO, on the death of his father on August 24th in Conn. Tom just recently completed his move back to his home state.

Congratulations to Willard VanDevender, KB5SGR, on his advancement to Advanced. Wow, from the 1992 Novice course in March to Advanced in August, that's moving right along.

We bid a hardy welcome to our newest members, Paul Glosch, N6YFH, and Earl Dodd, KB5UFB.

The publisher's apologies to any who failed to receive the August copy of the NARS News. Post office machinery gobbled up the address portion of the back page on a few and the stamps didn't stay on a couple. There may have been others lost if the whole address page was destroyed. If you would like a copy of that issue and didn't get one please let the editor know.

There are those among us who have served the club and put out that extra effort during the year to make things happen, to support amateur radio and amateurs. We want to recognize these people but it is impossible for the awards committee to be all knowing. If you feel someone's efforts or achievements are worthy of recognition please let Paul, KF5SB, or Dick, N5JZY, know.

What a Deal

Computer hutch. Small, good for a youngster. In good shape. The price is unbeatable - Free. Call Dick Rousseau at (713) 370-5714.

Please submit articles for publication in the NARS News to Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, by the 1st Friday of the month.

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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, NSJZY 370-5714

VICE PRESIDENT
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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
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)

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