

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 1993

A Ham's View From the Top of Government Subject of April 16th Meeting

With all the politics in the air these days it's only fitting that we add to it all with our own political program. We have a very interesting guest who is a ham and has worked as an aid to former presidents Reagan and Ford.

He is Peter Roussel, K5JCC. Peter has been a ham since 1957 and grew up here in the Houston area before rubbing shoulders with men in leadership roles around the world. Now serving as Executive Vice President of Taylor-Newmann Public Relations in Houston, he has over 25 years of business, governmental, political, public affairs and media experience including two tours of duty in the White House under Presidents Reagan and Ford.

Peter is coming to tell of his adventures in politics and amateur radio. In 1969 he became press secretary to then US Congressman George Bush and later served as Bush's personal press officer while US Ambassador to the United Nations. During the early 1980s he served in the White House as Deputy Press Secretary to Reagan where his first assignment was to handle media relations for the landmark appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor as Justice to the Supreme Court.

As Communications Director for the Houston Economic Summit Host Committee, he supervised media relations in conjunction with the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations, the first time ever that event had been hosted in a major American city. As a spokesman for President Reagan, Roussel had previously attended the Economic Summits at Versailles, 1982, Williamsburg, 1983, Bonn, 1985 and Tokyo 1986 and helped plan the US media participation at those events.

In the mid 80s his duties at the White House included briefing the White House press corps and accompanying President Reagan on domestic and foreign trips, including summit meetings with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at Geneva in 1985 and Iceland in 1986.

Since 1988 Peter has served as an on-camera television commentator for KTRK-TV (Channel 2) and Boston WCVB-TV. He has also written articles which have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post and other newspapers.

As you can see he just might be able to find something to talk about. Of course we want to know the real scoop behind the scenes.

You will surely want to be at this month's meeting to hear of Peter's unique experiences from a high profile setting. Come early and enjoy eyeball QSOs. See you there!!

NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

Apr. 9 - NARS Directors meeting - Lakewood Forest Fund Office - 7:30 PM.

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

Apr. 17 - Amateur License Exams conducted at Tomball Community Center - 8:30 AM.

Apr. 17 - Amateur Radio Serving Children (ARSC) Outdoor Fair and Special Event Station at Ronald McDonald House - Saturday AM.

May 8 - NARS Spring Picnic; Feast and fun for the whole family at Spring Creek Park from mid morning till....

May 14 - NARS Directors meeting - Lakewood Forest Fund Office - 7:30 PM.

May 21 - Regular monthly NARS membership meeting at the Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:30 PM.

May 22 - Buffalo Bayou Regatta race communications - 7:00 AM.

Jun 26-27 - Field Day; Special activities and set up beginning June 26 at Friars Cemetery Park. A weekend of operating experience in the great outdoors.

ARSC Appoints KB5WIU as Operations Officer

The Amateur Radio Serving Children, ARSC announces that Bill Kujawa, KB5SIU, will be the new Operations Officer for NARS. ARSC provides for the special communications needs of the children and their families who stay at the Houston Ronald McDonald House. Bill will be coordinating those who want to come operate the ARSC ham station at the house. If you want to operate or have questions contact Bill.

The ARSC meets the first Saturday of the Month at 11 a.m. at the house ham shack. Once briefed on operating procedures members can operate any time day or night.

The ARSC also holds an informal 2 meter net on Monday at 8:30 p.m. for approximately 10-15 minutes to disseminate information concerning the ARSC activities. The net is on 145.47 Mhz -600hz repeater (MERA Repeater).

The ARSC also invites all NARS members to a special outdoor fair held for the children at the house on Saturday morning April 17th. A special outdoors ham station will be set up on HF and VHF (146.660 repeater) bands.

NARS members are encouraged to operate or make contact with the station from their shack. Frequencies will be coordinated through the NARS repeater.

There are many activities going on so if you would like to be a part of the thrill of putting children on the air contact Bill, KB5SIU at 820-2649, or Jim Clarke, N5FIX, 597- 9566.

NARS Covers Tomball Biathlon by Ken, KA5AKG

A valiant group gathered Saturday, April 3, to assist the Tomball Sprint & Spoke Biathlon II with communications during the race around northern Tomball. Led by Bob, N5PJI, there was Paul, KF5SB; Harlan, KI5UG; Dave, KE8YC; Jim, N5SBP; Mike, KB5WQJ; and Ken, KA5AKG. The race event was to start off with a 5K run followed by a bicycle race and concluded with another run. Unfortunately a strong thunder storm moved in just as the contestants were beginning the cycling leg and caused the officials to terminate the event. Maybe the weather will cooperate better with us next year for this event. Thanks to all who contributed their time and effort.

Notes From the President Bill Denton, WA5DWX

Well I'm sure with all this nice weather everyone is well into getting their garden ready to plant and the annual spring cleaning is well under way. This is my favorite time of the year.

It was nice to visit with Dave N5RCQ here from Greer, South Carolina. Dave was one of the many that showed up for breakfast on Saturday the 27th of March. Mr. Joe Green said it was the largest crowd at breakfast that he could remember. Of course you know what Joe says about his memory, "nothing wrong with it, It's just not long enough". However those that attended enjoyed hearing a tape that I had made of Tom KF5OO on one of our regular meetings on 17.135 Mhz. At last report Tom has survived the mass amounts of snow and Simsbury, Conn. show signs of spring. Several with us meet Tom and Dave at 08:00 Sunday mornings on 17 meters. Put yourself up a dipole and join us.

I would like to congratulate Ed, KB5QLX, on his recent marriage. Ed had a bout with pneumonia for a couple of weeks prior to his wedding. I hope everything is running smoothly with Ed and his new bride.

Time is nearing for our annual NARS picnic at Spring Creek Park in Tomball. Mark May 8th on your calendar and plan to attend.

Field Day activities have been the topic of discussion at recent board meetings. BT, N5QVS, has again agreed to be in charge of setup and I'm sure he will be asking for help. As in the past, field day will be held at Fritche Park.

Before I wrap up this column for this month, I would like to call your attention to an article in this month's QST called "Confessions of a Conversation Hunter". This is one of the best articles on operating I've read. One thing that I would add is, see how long you can carry on a conversation without talking about your antennas or radios. You'll be surprised of all the things you can find to discuss. Ask questions and don't assume that your other party wants to hear your life history. Have an atlas handy and inquire about fishing in the lake near his town. Sometimes I refer to a standard set of questions that I keep by my rig to remind me of things I would like to ask the person I'm talking to. Be curious.

Finally, I know all of you will enjoy Pete Roussel K5JCC, the speaker for our next meeting. I met Pete years ago. He has many nice stories about his White House years with Reagan and Bush while serving as their aide.

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

The 10 Meter DX season peaks in the fall during October and November, and continues through the spring. By the standards of recent years, it has been an off season. April is the month when summer absorption starts to effect this band, returning it to normal use (10-10 numbers). Expect rapid deterioration on 10 Meters this month, and plan to spend the next several months on other bands.

The peak season for 15 Meter propagation has just begun, and will run into June. The northern hemisphere will experience later band closings in the evening, and this means the DX windows into Europe will remain open well into our afternoon. Conditions over the pole will be excellent for long haul contacts into exotic parts of Asia. These polar openings will occur during the day and into the evening. This will be the primary band for DX activity during the day, since 10 will not be much of a factor. During the sunspot peak, 15 Meter conditions were spectacular. The band was often open most of the night and day for DX, providing a rich variety of propagation paths and plenty of activity. This year's season will be off, but we can expect times when the band will remain open past midnight.

Night path propagation has returned to 20, and many nice contacts can now be made in the evening. Thursday evenings are special, because it is the Moslem sabbath. It is a good time to tune for stations in the Middle East and northern Africa. I have also had good luck with this part of the world on Wednesday evenings. Though propagation is best at sunrise peak on the other end of the path, amateurs in these countries seem to be early risers, and will work quantities of stateside stations during the hours before their sunrise. Since 20 is open all night, they have a pipeline to the states. It is important to tune carefully during the evening for these mid-eastern contacts, because the band will be loaded with Russian signals.

The Spratly operation has been postponed until this month, which should make the operation easier to work. There will be no shortage of propagation to Spratly on either 20 or 15, and the west coast will not have much of an advantage except on other bands.

All this evening propagation on 20 & 15 will take much of the emphasis off of 40, but the band will remain in great shape (with higher QRN levels). There is still considerable interest in the other low bands, but this will drop off during April.

Amateur License Exam Results by Mark Tyler, K5GQ

Saturday, 21 March eleven applicants took seventeen elements. Bill Kujawa, KB5SIU and David Cain, KB5UHS upgraded to General. New licensees to Technician include Steven Dodson, Glyn Miller and Judy Montgomery. David Frodin, N5XGC received element 4A and 4B credit. Forest Matthew, KB5YKQ received element 3B credit. Pass rate was 17% on code and 82% on written material.

Northwest Amateur Radio Society, NARS, sponsors ARRL Amateur Radio license exams monthly. This session's examiners and assistants include Calvin White, WR5W; Harlan Moore, KI5UG; Paul Owen, N5NXS; Jay Rubens, KI5MD; W. W. VanDevender, Jr. AB5KK; Mark Tyler, K5GQ; and Paul Franz, KB5SB. Each examiner holds an Amateur Extra Class License. For information on amateur radio test contact Tomball resident Paul Franz at 351-8930 or Mark Tyler 587-0256.

NARS Notes

For Sale: Kenwood TH-21AT, 144 Mhz (2 M) HT (thumbwheel), 1 watt/300 MW; battery charger; case; box w/manual. \$ 90; Jim N5FIX, 597-9566.....

Jaming Hams - We have several members who can play more than a radio! If you are interested in getting together with a few other Ham musicians, give a call to Jim, N5FIX, or Bill, KB5SIU.

March Meeting Recap

Walter Holmes, WA5GAZ, gave an insight into the fundamentals of digital modes of communications and what is developing in that scene today. His explanations cleared up the questions in the minds of many about what is involved in this interesting mode. He showed a lot of the equipment that might be used and how simple it can be to get started. Bob, N5PJI, announced the Houston Hamcomm will be held the 3rd week of Nov. at the Adams Mark hotel. Debbie, N5WHA, needs a volunteer to help out at the door with name tags. Ken, KA5AKG, reported the novice class is doing very well, and some are already licensed. Mark Tyler, K5GQ, is heading up the VEC program and was recognized with a plaque for his effort.

NARS SPRING PICNIC

Spring Creek Park

Sat. May 8 - mid morning till ...

(Go N. on Hwy 249 1 mi. past FM 2920 in
Tomball to sign at stop light & turn left to park)

Come Join the fun!

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by Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dick Rousseau, N5JZY 370-5714
W, VanDevender, KJ5FN 370-0953

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)

CITY OF HOUSTON -
EMERGENCY ANAGEMENT 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
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