

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 1993

Colorado Connection Comes to NARS for December 17th Meeting

This month's meeting topic is the "Colorado Connection" but sorry there is no rocky mountain spring water here. But we do have is a presentation on a unique repeater system located in Colorado and adjoining states.

The "Texas Connection" to all this is our speaker, George Diletto, KD0RW. George is the owner of the newest amateur radio retail store for the Harris County area called the Houston Amateur Radio Supply, 181 Cypress Wood Dr., Spring.

He hails from Colorado where he managed the Ham Radio Outlet in Denver. That's not all he did, though. In his spare time he designed and installed what he calls the world's highest repeater system.

The "Colorado Connection" is a system composed of 12 repeaters linked across the state of Colorado on the 2 meter and 70 cm bands. The system also covers parts of New Mexico, Wyoming, Kansas and Utah. All the sites are located high on mountains, of course. George has stories about how each location was reached and how the repeaters were installed. Three sites are solar powered.

His system was featured in QST a few years ago. The system has been up for about six years now. George holds an advanced class license and has been active on all bands. In 1990 he was named Amateur of the Year by the ARRL.

He is here in Houston because we don't have a ham retail store. Isn't that great. He'll tell us about his store as well as his stories about his system so don't miss this month's meeting. You might come early, too, we have been packing them in lately with standing room only. Enjoy the eyeball QSOing and the meeting. See you there!

November Meeting Recap

We had an attendance of about 41 hams. A new club meeting place is being look into since we are now bursting at the seams. Van, AB5KK, and Jim, KJ5IP, are searching for another site. Any ideas? Contact them. Dick, N5JZY, announced the formation of the KE5IC Fund for assisting hams with justifiable needs. More will be forthcoming on this as it is formalized.

We saw the fun and follies of Field Day this year, as captured by Ron, N5RBC, and edited into a great video presentation by he and Bill, WA5DWX. The "Yahoos" provided the trimmings of popcorn and Yuha (chocolate) drink to fill our mouths with other than caustic comments. We also got a glimpse of the makings of Ten Tec rigs in an interesting video provided by the company of their operations.

NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

Dec 10 - NARS Directors meeting - Location to be announced, 7:30 PM.

Dec 17 - Monthly NARS General membership meeting
- Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Center, 16650 Sugar Pine Ln, Eyeball QSO begins @ 7:30 PM.

Dec 25 - Christmas

Jan 1 - 1994 begins and NARS dues are due again.

Jan 14 - NARS Directors meeting - Lakewood Forest Fund Office at 12415 Louetta Rd, 7:30 PM.

Jan 21 - Monthly NARS General membership meeting
- Cypress Creek Emergehcy Medical Center, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane, Eyeball qSO begins @ 7:30 PM.

Jan 21 - Annual NARS Banquet - Potato Patch Restraunt at 2504 FM 1960 E. Social @ 3:30 with Dinner 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

Best wishes for a

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
and
**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

NARS Annual Banquet Set for January 29th

The Annual NARS Banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 1993 from 4:00 to 6:30. It will be held at the Potato Patch, 2504 FM 1960 E, which is about 2 miles east of I-45. A cash bar will be available for those who wish to arrive a half hour or so early for some eyeball QSO. Mike Hance, KB5YVT, who is chairing the event this year, has arranged for a choice of three menus; prime rib, bar-b-que beef or chicken, or shrimp, with all the trimmings. Good eating, good fellowship, and a fun time all for only \$13.00 each.

We will have our usual short program, possibly an opportunity to see some of the events of the past year once again, and even a chance to walk away with a door prize. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for a great time at the banquet. To assist Mike in handling the arrangements, please make your reservations by January 19th by sending your check with the form attached to the accompanying dues renewal notice.

Webelos Campout Supported

NARS members explained ham radio to about 125 Webelos scouts and many interested adult leaders on November 13th and 20th at a camp site near Chappell Hill.

The weather on the 13th was windy and sometimes wet but otherwise it was a good day. AD5Q, using his homebrew delta loop, demonstrated HF radio by rather quickly making CW contact in 13 countries. WA5DWX and KB5ZMH also made many stateside phone contacts in which the Webelos participated. Yes, there were many witnesses to an AD5Q SSB contact.

The second Saturday was colder but dryer than the first. Highlight of the day came about 4 PM when we contacted Ray, KN6JC, at Camp Balboa near San Diego with scouts of Troop 970. Over an hour was spent in a great session of QSO's between our Webelos and the scouts in California.

A great thanks to all the NARS members who journeyed to Chappell Hill to help. We had Jim, KJ5IP; Bill, WA5DWX; Tommy, N5MGM; Van, AB5KK; Bill, KB5SIU; Shirley, KB5WOO; Steve, KC5AMA; Carl, KB5YGI; Madison, KB5ZMH; Roy, AB5Q; Jim, KB5SGY; Cody Jackson; BT, N5QVS; Ron, N5RBC; and Waldo, AB5FT at the camp. A special thanks to our 2 meter responders Marion, KB5SGV; Dave, KC5DWH; and Joey, KC5BAK in Houston and Brian, KB5MSC on the Brenham repeater.

Notes From the President Bill Denton, WA5DWX

Could it be that a year has passed since I took over as president of this fine club. Well it has and it's time to pass the gavel on to Van VanDevender and his new board. Van will need all of our support for the following year. I do appreciate the support that all of you have given me this year. I feel good about the state of NARS and the many good things that have happened this year.

It's also almost time for our yearly banquet. We are scheduling it for Saturday, January 29th. Mike, KB5YVT, is putting the plans together and if I know him, this year's festivities will be most enjoyable. He is changing the pattern a little I understand. We will be going to a new spot with more space so we can circulate a little better to visit. Get your reservations in and mark your calendar.

We are still in the process of searching for a more suitable meeting site. No new site has been settled upon yet but we will keep you informed.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and New Year.

Club Officers Elected for 1994

NARS elected new leaders for 1994 during the November club meeting. The following candidates were elected as officers and directors:

President - W.S. VanDevender, AB5KK
Vice President - Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ
Secretary - Theresa Hays, KB5SCA
Treasurer - Desi Livingston, KB5YGG
Director (2 Year) - Madison Jones, KB5ZMH
Director (1 Year) - Jay Rubens, KI5MD

Officers are elected for one year terms and a Director-at-large is elected for two years. Since one of the officer nominees was an existing director, a replacement director was necessary this year. The remainder of the Board of Directors is composed of the two past presidents and a program director appointed by the President. New officers will be installed at the NARS Annual Banquet in January. Congratulations to each of our new leaders.

For Sale

Mosley TA33 Jr. three element tribander in excellent condition with 100+ feet of coax ready to go. \$160. Call Ken, KA5AKG at 370-2950.

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

The fall contests have given us an opportunity to get a reading on DX conditions in the face of rapidly declining solar activity. Such a difference a year makes! Earlier in the fall there were still days when Europeans were easily workable on 10. As we approach winter, northern latitude paths on the high bands will be increasingly difficult. At the top of the cycle, this meant we couldn't work the central-asiatic Russians on 10. This winter, openings to anywhere in Europe or Asia will be few and marginal. In the CQWW CW contest, most of the US failed to get an opening to Europe (including New England!). We should not expect improvement in 10 Meter conditions next spring, and fall 1994 does not hold any promise either. DX activity on 10 through the recent sunspot peak was spectacular, and its history. Wait about 4 years.

Activity has moved down to 15, but conditions on this band will eventually succumb to declining solar fluxes. For now, the band will still open regularly to Europe in the morning, but through the winter the northernmost paths will be closed. Signals from Russia and Scandinavia will usually not be heard. Solar flux levels at the bottom of the cycle are in the mid-60's, so further deterioration over the next two years is inevitable.

Shortly after dark, all activity moves to the low bands. 40 Meters is in great shape, with DX openings to every corner of the world. A lot depends on antennas, and horizons are substantially broadened for those with the right hardware. During the CQWW CW, several stations on the east coast made over 1000 contacts on 40, and well equipped stations further west did well into Japan. Nearly 100% of my own experience on 40 is with delta loops, which aren't very effective in the face of serious competition. On 80 Meters, a vertically polarized delta loop is very competitive in pileups (but not very good on receiving.)

With DX activity primarily on 15 during the day and on 40 at night, 20 is becoming difficult to read. In the morning we often get a grey line opening to Europe. On some days this opening is excellent and lasts half the morning. Toward noon the band opens up to the northwest. We are still getting some long path to the southwest around sunrise, but only because it is late spring in the southern hemisphere (where nighttime MUFs are seasonally high enough to keep the band open.) In the afternoon and early evening look for openings to Africa, and across South America to the Antarctic and Asia via long path. These southerly signals will be identifiable by their echo, but the loud ones will be South Americans.

Amateur License Exam Results
by Mark Tyler, K5GQ

On Saturday, November 20th, NARS Volunteer Examiners tested eight applicants on twelve elements. Abeezar Tyebji, passed element 1B & 3B, earning his General ticket after earning his Technician Plus ticket only the previous weekend. Michael Hendrick, KC5CNW, passed element 3B. Daniel Johnson earned the Technician License. Michael Johnson and Melvin Ott passed element 2. The applicants were successful on 75% of the written elements and 33% of morse code. Congratulations to all on their achievements.

Northwest Amateur Radio Society, NARS, sponsors ARRL Amateur Radio license exams monthly at the Tomball Community Center. We thank each of this session's examiners and assistants who were Bob Judd, WN5G; Paul Owen, N5NXS; Calvin White, WF5W; W. W. VanDevender, Jr, AB5KK; Jay M. Rubens, KI5MD, Paul Frantz, KF5SB; Madison Jones, KB5ZMH.

NARS Notes

Our Treasurer, Jay, KI5MD, reports that as of the end of November 1993, NARS has a balance of \$ 3209.25 in the bank with a net decrease of \$96.93 during the month.

Many thanks to all who helped with our swap table at the Houston Com-Vention last month. We were able to provide the treasury with \$187.00.

Our condolences to Vince, KC0LM, on the passing of his wife on December 5th. Memorial services were held in the Woodlands on the 7th.

Hungry anyone? Each Wednesday at noon some of our members gather for the floating luncheon. The site is usually selected on the air during the morning repeater ragchew at about 8:30 either Wednesday or the preceeding Tuesday. If you are available, check in on 66 and see where to meet for an enjoyable get together.

For those with 17 meter capability, fire up the rig on Sunday morning and join in the ragchew with Tom, KF5OO, in Conn. The contact usually begins at about 8:00 AM local time on 18.135 MHz.

From Dan Cassiani, 9M2NI (N5KPI) comes word that all is well in Kuala Lumpur and he is looking for some contacts. He may soon be using his dad in Cape Cod as a QSL manager. He says the bands are pretty quiet there, even 20M.

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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
Bill Denton, WA5DWX 469-8331

VICE PRESIDENT
Jim Sutherland, N5SBP 353-6696

SECRETARY
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934

TREASURER
Jay Rubens, KI5MD 893-3023

DIRECTORS
Paul Frantz, KF5SB 351-8930
Dick Rousseau, N5JZY 370-5714
W, VanDevender, KJ5FN 370-0953
Dave Robichaux, KE8YC 537-2477

NARS BOARD MEETS the second Friday
of each month at 7:30 P.M. at a location to
be announced. 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 - 145.03 MHz
Call (W5BKK) Alias (NARS)

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