

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 1994

"Go West Young Man" by Jim Clark, N5FIX

"Go West Young Man", Those words were spoken many years ago in our country's history when the West was wild and offered excitement, gold and opportunity. Well it still offers that although I'm not sure about the gold.

While visiting my parents in Las Vegas in July and prospecting for gold, I found instead a job with my company's branch office there. The position opened up while I was out there. My Dad had been in the hospital in critical condition after a triple bypass for three weeks now and I had considered moving in the past.

I will be doing the same thing there that I have been doing here so the change will be a relatively smooth one. Transferring to the Las Vegas branch could have only happened in the last two months due to a recent merger. The way everything has fallen into place I believe is the Lord telling me to go West.

Since I have no family here, NARS has been my extended family and I will miss Ya'll very much. I have enjoyed helping Bob, KE5IC, and then Ken, KA5AKG, with the NARS NEWS; Field Day; antenna parties and canoe and bike races. I also appreciate you putting up with me and the W5YI reports at the meetings. Boy, it hard to stay under 10 minutes!

When you leave a part of your life behind it's natural to want to reminisce a bit. I looked back through my past issues of the NEWS and found me listed as the 51st member of NARS in December 1985. That sounds like a long time ago. I have every issue since I believe the first official NARS NEWS was mailed out in August 1985.

The first president was Ken Harlan, KA5AKG. The first official charter member of NARS was Dee Logan, W1HEO, also original editor of the NEWS. He moved back up north later on. Lets see, the second member was Paul Frantz, then WB5DBT and now KF5SB. That many of the first 25 are still active members attests to the strength of the Club through the years.

Our first meeting topic was Deed Restrictions (no W5YI back then). We first started 2 meters on the KA5BIP 145.45 MHz repeater. Did you know that I started the first NARS HF club net back in March 1986? Read it on page 1 of the NARS NEWS. We were on 28.550 MHz and there were 10 check-ins.

Enough looking back, it's time to look forward. I plan to be on HF out in 7-land and will be listening for all of you on the air. I'm sure going to have many good memories to take with me.

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NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

Aug 19 - NARS Monthly General Membership meeting
Cypress Creek Prsbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7.

Aug 20 - North American QSO Party multi-op gathering at Bill Denton's, 11911 Marcia, on Saturday afternoon.

Aug 27 - Amateur Radio License Examinations by NARS @ 8:30 AM, Tomball Community Center.

Sept 2 - NARS Directors meeting @ 7:30 PM at a location to be announced.

Sept 16 - NARS Monthly General memberhsip meeting - Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church, 6000 Spring Cypress Rd. Eyeball QSO @ 7.

Sept 24 - Amateur Radio Licnese Examinations by NARS at the Tomball Community Center, 8:30 AM.

Oct 1 - Serra Club Bike Hike at Bayou Bend State Park in Brazos Co.

**Breakfast
at Bleachers**
2318 W.FM 1960
Saturdays
8:00 AM

Editor Departs

It's also time for NARS members to look forward. There are many new challenges facing the club for the first time in its history. The main challenge is for you new members to stop thinking you're new and jump in and volunteer for something. The old guys have been doing everything and need a rest. A club only survives when there is new blood constantly coming in and getting involved.

I think if you volunteer for some activity you'll find hams to help you. Many are waiting for some one to ask them and for someone to get the ball rolling.

NARS is a tremendous club with wide interests. We are a real force for amateur radio and a valuable resource for the community. It's unfortunate that there has to be a tragedy or disaster for the general public to realize that but that is the nature of emergency communication.

I will miss y'all but look forward to hearing you on down the log. My new address will be 7204 Carrondale Way, Las Vegas NV 89128 (702)363-1344.

(Publisher's note - Jim has departed so fast that we really had no chance to say good-by. He has been a stalwart of this club, a significant force in our activities, and a friend to all. While we selfishly hate to see Jim going west, it is great that he can take advantage of a job opportunity and assist his family too. Jim, your contributions have been many and your presence among us will be missed. Our best wishes go with you for great things to come. Remember, we are but a short 40 meters away.)

Mike Lavander, KB5WQJ, Elected President

At the July meeting of NARS an election was held to fill the vacancy in the President's office for the remainder of this year. Mike Lavander, KB5WQJ, current vice-president, was elected by acclamation to fill the position. Jim Kirk, KJ5IP, was also elected to fill the Vice-president position formerly held by Mike. Your support and participation is requested by both of these fine leaders.

Afraid to Try Contests? de Madison, AB5TV

THINK SOMEONE MIGHT HEAR YOU GET A CALLSIGN WRONG, EVEN YOUR OWN? OR MAKE SOME OTHER, FATAL MISTAKE SO PEOPLE WON'T TALK TO YOU ON THE REPEATER, AND EVEN CHILDREN WILL THROW STONES AND DOGS WILL BARK AT YOU AS YOU WALK DOWN THE STREET? Want to have a great time, meet new friends, do something different and challenging, improve your knowledge and skills, run a logging program for maybe the first time, and show you have something to offer?

Well, now's the time to get on the air in the National Contest Journal's North American QSO Party for phone and learn what's its all about. NARS will be maintaining a multioperator phone station on August 20 at the home of Bill, WA5DWX and Marian, KB5SGV at their home near Jones Road and Cypress North Houston Road. The address is 11911 Marcia, and they have kindly agreed to open the doors to their ham shack to provide an opportunity for you to join the fun. Many people think contests are only for the serious "big guns," and that the folks without Yagis at 200 feet will get frustrated. Not so. Remember, every hot dog tester started with his or her first contest, and probably didn't make nearly as many QSOs as they do today.

The object of this contest is to see how many different QSOs you can make in North America during the 12 hours from 1:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon to 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning. The rule prohibits more than 150 watts output, so all participants are on an equal footing in terms of power. There will be plenty of people around who will be delighted to show you how to set things up, run the computer, and log the contacts. Who cares if you haven't done one before? The only requirement is a license and the desire to get into a contest.

We encourage all who wish to participate to gather at Bill and Marian's about noon Saturday to make sure the equipment is working, to go over the rules, and to practice on the logging program. It's difficult to learn all you need to know without having some hands-on instruction, so be there if you can! With a little help from your friends, you will find that participating in a contest is wonderful fun and excitement. Reach out and be touched.

Packet Seminar a Great Success by Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK

A pack of packeteers and aspirants crowded the Met Life Center on July 10th to listen to Karl Medcalf, WK5M, of Kantronics, assisted by his wife, KA2ZTX. Karl presented a very well-prepared talk on the many phases of digital radio, with emphasis on Packet. The talk was divided into four parts; fundamentals, hardware, operating, and non-packet digital modes.

Additionally, Mark, K5GQ, put together a demonstration of packet hardware that was a distinct added attraction. Five packet setups, each using a different TNC, and in some cases a different communication program, were in operation by WA5GAZ, N5QVS, N5NXS, KB5WYY and KB5TES. This was a fine opportunity for beginners to get some hands-on experience.

During Fundamentals, Karl talked about AX-25, the packet protocol that defined a structure for sending information between two amateur stations and described a frame, the fundamental unit of packet communication. The understanding of these concepts is not necessary for the operation of packet radio but is of interest to some.

In Hardware, Karl talked about communication ports and showed the wiring diagrams for connecting RS232 connections between the computer, the TNC and various radios. These connection are also described in a book, "What Is Your TNC Doing", written by Karl's wife, Gloria. George, at Houston Amateur Radio Supply, has copies of this book for sale for those who missed the seminar. It contains much of what Karl had to say too.

In Operating, we were instructed on how to make a connect to a station directly and through a digipeter. Various communication programs were discussed. The advantages of the use of a Node over a Digipeter were pointed out and several block diagrams were shown.

Finally, in the Non-Packet Modes, all of the other modes which are available to the owner of a Multimode Controller such as the Kantronics Kam were discussed. These included CW, RTTY, Amtor, Pactor, and a new mode developed by Kantronics called G-tor.

The seminar started about 8:30 AM and finished by about 4:00 PM. Most comments that I heard were very favorable. I must say though that I felt rushed in trying to comprehend the many subjects that were covered even though I had heard the talk before. So I sympathize with those for whom this subject was totally new. I so

NARS Shirts Available by Bill, K5ZTY

There are still a few NARS shirts to be delivered and a few extra for those who didn't previously order one. Still to be picked up are those for Waldo, AB5FT, George, AB5LT, James, KB5GY, Rudy, KB5ZXO, Jerry, KI5QA, and Susan, KB5NQC. They will be available at the next meeting or by contacting me.

The extra shirts are in large and extra large sizes. They are \$15.13 each and can be purchased at the club meeting or by calling me at 893-3001 in the evenings. Join the list of well dressed NARSians.

NARS Notes

Paul Frantz, KB5SB, is departing our midst for about a year and a half stay in the Far East. We will miss his presence but hope he can find a way to reach us on the air.

A committee has been appointed to review and recommend changes that may be desirable to our constitution and bylaws. It is composed of Madison, AB5TV, Bill, WA5DWX, and Jay, KI5MD. These controlling documents haven't been changed significantly since our formation. Anyone who has concern about how the organization works should contact one of the committee members with your input.

The development of a packet node is well and progressing. W5BKK, the ramrod of the project reports that \$965 has been contributed to date in support of the activity by WA5POK, N5RBC, KB5SIU, KB5YVT, KB5UHS, AB5KK, W5BKK, K5KV, KJ5IP, KC5CNV, AND KB5SGY. Equipment is now being accumulated and assembled to put the node on the air. There is still a way to go to begin operation and additional contributions will certainly help. For those wondering what a node is, some elaboration will be made at the coming meeting and an article will appear next month on the subject.

Mark, W5GQ, reports that the license exam session in Tomball on July 23rd tested four applicants with Jerry Thomas passing element 3B. The next exams will be given August 27th at

think the idea of ham radio seminars is an excellent one and hope that this is a first of a series. Many thanks to Van, AB5KK, Bill, WA5DWX, Jay, KI5MD, Brad, WD5GNI, and all the others who were instrumental in putting this fine program on.

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the American Radio Relay League.
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NARS MEETS the third Friday of each
month at the Spring Cypress
Presbyterian Church, 6000 Spring
Cypress Rd. (1.7 mile east of
Stubner-Airline on Spring Cypress Rd.)
Meeting time: 7:30 P.M. Eyeball QSO's :
about 7:00 P.M.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday 8 AM
at Bleacher Grill, located at 2318 W
FM1960. (@ Kuykendahl) , Informal
ragchew.

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN
Mike Lavander, KB5WQJ 357-0614

VICE PRESIDENT
Jim Kirk, KJ5IP 376-0718

SECRETARY
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Madison Jones, KB5ZMH 350-4330
Jay Rubens, KI5MD 893-3023
Bill Denton, WA5DWX 469-8331
Dick Rousseau, N5JZY 370-5714

NARS BOARD MEETS the first Friday of
each month at 7:30 P.M. at a location to be
announced. All members are invited to
attend.

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL
KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK 376-7660

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 P.M.
28.444 MHz (BT, N5QVS)

NARS CW PRACTICE FOLLOWS
RAGCHEW NET - 28.185 MHz (AB5KK)

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 - 145.03 MHz
Call (W5BKK) Alias (NARS)

NARS

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