

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 1994

Hunting the Elusive Transmitter to be the Subject of December 16th Meeting

Before I knew anything about amateur radio, I thought a FOX HUNT was something our teens did on a Friday night. Well I found out that there is another meaning of the term. Maybe you think of it in terms of a 'T-HUNT'. Any way you think of it ... it sounds like fun. Come and hear about the "hunt" at the December general meeting. Also we will hear about how the Pro's track an errant transmitter down that may be interfering with any normal transmitting traffic. I look forward to seeing you there. 73, Mike

ANNUAL BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20, 1995

The NARS Annual Banquet will be on the regular meeting night in January at Spring Cypress Church at 7:30 P.M. The cuisine will be Chinese, buffet style. The activities will be fun; Tommy Jackson's prestidigitation, legerdemain, sleight-of-hand, and, I understand, a few magic tricks; and awards with a special twist. Maybe some other stuff. Hurry and get your sign-ups in along with \$10 for each member of your party to W. S. VanDevender AB5KK before January 14th. If you wish, you may include your 1995 dues (\$15) in your check. Make your check payable to NARS, and please write banquet and/or dues on the check.

NARS to Conduct Novice Class

The 1995 edition of the NARS license class for Novices and Technicians is scheduled to begin February 16th and continue for 13 weeks concluding with examinations for the licenses. It will be conducted at the Cypress Creek EMS Center at 16650 Sugar Pine Lane (beneath the water tower) at 7:30 PM. The course will include Morse code instruction and is also available to anyone wanting to upgrade to Technician or Technician plus.

Cost of the course will be \$10²⁰ with registration at the door on a first come first serve basis. The ARRL examination fee of just over \$5.00 will be additional. Space will limit us to about 25 students. The text for the course will again be "Now You're Talking" published by the ARRL and we expect to have copies available at the class.

We are also seeking Amateurs interested in assisting in presenting a portion of the course or assisting students. Anyone wishing more information should contact Van VanDevender, AB5KK, at 370-0953 or Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, at 370-2950.

NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

Dec 16 - NARS monthly General Membership meeting & elections @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00.

Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

Jan 6 - NARS Directors Meeting @ 7:30 PM - location to be announced.

Jan 20 - NARS Annual Banquet and General Membership meeting @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00.

Jan 28 - Amateur radio license exams by NARS at Tomball Community Center, 8:30 AM.
Due to Holiday conflicts, NO regular license exam sessions will be held in Dec.

Feb 16 - NARS Novice - Tech License Class begins @ Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:30 PM & continues for 13 weeks.

Best wishes for a
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

The Right Stuff by Bill Denton, WA5DWX

ARRL 160 METER
CONTEST---Multi-Station/Single Op by Mike
Hance KB5YVT

What Fun!! Since I have no chance at making contacts on 160 from my QTH I asked several station owners if I could drop by and put in a couple of hours at their shacks, and give out some contacts for those serious testers. The results were interesting, and it gave me a chance to look at and operate from some of the better city-lot stations in Houston. My goal was to make 70 Q's at each stop and compare rate, mults, and score. The following is the summary of my travels, I hope you will enjoy the reading as much as I enjoyed the "160 Tour de Houston".

1ST STOP-- WA5DWX Bill Denton, 0400 utc

Bill has a great station layout for contesting, but is just a rag chewer at heart! His body warming TS830 tube rigs with a Heath amp do a great job. The antenna was a half wave flat top at about 65 ft. Bill sat back and ate peanuts as I put out one of the few CW signals to ever be emitted from his shack! Bill could really benefit from some CW filters!!! Results: WA5DWX op KB5YVT, 700 wts, 70 Q's x 35; Rate 31/hr; Score 4900.

2ND STOP-- N5RP "The Voice of the Southwest!" Bob Perring, 2300 utc

Well with Bob where do you start! Great city-lot station! His Kenwood station is a pleasure to sit down to. Everything in its place, from the well stocked beverage station to the 10KW amp! Whoops I wasn't supposed to mention that! Bob has made the most of his 60 ft tower, and his antenna for 160 was a quarter wave inverted L. It played very well! Since Bob had been giving out a few Q's, we decided to use my call sign so I could be fresh meat! Results: KB5YVT at N5RP, 1KW, 70 Q's x 34; Rate 58/hr; Score 4862

3RD STOP-- AD5Q Roy "CW DX Hog" Hradilek, 0200 utc

Can you believe it! A CW contest and Roy isn't operating! Whats the world coming to? Roy has been very instrumental to my contest development over the last year. From coaching to allowing me to use his station, he is a great mentor! Now all you seasoned testers will know why AD5Q is sometimes sending at 26 wpm, and not picking you out on the first call! Roy's Icom IC-735 will be on the block soon as he has an FT-890 on order. The Alpha 76 needs an overhaul but still does a great job. Antenna was a full wave delta loop apex at 100 ft. Its smashed

From the President by Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ

down a bit but plays very well, the addition of some beverages at Roys will make him a real threat on 80 and 160! It was prime time when I got on the air at AD5Q, and the results speak for themselves! When I finished my 70 Q's Roy sat down, moved the keyer speed up, and put another 50 Q's in the log in about 30 minutes. Congrats on Honor Role "Q"!! Results: AD5Q op KB5YVT, 300 wts, 70 Q's x 38; Rate 85/hr; Score 5320.

4TH and FINAL STOP-- WA5POK Mike Furrey, 0500 utc

Well Mike really went out of his way to give me some time at his place. He didn't have an antenna for 160 until we put the finishing touches on it at 0500! He built a 3 pole mono pole apex at 25 ft. with a 50 ft flat top on it. Used chicken wire all over his back yard for the ground base. (Don't think Susan was too happy about that!) After tuning on it we had about 20kc to work with on OK SWR! Can't believe he let me put the first contest Q's on his new FT-1000! The crowd had thinned considerably and with 20 kc to work with it was hard to S&P. It was late and Susan was going to bed so I called it quits at 50 Q's on this one. Thanks for all the effort POKy!! Results: WA5POK op KB5YVT, 150 wts, 50 Q's x 28; Rate 36/hr; Score 2800.

A million thanks to these guys for letting me come into their shacks and have some fun. Try it sometime, its a great way to see how different ops set their station up. I know I got some ideas for down the road at my place! Hope I didn't butcher your calls too much!! 73's, Mike

From the Board by Alan Majeski, WA5REJ

Present: WB5WQJ, KJ5IP, WA5REJ, WA5DWX, KA5AKG, KB5ZTY, AB5KK, AB5TV, WD5GNI, AND KB5ZXO.

Discussed club finances. Talked about a P.O. Box address for the Club. Club membership applications to be made available at meetings and distributed to area radio related businesses. Examined options and details for banquet. 2-meter repeater to be better soon. Still looking at remote oink or receiver to help North ring coverage. Hope to have 2-meter portion of node operating Sunday. Plan to hold Novice Class starting mid-Feb., working on site, etc.

Note: At this time a new 2-meter repeater antenna has been installed and the NARS packet node is operating on 145.1 MHz.

From the President by Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ

What a year this has been. My club and your club really has been busy doing radio amateur things. We are all volunteers in this respect and I want to thank all Board Members and those club members that so graciously gave of their time to make this year just ending a big success. We N.A.R.S. folks racked up a commanding number of points in contests including Field Day. (It would be nice to have a field day without getting flooded out). I can't find words to describe the satisfaction of working special events with other amateur operators. Other members excelled in contesting and such. Even others were and are to this day ready with answers to questions on any area of amateur radio hardware or software. The new Board coming on duty in January are top notch folks elected by you and me. They are going to do a great job... but they are going to need your continued support in their month to month projects and functions. We are growing in numbers each month and I urge you all to look into your backgrounds and share ideas and experiences with a member of the Board if you have a good idea or project that you would like to see done. I am sure you all have seen many clubs that are not as active as N.A.R.S. and there is always a reason. I urge all of you to continue to strive to stay active and support the new leaders in the coming year. If all of us think back on this year I think you will remember more good things than bad, and some downright funny. We really came through in time of emergency also as shown by the number of members that helped in the recent flood. Red Cross and E.O.C. officials alike send thanks for a job well done. One last comment ... keep in mind that we all are volunteers and we need each other's help in keeping this the best club around. THANKS, MIKE.

Monthly Tailgate Session And Swap Meet Scheduled

Beginning January 21, 1995 there will be a tailgate session and swapmeet each 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:00 A.M. in the parking lot at Houston Amateur Radio Supply. The address is 181 Cypresswood Drive, Spring TX.

The participation at the swapmeet in October at George's first anniversary celebration was terrific and suggests that a regularly scheduled session may be of benefit to the Houston ham community. Mark your calendar and bring your saleable and tradeable gear, or your allowance, and help make this an on-going, fun event.

Amateur License Exam Results by W.S. VanDevender, AB5KK

On November 12, 1994 at the NARS sponsored special VE session located at Houston Amateur Radio Supply in conjunction with George's 1st Anniversary celebration, sixteen candidates were examined on thirty one elements. Pass rate was 69% on the written elements and 60% on the morse code elements. Nine new licenses and/or upgrades were earned.

Technician licenses were earned by Ray Blackstone, Donald Carlton, Garey Childs, Stephen Peters, and Anita Temres.

Technician Plus licenses were earned by Peggie Hackemack, Seth McConnell KC5HQC, and John T. Mudd KC5GMM.

An Advanced License was earned by Donald Trapp KC5HTV.

Congratulations to all of the successful candidates for a job well done, and thanks to all the candidates for their patience during this crowded session.

The VE team consisted of Madison Jones AB5TV, Gary Eades N4IOQ, Jim Kirk KJ5IP, Nelson Livingston KB5WYY, Debbie Eades N4QHR and myself. Thanks to the VE's and assistants for contributing their time for this session.

Additional Volunteer Examiners are very much needed for this important work. If you would like to be an examiner or assist in this work, please call 370-0953.

NARS sponsored license examinations are given on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 A.M. at the Tomball Community Center. THERE WILL BE NO SESSION IN DECEMBER DUE TO CONFLICT WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON. The next session will be held on January 28th, 1995.

NARS Notes

1995 NARS Membership dues are due; \$15 for individuals plus \$5 for additional family members. Student memberships are \$10. Please send dues to the Treasurer, Brad Nelson, WD5GNI, 17606 Telegraph Creek Dr. Spring, TX 77379.

Word is that Rich McDougal, AP2UTP, has returned from Pakistan. We look forward to hearing him on the air here again and finding out what his stay there was like.

Paul Frantz, KF5SB, called (via telephone) to say that he hasn't been getting mail as expected in Singapore so has not been up on much of the news.

He says that the chances of operating HF from there are slim to none but he and Georgina are enjoying their stay there.

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Editor: Bill Stientenroth, K5ZTY
9342 Goldenwood
Houston, TX 77086
(713) 893-3901

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

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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)