

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 1994

## NARS "Rescue 911 Show" to Air at January 21st Meeting

William Shatner, alias Captain Kirk, hosts a TV show called Rescue 911 that depicts life and death stories involving paramedics and other emergency personnel. NARS has its own version of that show and it airs "live" this month at our meeting.

What happens after someone dials "911"? If you respond Code 3 to the meeting you will find out. There will be paramedics, communications officers, video and ambulances! If you are going to be sick or injured at a NARS meeting this is the time to do it. Of course we're kidding here but there will be plenty of emergency personnel around.

Those personnel include two NARS members; Nelson KB5WYY and Desi KB5YGG Livingston, both who are volunteer EMTs with the Cypress Creek Emergency System. They decided to be involved in this service after going on an ambulance run as volunteer observers. By themselves they have a great story on how they save people's lives and still manage to work and take care of two boys. But we have even more.

Dodd Lang, Field Supervisor EMTP, the top paramedic for Cypress Creek and Waller City EMS will explain what goes on after "911". He's our "Captain Kirk". Along with Lang will be a supervisor from the FM 1960 Area Communications Center, in whose building we meet. Desi has also arranged for two ambulances to be present for inspection. She didn't say anything about a ride with the lights flashing.

Many of the volunteer EMTs participate in the First Responders Program. Nelson and Desi are two of them. They each have a special beeper that calls them in times of a crises and often they are the first to arrive at a scene, even before the paramedics who are on duty at the time. You will get a dose of this program too.

As you can see there will be plenty of action this month so you don't want to miss out on all this. Come early for some eyeball QSOing before the meeting which is at 8 p.m. See you there!

## December Meeting Recap

The December meeting was another full meeting with an interesting program on the network of repeaters set up in Colorado by George Diletto, KD0RW. He related the trials and tribulations of placing and maintaining 12 linked repeaters in the Rockies. President Bill Denton also reported on the progress of a new meeting site selection. (Note - The committee has, since the meeting, selected the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church located at 6000 Spring Cypress Rd. as the new meeting location beginning in February. This a nice facility about 1.5 miles east of Stubner-Airline. There will be a map in the February News.)

## NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

**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 Emergency Medical Center, 16650 Sugar Pine Lane, Eyeball QSO begins @ 7:30 PM.

**Jan 22 - NARS Amateur Radio License Test Session**, Tomball Community Center - 8:30 AM.

*Note - This event is moving to the 4th Saturday each month.*

**Jan 29 - Annual NARS Banquet** - Potato Patch Restaurant at 2504 FM 1960 E. Social @ 3:30 with Dinner 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

**Feb 11 - NARS Directors meeting** - Lakewood Forest Fund Office at 12415 Louetta Rd, 7:30 PM.

**Feb 18 - Monthly NARS General membership meeting** - Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church @ 6000 Spring Cypress Rd. Eyeball QSO begins @ 7:30 PM.

**Feb 26 - NARS Amateur License Test Session**, Tomball Community Center, 8:30 AM.

**Apr 9 - Buffalo Bayou Regatta** - Details to be announced later.



## NARS Annual Banquet Set for January 29th

Don't forget the Annual NARS Banquet to be held January 29th at the Potato Patch, 2504 FM-1960 from 4:00 to 6:30. If you haven't made a reservation by now, Mike Hance, KB5YVT, is handling the arrangements and may be able to squeeze in an extra person or two. Give him a call. Its going to be a great time.

## Jim Sutherland, N5SBP, appointed Activities Coordinator

Jim Sutherland has agreed to continue serving as NARS Activities Coordinator for 1994. Jim performed this function last year as Vice President, which with his dedication and many contacts, served the club extremely well as to appropriate activity identification and no-conflict scheduling. All proposals for club involvement should be handled with Jim.

## Help Wanted: Program Committee members

Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ, Nelson Livingston, KB5WYY, and Desi Livingston, KB5YGG, have agreed to serve on our Program Committee but they very much need help. There is a need for 3 or 4 additional folks, including a chairman, to work on lining up program presentations for 1994. Having a group for this job should cause the load to be light on each person and facilitate extended planning and preparation. Anyone with ideas, some time and/or contacts please get in touch with Mike as soon as possible.

### 1994 Dues Reminder

Club dues are due now for those who haven't already renewed their NARS membership for the coming year. Apologies to those who got a return envelope with the December News that was returned. Your publisher let a few get out that had some transposed numbers in the address of Paul Frantz and they were returned. If your's was, we still want you and would appreciate you forwarding the renewal to Paul Frantz at:

22911 Wren Lane  
Tomball, TX 77375

Those who can attend the regular club meeting Friday can pay their dues there if you choose to.

## Notes From the President W.S. VanDevender, AB5KK

Here we are in a new year again! It seems that we no sooner get the old tree down and the decorations stored (and the bills paid) when the year flies by and we are gearing up for next Christmas. I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and that your shacks are sporting lots of new goodies that you thought you couldn't do without.

Since I have the honor of being the NARS president for 1994, I would like to take advantage of my prerogatives in this column to thank the members of NARS for making the two years that I have been associated with you the most enjoyable that I could have imagined. The character of any organization is directly reflective of the values to community, assistance to members, technical excellence and pride in our hobby, and a great fun-loving camaraderie that seems to embrace the entire membership. When there is an event or activity that needs to be taken care of, or when a member needs help, there are always members stepping forward to pitch in. I am proud to be part of the NARS family and look forward to another eventful year with all of you.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the 1993 officers and board members for a job well done. I especially want to thank the out-going officers Paul Frantz, KF5SB, Jim Sutherland, N5SBP, and Brad Nelson, WD5GNI, for their invaluable service during the year. Also, many thanks to Bill Denton, WA5DWX, for a great presidency in 1993. Bill brought fresh ideas, selfless energy and a let's-have-fun attitude to the job. He also was personally responsible for arranging most of our program presentations for the year, the quality of which was largely responsible for a significantly increased membership attendance. We, the new officers and board for 1994 have the challenge to continue the service to members and the fun-filled agenda of activities that the previous officers so ably provided.

In the final analysis it is the membership, collectively and individually, that causes NARS to be successful. So, Keep up the great work, and please let an to the officers know of your wishes, ideas, and availability for contribution and/or leadership.

73 until next time.

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### Max Busick, a Silent Key

We extend our sympathy to the family of Max Busick, a senior Houston Ham and former owner of Madison Electronics. He passed away shortly after the first of the year and will be missed throughout the amateur community of which he was an ardent supporter. Those who were fortunate enough to wander through Madison will long remember his sly smile and ready wit.



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

January is mid-winter in the northern hemisphere, and is peak season for lowband work. On the higher bands, the darkness over the pole closes or narrows the windows into Asia. Starting at the end of December, we had an outbreak of solar activity pushing flux levels above 140. We have had two nice weeks of excellent propagation for this time of the cycle, and can expect another period of anomalous propagation starting in the last week of January (the sun rotates). I prefer to leave in-depth flux level prediction to other propagation writers who make this their primary focus. Factors effecting propagation in the near term (apart from geomagnetic disturbances) are nearly always seasonal.

15 has been in fine shape, and has effectively replaced 10 for daypath work. In the early morning it is not difficult to work into Russia, which will be the first path we lose as fluxes decline further. Openings on 15 are not as long as they used to be, because the band closes in Europe promptly at sunset. Openings deeper into Russia and Asia can be found on 20 for the first two hours after sunrise. This is a grey line path. 20 is also briefly open to Europe via long path at the same time, making signals difficult to copy due to the echo. The short path is usually better, and that is the direction to beam for Europe. Southern Asians will be on long path.

We are having a great season on 80. DX activity tends to increase later in the evening toward midnight. This is because it is closer to morning in Europe (which is easier to work after the east coast goes to bed). Also note that the sunrise is also sweeping across Africa, providing brief opportunities to work these countries when they are loud. Our own sunrise provides us with a window to Asia and all points west, with little competition from either the east or west coast.

40 (primarily CW) has the most DX activity in the evening. Openings in the morning are more interesting (opinion). The paths to the Far East seem more exotic, and everything in the Pacific is also open. Long path opens every day, but the guys with 40M beams have this to themselves. European LP activity is plentiful, but at peak time the propagation strongly favors the west coast. We get the less active (but more exotic) path to the Middle East and Moslem Russia. There is also a greyline SHORT path in the morning to Scandinavia and parts of northern Russia that is LOUD and easily workable without a beam. This path can also open on 80 with good antennas. Good polar openings are uncommon on all the lowbands, and most of the (former) USSR is difficult on 80 from W5.

## Amateur License Exam Results by Mark Tyler, K5GQ

On Saturday, December 18th, license examinations were given to eleven applicants on twenty elements. Daniel Abbruscato, KB2MGC, and Rudoff Novotny, KB5ZXO were successful in upgrading to TECH+. Melvin Ott, Michael Sosebee, Barbara Vaglianti, and Mark Vaglianti earned the Technician License and should receive their tickets in about 12 weeks. Tim Moorman passed element 2. 53% of the written elements were passed and 67% were passed on morse code.

During 1993 there were 141 applicants tested on 209 elements in NARS license examination sessions. New licenses were earned by 37 of the applicants and another 33 upgraded to higher license levels.

Thanks to the session's examiners and assistants who made this possible. Examiners and assistants in the December session were Calvin White, WF5W; Jim Kirk, KJ5IP; Mark Tyler, K5GQ; Paul Frantz, KF5SB; W. W. VanDevender, Jr. AB5KK; Walter Homes, WD5GAZ; and Ron Schneider, N5RBC.

### Bulletin - Exam Schedule Change

The NARS license exam sessions are moving, effective in January 1994, to the fourth instead of the third Saturday in the month. They will be at the same time and place - 8:30 AM at the Tomball Community Center. For more information call Mark Tyler, K5GQ, at 587-0256.

### NARS Notes ....

Our Treasurer, Jay, KI5MD, reports that as of the end of December 1993, NARS has a balance of \$ 3594.92 in the bank with a net increase of 482.60 during the month.

**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.

**Need some slow speed CW practice?** Join into the CW practice net on Monday nights at about 8:30 local time on 28.185 MHz. Shift into upgrade speed with some good practice.



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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  
W. VanDevender, AB5KK 370-0953

VICE PRESIDENT  
Mike Lavevder, KB5WQJ 376-6418

SECRETARY  
Theresa Hayes, KB5SCA 550-4828

TREASURER  
Desi Livingston, KB5YYG 353-3374

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

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)

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL  
KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK 376-7660

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