

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 1994

Down to Earth With Grounds to be Topic of July 15th Meeting

Although grounding may not be a desirable condition in football, it is highly desirable in amateur radio, when done correctly. At our upcoming meeting Friday, July 15th, Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, will give us some insight on the do's and don'ts of planning and installing a good ground system for the amateur radio station. Summer thunder storms filled with lightening are rolling across us bringing the potential for serious damage to equipment, buildings, and people. A little knowledge or a small change to your ground system may make a big difference in your protection.

An enlightening subject like grounding deserves serious consideration by hams. Everyone is encouraged to offer up their questions or problem situations for possible solutions. Many have had experiences that we encourage you to share so that we may escape similar mistakes. Most things that we do involve compromises. Ken will weigh some of the options and describe their impact. Come find out what improvements you can make in your ground system or how to save a little money and grief in doing it right the first time.

Packet From Beginning to End Offered in Seminar by NARS

Saturday, July 16th, is the day to find out all those things about packet you have wondered about for so long. Carl Metcalf of Kantronics will be here to educate us on both basic and advanced considerations. He'll address what to use and how to use it. Karl has been involved with packet from its earliest days and is recognized for his ability to make it understandable.

The meeting will extend from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Met Life Center, 11403 Regency Green Dr. (Regency Green is the stop light on Jones Rd. between Grant Rd. and Mills. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Those wishing directions via radio can tune to the 146.66 repeater for talk-in.

Come prepared to take plenty of notes. There will be live packet set up to demonstrate operations and a number of experienced operators to pass on the benefit of their experiences. Plan now to spend the day, or as much as you can, finding out what the digital mode offers to hams.

NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

July 15 - NARS Monthly General Membership meeting
at Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church @ 6000 Spring Cypress Rd. Eyeball QSO begins @ 7:00 PM.

July 16 - NARS Packet Seminar - Met Family Life Center, 11403 Regency Green Dr. - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Aug 6 - NARS Directors meeting. Location to be announced.

Aug 20 - NARS Monthly General Membership meeting
Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7.

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

Sept 19 - NARS Monthly General membership meeting
- Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church, 6000 Spring Cypress Rd. Eyeball QSO @ 7.

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

Field Day 1994 - A Last Look by Bill Denton, WA5DWX

Field day of 1994 has finally come and gone and in the wake, a lot of good memories, good fellowship, good food and entertainment. Field day '94 will be labeled a success in spite of "Murphy".

We should give him a complimentary membership if he keeps coming to our events. Outside of a nice summer thunderstorm during setup, things went really well.

We accomplished the goals that we had set. We proved that in the event of an emergency we could respond quickly and efficiently, with antennas, power and radios to cover all facets of communications, and most of all we could have the people there and ready for whatever the need was. One of our goals was to get as many people involved as possible in the actual operation. About 35 members and guests participated in manning the radios and computers. Another 15 -20 were involved in the set up and tear down. Many came to visit and to chow down on some good Bar-B-Que and enjoy the NARS Pickers. Another of our goals was to do well in the contest. That was also accomplished. Although our overall score was a few points short of last year, we felt that our score was none the less respectable. We had many new operators, some not so good band conditions and some ever present Mr. Murphy.

Our scoring during Field day 1994 was:

Band	Fone	CW	Score Computation	
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
10	87	83	SSB Points	3360
15	214	142	CW Points	5024
20	858	583		-----
40	58	314	* Contact points	8384
80	12	89	* Bonus points	1100
Novice	295	29		-----
AMSAT	17	0	*Total score	9484
Packet	0	16		
2 Meters	0	0	*Estimated not official	
6 Meters	139	0		
	1680	1256		

Total contacts: 2936

Our Point total in 1993 was 9502 and in 1992 was: 8060

Even though our point total was less that last year's, there is a good chance that it will be good enough to be in the top ten.

I would like thank all those that helped with this field day. Many brought towers, antennas, coax, rigs, computers and all other of the hardware to make the event a success. To all of those who helped me plan and facilitate field day activities I say it couldn't have been done without you. I would especially like to thank Joe Sokoloski KD5KR for all the support, hot coffee and a great midnight snack at 3AM of left over Bar-B-Que. Thanks again Joe, your contribution is greatly appreciated by those that were there.

Plans are already under way for making Field Day 1995 a bigger and better event. Stay tuned for further details and the up coming Video of FD '94

Thanks again for everyone's help. 73 Bill

NARS Notes

W.S. VanDevender, AB5KK, has for personal reasons, submitted his resignation as president of NARS. Van intends to remain an active member of the club and participate where possible. An interm election will be held to name his replacement.

Shirts anyone? Bill, K5ZTY, has obtained the NARS shirts which were ordered in May. If you are still looking to get in style, Bill has just the thing. We thank him for the monumental effort and know he gained valuable negotiating experience.

QRM by KB5YVT

A small group tried things out a Bill's, WA5DWX, place for the WPX CW contest in May. Thanks to all who stopped by! Bill was heard to be making contacts Sunday morning along with Steve, KC5AMA, and Van, AB5KK. 350 Q's were talleyed and some good practice for Field Day was enjoyed. Thanks "Mad" AB5TV, for the computer and K5ZTY for the command post again. KJ5IP will never be such a butchered call on the air again. Sorry Jim, hi hi. With Field Day in view, what could have been better.

From the President W.S. VanDevender, AB5KK

I hope everyone has recovered from the Field Day weekend. We had a very successful Field Day, and I would like to thank all who jumped in and made the weekend and the event so enjoyable.

We learned a lot this time, and we have already begun the process for next year while the lessons are fresh in our minds. More about Field Day will be covered elsewhere in this newsletter and at our next meeting.

I would like to use my space this month to address a subject which is of concern to me, other officers and several other members. I have tried to keep my articles each month on the light side, and I apologize for this one being different. The subject: What makes a great organization?

A great organization exists when:

- It is composed of people with a common interest: NARS has this. Ham radio is a great avocation.
- There is opportunity for those people to interact with each other in the pursuit of that interest: NARS has this in abundance. We have regular meetings, special activities of a varying nature, nets, a fine newsletter, vigorous officers, training, recruitment of new members, very modest costs to members, and a cadre of very generous members who unselfishly give of their time and/or money to keep all the above in place.
- Participation by the membership on a broad scale: Here is the problem! NARS has 149 members, the most that the club has ever had. I am ecstatic that we are attracting members so successfully. The problem is that of the 149 members only about 20 are doing the work to keep the activities going for the other 129 to enjoy! These 20 are facing the prospect of burn-out. Most of these 20 have families, jobs, other responsibilities, etc just like the rest of us, that demand some part of their daily attention. They cannot keep going at the present rate.

What can be done? One of two things can happen. We can reduce our level of activities, for one. Should we have meetings on alternate months, instead of every month? Should we trim the number of civic events we participate in? Should we cut out Field Day because a valiant few do most of the work, and because a number of people who commit to handle a task or sign up to operate do not show up or follow through? Should we reduce the newsletter to a one-page meeting notice? Should we cut out some of our nets because the same three or four people are expected to always be net control? If we do these things we will no longer provide requisite number two above, and we will be in danger of becoming a declining organization. The other thing that can be done is for a lot more members to come forward and take on some of the work that is

required to keep us healthy. This work is actually fun when enough of us cooperate to get it done. Isn't this what we are about? Enjoying our hobby and each other? Also, remember that helping is not only just being willing to do what someone else can tell you to do, but to get involved and volunteer to take something on that you recognize needs to be done. Where do we need help? Everywhere!

- The newsletter is a monumental job each month, and Ken Harlan does a great job, but he needs help. Folding, labeling, stamping, mailing, to say nothing of training a replacement for himself..
- Coordinating, or helping to coordinate the civic events. When these events are scheduled there is an enormous amount of telephoning to do in addition to joining in the event.
- Elmering
- Meeting programs. We have talked about this before. Lets see how many can come forward and volunteer to help Bill Reed with our program schedule.
- Net Control. Choose a date and handle a net!
- Meeting room set-up. I always need help setting our room up early. How about volunteering to help Joe, or relieve Joe, in providing the coffee for meetings?
- Special activities. When you know someone is setting up a special activity such as the WWDX contest recently at Bill and Marian's, with Mike, KB5YVT, let's drop by and help, or operate, or at least thank them for setting it up and hosting it.

The list goes on! What happens is up to the membership. We have a potentially great organization. With everyone's help, we'll not only have a great organization, but we will win Field Day! And everything else that we undertake.
73's Van.

Amateur License Exam Results by Mark Tyler, K5GQ

The NARS sponsored FCC license examinations were administered Saturday, June 25th at the Tomball Community Center. Field Day was upon us and four applicants successfully completed all requirements for Technician licenses. They were Eric Bush, Robert Hollingsworth, Jesse Stay III, and Terry Thomas. Each is to be congratulated on their accomplishment and we look forward to their continued achievement.

Thanks to the session's examiners and those assisting who were Jim Kirk, KJ5IP, and W. W. VanDevender, AB5KK, Jay Rubens, KI5MD, Bob Judd, WN5G, Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ, and Mark Tyler, K5GQ, Van VanDevender, AB5KK, and Mark Conrad, WT5S.

The license examinations are now given on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 AM at the Tomball Community Center. The next session is scheduled for July 25th.

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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 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
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NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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)