

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 1994

League Visits NARS to Update Us On Issues For May 20th Meeting Topic

Yes, your friendly Amateur Radio League ARRL is back to brief us on the latest issues and to update us on the current programs. There are new developments on the horizon for hams and recent issues to discuss. This is our time to send feedback to our national organization.

Alan Cross, WA5UZZ, Section Manager for South Texas will be on hand to introduce the new hams to our national lobby group and to brief us all on the latest happenings. NARS is classified as a Special Services Club and features many members with ARRL appointments.

There are actually many topics to discuss. Some of these are the upcoming national ARRL convention in June in Dallas; local division news; official observer program is changing; frequency allocation of the 900 Mhz and 2.3 Ghz ham band; continued commercial interests trying to take over more HF frequencies; shortening the time it takes for new licenses; new bulletin boards by the ARRL; available appointments; free license renewal service and many more.

As you can see this month will be a free forum on issues facing us as hams and there are many. Don't think for a moment that commercial interests have given up on grabbing more of our frequency allocation that we have enjoyed since the advent of radio. The prevailing winds seem to be open to any reasonable offer especially if it means more money for the government.

Just another reminder that this may be the last time for a while that we will have the national ARRL convention in Texas as it travels around the country. Dallas always does an excellent job on conventions. The date is June 10-13.

A door prize will be a Bugcatcher HF mobile antenna donated by Alex Stalinski, WA5UHT, of City Electronics. Come early for some of that infamous eye ball Qsoing and then the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

Alex Stalinski, WA5UHT, showed us the BugCatcher mobile antenna and explained some of its fine points. He provided information to get you operating HF mobile. Alan Majeski, WA5REJ as elected club Secretary replacing Threresa Hayes, KB5SCA, who resigned due to business demands. Bill K5ZTY, announced printing of NARS shirts. If you want one let him know. Mike KB5YVT introduced a new Elmer program to help new Hams over the hump of getting on the air. Dick N5JZY, thanked those hams participating in Buffalo Bayou Reggata. The shack of the month featured Ken, KA5AKG, during a Wednesday night net.

NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

May 20 - NARS Monthly General membership meeting
- Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church @ 6000 Spring Cypress Rd. Eyeball QSO begins @ 7:00 PM.

May 21 - License Exams by NARS at Tomball Community Center, 8:30 AM.

May 22 - NARS Spring Picnic to be held at Burroughs Park off Spring Cypress Road.

June 3 - NARS directors meeting - Lakewood Forest Fund Office at 12415 Louetta Rd. @ 7:30 PM.

June 10-12 - ARRL National Convention at Arlington, TX.

June 25-26 - Field Day is back with Bill Denton conducting. The site is Spring Creek Park located NW of Tomball.

Spring Picnic

Sunday, May 22
9:30 AM till ...

Roy Burrough's Park
(East of Tomball - Go No. from FM2920 on FM2978 across tracks to Huffsmith Rd. - then E. 1 mi to park)

BBQ & tea provided
Bring your own extras

Family Fun, Games, Fellowship

NARS Shirts are Available Bill Stietenroth, K5ZTY

We are in the process of having some NARS shirts made for the membership. They are 50/50 cotton & polyester golf shirts in light blue and can be ordered with or without a pocket. The NARS logo will be screen printed on the back. Sizes range from small to XXlarge with a cost of \$15.13 each. For an additional \$5.60 you can have your call and name monogrammed on the front. If you aren't sure about wanting the monogramming at this time, Louise Hance, Mike's wife, will take custom orders for \$6.00 each later. There are also best grade Fruit of the Loom regular tee shirts available with the screened logo for \$8.33 each.

The deadline for ordering is Saturday morning, May 21st. *Act now!* Orders may be placed through Bill Stietenroth, K5ZTY, at the meeting, May 20th, or by phone at 893-3901. Checks should be made payable to "NARS" and should be mailed to me at 9342 Goldenwood, Houston, TX 77086-2414 to be received before the ordering deadline. Shirts should be available in time for the HamCom in Arlington June 10th.

QRM by Mike Hance, KB5YVT

A great job was done by Roy Hredilek, AD5Q, in the ARRL SS CW contest with 5th overall in single Op low power. Roy was second place in the West Gulf Division, David Cain, KB5UHS, and I finished 5th in the Division in the multi-op class. (There were only 5 entries, hi hi.) BT Burk, N5QVS, Dave, KB5UHS, and I also finished 9th in the SS phone multi-op class of the Division with a "clean sweep" of all 77 sections. We'll receive nice coffee mugs for our effort. Remember to stop by Bill Denton's, WA5DWX, May 28-29 for the CQ WW WPX Contest. *It's CW time.*

1994 Membership Update by Jay Rubens, KI5MD

Membership renewal continues to be strong, now totaling 139 members. Please welcome our new members joining NARS last month:

Ted Simpson	KC5FOE
Charles Mitchell	KC5CNV
Ron Forrester	KC5NB
Joe Fanning	N6RRJ

We look forward to seeing each of our new members in the club's activities and providing whatever assistance they may need.

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

The March-of-Dimes Walkathon was, as expected, a success and fun time for all. We had a good turnout of NARS folks, nice but very cool weather, and about 300 walkers. Many thanks to Audra Kujawa for coordinating the event and to Carl Kujawa KB5YGI for serving as net control. They did a great job, and Carl handled the net with poise and authority. Really nice to see the young people jump into our activities like this. (Thanks also to Jim Sutherland, N5SBP, for his guiding hand).

Coming up is our Spring picnic on May 22, 1994, at Roy Burrough's Park on Huffsmith Road just northeast of Tomball. We'll start gathering about 9 AM and go as long as anyone is there. Bar-b-que will be provided, catered, not cooked on site as originally planned. Bring your own extra sidedishes and drinks, though iced tea will be served. Hope the weather cooperates, and we all have a relaxing day.

By the time you read this, we will have had our Skywarn session. Many thanks to all who participated in this important program. It's a feather in NARS hat that we were able to sponsor and have such a nice turnout for this event.

I would like to welcome Bill Reed, N5TZY, on board as Program Chairman and new Board member. Bill will be calling people on the roster to help him arrange a schedule of club program presentations. Please help him out by volunteering before he calls you, or at least give him a hand when he does. Each volunteer will be given a suggested program idea to investigate, evaluate, and schedule for any future club meeting. This process should distribute the work, not cause any pressure, and result in a schedule of programs out ahead for the club. It's really nice to come to the meetings and hear nice presentations, but it takes effort to arrange them. You can make a real contribution to the club's continuing success by lending a hand.

Many thanks to all who signed up for the "Adopt-A-Elmer" program, and to Mike Hance KB5YVT for helping a new ham over the "what do I do now" syndrome.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the May meeting73's, Van.

George Kaakee, KA8HQC, a Silent Key

A long distance member of NARS, George Kaakee, became a silent key at his home in Minn. on April 23, 1994. George was the father of Cindy Rubens, KB5RXT, and father-in-law of Jay Rubens, KI5MD. We offer our condolences to George's family who have sent their thanks for the flowers and remembrance at his memorial service.

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

April was disappointing. For the first half of the month we had a recurrence of the disturbed conditions from March. The bands opened up later in the month as these disturbances moved to the other side of the sun. The first half of May will likely bring yet another two weeks of poor conditions. Aside from this, late spring is an excellent season for DXing - especially on 20. There is still another problem.

During the 2 weeks of quiet conditions in late April, fluxes were mostly down in the 70's. We should still expect periods where they are higher, and hope that they range from the 70's to the 90's. The most effected band in this range is 15 meters. When in the low end of the range (as in late April), we get a taste of what 15 will sound like for the next few years. The band was mostly dead. Openings were marginal, with only a few european signals coming through. Without higher fluxes in May, there will be little DX on this band until the fall. East/west paths will be OK, so the band should be watched for openings to Africa and the Pacific. The same can be said of 10 meters.

20 has opened up nicely, but still closes down completely after midnight. With flux levels in the 70's, the high latitude night path to Europe will not open (but check 30 meters). After dark, a pipeline opens over the pole to Siberia, Turkistan (UI, UL, UM, UH, UJ), parts of Russia, and points further south. As we progress toward summer, these openings should expand westward to the more heavily populated portions of Russia and Ukraine - but not Europe. The best european openings seem to be in late afternoon and in the morning. Morning is also a good time for the polar paths, and this opening includes paths to eastern Asia. Signals from the S.E. quarter of Asia come through until noon. Careful tuning of 20 meters in the morning can pay off nicely when the fluxes are too low to open Europe on 15. Contacts with 9V, BY, JT, 9M, V8, HS, S2, & BV can be made routinely nowadays, with rarer DX always a possibility. Long path is usually open for a couple hours after sunrise - mostly to the Indian Ocean and southern Africa.

17 meters is another alternative for day path contacts into Europe, and recently has had more DX activity than 15. May should be an excellent month for this band. 40 also remains in good shape, with many nice long path and Asian contacts being made (mostly from the west coast). As I write this (May 3), the A index is back up to 30, and so that mess on the other side of the sun is returning for another go-around. This forecast is not valid until things clear up again.

Amateur License Exam Results
by Mark Tyler, K5GQ

The NARS sponsored FCC license examinations were administered Saturday, March 26th at the Tomball Community Center. Twelve applicants successfully completed all or portions of license requirements through 18 elements. Larry McCain, WA5SZJ, earned the Advanced licence, William Stietenroth, K5ZTY, completed element 4A, and Thomas Moore, N5RIV, earned the General License. The Technician license was earned by Thomas Bautz, Charles Echols, Michael Felcyn, Sidney Smith, and James Zaebst. Wade Hebert, KA5QWE, John Mudd, and James Reed completed element 3B, the General theory, while James Kershaw completed element 2, the Novice theory. We congratulate each in their accomplishment and look forward to their continued achievement.

Thanks to the session's examiners Paul Owen, N5NXS, Jim Kirk, KJ5IP, and W. W. VanDevender, AB5KK, and those assisting, Jay Rubens, KI5MD, Paul Frantz, KF5SB, Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ, and Mark Tyler, K5GQ.

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 will be April 23rd. For more information call Mark Tyler at 587-0256.

NARS Notes

Congratulations to Louise Hance, wife of Mile, KB5YVT, on successful completion of her Tech license exams. We'll be listening for that new call on the air (looking for Mike).

Many thanks to Scott Byrd, N5KEU, for providing a great Skywarn seminar for the Club on May 3rd. About 35 poeple enjoyed an excellent program by Bob White's group.

The Buffalo Bayou Regatta communication, coordinated by Dick, N5JZY and Jim, N5SBP, came through this year without a glitch. The sponsors send their thanks to all who participated and made it work so well. A special thanks to Cal, WF5W, for providing a control station and to Ted, KC5FOE, who backed him up to the end.

Saturday Breakfast is Moving

May 21 (after Club meeting)

to

Bleachers All-American Grill

2318 W FM 1960 @ Kuykendahl

8:00 AM

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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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN
W. VanDevender, AB5kK 370-0953

VICE PRESIDENT
Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ 376-6418

SECRETARY
Allen Majeski, WA5REJ 353-8652

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Desi Livingston, KB5YYG 440-3374

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 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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