

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

November 1994

"Traveling the Super Highway" to be Presented at Nov. 18th Meeting

No, it's not vacation time already nor is it like traveling down I-45 in rush hour traffic. This highway is the Internet. Instead of traveling by car, you climb aboard your computer and packet radio to experience the sights along the way. Your tour guide for this month's program is A.C. Spaggens, W5EZM. A.C. is VP of Marketing at South Coast Computing Services. South Coast is an Internet provider, consulting, and hardware company. He was licensed in 1954 and holds an Extra class ticket.

A.C. has been involved in Internet activities for two years and is currently active on the Internet via packet radio. He will tell us a little bit about Internet in general and be more specific in terms of packet. We hope to have a large screen projection of his computer so we can all see his key board entries. It seems like all of us are getting more and more into the digital modes. Packet appears to be riding a crest, and just about all our conversations about radio includes packet in some form or other.

With NARS building a new node there certainly is a high interest level in this club. I took a short course on traveling through the Internet and have taken a few test drives on my own. Believe me, it's a fascinating trip. Come out and give A.C. your support and learn more about a new activity..

Another Opportunity to Join the Contest Fun by Madison Jones, AB5TV

Contest, ARCI QRP Fall CW Party, and Texas QSO Party have already passed you by, but there are plenty more to come. For those who were otherwise engaged, you missed a great one in ARRL CW Sweepstakes, the world's original radio contest, and, to many, still the best.

For everyone who likes to get into the fray on phone, you get another chance: the next iteration will be held Saturday and Sunday, November 19-20. Bill, WA5DWX, and Marian, KB5SGV, will be hosting you on this end, and the rest of North America on the other end for the voice version of Sweepstakes. You provide the lungs and some peanuts and the fun begins Saturday afternoon at 3:00 PM (2100 Z). What more could you ask for? It runs through Sunday at 9:00 PM, so you will be spared the agony of another Oilers crummy loss if you are at the transceiver instead of the television. This will be another great team effort, so come along for good times and QSOs from everywhere. Call Marian and Bill for details.

For the more adventuresome, the CQWW DX CW contest will be held Thanksgiving weekend. If you think the higher HF bands have nobody home, tune in December 10-11 for the ARRL 10 meter contest on both phone and CW on (what else?) 10 meters. See page 3 Contest

NARS Calendar

--- plan now !

Nov 18 - NARS monthly General Membership meeting & elections @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00.

Nov 19-21 ARRL Nov. Phone Sweepstakes Contest begins @ 2100Z - see Oct. QST.

Nov 26-27 CQ WWDX Contest. See Sept QST.

Dec 2 - NARS Directors Meeting @ 7:30 PM - location to be announced.

Dec. 10-11 - ARRL 10-meter contest beginning 0000Z. See Nov QST p.130.

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

Due to Holiday conflicts, NO regular license exam sessions will be held in Nov. or Dec.

CONTEST TIME AGAIN by Bill Denton WA5DWX

Calling all lids, kids, and space cadets. It's contest time again. The ARRL sweepstakes awaits us. November 19th and 20th at the QTH of WA5DWX and KB5SGV. We are gathering together our ace contest crew once again to show the world (?) that wire antennas, glow-in-the-dark radios, young whippersnappers and a bunch of See page 2 Time Again

Slate of Officers Nominated for the 1994 Club Year

NARS will elect officers for 1995 during the November club meeting. The nominating committee offers the following candidates for election as officers and directors:

President - Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO
Vice President - Bill Stientenroth, K5ZTY
Secretary - Shirley Kujawa, KB5WOO
Treasurer - Brad Nelson, WD5GNI
Director - Bill Kujawa, KB5SIU

Also nominated by Mike Hance:

Director - Willard VanDevender, AB5KK

The Nominating Committee is composed of Chairman Dick Rousseau, N5JZY, Bill Denton, WA5DWX, and Ken Harlan, KA5AKG.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting and all members are eligible. Officers are elected for a one year term and a Director-at-large is elected for two years. The remainder of the Board of Directors is composed of the two past presidents and a program director appointed by the President. New club officers will be installed at the NARS Annual Banquet in January.

Contest from page 1.

You hot-dog mobileers will finally be able to knock out a few contacts while touring the highways. That one will feature a portion of the band reserved for 10-13 wpm CW operation. If your skills at the key are a little rusty, brush up on the NARS slow code practice net on Monday nights, 28.144 MHz at 8:30 p.m. so you can get with the action. Contests are a wonderful way to enjoy and develop the abilities you have, meet new friends, and try something new. I participated in the ARRL Sweepstakes on QRP, and worked both coasts (and many places in between) on a dipole at 4 watts, so it doesn't take big towers and steam powered linears to be in the hunt. There is no entry fee, no fixed number of hours you must participate, and no minimum equipment list. You don't even have to turn in your logs if you don't want to. You'll be surprised to learn how much fun it is to make some contest Qs if it's not part of your radio routine!

For Sale: BTI 2KW HF linear amplifier with 2KW dummy load. All reconditioned. Covers 10, 15, 20, 40, & 80 meter bands. Uses 3-1000Z tube (needs chinmey). Console cabinet. \$500. With manual. Call KA5AKG @ 370-2950.

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

Saturday, October 22nd, three applicants were examined on five elements at the NARS-sponsored FCC license examination session in Tomball. All passed the written elements and 67% were successful on morse code elements. Upgrades were earned by Van Rathgeber, KC5JRM, to Technician Plus and by Ronald Smith, KJ5PU, to Extra. Michael Felcyn KC5HEI and Van Rathgeber KC5JRM also passed element 3B. Congratulations to them all. The VE team consisted of Mark Conrad WT5S, Waldo Kielkowski AB5FT, Bob Judd WN5G, Mike Felcyn KC5HEI, and myself. Thanks to Harry Gage N5WIZ for arranging for our alternate meeting place while the Tomball Community Center is being remodeled and for serving as NARS liaison to the successful candidates. Thanks to the VEs and assistants for contributing their time to these sessions each month.

Additional Volunteer Examiners are very much needed for this important work. If you would like to be an examiner or assist in this contribution to the advancement of amateur radio, 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 EXAM SESSIONS IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER 1994 DUE TO CONFLICT WITH THE HOLIDAY WEEKENDS.** The next session will be January 28th, 1995.

Amateur Radio a Big Hit at Webelos Campout by Jim Kirk KJ5IP

NARS' demonstration of Ham radio at the Webelos campouts at Camp Brosig on October 22nd and 29th was a great success. In contrast with previous years, the weather was beautiful both days.

Helping out in this erstwhile effort were James Sullivan, KB5SGY, Bill Denton, WA5DWX, Tommy Jackson, N5MGM, Harold Larsen, KC5CNV, Nelson Livingston, KB5WYY, Van VanDevender, AB5KK, Madison Jones, AB5TV, B T Burk, N5QVS, Don Bedell, KA3BKU, and Jim Kirk, KJ5IP. Several others assisted by talking on the radio from Houston to the Webelos: Carl Kujawa, KB5YGI, Marian Denton, KB5SGV, Mike Felcyn, KC5HEI and son Michael, Ken Edinborgh, W5BKK and grandson Chris, and Bud Livingston, KC5IKI. Many thanks to all who helped to make this a successful project.

The Right Stuff **by Bill Denton, WA5DWX**

I want to share with you a conversation I overheard the other day. Since my favorite band, 17 meters, was dead I decided to take a chance on 20m. In my opinion, 20 is the sewer of ham radio. You have people fighting, cussing each other out, political radicals, extremists on one subject or another...as if the FCC granted some groups special frequencies to carry on with all their rhetoric. If you don't believe it, just try and call CQ on "their frequency". Even it is not being used at the time, someone is guarding it. Believe me, I have found out the hard way. Since 20m is a little more friendly in the Advanced section, I decided to use my new privileges. I came across a nice signal out of San Deigo, CA. and stopped to listen for a while. It was N6DUR, Bob, talking to a fellow in Venezuela. I do not remember his call nor his name. Lets just call him Jose. This was a typical QSO with a foreign country. Jose's English was not great, but he was doing well enough that Bob was understanding ok. After a few minutes Jose asked Bob how far he lived from some town in Oregon. Bob explained that he was in Southern California, and that is was a long way from the town in question. Jose explained in broken english that his brother lived in that town in Oregon, and that he had not heard from him in 15 years. Bob explained to Jose how he could call for the international long distance information operator. Jose said that he had tried with no luck. Bob was insistent that Jose could do this. I got from this exchange that Jose had tried get the number, but really didn't know how to go about it. By now Jose was beginning to cry, realizing that Bob could help him find his long lost brother. After getting Jose's brother's name, he called the information operator in the town in Oregon. He relayed the number to Jose explaining to him exactly how to make an international call from Venezuela. Jose was very emotional and appreciative to Bob. Jose knew that a reunion with his lost brother was just a phone call away. After the QSO had finished I called Bob and told him that I had been listening, and thanked him for caring enough to go the extra step. He could easily have said, "I can't understand what the man is saying", and said 73's. I am proud that this happened on Ham radio, and, yes, even on 20 meters.

From page 1 Time Again

old peanut eaters can put to shame the yippies with their Alphas, 200ft towers and 20 element mono-banders. If you are intersted in such madness give me a call a 469- 8331. Operators are standing by. See you at the "test". 73's... Bill PS This event is BYOP (Bring your own peanuts).

From the President **by Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ**

As the year winds down we in N.A.R.S were getting ready to look forward to the year end in peace and enjoy contesting and other normal Ham things. Mother Nature changed all that when storms of very large magnitude moved thru Montgomery county and into Harris County last month. When the call came from ham ops in Montgomery County to help.. we in N.A.R.S. did so in a very orderly and swift manner. We in N.A.R.S. were personally responsible for over 100 rescues and manning RED CROSS emergency shelters when no other agencies could do so in a timely manner. Ham personnel also E.M.S trained manned one shelter where only access was by boat. They were responsible for evacuation of 3 persons with medical problems. We in N.A.R.S. also manned the Houston E.O.C. in the City of Houston as necessary for some extended time. The RED CROSS main comm center was also manned by our people as requested by them. Our help numbered in countless hours and in some cases days of volunteer help to the public. I wish to thank all who took part in this disaster effort and we can remember our members who also lost homes or belongings. Well now maybe we can get back to normal Ham operations.. Remember that to do an A plus job in disaster, ops we must have a working skill of public service procedure. To do this we need all our skills as well as those learned by doing events like our N.A.R.S. outside events each year. Remember this as we wind down.. this is my and your club and we need to actively involve ourselves in events as called on to do so. I look forward to seeing you at contests, public service events, field day and etc.. don't be bashful.. use those radios and enjoy the outdoors . Be sure to come to our next general meeting as we elect new leaders for next year as well as the regular program. 73s MIKE.

From the Board **by Alan Majeski, WA5REJ**

November Board meeting present: KB5WQJ, KJ5IP, WA5REJ, WA5DWX, KA5AKG, K5ZTY, AB5KK, AB5TV, and N5SBP. Still working on banquet; suggestions for type of food, call WA5DWX. Working on getting database up to date to be sure newsletters get to all members. By-Laws committee to recommend changes at next board meeting, any changes must be approved by membership. Board looking at ways to improve handling finances. Still need more people involved in leading HF and VHF nets. KA5AKG to make available handouts on net protocol at next general meeting. Trying to make meetings more personal.

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

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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

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

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN
Mike Lavander, KB5WQJ 357-0614

VICE PRESIDENT
Jim Kirk, KJ5IP 376-0718

SECRETARY
Allen Majeski, WA5REJ 353-8652

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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)