

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 1995

Field Day 95: A Look Back by Bill Denton

Now that I have some time to reflect back on FD '95, I think of the all good times we had that weekend in June. The weather cooperated even though it was hot during the day. There was a nice Northerly breeze and the nights were cool. Even the mosquitoes took a break.

After meeting for lunch at Valley BBQ, our setup went well with a lot of folks coming out to help. Many of the people that showed up had never seen the likes of what we were doing, let alone having attended a field day operation. They all pitched in for a very smooth set up. The most gratifying thing to see was the new hams getting involved in all aspects of the operation. Even the older hams told me that they made more contacts in the first minutes of operation than they had made at home in years. We had by count more than 35 people to operate a station. Many more chose only to log or just to observe. I think that just about every body that wanted to participate in some phase of the activities, did. We even coaxed Joe (KD5KR) away from his air conditioned trailer to make some contacts.

Everyone had the opportunity if they chose to do so. It was a thrill for all to see the people from our recent novice class make their first ever radio contact. Some of those firsts were on CW. The novice station was manned mostly by first time operators. Our thanks for all those that helped the novices get their feet wet.

I think the unsung heroes of the day were the CW operators. Ed (NA5B) and Dan (KK5YT) had met each other only on a couple of occasions, at breakfast on Saturday at Bleachers.

Both were eager to accept the challenge of the CW station. Ed had done some casual

contesting but Dan had not worked a contest before. In fact he had gotten his license less than a year ago. Computer and keyer interface problems kept the CW station off the air until minutes before air time. They did not get a chance to get a feel of the computer and rig operation; no time to warm up or establish a frequency before the contest started. With still some nagging problems with the computer keyer interface which did not allow the use of a side key, they were still to chalk up more than a 1000 QSO's. They both called me after FD and expressed their disappointment in not making another 200 or 300 more contacts. They both are pumped for next year already.

The other phase of FD went well. The 6 meter group had a good time and found some good band openings. They put a lot of work, effort and planning in getting their station up and running.

The satellite guys did well also. They had several good passes making contacts on SSB and CW. Ken (W5BKK) and Dick (W5VHM) always put on a good show. It is very interesting to see how complex the satellite station is.

The phone station also had a very good FD. They got to a running start with OJ and never looked back. I saw people operating that hadn't sat down behind a radio in years. All the folks did a great job keeping the rates up. They worked 20m until about 2:30am and switched to 40m where the rates continued to be high all night. 20m opened up again around 7:00am and rates continued to be good. The big wires worked well for CW and phone. All operators felt that they were the big stations on 40m. They created pileups on 40 and pulled out a Papa New Guinea station in wee hours.

Continued on page 4

Important Dates

Aug 18 - NARS monthly General Membership meeting, 7:30 PM @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's, 7:00 PM.

Aug 19 - 20 - North American QSO Party, Phone, Contest from 1 PM, Aug 19 until 1 AM, Aug 20.

Aug 20 - NARS Picnic and 10th Anniversary Celebration @ Burroughs Park from 10 AM till 6 PM. BBQ and fun for all.

Aug 26 - NARS Amateur Radio License Exam session at HL&P facility in Tomball beginning at 8:30 AM. Theory and code for all licenses. No reservation necessary.

Sept 5 - NARS Directors meeting, 7:00 PM @ Lakewood Fund Office, 12415 Louetta Rd.

BREAKFAST

at Bleachers

2318 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

August, 1995

It's August again and we are in the throws of the hot, muggy, Houston summer. So far we have had a very busy and successful year in NARS. January brought a new group of club officers and a very successful banquet. During February we started the 1995 Novice Class and got the NARS packet node operational. March, April and May were busy with public service events, VE test sessions, meetings, contest, and the Houston Rockets Second World Championship. June served up Field Day and all the preparation and excitement associated. The 10th anniversary picnic comes in August.

During the remainder of the year, we will look forward to the beginning of school, football season, cooler weather, and more HAM radio events. The Houston HamCom is scheduled for early November and a host of public service events call for support. We will also be busy getting together the future leaders of NARS. Officer nominations will be presented in October, with elections in November. If you are proud of your club, join, participate, get involved.

At the last board meeting we made decisions that will help assure a newsletter each month in a timely manner. July's issue slipped through the seams, hopefully the changes we have made will prevent this in the future.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting and the picnic. For those involved in helping make this club successful, thanks again, for those who enjoy the activities and functions of the club, get involved; you will enjoy it more.

Regards, 73's

KB5ZXO - Rudy

NARS 10th Anniversary Picnic August 20, 1995

Burroughs Park 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS) will celebrate it's 10th anniversary with a picnic to be held at Burroughs Park. Activities will include several HF special event stations, a washer tossing contest, fishing, and general outdoor activities.

Barbecue with all the trimmings will be served starting at about 1:00 pm. The lunch will include meat, beans, potato-salad, pickles, etc along with iced-tea. The cost of lunch is \$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 for children under 12. Children under 6 eat free from their parents plates.

Drinks will be served with lunch, but plan to provide your own drinks during the day. Please remember, the Harris County Parks do not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

I look forward to meeting and visiting with all of you at the picnic. Look for the NARS signs to guide you to the pavilion.

73's KB5ZXO Rudy

Board Meetings - Allen Majeski

On July 7, 1995 the NARS board met at Valley Ranch Restaurant. Treasurers report indicated \$3213.43 on hand. Discussed upcoming programs. Next program on QRP by Bill Hickox. By-laws to be distributed at next meeting. Planning critique on past field day soon. Mike Lavander to handle food for picnic on Aug. 20, we will charge \$5 and \$3. Shortening alligator on 2 meter repeater. club insurance paid. 73 WA5REJ

On August 8, 1995 the NARS board met at Valley Ranch Restaurant. Treasurer's report not available. August program to be on APRS by Walter Holmes WD5GAZ. Discussed future programs. By-laws to be voted on at November meeting. Picnic plans looking good food and games and radios. Started assembling nominating committee for November elections. Discussed club goals. Starting preliminary plans for January Banquet. 73 WA5REJ

Field Day A Big Success by Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO

Another Field Day has come and gone. All the planning, checking, and gathering has again made this annual event a large success. My thanks goes to Bill Denton (WA5DWX), 1995 Field Day Coordinator for his time and effort. Also, thanks goes to Bill Steintenroth (K5ZTY), Alen Majeski (WA5REJ), and Brad Nelson (WD5GNI) for their help and leadership. 1995 effort was a very successful effort. We accomplished our objectives, which included providing a showcase for amateur radio, providing an opportunity for new HAMS to operate, to provide a social and friendly atmosphere, and make as many contacts as possible. The combined efforts of everyone, helped achieve a score of 9380 points. This should be high enough to rank NARS in the top ten nation wide. I think we accomplished all of these objectives, plus ate a lot of really good barbecue.

In addition to the regular NARS field day effort, another group of HAMS the YAHOO's, lead by NARS members, set out to do some serious contesting and try to win the 2A division. Well, it looks as they may have done it. Their score of 10600 points appears to be the highest achieved. The official results will not be posted for a while, but it looks good so far. Included were Mike Hance (KB5YVT), Mike Furrey (WA5POK), David Cain, (KK5GJ), Steve Dodson (KC5AMA), Jesse Stay (KC5IWP), Roy Hradilek (AD5Q) and BT Burk (N5QVS) among others.

This may be the first time, that 2 groups from the same club, finished this well in the Field Day effort.

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS)

Subject of August 19, Program

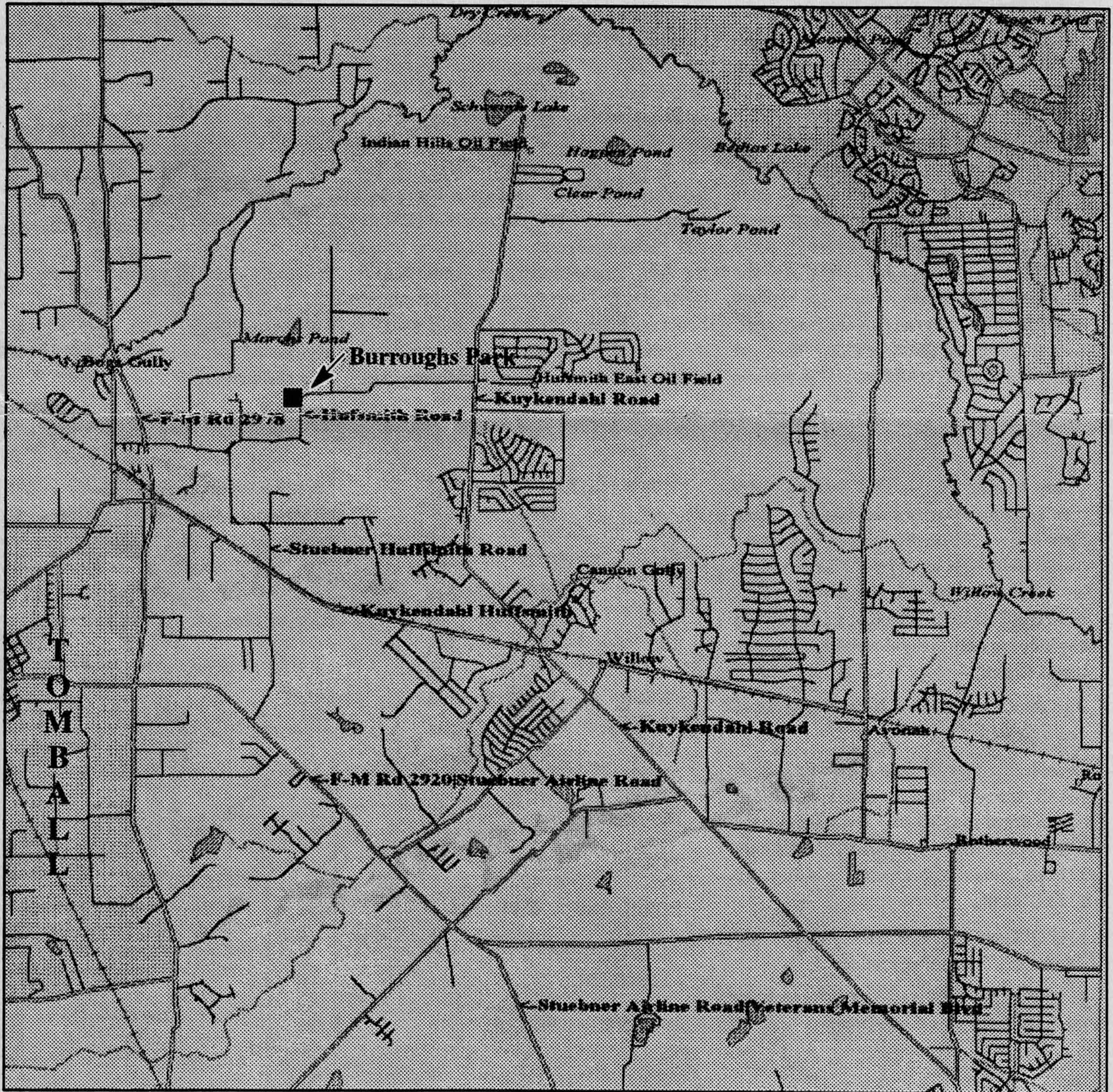
APRS is a new and innovative approach to real-time communications for use with packet radio. The speaker will be Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ. APRS can be used for Station Tracking and Locating for a variety of events such as public service events, weather station reporting, DX clusters, Fox Hunting, and others. Walter will explain how the system works, why it was developed, and provide a realtime demonstration.

NARS 10th Anniversary Picnic

August 20, 1995

Burroughs Park

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM



Field Day 95 continued from page 1

The wires were 250' long dipoles fed with ladder line. They were nice and high and fairly flat from end to end. The other antennas were Cushcraft A3 tribanders on 40ft towers. They also worked well. Our special thanks to David Cole (WD5BZY) for the use of his Yaesu FT1000.

We also ran a packet station that made enough contacts to qualify for the bonus points. Thanks to Paul (N5NXS) and AC (W5EZM) for their efforts. They have ideas about improving the packet operation for FD96.

The novice antenna would probably win the prize for the largest. It was a variation of an antenna that I have used a lot and is a good performer. It has several technical names but it's commonly known as a lazy H. It had 4 - 100ft long elements and 23ft tall, fed and phased with ladder line. It wasn't as high as I would have liked but an antenna that large is hard to get up to great heights. They got good reports on it on all bands. The novices

did well. They too had some computer and rig problems. Most were first time operators but fell into the groove of contesting easily. It was good to see some husband and wife teams operating. It's was especially gratifying to see the first timers go after the CW contacts. I hope they will all be back with a little more experience under their belts.

I would like to pass on my compliments to Chef Charles (KC5HZP) and his crew for the great BBQ and all the fixens. He fed 66 people Saturday nite with good BBQ, potato salad and watermelons. Great job...

All in all FD95 went well. Many people have expressed their feelings and how they enjoyed it. It takes a lot of people, hard work and planning to put one of these things together. This is the major event for NARS every year and over the years FD has gotten better and better. The ARRL Field Day is for everyone to get involved. The charge of emergency readiness is accepted along with

a little friendly competition among the clubs of North America.

Great Job Guys and Gals

FIELD DAY 95 RESULTS

Station	CW	Phone
Novice	51	138
Packet	18	
Satellite	10	15
CW	1022	
Phone		1545
6 meters		120
	1089	1818

We had a total of 7992 QSO points
1412 Bonus points
 9404 Total field day points

Hopefully this will put us in the top ten in 2A.

Thanks to all.

My special thanks to Bill (K5ZTY) for his help and support.

The Winning Difference . . . Mike Hance

I keep hearing all this stuff that we really didn't do any better as a serious effort since there's only 1300 pts difference. Well for the hard work this group of NARS members put in, I think they should get the credit they deserve. This is not meant as a put down of any kind but only to make a point that no one seems to get.

The Real Comparison between NARS & Team Cramp

Considering that the bonus pts. are equal, NARS actually had more bonus pts., it comes down to QSO pts. Even though the difference between 9380 and 10692 is only 1312 pts., lets see how hard it is to make up 1312 QSO pts.

1312 QSO pts on CW = 328 QSO's @ 50/hr Rate, that's 6 hrs. of operating!

1312 QSO pts on SSB = 656 QSO's @ 50/hr Rate, that's 13 hrs of operating!!

W5NN FIELD DAY RESULTS

	CW	SSB
80	150	0
40	487	48
20	604	818
15	147	98
10	0	275
6	0	135
2 SSB		1
PACKET	20	
SAT	1	
TOTAL	1408	1375
NOVICE	17	490
TOTAL	1425	1865

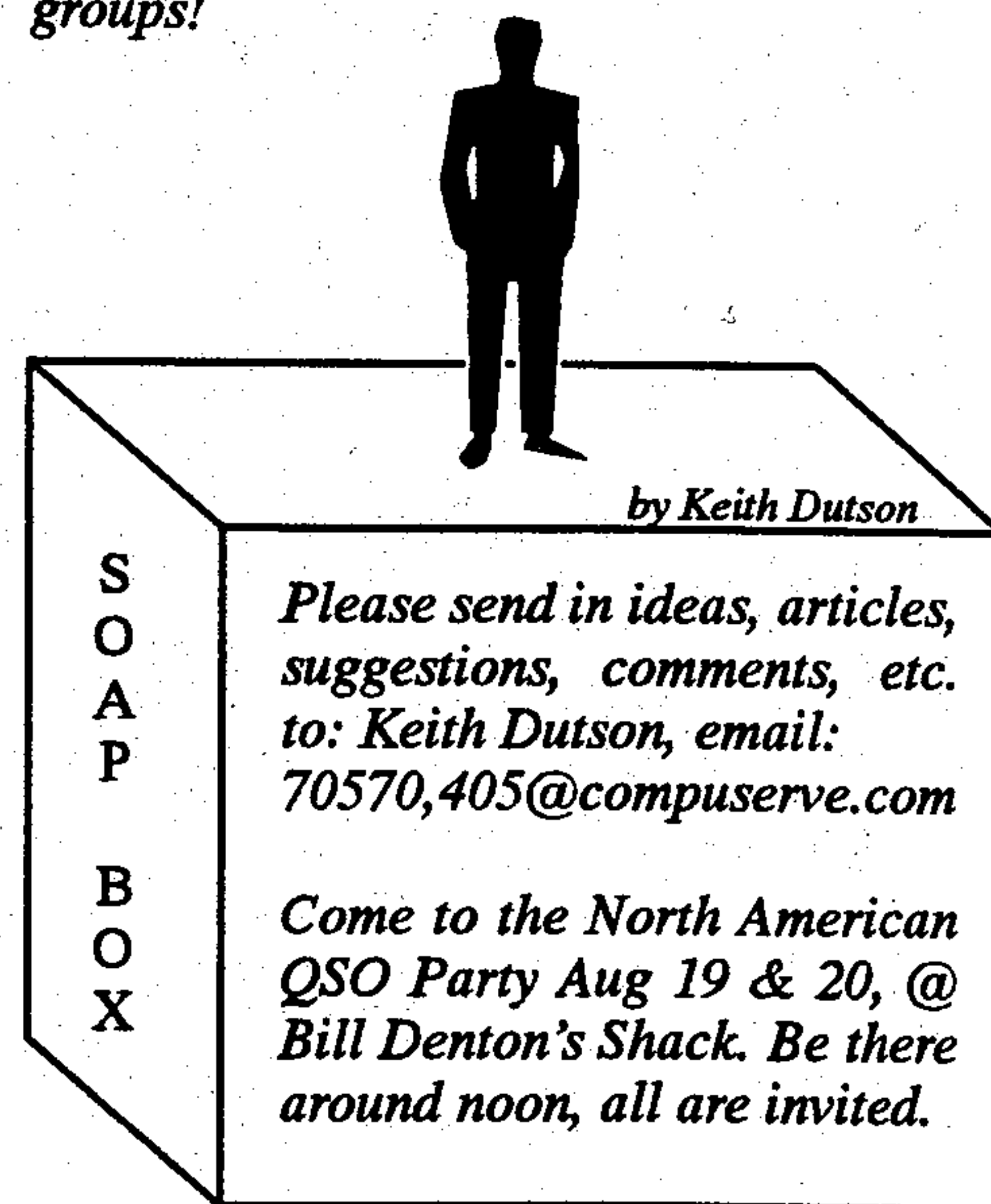
TOTAL QSO'S 3291

9432 CONTACT PTS.
 1260 BONUS PTS.

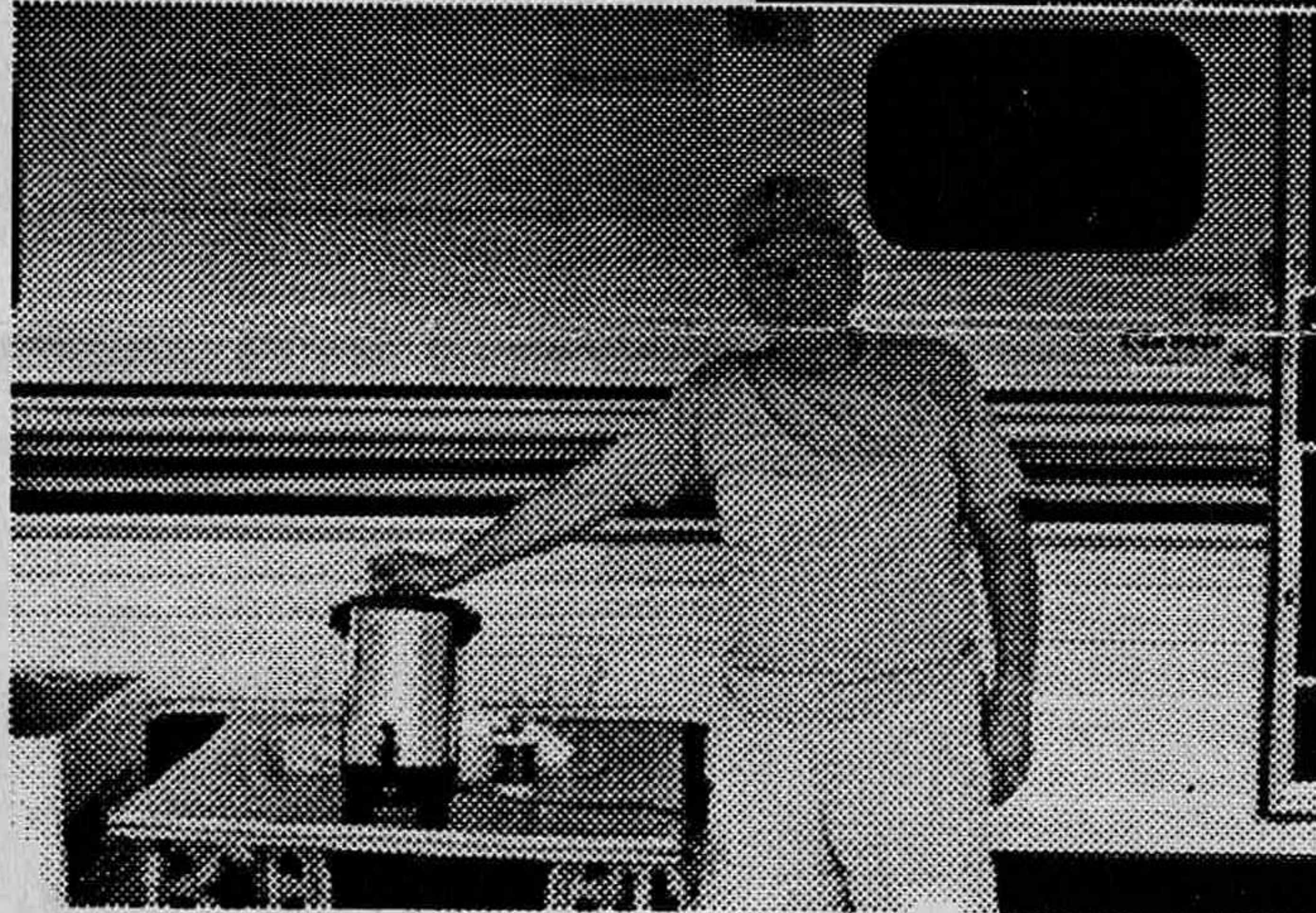
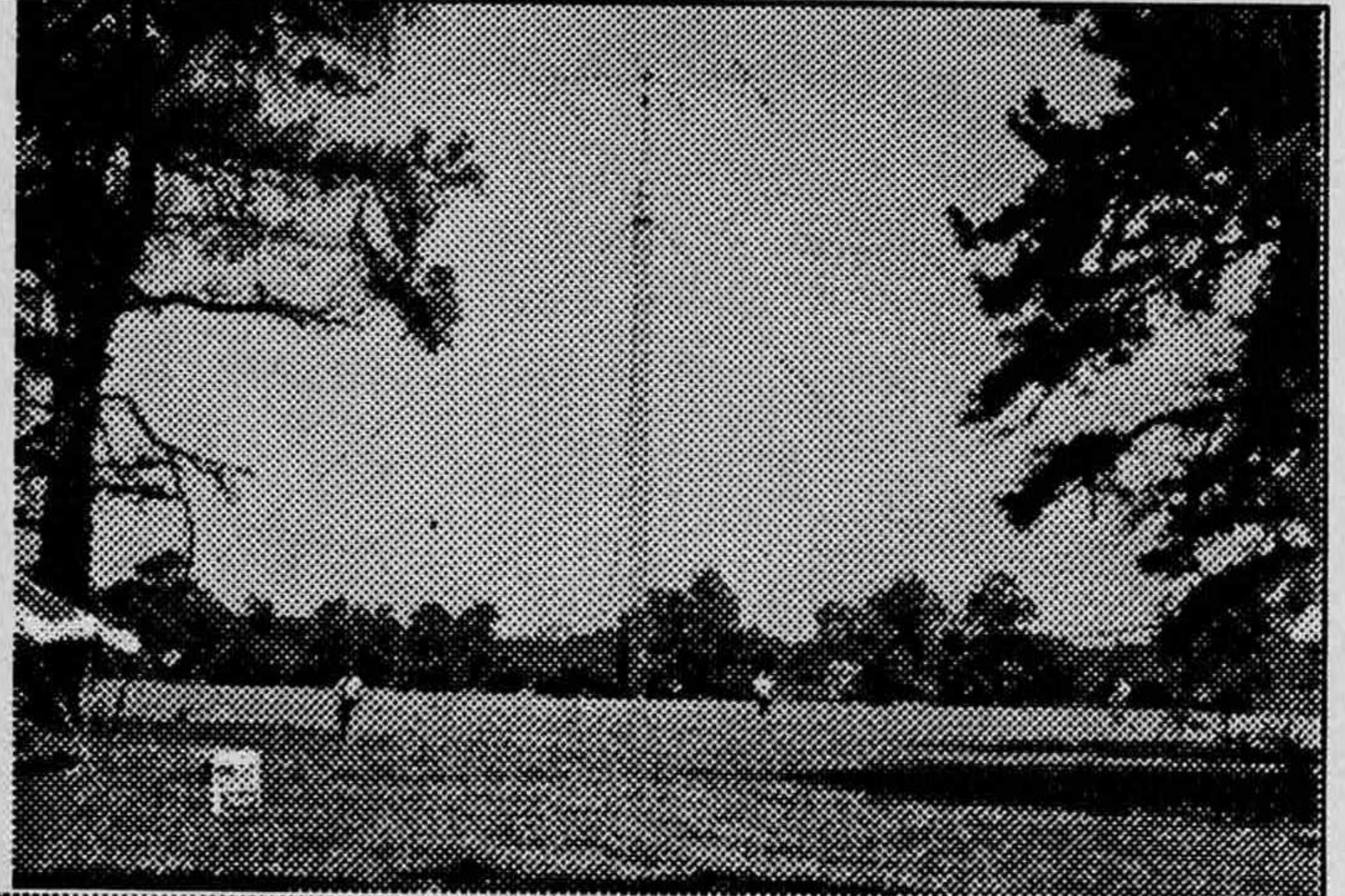
10692 TOTAL SCORE

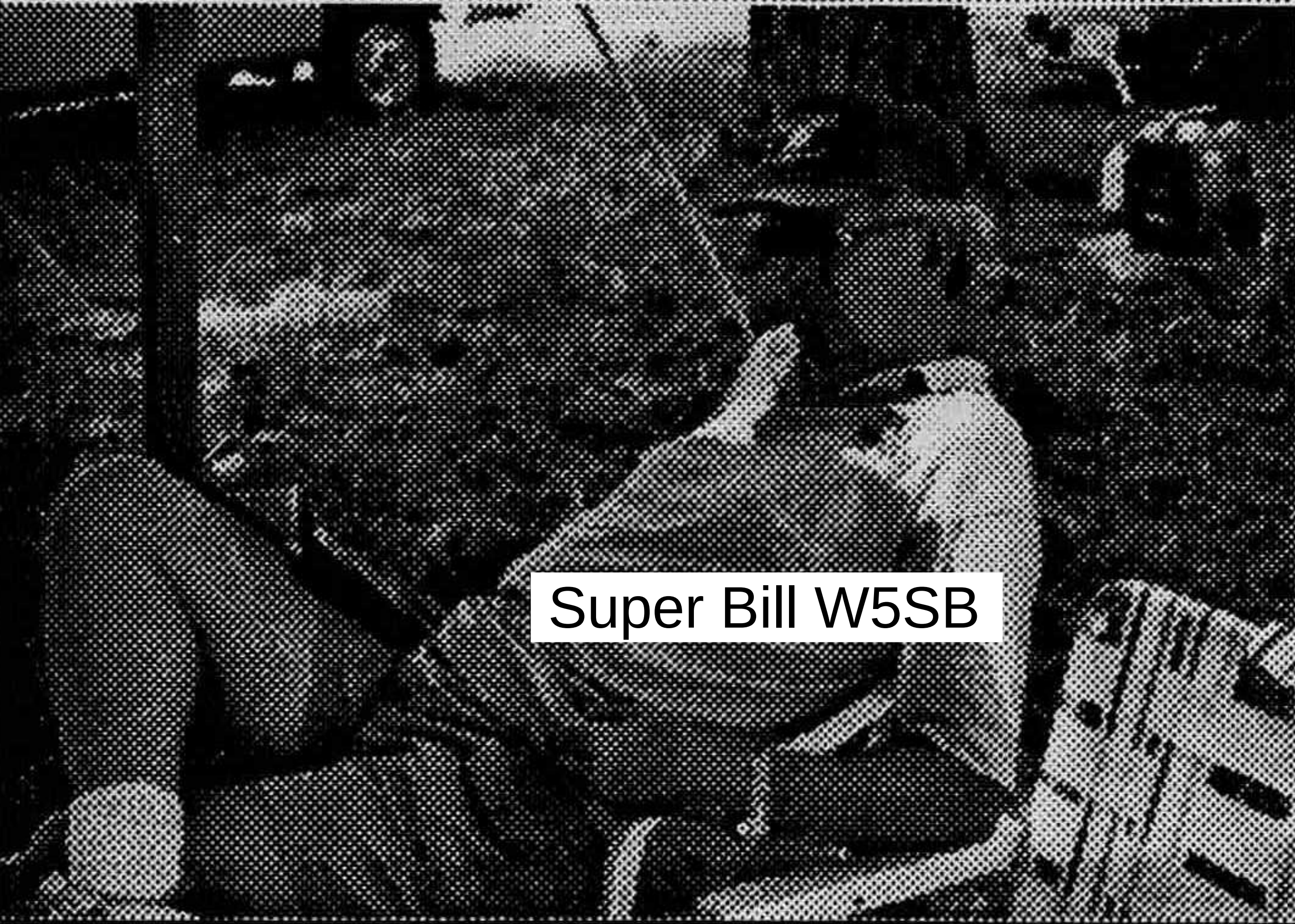
Do I make my point! There is a BIG difference in the level of skill between the two operations! Not to take anything away from NARS, but to point out what it takes to WIN! A casual operation could NEVER make up that many hrs. of operation.

What a great job done by BOTH NARS groups!

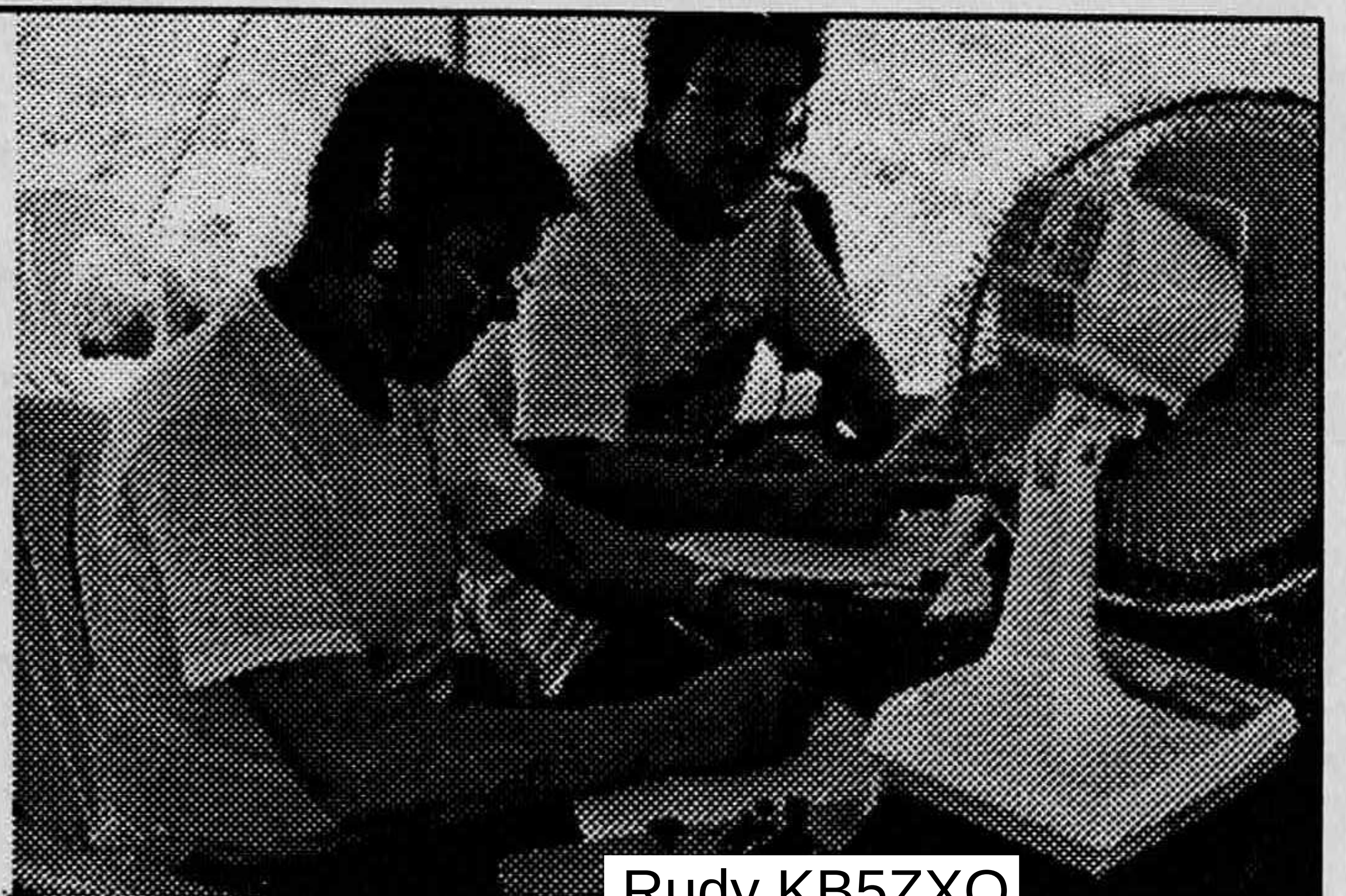


Field Day '95 Photos



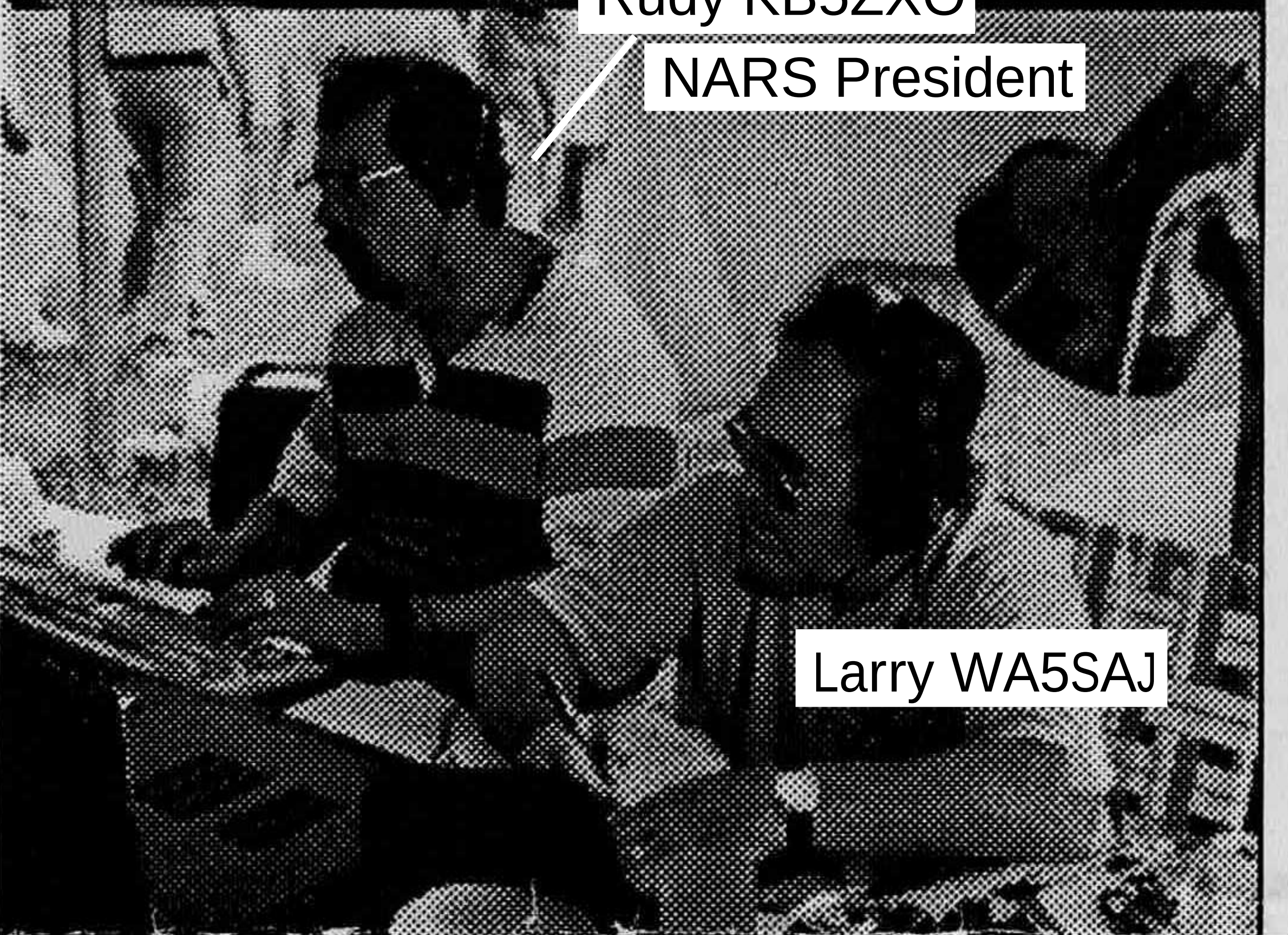


Super Bill W5SB

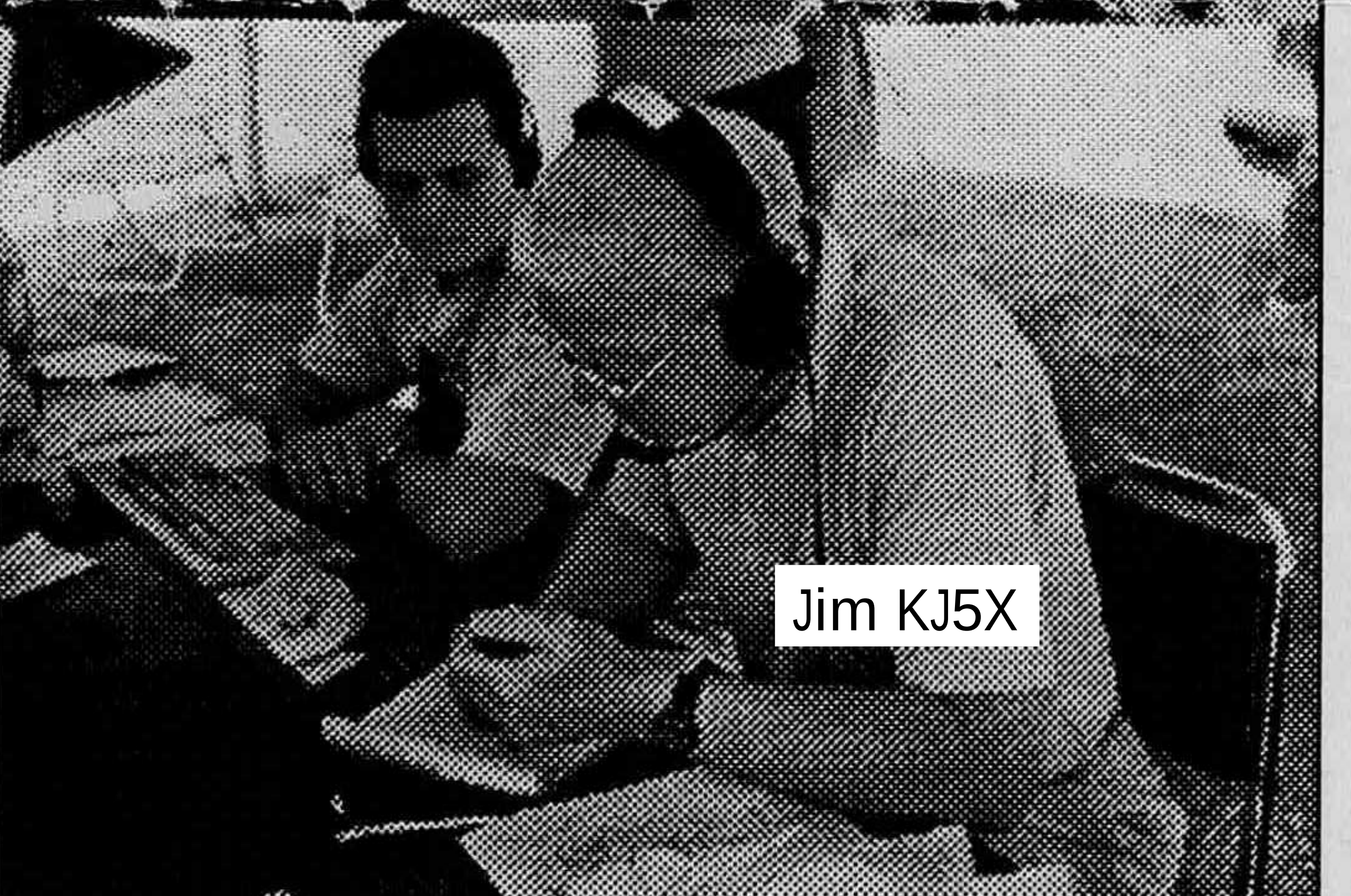


Rudy KB5ZXO

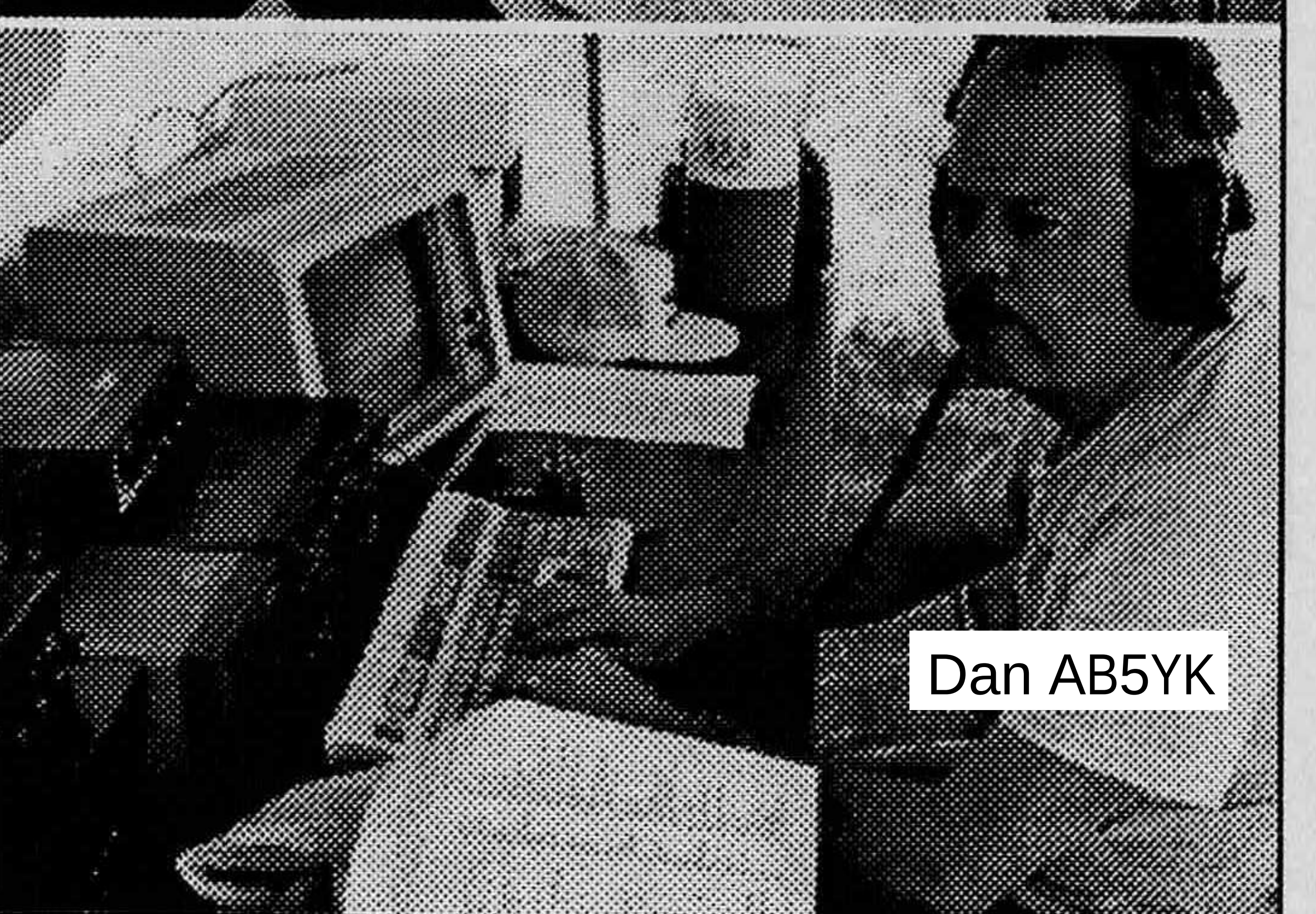
NARS President



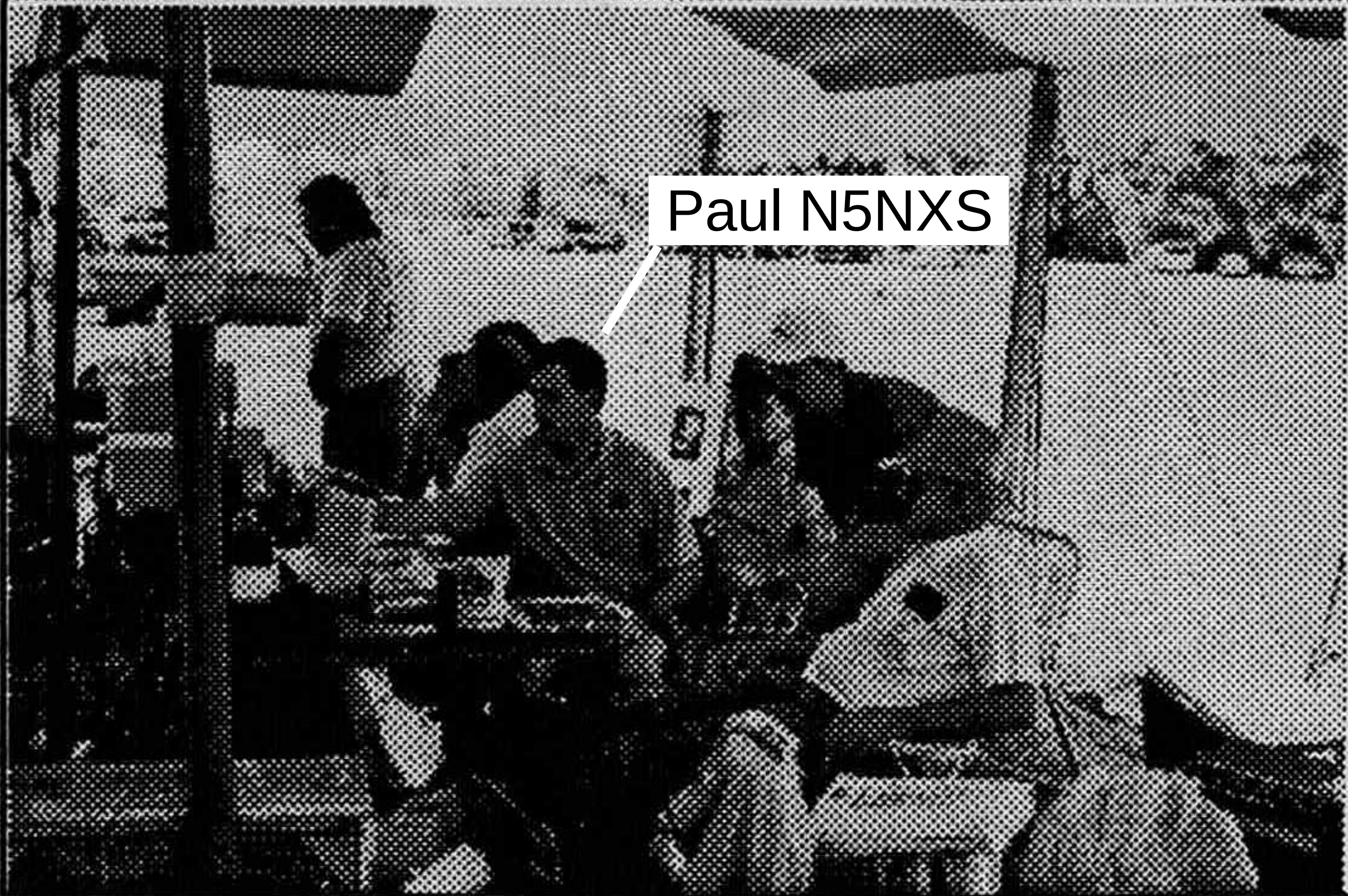
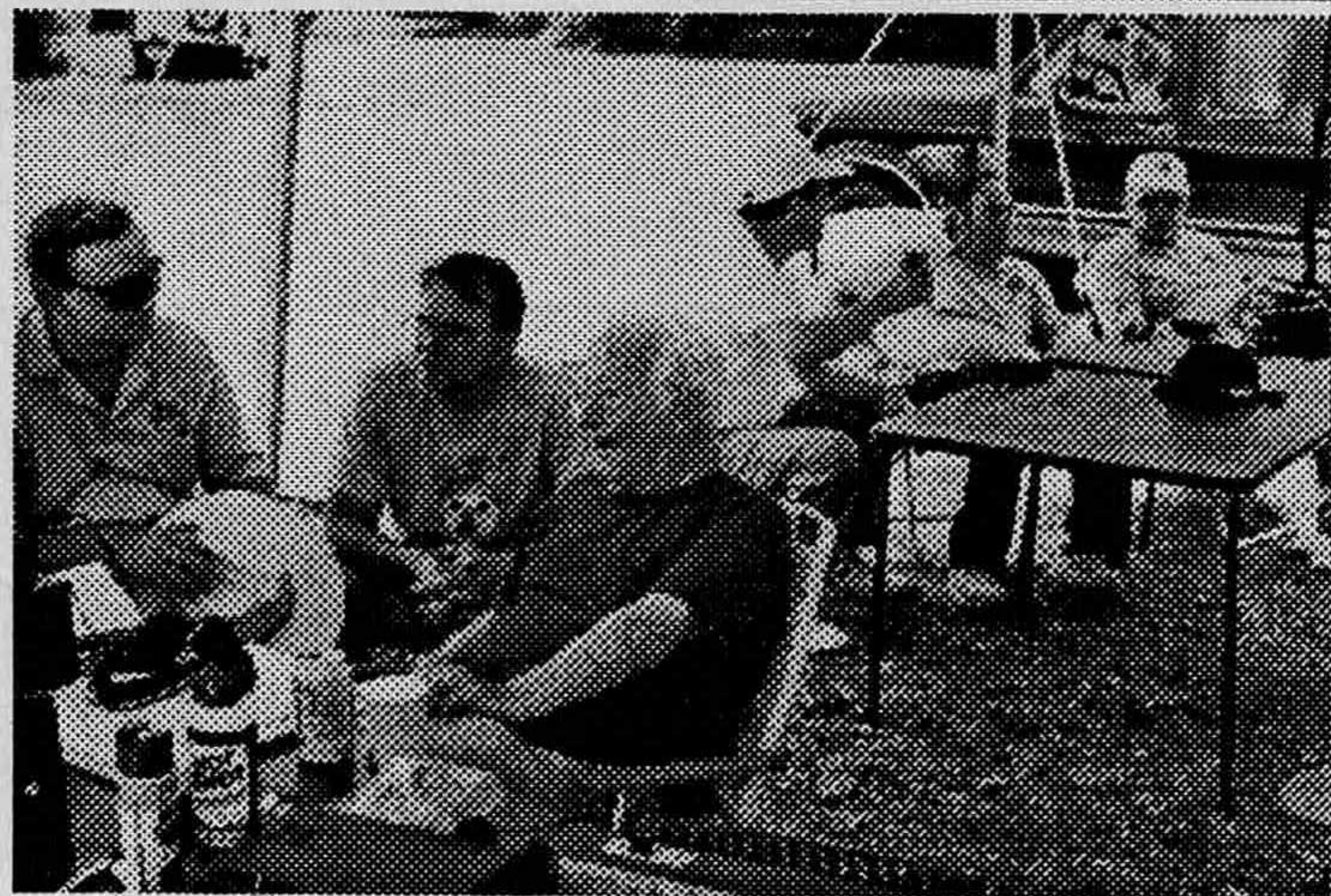
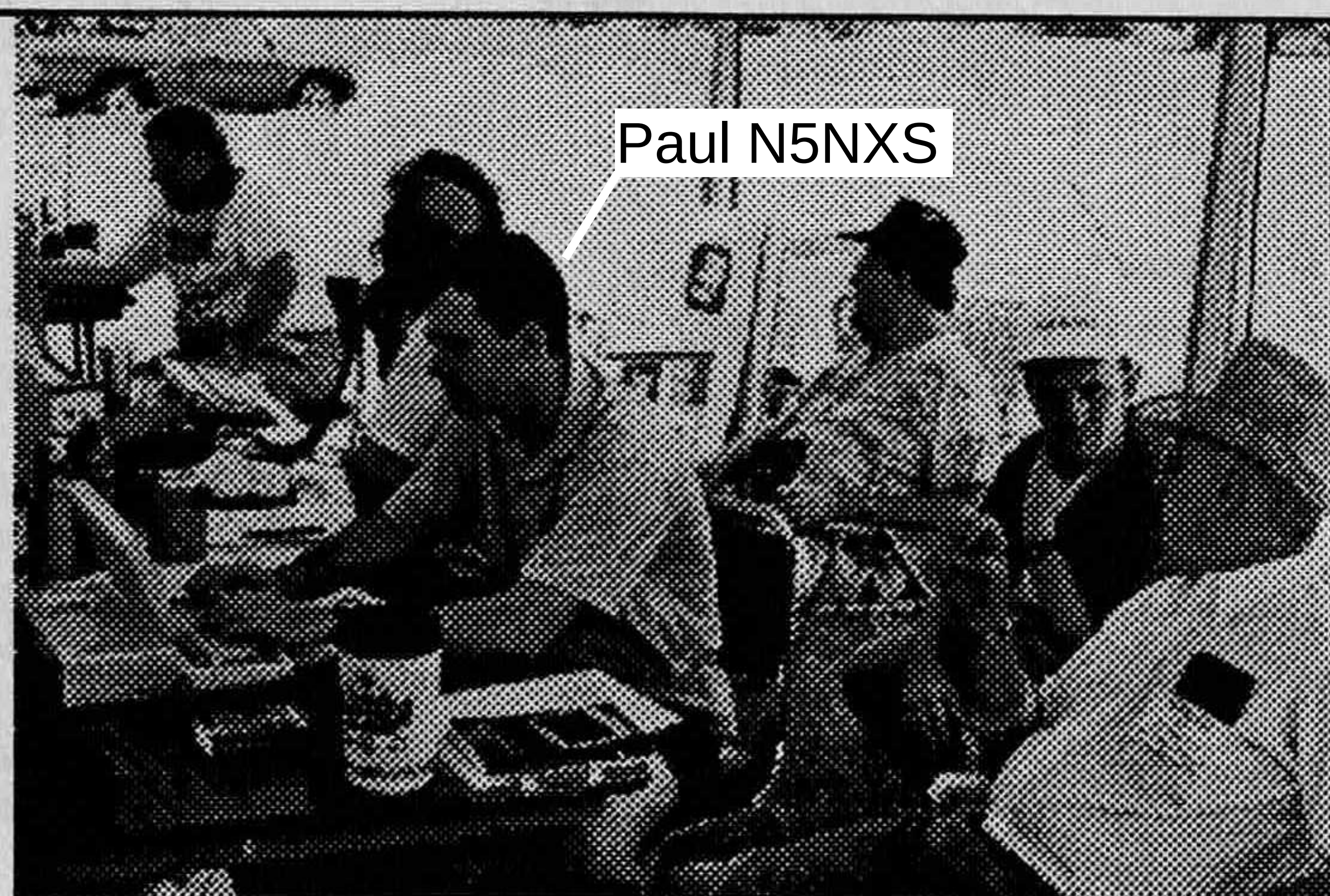
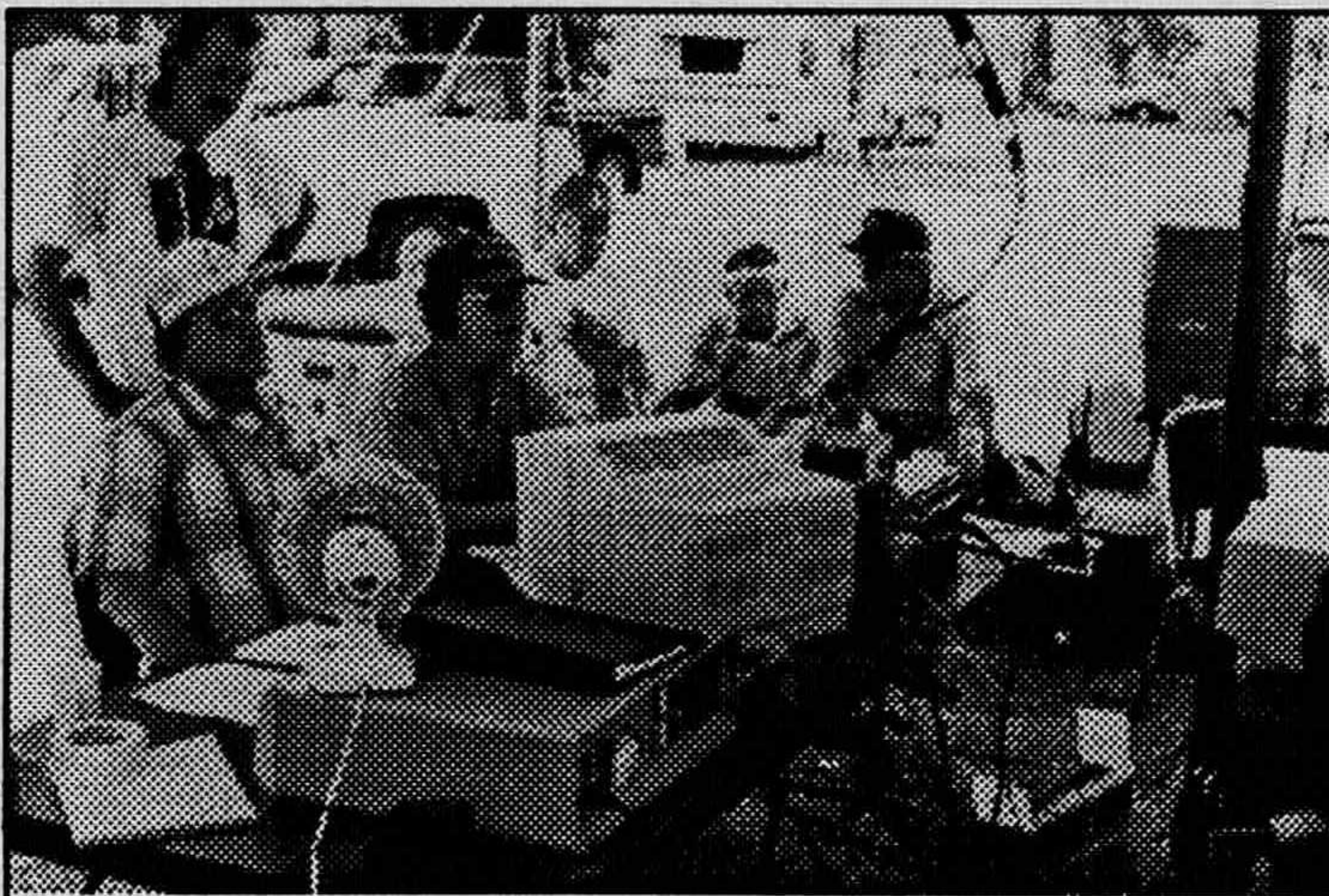
Larry WA5SAJ



Jim KJ5X



Dan AB5YK



Where are We At In The Sunspot Cycle?

by Harry Gage N5WIZ

How often have we all engaged in or listened to that debate on and off the air? To be sure we've gotten many different opinions!

I decided to write to the Space Environment Services Center in Boulder, Colorado - affiliated with WWV - to get their scientific predictions.

Printed below are the remarks from Mr. Norihl Cohen, Space Environment

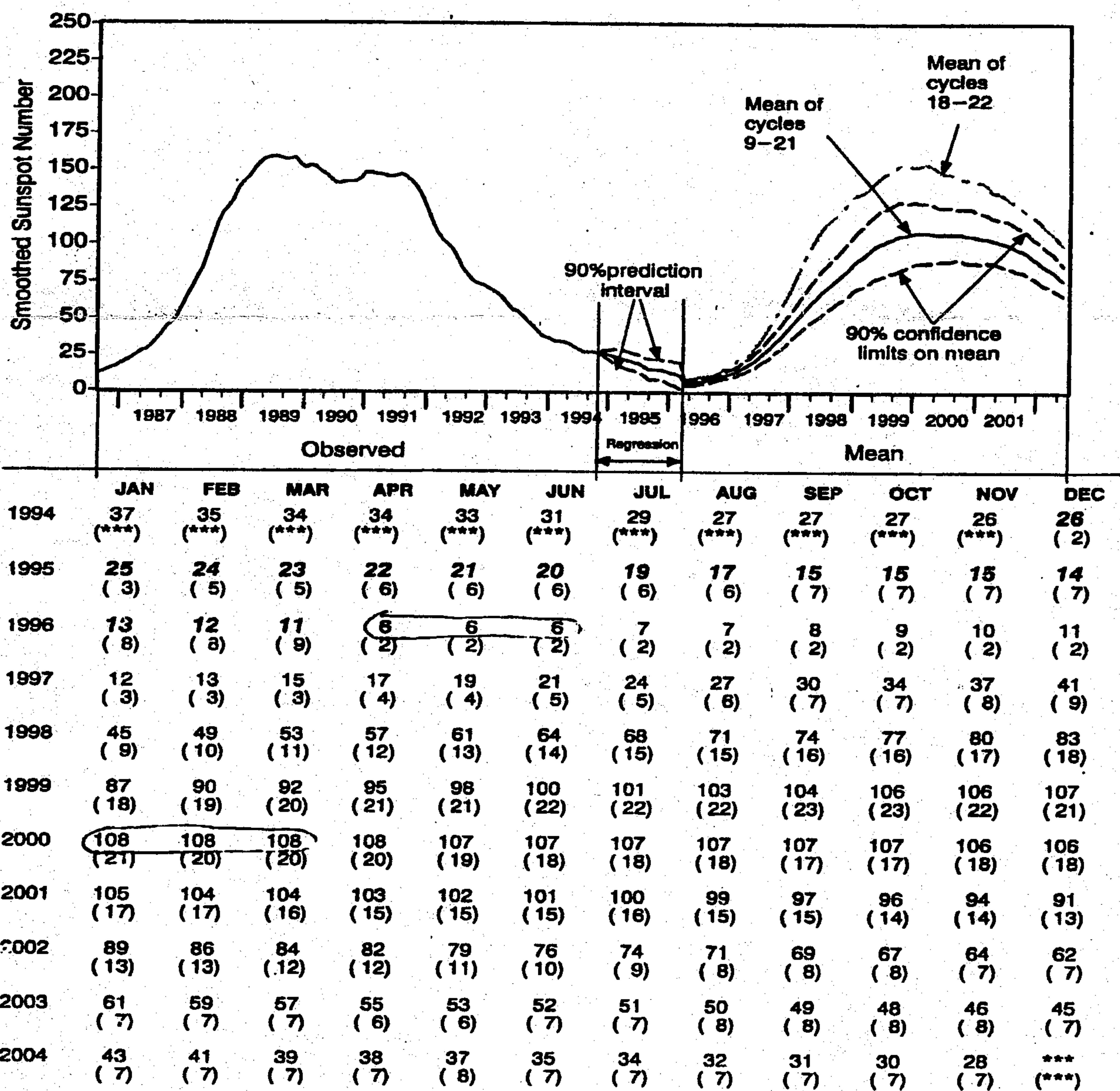
Specialist from the Center:

Our latest predictions place the next sunspot minimum somewhere during the 1st quarter of 1996 (see the graphs with circled min. and max. numbers). Incidentally, the upcoming minimum will be considered the start of solar cycle 23, which is expected to reach maximum sometime during the 1st quarter of 2000.

It is difficult to say when the ionosphere will begin to regain the "hardness" it loses while approaching solar minimum, but I will provide an educated guess: very late 1997 into 1998. It is during this time frame that you'll see relatively steep increases in both the sunspot number and 10.7 cm (2969 Mhz) radio flux.

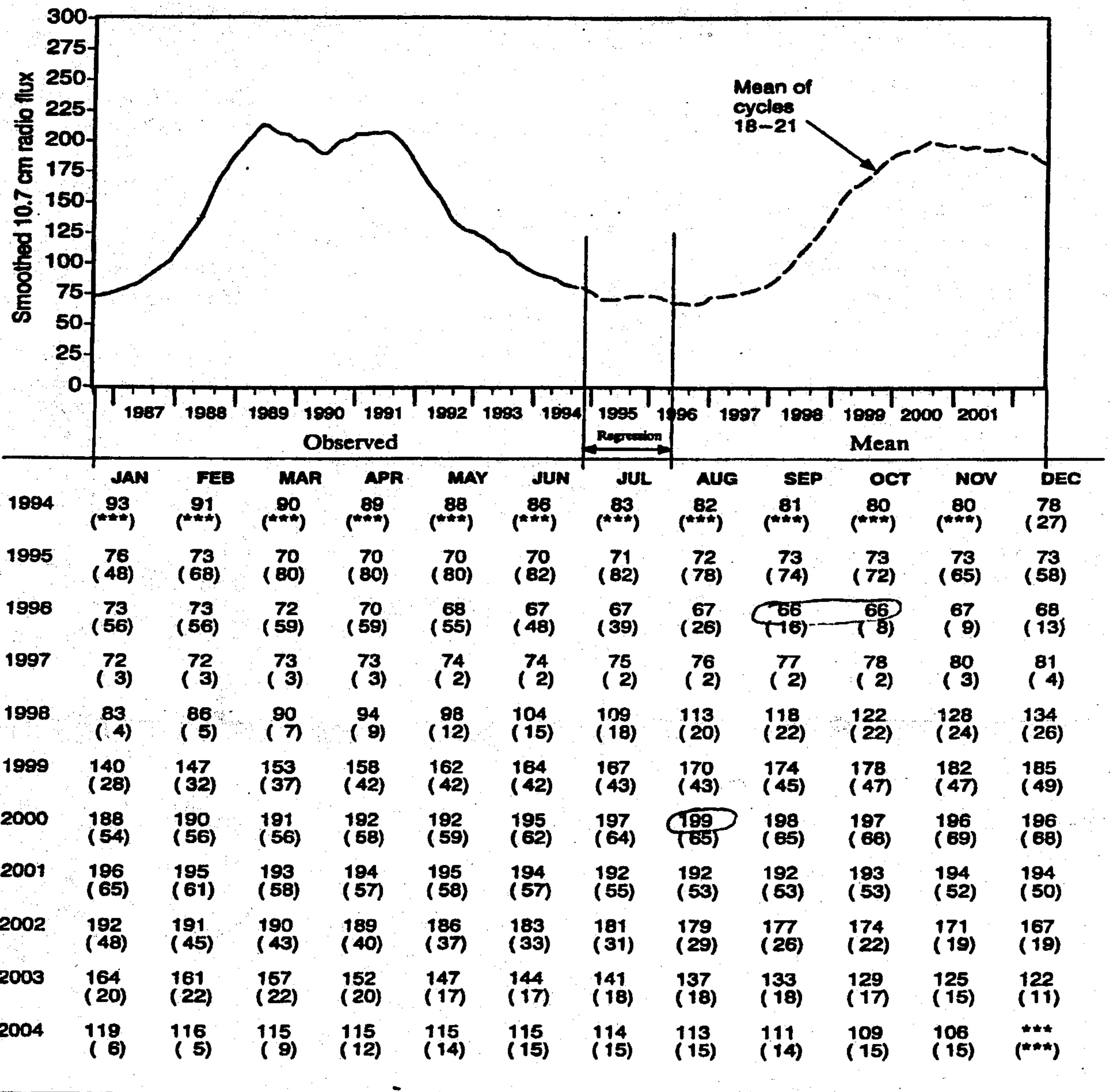
Anyone desiring further details can reach Mr. Cohen at (303) 497-7824 or e-mail ncohen@sel.noaa.gov.

SESC Prediction of Smoothed Sunspot Number Based on May 1995 observed data



Bold type is Regression model prediction

SESC Prediction of Smoothed 10.7 cm Radio Flux Based on May 1995 observed data



NARS NEWS is published monthly by
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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

Send all Articles and Materials for the
Newsletter to:

Keith Dutson, WD5DXL
24415 Deep Meadow
Tomball, TX 77375
(713) 351-7683 Home
(713) 351-2331 Modem
70570,405 Compuserve User ID

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 PM.
Eyeball QSO's: about 7:00 PM.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday
8 AM at Bleachers Grill, located at
2318 W FM 1960 (@ Kuykendahl).
Informal ragchew.

NARS
Keith Dutson, WD5DXL
24415 Deep Meadow
Tomball, TX 77375

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN
Rudy Novotriy, KB5ZXO 251-4546

VICE PRESIDENT
Bill Stientenroth, K5ZTY 376-0718

SECRETARY
Allen Majeski, WA5REJ 353-8652

TREASURER
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934

DIRECTORS
Madison Jones, AB5TV 350-4330
David Cole, WD5BZY 370-8711
Bill Denton, WA5DWX 469-8331
Mike Lavander, KB5WQJ 357-0614

NARS BOARD MEETS the first Friday of
each month at 7:00 PM 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 PM
28.444 MHz (Nelson, KK5IJ)

NARS CW PRACTICE FOLLOWS
RAGCHEW NET - 28.185MHz (AB5KK)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM
146.06 /.66 MHz (Ken, KA5AKG)

EMERGENCY NETS

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY ARES
WEDNESDAY 8:30 PM
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 - 145.71 MHz
Call (W5BKK) Alias (NARS)