



Home-Brew Night

The December meeting will feature home-brew equipment. We would like to see and hear about any such equipment produced by NARS members. If you are good at building kits or designing and constructing any sort of amateur radio gear, come to the meeting Friday night and share your experiences with others.

For those just getting started in home-brew activities, George Carlson KC5RCC offers the following references for electronics parts.

List of Surplus Parts Vendors by George Carlson KC5RCC

Radio Amateurs rely on surplus electronics, and, lucky for us, the government cutbacks over the last few years have created a buyer's market for used high quality test equipment and other surplus. This is a list of a few companies that sell electronic surplus. I have done business at one time or another with most that are on the list. The company name is followed by their phone number, state, and type of items they typically sell. T = Test Equipment, E = Electronic Parts, M = Miscellaneous Surplus, V = Tubes, B = Books and Manuals.

2001 Sales and Service (210) 822-7451, TX, T

R&S Surplus (818) 967-0846, CA; T

Alltronics (408) 943-9773, CA; E, M

C&H Sales Co. (800) 325-9465, CA; T, E, M

Asset Sales (206) 251-6653 WA; T

Brigar Electronics (607) 723-3111 NY; E, M

Javanco (615) 244-4444 TN; E, M

Western Test Systems (303) 438-9662, CO, T

Danbar Sales Co. (602) 483-6202, AZ; T

A-Comm Electronics (303) 290-8012, CO; T

Hamilton Instruments (619) 439-1345, CA; T

Jim Stevenson (908) 722-6157, NJ; T

Pepper Systems (214) 353-0257; TX, T

Art Klinger (817) 370-2575, TX; T

Nortex Electronic Co. (817) 731-6611; T, E, M, V, B

Phelps Instruments (909) 279-7347, CA; T

Fair Radio Sales (419) 223-2196, OH; T, E, M, V, B

Tucker Electronics (800) 527-4642, TX; T, B

Manuals Plus (206) 531-8031, WA; B

Ed Matsuda (619) 479-0225, CA; B

Most of these suppliers have a list of the equipment they have on hand. Fair Radio, Tucker, And C&H have nice catalogs. If you have any favorite places you'd like to add to the list, or have any questions please call me at home or work. George Carlson KC5RCC, Hm 376-8307, Wk 376-4606

Important Dates

Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 pm - NARS monthly General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's, 7:00 pm

Friday, Dec. 22, 7:30 pm - NARS Board of Directors Meeting, Valley Ranch BBQ, Spring Cypress & SH249



Monday, Dec. 25 - Christmas

Friday, Jan. 19, 7:30 pm - NARS Annual Banquet, Valley Ranch BBQ, Spring Cypress & SH249 - \$15 per person

There will not be a VE License Exam Session in December.

NOTICE:

NARS membership drive begins January 2, dues is \$25 per year.

BREAKFAST at Bleachers

2318 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

December 1995

Well the holiday season is once again in full swing. High school football is entering into its final weeks, and the NFL season is well on the way. In many ways the year is drawing to a close.

During the last twelve months I have had the opportunity to function as President of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. The year has offered many challenges and many rewards. I have been privileged to work with a knowledgeable and dedicated group.

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY has come through on many occasions, organizing the 1995 banquet, co-chairing field day, helping with the novice class, and occasionally hosting the general meeting for a traveling president. Allen Majeski WA5REJ has kept notes of the board meetings as secretary. Allen has never been elected; he just seems to volunteer when we need someone. Brad Nelson WD5GNI has managed our money for the year. We may not have as much now as we did a year ago, but we know where it all was spent.

In addition to the regular officers, I would like to thank Madison Jones AB5TV for his wisdom, guidance and assistance with the bylaws revision, not to mention his newsletter articles. Bill Denton WA5DWX has opened his shack to NARS members for contest, worked with the novice class, taken over the Monday and Wednesday night nets, managed the club's equipment, and organized the field day efforts. Mike Lavender KB5WQJ moved to Magnolia at the first of the year, but still stayed involved, primarily in assisting with Public Service events.

David Cole WD5BZY played a major role in keeping the membership information until work duties and opportunities interfered, and Ron Forrester KC5NB helped organize several of the meeting programs during the year. And the list goes on, Ken Harlan KA5AKG for his assistance and experience.

It has been a successful year for NARS, but it can't be done by just one or two persons; it takes everyone in the club working together to make it happen. I am proud to say, Thanks.

See you at the December meeting; don't forget the Banquet on January 19th, and happy holidays.

73's Rudy Novotny - KB5ZXO

NARS Banquet in January

The annual NARS banquet will be held at the Valley Ranch Barbecue Restaurant located at the intersection of FM 249 and Spring Cypress Rd., on Friday, January 19, 1996 starting at 7:30 p.m. This is our regular third Friday meeting night for January, so don't show up at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 'cause there won't be anyone there.

There will be entertainment, door prizes, and Valley Ranch's good barbecue. We will have BBQ beef and chicken with potato salad, beans, iced tea, coffee, soft drinks, and a choice of apple cobbler, pecan pie, or banana pudding for desert.

The cost for the evening will be \$15.00 per person. Please get your reservations in as soon as possible so we can make final preparations for the evening. You can make reservations by mail to NARS Banquet, PO Box 690342, Houston, TX 77269-0342 or at any meeting, breakfast, or lunch gathering where you see Brad WD5GNI or Bill K5ZTY. Please pay by check payable to NARS.

The banquet is always one of the best social events of the year. We install our new officers, honor the outgoing ones and recognize members that have been at the forefront of club happenings during the year. There is always a lot of laughs and members and guests all have a good time, so plan to be there and make your reservations now.

73's Bill K5ZTY



NARS Membership

by Rudy Novotny, President

There has been a lot of press in the trade magazines about the no code technician license and its possible detrimental effect on Amateur Radio. I know that I have some personal concerns and would be happy to stand on my soap box and express my opinions. But realistically, the no code technician license offered me a conduit for entering the hobby, that I may have not been able to achieve otherwise. I think the real key to the growth and progress of the hobby is with the opportunity to continue to upgrade in license class and achieve the associated additional privileges.

The following is a breakdown of the 184 current NARS members by license class. Extra - 33, Advanced - 38, General - 23, Technician Plus - 30, Technician - 38, Novice - 4 and Unlicensed - 18.

Based on this information, it appears that the NARS membership is working hard to obtain the most privileges possible. Thanks to our NARS VEs Mark Tyler K5GQ, Jim Kirk KJ5IP, Bill Gary K8CSG, Paul Owen N5NXS, and the many others who work the testing sessions, for their efforts and for their encouragement to all of us.



by Keith Dutson

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As the year draws to a close I am reflecting back on my experiences as newsletter publisher. It's been fun! I have enjoyed meeting many people and reporting their activities. I look forward to another great year.



You Prize What You Earn

I was first introduced to ham radio in 1973 by a coworker who convinced me that communicating with fellow amateurs around the world was the greatest hobby anyone could have. So I began studying code and radio theory until I earned my Novice license which at that time was good for only two years and not renewable. Using the theory that I had learned I built a 40 Meter crystal controlled transmitter, and with the use of a massive military surplus receiver, was on the air. I remember experiencing a little fear, a great deal of excitement, and a wonderful feeling of accomplishment as I made my first contacts using that home made transmitter and the strange language made up of dots and dashes.

In those days I was struggling to raise a family and felt I could not justify the time needed to work toward that elusive General ticket. I now realize however, that I failed to upgrade and let my Novice license expire, not due to my lack of time, but to my lack of commitment.

In the early spring of 1994, while going through some old radio gear I had boxed up 23 years ago, the fun and excitement of ham radio come flooding back. Once again, I was bit-ten by the amateur bug, but with a difference. This time I made the commitment of time and energy, and once again I was studying for the code and theory exams. While reacquainting myself with my old hobby, I found that a lot of changes had taken place in Amateur Radio since 1973, and more changes are on the way; some good and others not so good. That is the reason for this letter.

Today, I am an educator and I also hold an Advanced Class Amateur Radio

license. I see that some of the problems that we are experiencing in our educational system are very similar to some of the problems with which we are struggling within our Amateur Radio hobby. I would like to take this opportunity to draw some parallels between the educational system I work for and Amateur Radio in an attempt to compare and contrast the similarities.

I am presently on staff of a major university in California, and like the other universities in the system, its funding is based on the number of students it has enrolled and not necessarily on the quality of its programs. The university, in order to maintain the numbers needed to retain funding, are at times recruiting students who are not always qualified to attend, and in so doing the University is exchanging quality for quantity. This number-generated funding practice often results in the necessity to reduce the academic rigor of course work to insure student retention which ultimately results in the devaluation of a college degree.

We are also playing the numbers game in Amateur Radio. Decisions have been made, with regard to ways of attracting new people into ham radio but in so doing have we reduced the rigor of becoming a ham to the point that we have reduced the value of the license? I understand and support the need for an entry level licensing structure to attract new blood into our hobby but let us not undermine the inherent quality of our higher class licenses that Amateur Radio was built upon.

I recently read an editorial in a national ham radio publication in which the

editor was advocating the elimination of the code requirement for any class license. Morse code is still a very effective communication mode. With minimal power consumption and simple equipment it can be used very effectively for emergency communication. However, that is only part of its real value. Morse code is the gate keeper requirement that safeguards the remaining quality of the upper class Amateur licenses. When you try to give people something for nothing they have a tendency to place the same value on it that they gave for it. This holds true for almost anything including college degrees as well as amateur licenses.

In higher education there are general education courses that are required before earning a degree. There are requirements in foreign language, U.S. history, world history, music etc., that may have nothing to do with the students major interest. The idea being that to have a rounded and complete (quality) education you need to know a little about your country, your world, other languages and so on.

I feel that Morse code should serve as a general education requirement for our licensing structure. It is a language and it has historical implications with regard to radio's beginnings. Let it serve as a gate keeper to insure that those who enter are serious enough to put forth the effort it takes to maintain the quality and professionalism of our amateur organization.

Ray Watkins, K06TW Orland, CA
Reprinted from World Radio, October 1995.

Submitted by Harry Gage N5WIZ

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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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 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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bill Denton, WA5DWX 469-8331
Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ 259-7257
OJ Quarles, WA1YIA 955-1555

NARS BOARD MEETS the fourth Friday of
each month at 7:30 PM at the Valley Ranch
BBQ. All members are invited to attend.

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL
KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK 376-7660 or
send E-Mail to nars@houston.net

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 PM
28.444 MHz (Nelson, KK5IJ)

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

EMERGENCY NETS

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY ARES
WEDNESDAY following NARS Info Net
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)



NARS
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Houston, TX 77269-0342