

It's Field Day Time Again

Now that the cool of the evenings have gone, the days have turned hot and sultry. June is in full swing, and that means, in the world of ham radio, the largest yearly event of our hobby: the annual ARRL Field Day. Radio clubs all over the US and Canada go out in fields, woods, parking lots, vacant lots or where ever they can find room to set up a few antennas and play radio all weekend.

While Marian and I were on vacation last summer traveling through Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arkansas, we heard all about how the clubs around those areas were preparing for Field Day. We heard one club in Kentucky planning what seemed to be a church social and picnic. "And oh! by the way, don't forget to bring a radio" was part of the planning. A club in Little Rock was having their FD on the top floor of a parking garage. Well, of course we NARISIANs have a little more foresight in our field day planning. We searched the countryside until we came up with the perfect location: a cemetery.

Fritsche Cemetery Park is nestled among the tall Texas pine trees that will serve as support for our big wire arrays. In the adjacent hay fields, our aluminum trees will stand tall topped with tri-band Yagis. Our 20X30 ft operations tent stands in the shade of those aluminum trees. Under the big top, the latest in ham radio technology will be put to the test. The CW station will be sporting a brand new super rig. The new Icom 775DSP. This new radio is touted to be the new king of the air waves. The phone station will be showcasing with a well-proven super rig: the Yaesu FT1000D. The six meter crew will be flexing their muscles with Bill Reister's (KC5EZQ) new Kenwood TS-60. The novice and technician station will be using one the most popular and dependable radios ever built and a NARS Field Day veteran, the Kenwood TS-440. I would like to thank Keith Dutson WD5DXL for the IC775DSP. This is a brand new rig still in the box. Also, thanks to David Cole WD5BZY for his FT1000, and Paul Owens for his TS-440.

Continued page 2 - Field Day

NARS CALENDAR

Jun 23 - NARS monthly General Membership meeting @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00 pm.

Jun 24-25 - Field Day '95 at Fritche Cemetery Park with setup beginning on Friday at noon. BBQ dinner Saturday evening.

Jul 7 - NARS Directors meeting @ 7:00 pm @ Lakewood Forest Fund office, 12415 Louetta Rd.

Jul 21 - NARS monthly General Membership meeting @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00 pm.

Aug 4 - NARS Directors meeting @ 7:00 pm @ Lakewood Forest Fund office, 12415 Louetta Rd.

Aug 20 - NARS Picnic @ 10th Anniversary Celebration at Burroughs Park from 10 am till 6 pm. BBQ and fun.

Note: There will be NO NARS license exams given during June and July.

**BREAKFAST
at Bleachers**
2318 W FM 1960
Saturdays
8:00 AM

Pouring Concrete

from page 1

smooth it out with a flat piece of wood, so you can put your initials or something else which will embarrass you later on the surface as it dries. (I have heard that it is a sign of concrete professionalism to slightly slope the top of the base so water will run off. If mine is sloped, however, it is pure chance.)

Once we finished the pour, we flushed out the trailer with a hose. Unfortunately, the choice of what to do with any excess concrete, and certainly the flushings of your trailer, should be made in advance. Harris County had the good sense, in my situation, to provide some vacant land not far from my house. We dumped the excess watered down aggregate in a vacant lot (being careful to cover the license plate of the pickup with a cloth to avoid identification), and roared off in a cloud of blue smoke. I am sure I can find somewhere among my papers the specific authorization in which the Commissioners permitted me to unload the flushings at that spot.

Well, that's it. Fear of the unknown made the project seem much more difficult than it turned out to be. From the time we picked up the concrete until we were finished with the pour and cleaned up the concrete trailer, we had spent less than 2 hours. If you want advice, ZTY and I have loads of it, and perhaps some of it will be useful to you in your project. If you need us, you can spot us by the rubber boots which we wear to Bleachers on Saturday mornings these days.

Radio Course to be Offered

by Sid George, AB5XU

A four week class in preparation for examination for Amateur no-code Technician license will be offered on Saturdays June 17 & 24 and July 1 & 8. It will be held at the HAL-PC facility at 1200 Post Oak #106 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The cost will be \$39.00 including a text by Gordon West and the exam. For further information, please contact me at 537-0920.

NARS May 1995 Board Meeting

BY Alan Majeski, WA5REJ

PRESENT: KB5ZXO, K5ZTY, WA5REJ, WD5GNI, AB5TV, WD5BZY, WA5DWX, KA5AKG, and KC5NB. Treasurer reported \$3213.43 in account. Discussed programs: May - Nuts & bolts of mobile installations; June - Field Day; July open; August - APRS. Next week is last novice class we will have a VE session there. Discussed Field Day plans and objectives. NARS has applied for club amateur license. New By-Laws to be presented to membership for review and approval. Picnic is to be planned on August 20th, club's 10th anniversary at Burroughs park with a special event station. Board meetings are changed to 7:30 PM.

NARS License Class adds to Ham Ranks

by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG

On Thursday, May 11, the NARS License Class, which began February 16th, took examinations for Novice and Technician licenses. There are 9 new licensees and 4 people with partial CSCE's as a result. Five of the students had passed examinations earlier and already received licenses. They were Larry Lockhart, KC5NVY, Doug Hudspeth, KC5NRR, Lori Havard, KC5OFF, Doug Struckmeyer, KC5NDE, and Tina Struckmeyer, KC5NRS. In addition Eduardo Gracia, David Henderson, and Reggie Havard earned their Technician Plus licenses and Matthew Henderson earned the Novice license Thursday.

In addition there were four others who successfully completed some elements of these exams, Shirley Kimberling, Dolly Kyle, Holly Jensen, and Edwina Russell. We congratulate each of these on their success and look forward to meeting them on the air.

I want to thank the dedicated group of NARS instructors who committed to making this class a success; Joe Solowski, KD5KR; Jimmy Kirk, KJ5IP; Bill Stietenroth, K5ZTY, Bill Denton, WA5DWX; Herb Phillips, N5RX; and most of all the leader of the Di Da band, Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO. We also greatly appreciate the work of our VE Examiners Mark Tyler, K5GQ; Jim Kirk; KJ5IP; Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ; Larry McCain, WA5SAJ; Madison Jones, AB5TV; King Waters, KB5ZKJ, and Bil Gary K8CSG.

Presidents Corner

May 1995

Well, they say, all's well that ends well. That's the story on last month's general meeting. Our scheduled speaker didn't make it and we had to do a quick bit of soft shoe, but thanks to Walter Holmes (WD5GAZ) and others, we had a good meeting. I have heard a few members comment, that they really enjoyed having some time just to visit, and chat.

May's activities have slowed some from April. A bit of a break for some. The last meeting of the NARS sponsored Novice Class consisted of the VE session on May 11. Welcome to all those new Hams; I look forward to a QSO with each one of you.

Members, especially Bill Denton (WA5DWX) and Bill Stietenroth (K5ZTY) are busy getting ready for Field Day. They are still looking for "many good Hams." If you are interested in assisting or participating in field day, give one of these officers a call or contact them on the air; I'm sure they would appreciate your help.

We have started making plans to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of NARS with a picnic in August. We will release more details as they are developed. We plan to include an auction of Ham radio gear as part of the activities, so clean out those shacks.

One of the advantages (may be the only one) of being club president, is being published in the newsletter. So here goes.

"In My Opinion"

Repeaters were authorized by the FCC for the purpose of extending the range of portable and mobile radios. It is really nice and enjoyable to be able to communicate with other HAMS all over a large metropolitan area like Houston. BUT!

I was recently discussing Ham Radio with some work associates when one of them referred to it as "UHF CB". I assured him that the Amateur Radio community was in no way an extension of the total chaos of 11 meters. I will have to admit that some of the QSO's now heard on 2 meters have some similar characteristics of that "good buddy" frequency.

During drive times, usually the busier repeater usage windows, some HAMS, located at fixed locations have engaged in long extemporaneous "Rag Chews". I recently had the opportunity to hear an individual's adventures in locating a specific item of interest, including the store by store detailed account. This particular QSO lasted in excess of an hour, without interruption. Both stations could be heard on direct, so they probably could have conducted their QSO on simplex.

When you get ready to leave the job and head home, call the CEO on the phone for those grocery and take home orders. Don't wait until you get in the car and make contact on the repeater, then extend the discussion to include the laundry list, car pool instructions for the kids, and the doctors appointments.

I will not be able to attend the next monthly meeting, since I will be on a trip out of the country. I look forward to some interesting QSO's.

73's Rudy, KB5ZXO

It's almost Field Day Time

by Bill Denton, WA5DWX

As we prepare for field day the last weekend in June here are some reminders of what Field day is all about. The ARRL describes field day as a competitive event where Amateur Radio operators set up radio equipment in the field to compete for a score. An event to test the readiness of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. A chance to meet new friends and to test the limits of your favorite hobby.

Many of you have volunteered your time and equipment and in the weeks to follow all the plans will be coming together. We will be needing as many people as possible for this event. For the most part we will not be calling people to volunteer. It's up to you to let us know when and what area you would like to help. We passed around a sign up sheet at the last club meeting and will do the same at the next one. There are other groups around doing field day. The official NARS Field Day activities will take place at Fritsche County Park on Fritsche Cemetery Rd.. near the intersection of Grant and Telge. It's about 5 miles SW of Tomball. Mark your calendar and plan to be on site with us for the fun and festivities.

Yahoo's Ham-Com Din-Din!

by KB5YVT

Ham-Com Time! Don't miss out on all the fun, buying, and furor that goes with it. The second annual Yahoo Dinner will be held at J Pepe's at 5 pm Saturday night, June 10. Maybe Jim Kirk will show up and buy for everyone again!

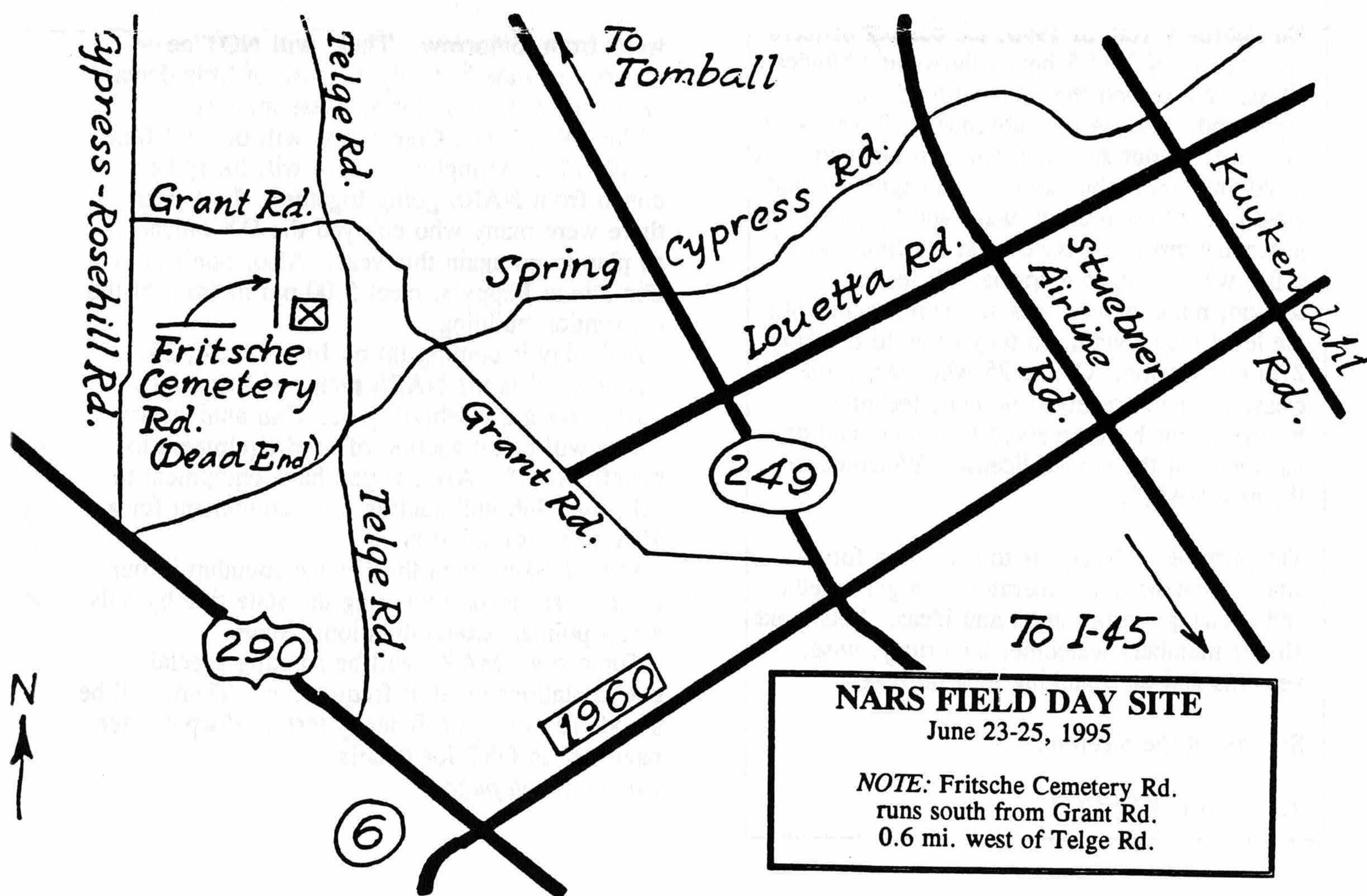
J Pepe's is at the corner of Hwy 360 and Six Flags Blvd next to the La Quinta (where the Yahoo's are staying). If you are sure you want to join us please let me know ASAP so I can reserve a table large enough for all. Hope to see ya there!

73 de Slippy

Sleep and Eat Under the Stars

Frische Park is a great place to camp. If you have an RV, camp trailer, tent or if you just want to sleep out under the stars, this is the place. Be aware that this is a primitive area: no hook-ups, showers or cable TV. This park is not your typical park. Actually, it's about a 100 acre farm with little civilization in sight. Make your plans to camp and enjoy the great outdoors, and a little radio.

On Saturday evening we will serve BBQ with all the trimmings. Charles KC5HZP and Maurice KC5FZX will be the chief BBQ chefs at the site. We should start serving about 6:00 PM. Come on out and join us. Bring the family. There will be a fee of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for the kids to cover costs. Bring your lawn chairs and soft drinks. We will furnish ice tea and coffee. (County parks do not allow alcohol.)



NARS Meeting Notes . . .

Continued from page 4

Sid George, AB5XU: An amateur radio course will be given over four Saturdays beginning June 17. The four classes will be held at the HAL-PC location. A no-code technician test will be given during the last class. Handouts are available tonight on the table by the door.

Bill Denton, WA5DWX, spoke on Field Day: We will start the setup this year on June 23 at noon. Tear-down will begin after completion of Field Day at noon on Sunday. The sign-up list will be passed around again for anybody who missed the opportunity at last month's meeting. There will be a novice station this year. Remember that Field Day is more than just another contest; it is preparation for emergency communications that may be necessary after a disaster or disruption of normal communications. We have a video of last year's Field Day activities to show tonight. Channel 11 covered the event during the 5 o'clock news. To prepare for this year, read the ARRL definition of Field Day. There will be a map in next month's NARS NEWS. The Bar-B-Que will be cooked/ coordinated by Charles Singleton, KC5HZP. He will likely need some help, so contact Charles if you are interested.

The speaker tonight is George DiLetto, KD0RW, owner of Houston Amateur Radio Supply. He will talk about mobile installations.

George DiLetto, KD0RW: The biggest problem in mobile installations is bad connections. Grounding is very important and is often made difficult because of special rustproof paints used on today's autos. Battery acid also causes poor grounding conditions at the battery itself.

Many newer radios have fuses on BOTH power leads. This is necessary when there is a bad ground on the battery. When the car is started, current will go through the radio ground lead to the PC board of the radio! Baking soda and water are a good defense against battery acid leakage.

Pet peeves:

1. When looking for a mobile antenna, most people read ads in magazines, and buy based on information given in the ad. These ads are sometimes misleading. One ad gives a 5.8 db gain for a long Japanese antenna with two in-line coils, while most others give a 3 db gain for the same type of antenna. How can this one antenna get greater gain? The answer is that the Japanese rate their antennas over an isotropic source while others are rated over a half-wave dipole.
2. Fifty is a magic number; everyone wants to see 50 ohms. Today's radios need 50 ohms to operate

efficiently, as opposed to older radios where impedance is not a limiting factor for power output. Newer "plastic" cars contain a lot of non-metallic parts, which changes the impedance of installed antennas to other than 50 ohms. Coils and capacitors are used to alter the impedance to 50 ohms, but do not improve gain. If you are experiencing poor performance, try replacing the old coax cable first; you may improve gain easier than installing a new antenna.

3. There is too much emphasis on SWR readings. Depending on where you measure it, SWR can show vastly different readings. The problem is associated with the use of coax cable to feed the antenna. Instead of looking at SWR, note the attenuation of coax cable; coax can attenuate 100 watts to 4 or 5 watts when using 100 feet of RG8 on 2 meters. Compare this to NO LOSS when using twin lead.

4. Mounting 'half' an antenna is what you get with a poor ground for vertical antennas. A lossy ground equals a lossy antenna. Commercial antennas are usually required to have 120 radials of 1/4 wavelength each.

5. Mobile installations are subject to a variety of RF loss. Trees are a major source of RF attenuation. A typical loss in heavily wooded areas is 12 db. The performance of rubber duck antennas and HTs was the object of a study back in the 50's. Here are some of the findings: Obviously, the higher you are in a building, the better you will operate; a pure concrete wall attenuates 6 to 8 db, suspended metal walls attenuates 24 db, right angle is less, the human body attenuates 10db, on the hip attenuates 40 db, rooftop mount is 0 db loss, all worse at uhf.

Questions:

1. How does a rubber duck work without a ground plane? Answer: it doesn't, but it is virtually a dummy load that radiates.
2. What is experience with 'through the glass' antenna mounts? Answer: they work, but there is loss in the glass, and leaded glass doesn't work at all.
3. What is the best way to tune an antenna before elevating it on a tower? Is there a way to do this with any reliability? Answer: stand antenna straight up with reflector on ground, then tune. It will probably be same up on the tower.
4. Clarify 'plastic' cars? Answer: newer cars and vans have a lot of plastic instead of metal.
5. What is the big book that you refer to for information? Answer: the 'bible' is the Communications Service Manual from GE that was published back in the 50's, given to me by an old friend that has since passed away.

Bill, adjourned the meeting at 8:57

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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

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Bill Denton, WA5DWX 469-8331
Mike Lavander, KB5WQJ 357-0614

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

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 - 145.71 MHz
Call (W5BKK) Alias (NARS)

NARS

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