NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society | Houston, Texas | March 1995

Power Line Interference Subject of March Club Meeting

by Harry Gage, N5WIZ

Mr. Arthur Johnson and Mr. Ed Ramsey wil speak at our general meeting March 17th on power line and home RFI problems. They will also have a video presentation on how they deal with these problems.

Mr Johnson has been with HL&P 22 years and is a graduate of Houston Community College and San Jacinto Jr. College. He has also trained with GE and Motorola. Mr Ramsey has been with HL&P 15 years, 10 of them in radio and television interference. He will speak on power line interference problems.

It should be a very informative evening so come learn something about how interference problems are solved by the pros, HL&P. See ya there.

Pouring Concrete for Fun and Profit - Part 2.5

by Madison Jones, AB5TV

(Ed. note: Continued from February 1995 NARS News)

While they say that any vehicle will haul a concrete trailer, that is like saying any car can go top speed if the highway is straight. Certainly, one will feel more comfortable using a Sturdy Pickup Truck to drag it around. Just as I was lamenting my lack of a suitable vehicle, Bill, K5ZTY (known as the Konkrete Kid in younger days), volunteered the use of his Sturdy Pickup Truck for the task. Now that he has aged, and disclaims the Konkrete Kid label, there may be others out there fighting for the chance to give you a hand. All you need do is line up such a volunteer in advance. Make sure you have some strong hold on that person for the moment of truth. Threats to disclose positive proof that your intended helper is a lid, or has violated FCC rules at specific times and places, is insufficient to guarantee his or her presence when you need it. Talk is cheap.

The hole itself is dug with a shovel. While this may seem elementary to everyone, I detect that there are a certain few who believe that this task may be done with a backhoe through paid labor, or that they can get their spouse or kids to dig it some way. I have heard of this being done, but do not recommend a backhoe, since that type of hole would require the extensive use o f forms. If you are clever about the dig, and cover the hole when you stop digging to prevent water from entering it, or falling into it when you are in the vicinity in the dark of night, your burden will be

Continued page 2 - Concrete

NARS Calendar
--- plan now !

~~Mar 16~~ - NARS ~~License~~ Class @ ~~Prince~~ of Pease Catholic Community, 19222 Hwy 249, 7:00 PM.

Apr. 21 ~~Mar 17~~ - **NARS monthly General Membership meeting** @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00 PM.

Apr. 15 ~~Mar 18~~ - **Tailgate Sale** @ Houston Amateur Radio Supply, 181 Cypresswood Dr. (at I-45), 8:00 AM.

Mar 23 - NARS ~~License~~ Exan Class @ Prince of Pease Catholic Community, 7:00 PM.

Apr. 22 ~~Mar 25~~ - License ~~Exams~~ by NARS ~~8:30~~ AM - Call Rudy, ~~KB~~5ZXO @ 251-4546 for location.

Mar 30 - NARS ~~License~~ Class @ Prince of Peace Catholic Community - 7:00PM.

May 5? ~~Apr 7~~ - **NARS Directors meeting** @ 7:00 PM, Lakewood Forest Fund Office, 12415 Louetta Rd.

Breakfast at Bleachers
2318 W. FM 1960
Saturdays
8:00 AM

Pouring Concrete

from page 1

lessened. I covered mine with VisQueen, but the weight of the water from the next rain pulled the plastic right into the hole. I had to bail mine out several different times until I finally figured out how to do the job right, nailing the plastic t o the garage wall under a piece of wood to distribute the weight evenly, and placing heavy weights on the edges to keep the shape even with the water on it. Water weighs about 40 lbs. per cubic foot, and you may well have that much or more sitting on your plastic during the average storm. Around here you need to put about 6" of gravel in the bottom of the hole for water drainage before pouring, so make sure your hole is the proper size. The consensus seems to be that for 40 feet of Rohn 25, a hole 3x3x3 (plus 6" for gravel) is adequate. If you are unguyed, or using Rohn 45 or larger, the hole ought to be about 6' deep, and 4' square.

One of the items which requires preplanning is where to dispose of the stuff which used to be in the hole before it is dug. Since each situation is different, I leave that to your own solution. Most people will agree, however, that secretly raising your XYL's flower bed by approximately 5 feet is not a clever way to solve the problem. They are sure to notice when they go out to look at the azaleas next spring.

There are two general methods of mounting a tower in the hole. If the tower rests on a plate, naturally only the plate needs to be set. Due to the plate's small size, however, it is preferable to attach a base section to the plate, and secure the section to something to stabilize the plate, rather than push the plate into wet concrete and attempt to level it after the pour. The other method is to use a short section of tower, and pour concrete around it. One suggestion made to me which had merit, but which I did not use, is to obtain a section of the next larger size of tower (Rohn 45 in my case, about 50% larger than Rohn 25) and bury a section of it for the next tower, using the same base. The only problem is that anyone with a spare section of Rohn 45 is hanging on to it like it was the Hope diamond. I can understand this, since I priced a section of new Rohn 45 at ElectroTex at a mere $225. If you have so much money you would even consider doing this, please call me, since you need me as your lawyer to guide you through the minefields in the deals you are doubtless getting into. My number is in the book. [As you can tell, I am getting closer to a description of the Great Event at which concrete was actually poured. Keep tuned to the News for the next exciting installment.]

Contest Activity News
by Bill Denton WA5DWX

This months QST and National Contest Journal announced the results of the August North American QSO Party contest. We are happy to see that contest crew operating as KJ5IP placed 3rd nationally in the multi-operator single-transmitter category with 738 QSO's and 132 multipliers for 97,020 points. The contest originated from the shack of WA5DWX (Bill) and KB5SGV (Marian). Many NARS members participated. Congratulations to all.

From the same shack was the site of 160meter SSB contest. With several operators braving the static and QRM, results were not so great in this one. We tried out some new receive-only antennas called "EWE" as described in a recent QST. They seemed to work well. Transmit antennas consisted of 160m 250' dipole at about 70 ft and a full wave delta loop. The delta loop has about 600' of wire in it and about 80' high at center. Both antennas are fed with balanced feed line and worked well. 20 to 40 over reports were not uncommon across the country. Results were somewhat disappointing with 345 contacts. We had 55 out of 61 multis in about 13 hours of operation. A good time was had by all but a little deaf caused by static crashes. I guess by now everyone knows that the NARS contesters finished 17th overall in the 1994 CQ World Wide WPX. Field Day is our next quest.

1995 VE Test Sessions

by Rudy Novotny KB5ZXO

The 1995 VE Sessions are doing well. The next testing date is March 25 th. The monthly testing sessions are held at the Tomball Civic Center's alternate location. While the Civic Center is being remodeled, the centers activities are being held at the old HLP facility east of the intersection of Hicks Street and FM 249. (It has a large FOR SALE sign in the front, and a good looking antenna pole in the back) This is the first intersection with a signal light north of FM 2920 on FM 249.

Remember to bring all the necessary documentation to the testing session. Unlicensed candidates need two forms of identification, at least one with a picture. Licensed candidates seeking to upgrade, need their current license, plus at least one copy, plus any CSCE's with copys. The cost of testing is currently $5.90 and should be paid by check made payable to the ARRL-VEC.

The test session begins at 8:30 AM. Once all applicants are tested, the session is terminated, so it is important to be there early. I wish everyone success in thier testing and hope to see you there. If you have any questions or need additional information, give me a call at (713) 251-4546.

From the President
by Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO

1995 is well on its way. They say time flies when your having fun. NARS has several activities in the works; the Novice Class, the March of Dimes Walk-a-thon, and of course the weekly nets.

The Novice class is really going well, we currently have 25 students participating, plus a few who are auditing just for the code portion. My thanks goes to Ken Harlen (KA5AKG) for coordinating the class, Jim Kirk (KJ5IP), and Joe Sokolowski (KD5KR) for assisting with the instruction. The students are doing well and seem eager for more.

Mike Lavender (KB5WQJ) and Ron Forrester (KC5NB) are coordinating the NARS support for the April 2, March of Dimes Walk-a-thon at Cullen Barker Park. Thanks to them and the other who have volunteered to help. Its not to late for you to join in. Give Mike or Ron a call.

The Wednesday Night 2 meter net is doing well, with plenty of activity. It is not unusual to have 30 - 40 Hams check in. Jim Sutherland (N5SBP) always has some interesting bulletins to share, and every once in a while, we do have someone with something to sell or trade. You never know what bargain you might fine. The participation in the Monday night 10 meter nets is some what lacking. We usually have 10 or 12 check in for the SSB phone net, but usually only two or three for the CW net. We would like to increase the activity on these two nets, let me know if you have any suggestions.

During the next few months we are trying to line up some very interesting programs for our general monthly meeting. Harry Guage (N5WIZ) has arranged for speakers from HL&P for the March meeting, and Madison Jones (AB5TV) has secured a program on QRP for April. Thanks to their help and assistance. If any of the members has a suggestion or candidate for a program, please let me know.

We are always looking for members to get involved with club activities. If you want to help, give me a call.

MARCH 3, 1995 NARS BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: KB5ZXO, K5ZTY, WA5REJ, WD5GNI, AB5TV, WD5BZY, WA5DWX. KA5AKG, AND KC5NB.
Treasurer's report indicates $3848.25 in bank. Shirley Kujawa, KB5WOO resiged as Secretary, and the Board elected Allen Majeski WA5REJ as replacement. The Board moved to donate $200 to TCAPS. Also passed motion to make donation to Prince of Peace Catholic Church where Novice classes are being held. About 25 students in Novice class. Draft of By-Laws to be presented to membership at May meeting. Discussed Field Day, looks like we will operate class 2A. Need computers and back-up generators. Steven Dodson WA5AMA nominated for Eagle Scout, Bill Denton sending letter detailing his public service participation. Board voted to donate $300 to Spring- Cypress Presbyterian Church where our club meetings are held.

License Exam Results
by Mark Tyler, K5GQ

NARS-sponsored FCC amateur radio license examinations were administered Saturday, February 25th, at the old HL&P facilities in Tomball. Twenty candidates were tested and sixteen licenses were earned.

Susan Stevens, David Walla, Frank Cooper, Marilyn Grill, James Yates, Rodney Martinez, Matthew Sacker, Stan Stanart, Angela Hout, Georgette Barandiaran, and Douglas Edwards earned Technician licenses. Donald Cash, KC5DJV, Henry Walla, and Joerg Helzer earned Technician Plus licenses. Walter Hock KB5RJT and Walter Sepaniac, N5GWN, advanced to Advanced Class. Larry McCain, WA5SAJ, and Richard Risinger, KK5JV, passed the Extra class theory while Rickie Haake passed Novice theory. Our congratulations to each of these licensees on their achievements.

The session's examiners and those assisting were David Conrad, WT5S, Earl Morse, KZ8E, Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ, Madison Jones, AB5TV, Paul Owen, N5NXS, William Gary, K8CSG, Brian Derx, N5BA, and Mark Tyler, K5GQ. Our thanks to each of them for their commitment. The next examination session will be on February 25th at a location to be confirmed later.

Thanks,

October 17, 1994 is a day we will never forget. After four days of heave rains the nightmare began. At about 8:30 PM the water began coming into our house at a rapid rate and by 9 PM we had to leave. When all was over, there was total destruction of everything in the downstairs and everything in the garage, including three automobiles. In times like these you find out who your friends really are. We found out that NARS is more than a club, but a group of true friends. Words cannot express how thankful our family is for the friends we have in NARS. Our deepest thanks goes out to members of this club, with a special thanks to KB5YVT, WA5DWX, K5ZTY, KJ5IP, KA5AKG, and WD5GNI.

Thanks to all, David Cain and Family (KB5UHS)

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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 Presbytterian 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
Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO 251-4546

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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 nonth 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)

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