



CQ from GM0/KB5ZXO

In preparation for a trip to Scotland earlier this year, I requested and received a temporary operating permit for the UK. All that was necessary was a completed application, supplied to me by GM0LNQ, a UK address and 15 pounds sterling. Having received my Temporary Reciprocal License, call sign GM0/KB5ZXO, I took a 2 meter HT with me on my trip in May. The UK has 8 frequency pairs for repeater operations. I programmed those into the HT and was able to hear several repeaters quite well including some installed on offshore platforms. I was not successful at making contact or activating any of the repeaters. I later found a 1350 Hz tone burst is required at the beginning of the transmission to activate the repeater.

Well, after being unsuccessful in May, I returned to Scotland in August.

This time I was better prepared. I took my 2 meter HT along with a 20 meter SSB radio. My success with the 2 meter repeaters was no better than my previous trip but I'm investigating why, but I was successful at setting up a temporary HF station. My 20 meter SSB radio along with a halfwave dipole antenna allowed me to work stations in Western Europe, North Africa, and even one contact in North America. It seemed funny calling CQ with the extra letters in the call sign, but it was enjoyable to make contacts with operators I normally don't hear.

If you have foreign travel in your plans, take the time to find out what it takes to operate in the country you are going to visit. It does take some planning and preparation, but it's well worth the effort.

73's Rudy (KB5ZXO)

Important Dates

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

Saturday, Sept 16 - North American Sprint SSB Contest, Your HF Shack! 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm EDT

Saturday, Sept 23, 8:30 am - VE License Exam Session, Tomball, SH249 & Hicks (just North of FM2920)

Thursday, Sept 28, 7:30 pm - NARS Board of Directors Meeting, Valley Ranch BBQ, Spring Cypress & SH249

BREAKFAST at Bleachers

2318 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

Picnic a HOT Event

Mike provided a great spread of BBQ and all the fixins.

Who cooked up those delicious brownie cupcakes?



President's Corner

September 1995

First let me start by thanking Bill Stietenroth (K5ZTY), Mike Lavender (KB5WQJ), and all of those who assisted with the NARS Picnic during my absence. One report from those who attended was loud and clear, "it was hot". I hope those who did attend had an enjoyable time and enough to eat. Next year we will try to schedule the picnic in a cooler time of the year.

The WA5DWX contest corral was reported to have done very well in the North American QSO Party contest. It was reported that several new HAMs burned up the airwaves. Thanks again to Bill (WA5DWX) and Marion (KB5SGV) Denton for opening up their shack to fellow NARS members. I think their efforts were reflected in the excellent Field Day results we had this year.

During the last several months I have visited several areas in Texas and Oklahoma. During these trips, I usually carry an 2 meter HT and try to take advantage of the many Amateur Repeaters to make contacts. Most of the areas have little repeater traffic and most do not make an effort to make a visitor or newcomer welcome. While the NARS 2 meter repeater often has its problems, it does get used and I am pleased to say that visitors or newcomers are always welcomed by club members. Thanks to everyone for extending that bit of welcome and consideration to those new users; when you are traveling, its good to feel welcome and make contact with locals.

It has been reported that the Houston HamCom will be held the first weekend in November at the Humble Convention Center. NARS has not been officially contacted for any participation by the HamCom group. However, knowing it takes a lot to put on this type of effort, I suspect we may get asked to help in some aspect. Keep that in mind, and keep the weekend open.

The NARS Board of Directors is working to streamline the membership application and renewal process. Our members are important to the Club, and we apologize for any delays you may have experienced. If you need information on your application, or if you just need information, give me a call. My number is listed on the back of the newsletter.

The Board of Directors meeting date has been moved to the 4th Thursday of each month. Currently the meetings are being held at the Valley Ranch BBQ Restaurant at the intersection of Spring Cypress and 249. We invite interested club members to visit and participate. The next meeting will be held on September 28th. The actual meeting begins at 7:30 pm so you may want to come a little early and get something to eat.

I hope to see each of you at the meetings or make contact on the repeater.

73's Rudy Novotny (KB5ZXO)

HAM Computer Shareware subject of September Membership Meeting

There are many computer programs written for use in Amateur Radio. These programs run on IBM compatible PCs and help the Ham with tasks that are labor intensive when done manually. Examples include station contact logging, antenna design, circuit design, signal propagation forecasting, and so forth.

Shareware is the nomenclature given for programs that are FREE for the asking. Try them and if you like them enough, the author asks that you send in a small registration fee to cover development costs. Most authors promise to send upgrades and enhancements to registered users.

Join us at the September meeting for an interesting discussion on this subject with your host Rudy Novotny KB5ZXO.

New HF Hams: Keeping Track of Propagation

If you saved the charts and graphs from last month's newsletter you can check on radio flux propagation figures by tuning in to WWV on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, or 20 MHz. Listen in at 18 minutes after each hour to the voice broadcast, and you will hear three sets of numbers that will clue you in to how good propagation is at that time. They are broadcast in this order: Solar Flux Index, 'A' or Absorption Index and the 'K' Index.

Solar Flux Index: numbers from approximately 70 to 100 are considered low propagation; 100+ to 200 high propagation.

'A' or Absorption Index: numbers of 10 or less are good; numbers above 10 are not good.

'K' Index: these numbers run from 1 to 9. Index numbers of 3 or less represent favorable propagation. The 'K' Index is an indicator of geomagnetic field conditions that affect Northern Hemisphere propagation.

All these indexes are indicators of propagation, but the Solar Flux numbers can be compared to last month's Space Environment Services Center radio flux chart and graph. That way you can track the progress on a daily, weekly or monthly basis of our entry into the Solar Cycle Minimum and more importantly our upward exit out of it. I hope the new HF ham's find this information useful.

Harry Gage N5WIZ



by Keith Dutson

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Thank you for your generous comments over the past month. I also want to hear what you would like to see different in your newsletter ... More pages, less pages, page color (green, yellow, white, other). How about a 'Shack of the Month' article featuring some of the best shacks in the club including interview and pictures?

Keep those cards and letters coming.

New Licensees from VE Session

On Saturday, August 26th, the VE exam in Tomball resulted in four new licenses: 3 tech and a tech +. The results were sent from the ARRL to the FCC on the 30th.

On September 1, Justin Williams found out his new call.

Five code and fourteen written elements were administered. Stanley Brown passed the Tech +, and Richard Barnett, Larry Bass, and Justin Williams passed the Tech. Gene Gilbert, KC5NGY, passed element 3B. Florn Hebert Jr passed element 2.

VEs assisting were Mark Tyler K5GQ, Bill Gary K8CSG, Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, Cal White WF5W, Walter Holmes WD5GAZ, Madison Jones AB5TV and Jim Kirk KJ5IP.

Mark Tyler K5GQ, VE Exam Coordinator

CQ Contest, CQ Contest

He did it again! Bill Denton is the consummate contest organizer. Field Day 95 was a big success, and now he can add the North American QSO Party to his trophy case.

Bill was gracious enough to lend his own well equipped shack to many happy Hams eager to join in the fun of this event. If you were not there, you missed out on a really great time.

You would have seen several Hams with a technician license having their first QSOs on 20 meters. You would have seen Dolly Kyle having the time of her life hamming up the airwaves with Hams from Connecticut to California. You would have seen LockHart handling calls like a veteran. You would have heard Jim Kirk go for a two hour marathon stint during which he single-handedly made more than 150 contacts on 20 meters.

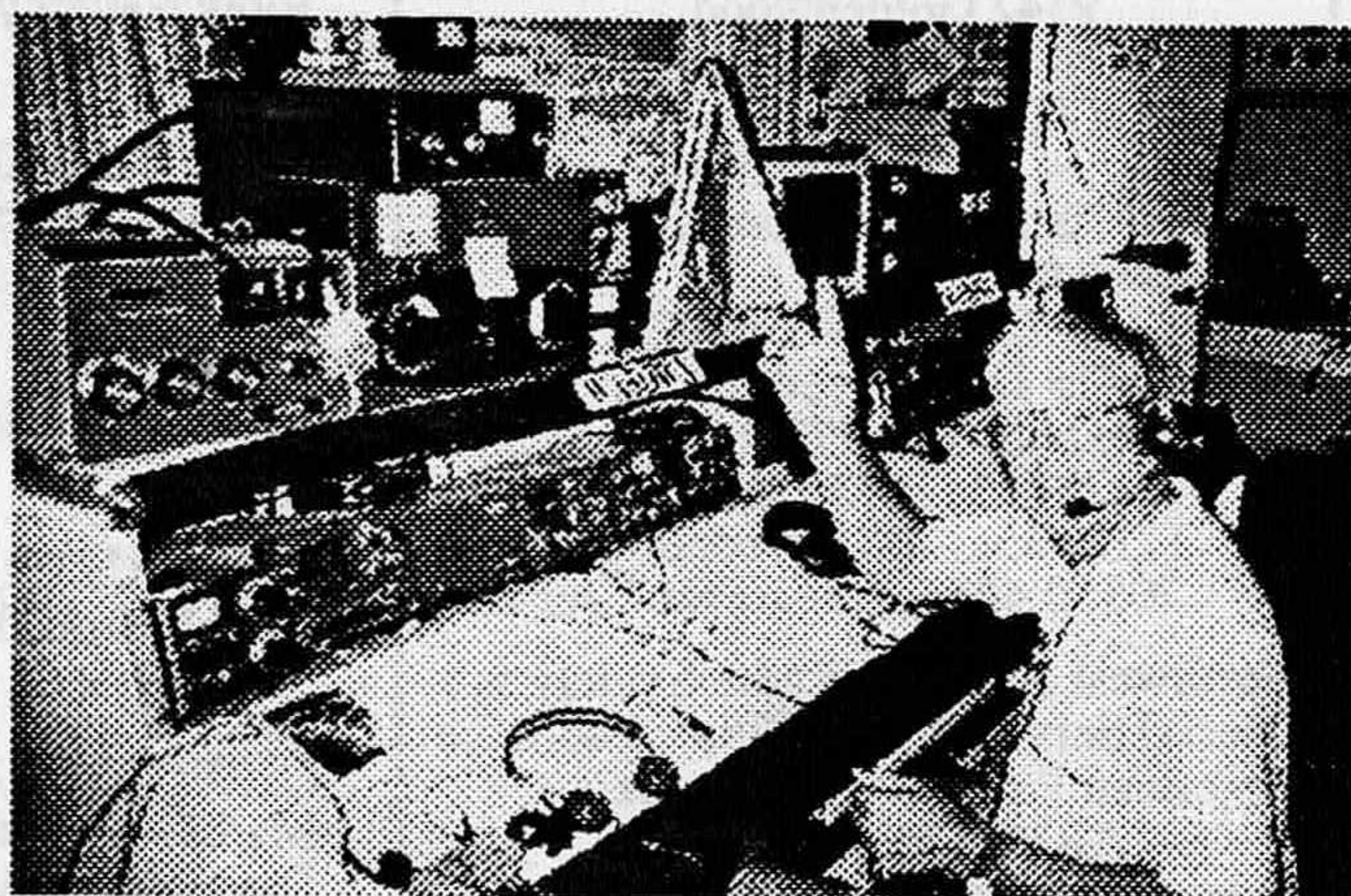
You could have taken the microphone or logged contacts on the computer, or both. If you were too shy to participate, you could have watched intently from behind the magnificent WA5DWX console-station while you sipped on a soda and shelled roasted peanuts to your heart's desire.

Does this sound like a good party? You bet it was! If this kind of opportunity comes your way in the future, don't pass it up. The participants and scores follow. Please accept my apology if you were there and you are not in the list. With all the action going on, it's a wonder I remembered any names at all!

North American QSO Party, 8/20/95, 1:00pm till 1:00am CDT, Bill Denton's Shack

Participants:

Bill Denton WA5DWX a, Jim Kirk KJ5IP e, Keith Dutson WD5DXL a, O J Quarles WA1YIA a, Larry Lockhart KC5NVY t, Paul Bonneaux KC5IKN t+, Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY e, Rock Kyle K5UEQ t+, Dolly Kyle KC5PCC t, Scott Byrd N5KEU g, Glenn Reyfield KC5JLN g, Larry McCain WA5SAJ a, Mark Condit KC5OFE t, Madison Jones AB5TV e, Doug Hudspeth KC5NRR.



Scoring:

20 meter QSOs	538	Multipliers	54
40 meter QSOs	277	Multipliers	46
Total QSOs	815	Total Multipliers	100

Total Score 815 QSOs X 100 Multipliers = 81,500 points!

Keith Dutson WD5DXL



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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
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NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NARS BOARD MEETS the fourth
Thursday 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

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)