

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 1996

Square Wave

Bulletin Board System (BBS) commands new users need to know.

Everyone who gets on packet needs to know what a packet BBS is and how to access the files on the BBS. The first thing you need to do is choose a BBS. The main BBS in Houston is CNBBBS:F6CNC-4 in the Sugar Land area. All the messages and bulletins come thru this BBS in the Houston area. Then the traffic fans out to the other Houston area BBS's, some of which are: HMPBBS:N5OJS Hempstead, Tx KWDBBS:WA5JYK Kingwood, Tx TESBBS:KB5TES-4 Spring, TX

You can check any BPQ node list for other BBS's. When you sign-in to a BBS it will ask for some information about your station. Some of the commands to sign-in are:

Command	Example
N Name	/N Paul
NQ Town,ST	/NQ Houston,Tx
NZ ZIP Code	/NZ 77064
NH Home BBS	/NH KB5TES

Once you pick a BBS as a home BBS, stick with it. A listing called the white pages (WP) is generated from users who sign on to a BBS. This is a user locator file for sys-ops in your area. If a message comes to Houston without a BBS callsign, the first BBS that has your callsign in the WP will assign the full BBS address.

Example: Someone in the Houston area wants to send me a packet message but does not know my home BBS. Then type "SP N5NXS" and the WP will assign N5NXS@KB5TES.#SETX.TX.USA.NA for my full address.

An example of the message headers follows:

Msg#	TSLD	Dim	To@ BBS	From	Date/Time	Title (LC-choice: *)
2597	B\$	687	WANTED@USA	WA8ABC	0126/2027	WANT KNWD TS-440 filters
2596	B\$	846	HELP@USA	N0XYL	0126/2027	Gtor Mode
2595	B\$	1072	MODS@USA	KB3WON	0126/2026	NEED Ic21a mods
2594	B\$	1241	HELP@WW	VK2YL	0126/1926	New to paket
2593	B\$	412	DEBATE@WW	G2YNK	0126/1925	No Code over here

By Paul Owen, N5NXS

If this is the first time you are on the BBS, set "OP 30". This sets your page dump to 30 lines. This will give you a chance to abort a long listing. You can also shorten the list of letters you see at the prompt by doing an "X". This will put you in expert mode. You can get a list of the commands at any time by typing "?".

You can now list messages and bulletins. Here are some list commands:

L - List message headers. Do NOT do this command unless you set OP (Page length). L #-# - List message from #[number] to #[number]. LL# - List the last #[number] messages. Example: "LL 5" will list the last 5 messages. LC ? - List all the categories on BBS. This list will also have the number of messages in each category. LS [] - List messages with [Subject]. Example: "LS KEN*" will get messages with "Kenwood" or "kenwd" in subject line. L< [] - List the messages FROM [callsign]. L> [] - List the messages TO [callsign]. L@ [] - List the messages TO [BBS]. Example: "L@ Amsat" will list messages under @BBS column.

Some common TO fields are:

ALL, ALLUS, BBS, BPQ, CONTEs, CQ, DX, EME, FOOD, HELP, KENWD, MODS, NASA, NAVNET, NEWHAM, PENPAL, RADIO, RECIPE, SALE, SATTV, SCOUTS, STORMS, VHF, WANT, WANTED, WIN95, WINPAC, WXSAT, YAESU, YL... and many more. You think of it, it will be out there on the list.

Important Dates

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 pm - 1st Novice Class, Room 208, Prince-of-Peace, SH249 @ Perry Road.

Saturday, April 13, Buffalo Bayou Regatta

Sunday, April 14, March of Dimes Walk

Friday, April 19, 7:30 pm - NARS monthly General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's, 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 27, 8:30 am - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry and Market (just south of Main Street).

Tuesday, April 30, 7:30 pm - NARS Board of Directors Meeting, IHOP, 5790 FM 1960 W, just West of Champions Forest Dr.

May 4-5 - Texas QSO Party

May 18 - NARS Annual Picnic, Meyer County Park, Cypresswood, just West of Stuebner-Airline.

Notice:

NARS membership dues is \$25 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

BREAKFAST at Bleachers

2318 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

April 1996

The Novice/Tech+ class is underway at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church on SH 249. It's not too late to join in on the fun; for those who want to get their code qualification there is a special rate to NARS members for that portion of the class. For more information contact Rudy KB5ZXO.

Speaking of NARS members, I have noticed that there are many of last year's faces that have not renewed their membership for 1996. I am beginning to wonder where you are. Before now there was a prorate on the dues, but, with the new by-laws that is a thing of the past. Your full dues buys you 12 months membership. I know that at the beginning of the year things go by quickly, so get out your check book now and send your renewal to the P.O. Box listed on the back of this newsletter. All of us in the club want to have everyone back on the roster in 1996. NARS offers great support for all aspects of the hobby. It would be a great shame for you to miss the benefits of club membership.

Remember the Texas QSO Party is coming May 4 & 5 and is being coordinated by OJ WA1YIA. We need you to team up and go on the road for counties or just work from your house. We can all enjoy the fun of contesting and win the special club award being offered.

The NARS board lacks one of its most needed positions, that of Public Service Activities Chairman. I have tried to do this and also be your president. Unfortunately, I don't have the time to do both well. I am asking for volunteers from the membership. This does not involve a lot of time. Someone who can keep the information of public service activities and serve as a contact for those outside of our club. Whoever volunteers will be very lucky because there are only eight months left in the year and you will receive a lot of help from your board members. Please see me for more information; don't be shy, I need your help.

Last month's meeting was a great one. I am in eager anticipation of seeing one of our NARS members with their own ATV station. This month's speaker promises to be a grand one. Bob White KF5ZL, with the Houston Emergency Office of Communications, will be giving a presentation on emergency procedures as it relates to the area. I will be looking forward to seeing y'all there.

By Walter Hock KK5LO

YHOTY '96 Nominations Sought

A reminder that the nominating period for 1996 "Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award" is now open. The award program, now entering its second decade, is presented annually to a United States licensed Radio Amateur who is 18 years of age or younger and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his community or the betterment of the state of the art in communications through the Amateur Radio hobby service.

All nominations must be submitted before June 30, 1996 on an official application. Application forms are available by sending a self addressed stamped envelope mailed to the:

1996 Young Ham of the Year Award
c/o Newsline
28197 Robin Avenue
Saugus, California 91350

These nominating applications are also available for electronic download from several sites that provide Newsline materials over the World Wide Web and from the Ham Radio Club BBS general interest ham files area on America Online.

And remember that the youngster chosen this year will get to spend a week at Spacecamp Huntsville, complements of CQ Magazine.

Submitted by Bill Rister KC5EZQ

HEATH CATALOGS

Electrolab Ltd in Canada:
800-267-7842

Heathkit Educational Systems
Benton Harbor, Michigan
1-800-253-0570

Heathkit has been or was providing copy service for the old Heathkit service and operating manual and schematics for many pieces of gear, plus replacement parts as they last. A phone call can bring more details.

Submitted by Bill Rister KC5EZQ



by Keith Dutson

Hope y'all like the Show Your Shack article this month. Thanks to Harry Gage for being the only one to offer suggestions for the title. You may nominate your own shack, and even take pictures and do a write-up of how you use your equipment. Next month's installment is already taken.

Let's beat a drum for Mike Hance KB5YVT, the "pig farmer" up north. That fellow is working hard to get us all involved in contesting. You will not find a better mentor (elmer?). Let's all get involved in the Texas QSO Party on May 4th and 5th. See OJ WA1YIA or Bill WA5DWX for details.

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March VE Exam Results

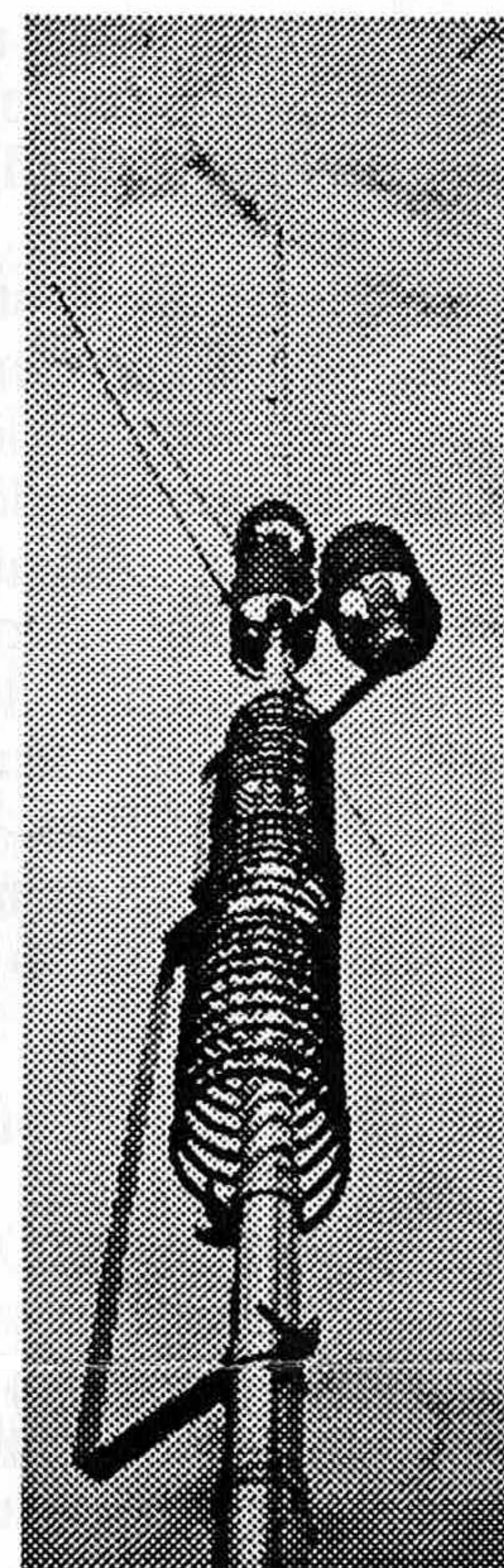
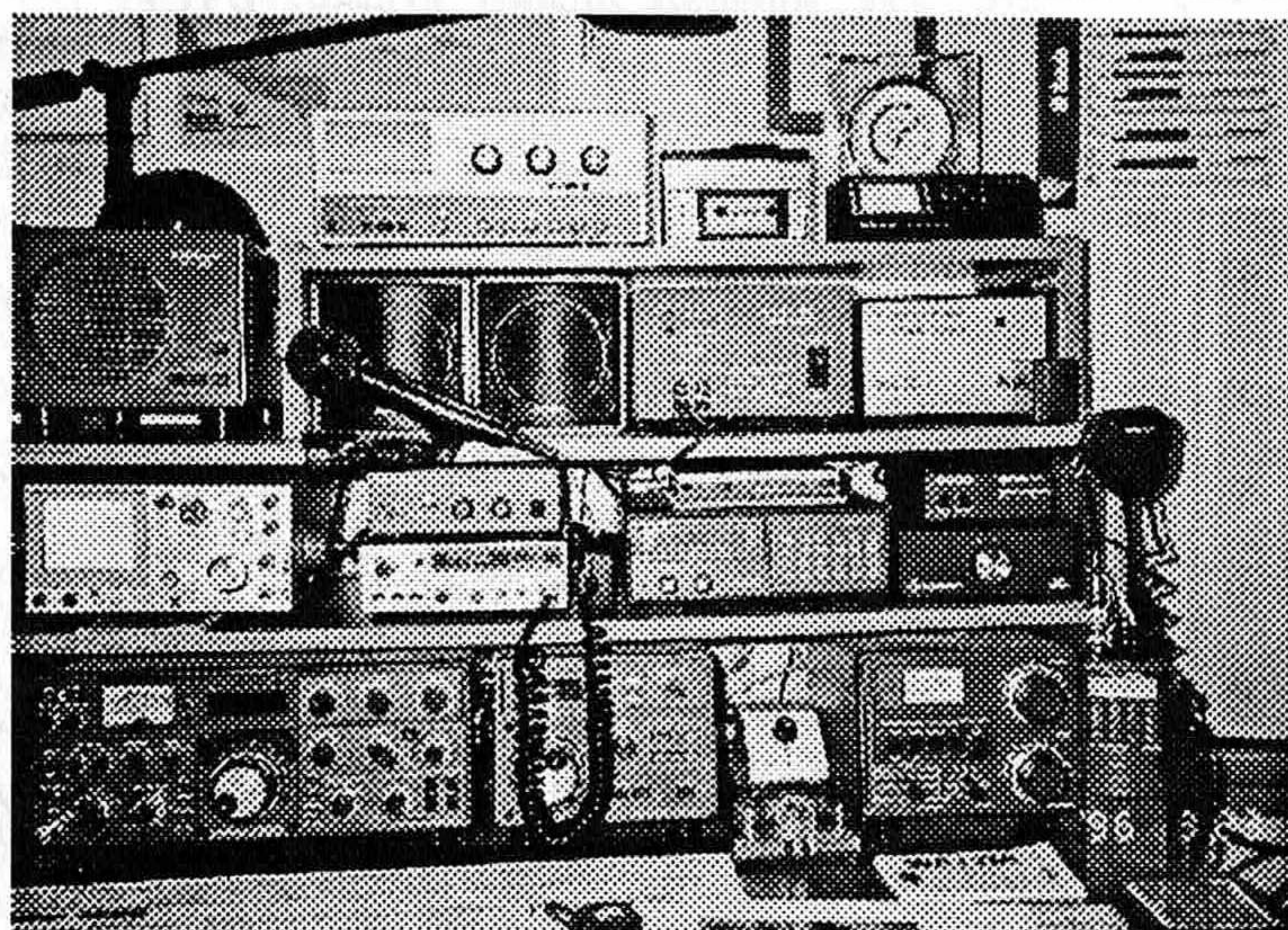
During the VE exam session held Saturday, March 28th, in Tomball, five new licenses were earned: 4 Tech and 1 Advanced class license. No code and twelve written elements were administered. New Tech licensees were Rosalind Porter Jones, David L Patrick, John A Zaborowske and William P Schneider. Upgrading to Advanced was Thomas L Hoherd Jr KC5IKK.

VEs assisting were Walter Holmes WD5GAZ, Larry McCain WA5SAJ, William Stietenroth K5ZTY, Jim Kirk KJ5IP, and Bill Denton WA5DWX.

Mark Tyler K5GQ, VE Exam coordinator

SHOW YOUR SHACK

Shack: OJ Quarles WA1YIA



HF Equipment

transceiver: Kenwood TS830S
 ext VFO: Kenwood VFO230
 ant tuner: Kenwood AT230
 ext speaker: Kenwood SP230
 phone patch: Kenwood PC1-A
 monitor: Tektronix 335 oscilloscope
 CW key: Bencher iambic twin paddle
 elec keyer: Cadet cmos keyer
 mic: Kenwood MC50
 SWR meter: Radio Shack swr/power tester
 antenna: Butternut vertical HV6 + 12 & 17

VHF Equipment

transceiver: KDK FM2033
 power supply: Pyramid 12-14 amp
 antenna: Comet 6ft vertical
 ant switch: Black Box ABC switch

Packet Equipment

transceiver: Radio Shack HTX202
 terminal node controller: Kantronics PC3
 power supply: Heath IP2718 tri-power supply
 amplifier: RFConcepts 2 meter 30 watt mini amp
 power supply: MCC 105 8 amp

Console

custom design built by OJ

Accessories

computer: Tandy, modified to 486/75
 software: log-EQF, QRZ, GeoClock, Beam, others
 scanner: Radio Shack 200 channel pro-2032
 cassette recorder

OJ uses his shack mainly for DXing and local rag-chewing. This is a very efficient setup that has been carefully assembled over several years.



*At right Santa's Communication Office
 Christmas '95*

DX News

DX NOTES -- "To have DX is nothing, if you've not the chance to show it, and to work DX is nothing, unless others know you've worked it . . ." Band conditions during the ARRL DX (SSB) Contest early in March were not particularly good. However, many stations were heard on the bands. The DX clusters were kept very busy throughout the entire weekend. Most of the contacts I noted or worked were with western hemisphere countries. Trans-equatorial paths provided much of the contest activity. Relatively brief and weak openings into Europe and Africa provided a little spice but hardly enough to attract some of the operators. A solitary VK and no ZLs were noted. Openings into the Pacific were sparse to nonexistent for most.

The ARRL Board of Directors has voted to create a Committee to "review the entire DXCC program and make necessary recommendations to encourage broader participation by more amateurs, make the program more equitable, create better understood criteria for additions and deletions to the DXCC Countries List and to increase efficiency in administration of the program." The goal is to have any changes to DXCC in place by the year 2000. For that reason the Committee has been unofficially named the "DXCC-2000 Committee." ARRL also said in its announcement that there will be NO restart of DXCC, and that all applicable country credits from the current DXCC program will continue to count. The ARRL DXCC Yearbook was mailed in mid-March and should be in the hands of recipients by now.

During much of the month, the solar flux index hung in the low 70's and below. The lowest number I saw was 68, which is the lowest I have seen this cycle. Despite this, the activity on the DX cluster has been relatively high. Much of this activity has been DX spots reported on 40 meters and

lower, but DX is still DX. Fans should remember that good DX CAN BE WORKED during these low periods; it just requires more patience and effort.

DX worked during March: R1FJZ (Franz Josef Land), JW1BJA (Svalbard Is.), AP2JZB, BY5QMU, XX9AS, DK8FS/C91, TT8AB, 3C1DX, Z21HD. 3V8AS has appeared with surprising regularity, attracting a significant following. Unfortunately, he is a Pirate. IK5SRF says they have identified the culprit operating from his area of Italy, NOT from Tunisia. A lot of money has been fruitlessly sent for QSLs which will never come -- and which would be useless if they did arrive. TT8AK, another Pirate, has been operating allegedly from Chad.

During recent times we have been visited by a modern version of Don Miller. Don, W9WNV, is a medical doctor who became a bit of a legend some 30+ years ago. Don did some excellent work, activating some very rare spots for DXers. In fact some of them are so rare that they cannot be found today (beneath the surface of the sea, you know). Such places, like Geyser Reef and Blenheim Reef, have since been removed from the DXCC country list. Don was/is an excellent CW operator, one of the best ever. He had a few strange quirks, however, like not being able to hear some of the fellows on top of the Honor Roll if they did not contribute to his expeditions. Don eventually became entangled with the ARRL and several of his credited expeditions were discredited and he was banned from DXCC.

The recent version of Don Miller is a Russian chap named Romeo Stepanenko. Romeo has activated such rare spots as Afghanistan, Burma (XY0RR), Vietnam, and a few others. He also attempted to bring forth an operation from North Korea (P5SR7) and one from Libya (5A0RR). The North Korea operation was disallowed since it

became clear that he was across the border in Siberian Russia. He has never applied for credit for Libya. He was recently disqualified by ARRL for participation in DXCC, similarly to Don Miller, for some of his questionable practices. Don Miller, incidentally, is currently a resident of a prison in California for trying to kill his wife!

Continued on page 5

Special Interest Group (SIG) List

K5ZTY, Bill Stietenroth
893-3901, General Help
WA5DWX, Bill Denton
469-8331, General Help, Antennas
WA1YIA, OJ Quarles
955-1555, HF, General Help
WA5REJ, Allen Majeski
353-8652, General Help
WA5SAJ, Larry McCain
469-6709, General Help
AB5TV, Madison Jones
350-4330, General Help, CW
K8CSG, Bill Gary
537-9240, General Help, DX
KC5EZQ, Bill Rister
537-8596, 694-6074
VHF/UHF, General Help
K5WNO, Deral Kent
548-7476, RS12/13, Sattelite
KC5RCC, George Carlson
376-8307, Electrical Design,
Troubleshooting
KA3BKU, Don Bedell
370-6576, Packet
AB5XU, Sid George
537-0920, License, Upgrade
N5BA, Brian Derx
894-5942, VHF
KC5JZO, Bob Argo
288-7430, Computer Operating,
Win'95
KC5NRR, Doug Hudspeth
367-8927
Computer Tech/Networking
WD5DXL, Keith Dutson
351-7683, Computer Programming
W5NKZ, Jerry Smith
444-4491, HF, Advanced OSCAR,
Antenna
KB5DTB, Joy Smith
444-4491, HF, Advanced OSCAR,
Antenna

DX News - Continued

The DXpedition planned to Myanmar (Burma) by the Central Arizona DX Association for April 2-12 has been postponed. Some unsettled regulatory matters between the Myanmar military and several ministries must first be sorted out by the government before further amateur radio activities will be permitted. Thus, the door to amateur radio in Myanmar has again been closed for an unknown length of time.

For nearly thirty years, that country was totally inaccessible for deserving Dxers. Marion Island (off the coast of South Africa) becomes workable again. An unusual feature is the callsign -- ZS8RI. For many years ZS#MI has been the only acceptable callsign from that remote island. The next operation will begin in May, 1996 and continue through mid-1997. Marion Island is a tiny island approximately halfway between Cape Town and Antarctica. It has never been readily available, since only work parties from South Africa are allowed on the island.

The CQ WW WPX contest was held over the last weekend in March. Despite poor conditions, there was a goodly turnout, much of it transequatorial in nature. I heard several of the Houston locals working the contest during my visits to it. I quit at 425 QSOs. There were a couple of openings into the Pacific, and respectable openings into Europe, also.

The most interesting contact I had was WR6R/WH7. This clown was located on Maui in the Hawaiian Islands, rather than on Kure Island which would have been his location if he were not using an improper suffix. After working him, I curiously asked if he might be on Kure. "Nope, Maui", was his reply. I asked him when Maui had been separated from Hawaii he gave me a curt cold shoulder. Apparently he was using the Kure suffix to attract more

contacts with the rare WH7 suffix, a very shady practice to say the least.

Finally, the expected operation from Heard Island received a financial boost recently. The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF)

voted to provide a \$20,000 grant to the group, a big contribution to the group that lost over \$100,000 in a bad charter deal for the ship that was to have transported them to Heard three months ago.-- K8CSG

Contest Connection

This past weekend was the third anniversary of the first contesting effort at my shack. The 1993 CQ WW WPX was our first event. With a crew of rank rookies we managed to work the 48 hours of WPX and survive with 750,000 points. I'm sure the point total would have much more impressive if we hadn't lost the antenna that covered Europe a few hours into the contest.

At any rate we ran and we finished. With several contests under our belts now we have actually done pretty well in them.

We were invited to operate the 1996 WPX from the contest facilities of Sid Leach K5XI. Sid has built up a wonderful contest station consisting of six towers, two of which are in excess of 200 ft. They are laden with large mono-banders.

He has four operating positions and all the rigs are controlled and connected together with computers and interfaced with packet.

Operating this setup was really a learning experience. At first it all seemed complex but as the contest progressed we all became more comfortable with the operation and were able to pay more attention to WPX and getting those multipliers.

Several of the NARS group participated. Some came Friday night and spent the night and left on Saturday, while others came and went as they had time. A couple of us were there from start to finish.

Band conditions weren't great, especially 15 meters to Europe. 10 and 75 didn't yield very much. 20 and 40 carried us most of the way. Our goal was to surpass the old score from my place and it was evident even with poor band conditions the mark was in danger. When the bell rang on Sunday afternoon and WPX96 had ended we had accumulated 1,500,000+ points. We had to really push in the closing hours of the contest to get to the 1.5 million mark. I think it was only then we realized how to really push and take advantage of all the things like packet spotting to be competitive.

It was a great weekend and learning experience. I would like to thank Sid for making his station available and to Mike KB5YVT for putting the team together and helping us to a higher level of contesting.

Looking forward to the Texas QSO Party. Hope we have a lot of participation from NARS. We hope to win it again.

73's Bill WA5DWX

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
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Newsletter to:

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EMail 70570.405@compuserve.com

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.) Eyeball QSO's: about 7:00 PM.
Meeting time: 7:30 PM.

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

NARS

PO Box 690342

Houston, TX 77269-0342

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OJ Quarles, WA1YIA 955-1555

Mark Condit, KC5OFE 550-5659

NARS BOARD MEETS the last Tuesday of
each month at 7:30 PM at IHOP on FM 1960.
All members are invited to attend.

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL

Marian Denton, 469-8331, for General
Information and Bill Gary, 537-9240, for
VE Exam Information or send E-Mail to
nars@houston.net

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 PM
28.444 MHz

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM
146.06 /.66 MHz

Net Coordinator OJ, WA1YIA

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)