

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

August 1997

March Meeting: Telemarketing Fraud How to Fight Back!

Here's one meeting you won't want to miss! The subject for the NARS March meeting will be "Telemarketing Fraud." Missy Lord, from the Office of the Attorney General, will enlighten us on one of life's most annoying invasions of our precious time.

When the Attorney General initiated the Consumer Protection Outreach Program, he had in mind groups just like NARS. He

wanted to give citizens of Texas the ammunition that they need to fight the fraudulent telemarketers that have targeted Texans of all ages. Part of the presentation will be a short video followed by a question and answer period. Bring your questions, junk mail and complaints to Ms. Lord, and you'll leave better prepared to deal with these rascals on your own terms!

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

NARS Raffle

NARS is holding a raffle to raise funds for new Field Day antennas and maintenance of our repeaters. The prize is an IC-2710H, ICOM's top-of-the-line dual band 2 meter / 70 cm portable transceiver with detachable front panel and remote control microphone.

Tickets are \$1 each, or a book of 12 for \$10 available from Walter Hock KK5LO (281-350-6633) or Keith Dutson WD5DXL (281-351-7683). The drawing will be held at the Houston Hamfest at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 19, 1997. The winner does not need to be present at the drawing.

Election of New Vice President at August Meeting

As required by NARS bylaws there will be a call for nominations and an election of a Vice President to fill the remaining term of Harry Gage N5WIZ who has resigned for personal reasons.

Paul Owen N5NXS has agreed to be a candidate for the office.

Important Dates

Friday, August 15, 7:30 pm – NARS monthly General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSO's, 7:00 pm

Saturday, August 16, 10 am – Ham class, Step By Step Christian School, 1119 South Cherry St, Tomball

Tuesday, August 19, 7 pm – Ham class, Step By Step Christian School, 1119 South Cherry St, Tomball

Saturday, August 23, 8:30 am – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main)

Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 pm – NARS Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville

Contests:

August 16-17 – North American QSO Party, Phone

Sept 7 – North American Sprint, CW

Sept 13-15 – ARRL September VHF QSO Party

Sept 14 – North American Sprint, Phone

Sept 20-21 – Air Force 50th Anniversary QSO Party

Sept 27-28 – CQ WW RTTY

Notice:

NARS membership dues is \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

NARS News **deadline** for articles to appear in September issue is Sunday, August 31.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

August 1997

Here it is not even halfway through summer and I find myself thinking about snow and skiing. It happens every year about this time. There are some other things to think about also. NARS volunteers supply radio communications for several very worthwhile events each year and one of these, the SIRE event, is coming October 18. SIRE is the acronym for "Self Improvement Thru Riding Education." The program uses horseback riding to enhance the experience and self-image of young people who have some kind of limited capacity. The ride is through woods and fields for some distance. The ability to maintain radio contact from various points along the trail is necessary to enable a quick response should any rider have difficulty. So, when the time comes to volunteer for this, step up. NARS doesn't offer a more satisfying or more important opportunity for volunteer radio work.

Those of you who were at the NARS July meeting got to see the 30 minute video on field day shot, composed and edited by Loyd Overcash KD5AIG. Several at the meeting bought a copy. Copies are available from Loyd for a very reasonable price. It is an excellent piece, fully capturing the flavor of the NARS 1997 field day effort and the folks who were there. It's so good we're going to send a copy to the ARRL.

A couple of NARS CW gurus and I have discussed the idea of having a contest with the contestants each purchasing a specified commercial kit and building their own QRP CW transceiver. Then, using only their fresh-built rigs, the contestants would try to make and confirm the most contacts, most distant contact, etc. before a certain date. Prizes would be substantial. Elmers would be available. Let me know if you're interested.

Harry Gage N5WIZ has resigned from his post as NARS Vice President and Public Information Officer. Harry has indicated that for personal reasons he would not be able to devote any time to the job for awhile. Harry did a spectacular job during his tenure as VP and PIO. We wish him well and a quick return to us. Thanks Harry.

Jim Kirk KJ5X

Tomball Ham Classes

The Tomball Repeater Group will be having classes to become an amateur radio operator or upgrade existing licenses. Sessions on code will be taught first, followed by written test studies. We hope to start from nothing and go all the way to 20 WPM on the code (or as long as the class wants to go).

We will have 2 classes a week: Saturdays at 10 a.m.; Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The first class is scheduled for Saturday, August 16, 1997.

It is not required to attend both classes per week; however we are encouraging those who can to do so, because they will learn faster.

We will meet at:

Step By Step Christian School
1119 South Cherry St.
Tomball, TX

Needed for Class:

1. Straight Key
2. Code Oscillator
3. Cassette tape recorder

To register for class or for information contact:

Nora or Wayne Stovall
281-351-0026, e-mail: n5mnt@juno.com
or contact them on the 146.720 repeater (PL 123)

Nora KB5FYJ, Wayne N5MNT

NARS Board of Directors Meeting 7/29/97

Treasurer's Report - The checkbook balance on June 30, 1997 was \$4188.66.

SAREX Report - Bill Denton will be setting up a SAREX program for the Bendwood Elementary School; the students are a gifted group with a major interest in NASA activities.

'98 Field Day Plans - Bill Denton W5SB named FD98 Coordinator; OJ Quarles K1OJ named Contest Director.

Programs - September: N5TU, Fox Hunting.

Current Node - A new power supply has been installed and it is again operational.

New Node location - A possible new location found in the Cypress - Rose Hill area; the tower is 430 ft.

DX Cluster - Local cluster to be operational soon in Hempstead, Magnolia, and LaMarque makes separate planned NARS DX cluster node redundant; new NARS node location will be configured to allow connection to existing cluster.

Election - Special election at the August meeting for a new Vice President to replace Harry Gage N5WIZ who resigned.

Radio Raffle - Look for tickets on a dual band mobile radio.

Public service events - SIRE, October 18th: Texas Trails Endurance Run, December 13th

Bob Argo KC5JZO Secretary

DX News

Have a little care that life is brief, and less that art is long. Success is in the listening, and DX is in the song . . .

Apparently the Big Bend Sun Dancers were not as successful in drumming up sunspots by beating their bongos in the barancas during most of June as some had hoped. The SFI at the beginning of July signaled that more exquisite tunes were required from the bongos if DX conditions were to improve during July. One question is if the heat of Houston's summertime is sufficient to neutralize the sunspot enhancement generated by the Sun Dancers. On Sunday morning, July 6, a nice little opening into Asia encouraged the DXers who spotted it (probably the result of a little independent bongo ditty by one of the Big Bend Sun Dancers). Monday morning, the bands were dead again -- and they have stayed that way for much of the month until the Sun Dancers cranked things up again near the end of July.

Field Day has come and gone. Fortunately, there appeared little good DX to distract the DXers from pursuing Field Day activities. The Solar Flux Index hovered at or below 70 for the first week in July, with the A and K indices staying below 10. Band conditions were not particularly good, making it a bit difficult to work DX when it could be found. Tad Cook says that we should not expect to see great improvement in the near term. People should remember that the start of a new sunspot cycle does not mean that propagation improves by leaps and bounds immediately. There was supposed to be a big disturbance between June 28 and July 3 but it never did appear. After sticking at or below 70 for much of the month, the SFI was up to 79 near the end of July. Band conditions did not reflect the level of improvement, however.

DX Worked: CY9AB (St. Paul Island); VY1RAC (Yukon); BV4FH

(Taiwan); JA3BUO (Japan); RK9CWW & RV0AM (Eur. Russia); BV8BC (Taiwan); JA7TI & JA9PPC (Japan); BV5GQ, BV8BC & BV0DX (Taiwan); YB0AI (Indonesia); 9M6AG (E. Malaysia); HL5NBM (S. Korea); JA4DW (Japan); KL1V (Alaska); ZL2GED (New Zealand); UT0MN (Ukraine); 9M8ZZ (Sarawak); BV5GQ (Taiwan); CN68DN (Morocco); YV30T (La Tortugas Is.); D25L (Angola); OJ0/N4GN (Market Reef); RA4HA (Russia); UY7IO (Ukraine); 5N0HQ (Nigeria); 6W1QV (Senegal); countless Europeans too numerous to iterate here; T97M (Bosnia Herzegovina); VK3AJJ (Australia); AH8A (Am. Samoa); ZL1AGO & ZL1KJ (New Zealand); DU1SAN, DU1KT & DU3RCM (Philippines); DS5USH (So. Korea); YB1XUR (Indonesia); JA7MQM (Japan); OH0/OH2XX (Aland Is.); YL2DX (Latvia); ZL4AP (N. Zealand); 4F1JUX (Philippines); JW2PA (Svalbard Island); ZK1JD (Cook Islands); 5W1PC (W. Samoa); FO5QB (Papeete, Tahiti); VK7GK (Tasmania); UX3HX (Ukraine); VR6TC (Pitcairn Island); FO5KW (Tahiti); DU9RG, DU1KT, 4F4IX & DU4VX (Philippine Islands); A41LZ (Oman); CY9SS (St. Paul Island); DS1BHE (So. Korea); BO0M (Ma Tsu Is.); FK8GM, FK8VHN & FK8HC (New Caledonia) (pipeline, Jack?); RV0AR (Eur. Russia); KH0I (Saipan); 5X1T (Uganda); GD6YB/p (Isle of Man); P29TL (Papua New Guinea); C21RK (Nauru); A61AQ (UAE); 4Z4UR (Israel).

DX Heard: XV7TH (Vietnam); 4F1JUX (Philippines); VR2KO (Hong Kong); ZL4KF & ZL1ARY (New Zealand); VK4AAR (Australia); DU2DDO & DU1FZB (Philippines); LY1DO (Lithuania); KH0I (Saipan); ZK1CC (So. Cook Is.).

QSL Routes: KL1V via Box 215, Valdez, AK 99686; BV0DX via

KA6SPQ; JW2PA via LA2PA; CY9SS via VY2SS; BO0M via BV2KI; C21RK via CBA; A41LZ via POB 2837, Ruwi CP1200, Oman.

Hong Kong was returned to China on July 1. Nobody beats the British when it comes to pageantry -- even in a pouring rainstorm.

July rumor says that 3C0DX is back on for October 7 this Fall. 3C0DX was originally scheduled for May 20-27 from Pagalu Island (formerly known as Annobon). This is an obscure DX location which is activated periodically. The earlier schedule was canceled due to visa problems with the Equatorial Guinea government. Watch for this one if you don't already have it.

Another operation from Kure Island is planned for September. This one involves an international team with three HF radios running for a full week.

EA3FKI plans to operate from 5A1A during September, including RTTY.

Ogassawara Island should be active during mid-August. QSL via 7N3GNX.

In February 1998 another international team plans to operate from the Spratly Islands. More info to follow later.

Ted NH6YK will be QRV from Midway Island until August 20 as NH4/NH6YK. Activity will depend on his work and recreation schedule. Look for some 10 meter activity.

The North Cook Islands should be available in September, also. ZK1XXP is the tentative callsign.

One of our readers called recently to ask me if I really work all of the DX reported in this column and, if so, how I do it. He said that he rarely even hears some of the stuff I work.

DX News Continued from Page 3

My response to his e-mail was that as a retiree I have opportunities that many people still working will miss out on. I also told him that I have a beam antenna, compared to his dipole, and that I can run a kilowatt compared to his 100-watts. Lots of time spent listening to the bands is still one of the major keys, even in these days of DX packet clusters. A major facet is persistence.

The annual DXpeditions to Market Reef (OJ0) and the Aland Islands (OH0) were on during July. Both locations generated considerable interest, despite the fact both are on about once a year. Martti Laine answered my first call to the OJ0/N4GN operation on Market Reef. On July 13, the day before the end of the DXpedition, OH0/OH2XX attracted a nice pileup which included several of the chaps from Houston. A good operator, he worked many stations despite the repeated efforts of a WB8 to hold a ragchew, first on the listening frequency and then on his calling frequency, when told that both frequencies were very busy.

YV30T stirred a bit of controversy during July. Some thought the station was operating from Aves Island, one of the rarer Caribbean spots. Further listening revealed the operation was from LaTortugas Island in celebration of the Venezuelan Navy's 30th Anniversary. Fun to work, but counts for nothing more than another IOTA island.

KJ5X worked 5X1T in Uganda on July 21 for a new country. 5X1T is Peter Casier ON5TT who went to Peter I Island and to Heard Island recently. Dick W5VHN was heard working DU1KT on my coattails. Dick also worked JE1LET. WA8GHZ reports working CU3AR again and having a "pipeline into the

Azores." KK5LO has a new radio and worked 5X1T (Uganda), CY9SS (St. Paul Isl.) and A41LZ (Oman). W5PDW worked YB1XUR and a few other DX locations.

Despite poor propagation numbers from WWV, band conditions during the IARU contest reflected the promise of the DX Gods -- the bands will always be open when there is a big contest underway. Countless stations with HQ suffixes were heard and worked. These are the Headquarters stations for the various versions of the ARRL in DX countries. NU1AW, HQ station for the IARU itself, was also active and worked.

True, most of the propagation was into Europe, but occasional contacts with African and Asian stations were possible. After the contest ended, an Asian opening provided contacts with Taiwanese and Philippine stations readily with good copy in Texas.

Nice little Pacific opening around 0300Z on July 21. Signals were not gigantic, but several interesting places were readable and worked without difficulty.

Congratulations to K5NZ on his DXCC endorsement for 204 countries (QST for August, 1997).

The last week of July saw St. Paul Island working big pileups on 20 meters. With frequent breaks for working Europe, So. America and the Pacific regions, there were opportunities to tune around the band now and then. I worked A41LZ in Oman before returning to work the CY9SS gang on St. Paul.

Bill Gary K8CSG



by Keith Dutson

NARS operates on voluntarism. The reason there are so many activities in NARS during each year is that there are many volunteers in the club. This is quite evident to those who are the volunteers, but other members might take this fact for granted, or not realize the extent of voluntary action being performed. It IS noticeable from the outside, however, as related in the example below.

"I like your club, Keith. All the members seem so active and involved. There are many who really work hard to make the club a success." This was the comment from my wife, Beth, when she attended the annual NARS banquet with me last January. That was her first encounter with more than one or two club members.

The best part of being a volunteer is the sense of accomplishment when each task is completed. Plus, being active in NARS functions creates a feeling that you are an integral part of the organization. So, if you are sitting on the sidelines, jump up and offer your help to someone who is already a volunteer. You'll be glad you did.

Sign up today as a NARS News reporter; see me for details. You do not have to be a writer or photographer, but it will help if you can do either. Call me at 281-351-7683, or send email to kdutson@swbell.net.

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DX Cluster Update

Late last year NARS asked for donations to help add a DX cluster to our Digipeater Node (145.71 MHz). The Board decided this was the best way to provide reliable DX cluster connections for our members. After we raised enough funds to purchase the required equipment and software we decided that the current location of the node (NW Medical Center) would not provide good access for all members. So, we decided to delay the cluster project until the node could be moved to a more accessible location. It appears now that we have found a good spot: on a 430 foot tower!

There is bad news, good news and great news. First the bad news; there will

likely be substantial costs associated with the node move. Now the good news; the new location is so good that we can link into the local DX cluster network to once again provide reliable connections for NARS members. Putting it another way, we can use the cluster money to facilitate the node move and achieve the original objective. The great news is that we will likely not have to raise more money for the node.

Thanks to Brian Derx, and whomever else was involved, for finding the new tower site.

Thanks also to the following persons for

making donations to the cluster fund:

H O WA5MLT, Cal WF5W, Walter KK5LO, Ed KB5QLX, Bill K8CSG, Bob KC5JZO, Mark KM5AO, Bill K5ZTY, Bob KK5PV, Dick W5VHN, Don KA3BKU, Jack WA8GHZ, Jack KC5OFI, Jim KJ5X, Keith WD5DXL, Larry KC5NVY, Rudy KB5ZXO, Tom KK5YU, Dick N5JZY, Harry N5WIZ, Bill W5SB, Dan N5KPI, Jerry KB5VGD, Paul N5NXS, Paul KF5SB, Ken KA5AKG, Buddy KC5NSW, Harold KC5CNV, Larry WA5SAJ, John W5PDW, O J K1OJ.

Keith WD5DXL

VE Session Results

The NARS/Compaq VE group returned to action on July 26 after taking off during June for Field Day. Ten candidates took advantage of this opportunity and were examined on fifteen elements.

A high pass-rate of 80 percent yielded the following results. Four of the candidates became new Technician Class hams; two previously-licensed

Technicians became Tech-Plus hams.

A previously licensed General Class licensee became an Advanced Class, and a prior Advanced Class passed the final element to become an Extra Class licensee.

Three elements were failed, none of them code-related.

Working with the group were eight NARS-member VEs -- Mark K5GQ, Bill W5SB, Jim KJ5X, Rick KZ5E, Bill K5ZTY, Bill K8CSG, Larry WA5SAJ and newcomer Dick Rooney W5VHN.

From Compaq were Walter K5WH and Willie KB5TES.

Bill K8CSG

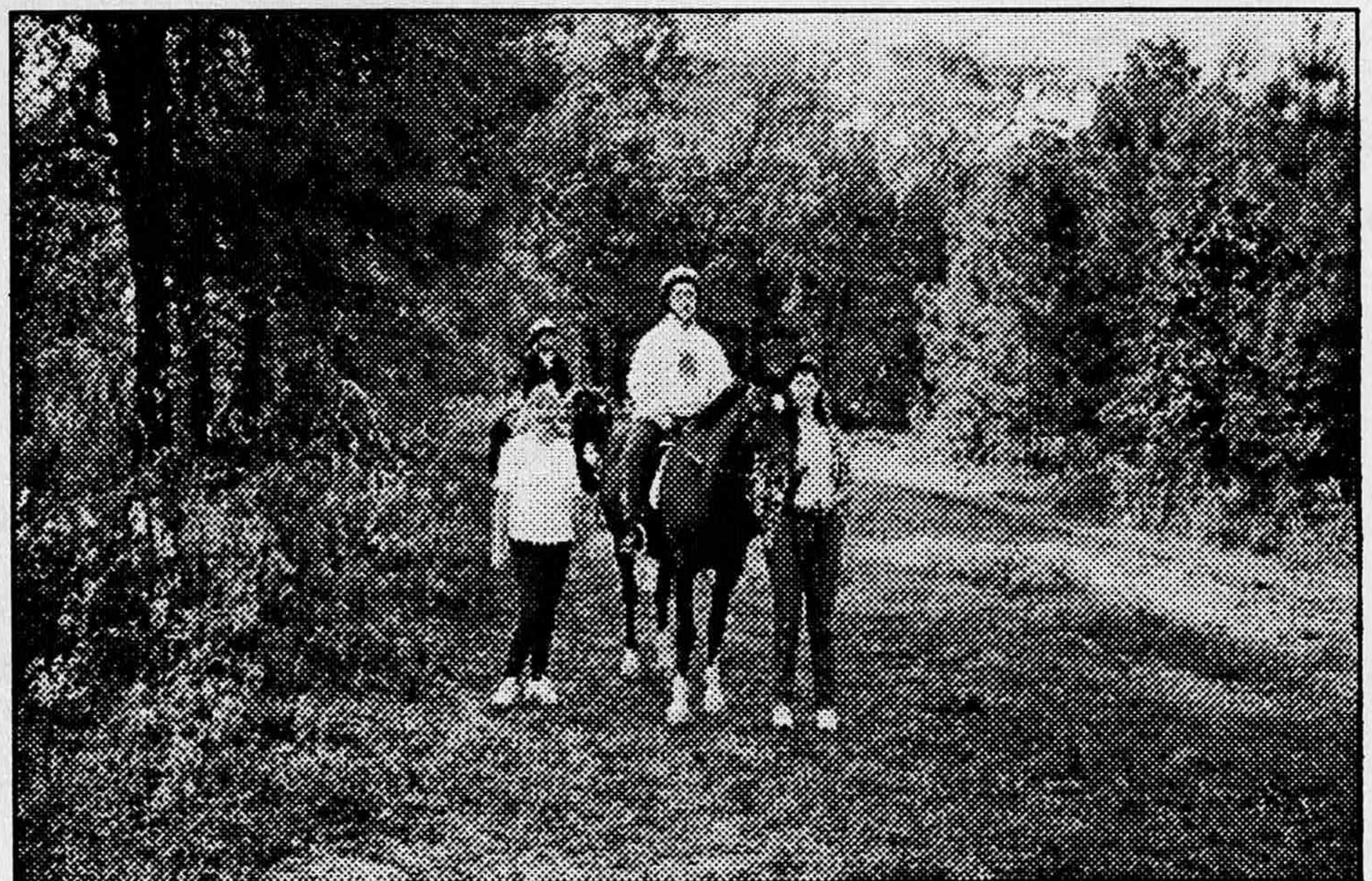
Public Service Events

Your radio skills are needed.

SIRE 5th annual Ride-A-Thon, Saturday, October 18

Contact: Keith Dutson,
281-351-7683

Here's a chance to take part in an event that NARS members have supported with radio communications since Saddle Up For SIRE started five years ago. With reasonable weather, it is always fun and requires only a 2 meter HT, fresh batteries and a few hours time. Volunteers are stationed along a ten mile trail near Montgomery where participants ride horses to raise money for SIRE, Self-Improvement Through Riding Education, the charity dedicated to the rehabilitation of children and adults with disabilities. For more information, call Keith Dutson.



NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, 713-893-3901
Allen Majeski WA5REJ, 281-353-8652
Bill Denton W5SB, 281-469-8331,

Antennas

O J Quarles K1OJ, 281-955-1555, HF
Larry McCain WA5SAJ, 281-469-6709
Madison Jones W5MJ, 281-350-4330,
CW
Bill Gary K8CSG, 281-537-9240, DX
Bill Rister KC5EZQ, 281-537-8596, ATV

Satellite:

Deral Kent K5WNO, 281-548-7476,
RS12/13
Dick Rooney W5VHN, 281-288-8424

Electrical Design, Troubleshooting:

George Carlson KC5RCC, 281-376-8307

Packet:

Don Bedell KA3BKU, 281-370-6576

VHF:

Brian Derx N5BA, 713-894-5942

Computer Operating, Win'95:

Bob Argo KC5JZO, 281-288-7430

Computer Programming:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL, 281-351-7683

Interference:

Harry Gage N5WIZ, 281-370-7488, Basic
Advice

Mark Tyler K5GQ, 281-587-0256

Card Checking Awards Managers:

DXCC - Bob Walworth N5ET,
Linda Walworth KE5TF, 281-363-0209
WAS, VUCC - Brian Derx N5BA;
713-894-5942

NARS Public Information Officer:

Open

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Open

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Walter Hock KK5LO 350-6633
Rudy Novotny KB5ZXO 251-4546
Mark Condit KM5AO 550-5659
Bill Gary K8CSG 537-9240

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Please send address, phone, email and other changes to Marian Denton at NARS, P.O. Box 690342, Houston, TX 77269-0342, email W5NC@juno.com

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL

Marian Denton, 469-8331, for General Information and Bill Gary, 537-9240, for VE Exam Information or send email to novotny@tenet.edu

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday
8 AM at Victors, located at 4710 W FM 1960. Informal ragchew.

NARS LUNCH BUNCH every
Wednesday - location decided Tuesdays on the informal morning 2 meter net.

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 PM
28.444 MHz
Net Coordinator Jim KJ5X

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM
146.06 / .66 MHz
Net Coordinator Bill K8CSG

*All telephone #'s are 281 Area Code

NARS REPEATERS

2 M - 146.060 / 146.660 MHz
Digipeater - 145.71 MHz
Call (W5NC) Alias (NARS)

NARS Web Page

<http://www.flash.net/~nars/>
Coordinator H O WA5MLT
Trustee Walter KK5LO

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

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