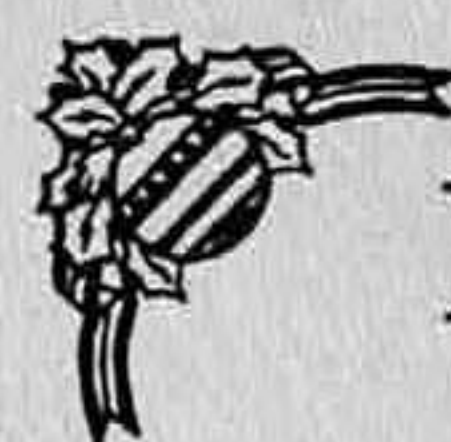


NARS NEWS

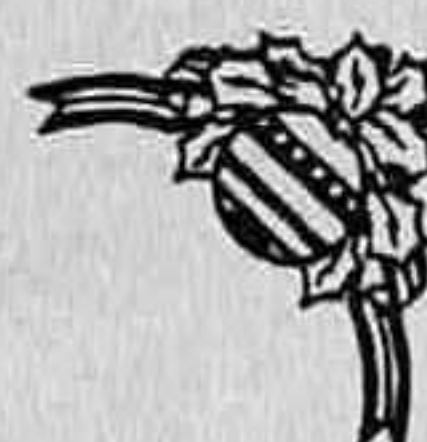
The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

December 1997



December 19 is Home Brew Night!



This is the night you've been waiting for! Drag out that prized project and bring it to the meeting. Even if it's not a prized one, if it has a story behind it that will educate, inspire, humor or otherwise beneficially affect your fellow club members, then it is worth bringing. Awards will be available for the most worthy. Bring a little extra cash for some

additional fun. There will be a silent auction of miscellaneous articles from Ken Edinborgh's W5BKK junk box donated to NARS by his wife Ann. Nothing will remain unsold. So come and have some fun and a deal you won't believe!

Jim Kirk KJ5X

1998 Officers



The 1998 officers, left to right: Allen WA5REJ, Dianna KC5VSF, Joe KD5KR, Bob KC5JZO, Keith WD5DXL

Important Dates

Friday, December 19, 7:30 pm – NARS monthly General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSO's, 7:00 pm

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

Friday, January 23, 7:00 am – NARS Annual Banquet, Valley Ranch BBQ, SH249 & Spring-Cypress

Saturday, January 24, 8:30 am – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main)

Contests:

December 28 – RAC Winter, CW and Phone

December 31 – ARRL Straight Key Night

January 3-4 – ARRL RTTY Roundup

January 10-11 – North American QSO Party, CW

January 17-18 – North American QSO Party, Phone

January 17-19 – ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

January 23-25 – CQ WW 160 Meter SSB

Notice:

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

NARS News deadline for articles to appear in January issue – Wednesday, December 31.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

December 1997

The election of the NARS officers for 1998 went very smoothly. The old railroad is still working just fine. Congratulations to our new President Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, Vice President Dianna Hudspeth KC5VSF, Secretary Bob Argo KC5JZO, Treasurer Keith Dutson WD5DXL and Director Allen Majeski WA5REJ. We are fortunate to have KC5JZO and WD5DXL re-up for 1998. They have done an outstanding job in 1997. And thanks go to outgoing Directors Rudy Novotny KB5ZXO and Mark Condit KM5AO.

December 19 is NARS Home Brew night. Drag out that prized project and bring it. Even if it's not so prized but has a story behind it that's interesting, educational or humorous, bring it and tell about it. Bring a little extra cash to the meeting. We plan to have a silent auction of miscellaneous items from Ken Edinborgh's W5BKK junk box. These have been donated to NARS by Ken's wife, Ann. For those who don't know, Ken was an esteemed and founding member of NARS who became a silent key not long ago.

I do believe old Sol is beginning to deliver again. The solar flux was up to 112 last night. 15 meters has been great and even 12 and 10 meters are alive some days. On the road over the Thanksgiving weekend I worked DX on mobile HF and did some longwinded ragchewing with S-8 reports from east-coasters on 15 meters. With this better propagation, NARS has some fairly new hams who are turning into real DX hogs. We need to watch KM5LA, KD5AIG and KD5AIJ to make sure they leave some for the rest of us. There are others I'm keeping an eye on also.

1997 has been a fun year for me in NARS. My philosophy about ham radio is that if it's not fun, something's wrong. A fear I had when agreeing to be president was that of having to twist arms to get 'volunteers'. How wrong I was. Seldom was I turned down and often there was more help available than asked for. And the performance often exceeded expectations. It seems to me there are three elements that manifest the vitality and personality of NARS: fellowship, service and radio fun. If we ever design a new club logo, I would vote to use those words.

Jim Kirk KJ5X

Thanks, Fine Fellows All.

My vehicle died on the way to the November NARS meeting, and my hat is off to the following members who helped to get me to the meeting and home:

Jack KK5LJ, who pushed my car out of the traffic with his jeep;
Rob KD5BXZ, who stayed with me to keep communications going when my battery died;
Ben KC5JBE who drove me to the meeting;
Bill W5SB who hauled some of my gear after the meeting;
Larry WA5SAJ who drove me home.

Thanks to all for the support and much-needed help to get my vehicle off the road, and get me to and from the November meeting.

PS: The yellow, 5,000 lb., Detroit-fabricated, 1979, mobile Counterpoise (my old Cadillac) has been hauled off to recycling and replaced by a GMC pick-up-truck, in keeping with proper Texas decorum.

73, Jack WA8GHZ /5

"I know the guy who built my radio."

Buy - Sell - Trade

For Sale: Yaseau FL7000 amplifier - \$700.00; Kenwood 742 dualbander w/ duplexer and antenna - \$600.00; AOR handheld scanner (100 - 1300) - \$300.00

Robert Payne N5KUC - Home: 281-259-8017 - Work: 281-363-7594

NARS Board of Directors Meeting 11/25/97

Treasurer's Report - The checkbook balance on October 31, 1997 was \$3480.72.

Rose Hill Node - The Board approved plans to install the node on the Rose Hill tower. A one year lease will be signed with the tower owner. Also the Magnolia DX Cluster operated by the TDX Society is now in operation.

CB Radio Donations - Steve Niles KD5AIJ indicated his continuing need for usable CB radios for a charitable cause. Those with contributions should contact Steve.

Programs - January - Banquet; February - Dan Consiglia WA6TWF of DRC Electronics on batteries.

Old Node at Hospital - Plans include keeping this location and converting it to a remote receiver link for the 146.66 repeater.

Texas Trails Endurance Run - Eighteen volunteers have signed up to help.

Field Day Video - Thank-you has been received from the ARRL.

Squirrels - Ken Harlan discussed the problems we are currently having. He suggested again that the best response to squirrels is to ignore them and do not talk to them. With no response they will move on.

Bob Argo KC5JZO, Secretary

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Experienced and “pro” CW ops have many shorthand ‘tricks’ that they use. Here are a few secrets which you can use to sound like an old hand:

The character “C” is used by experienced CW operators as a shorthand indication of “YES”, and is derived from the sound of the Spanish word, “Si”, also meaning ‘Yes’. So if you tune down low in the band where the experienced ops hang out, you may hear something like, “Is my sig OK now? BK” which is followed by simply, “C”, meaning ‘YES’. I recently heard “CCC” which I took to mean an affirmative reply to the obvious as in, “Yeah, yeah, yeah”

Another advanced shorthand which is often used ‘low in the band’ is the word “OP” instead of the word “NAME.” The experienced guys will often use, “OP IS JOSE.” So a real CW pro’s standard exchange may be, “TX UR 5NN OP JOSE QTH HABANA.” Which translates to “Thanks, your RST is 599, Operator is Jose, location is Havana.” This shorthand can save quite a few characters and speeds up the information flow if used well and understood by both parties.

By the way, whoever coined the often-heard use of “WX HR IS WARM” or “RIG HR IS Kwxxx” with the “HR” meaning HERE? OF course HR is HERE – where else would you be??? Drives me crazy (and wastes characters.....).

And, who “deemed” that DX RST exchanges should all be “599”, anyway? Most DX reports are, sadly and incorrectly, given as 5NN. I’m eagerly awaiting a chance to give my first North Korea contact a 439 report, if that is what he truly is to my ears.....

So strut your stuff; use “C” or “OP”, delete the “HR” usage, and give out them 449 RSTs as needed, and they’ll think you’re a pro able to dig out the weak ones when band conditions go south heck, anyone can copy a 599; that doesn’t take any talent!

Jack WA8GHZ/5/QRP CL

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VE Session Results

The NARS/Compaq VE team conducted examinations for nine candidates on November 22, 1997 in Tomball. One new Technician and two Tech-Plus licenses resulted, plus several CSCE’s for partial credit on others. Of fourteen elements tested, there were seven passed and seven failed. Three of these failures were on code elements. Participating VEs included Bill K8CSG, Dick W5VHN, Jim KJ5X, Bruce WC5CW, Walter K5WH, Rick KZ5E, Larry WA5SAJ and King KK5LU. Willie KB5TES assisted with paperwork chores.

Bill K8CSG

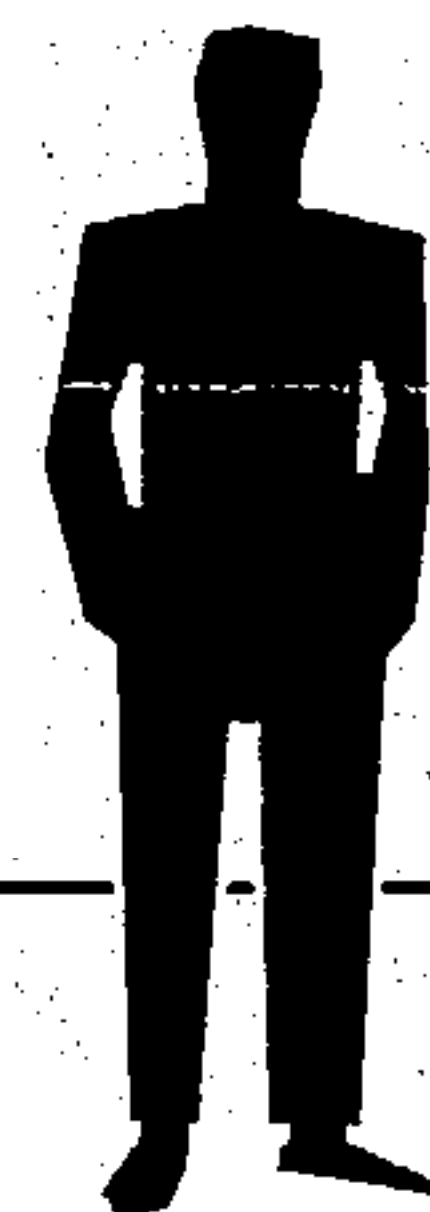
Election – Results

The following are the NARS club officers for 1998, elected at the November general membership meeting.

President – Joe Sokolowski KD5KR
Vice President – Dianna Hudspeth KC5VSF
Secretary – Bob Argo KC5JZO
Treasurer – Keith Dutson WD5DXL
Director at Large (2 year term) – Allen Majeski WA5REJ

In addition to these officers the 1998 Board will also consist of :
Bill Gary K8CSG – Director at Large (2nd of 2 year term)
Jim Kirk KJ5X – Immediate Past President
Walter Hock KK5LO – Past President

Rudy KB5ZXO



by Keith Dutson

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Don't miss this month's meeting, Home-brew night. Everything you have heard about this annual meeting is likely true, no matter how outlandish it might have sounded. For example, last year John Ellis W5PDW demonstrated his "portable" ground. That got quite a chuckle.

So, bring something you have made that you use in your hamming activity. Don't be bashful. We are all interested in sharing our ideas.

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.

DX News

DX Notes -- I, too, have known my hour, a moment both fierce and sweet. There was a shout about my ears, and DX at every beat ...

The solar flux at the beginning of the month was in the high eighties and nineties, with moderate-to-low A and K indices. Fifteen meters was open most mornings into Europe with nice signals, with similar signals out of Asia in the evenings. The second week began with the SFI at 94 and the A index at 30. Bad band conditions followed this high A index until it dropped a bit to 5, with the SFI at 90. At mid-month the SFI approached the 100 level with decent openings into Europe. The month ended with a solar flux index of 112, an A index of 0 and a K index of 1 -- truly good numbers for the CW testers that weekend.

DX Worked -- P29DL 15m 2152Z; C21RK 15m 2157Z; JH0ZHQ 15m 2219; JI3KVR/6 15m 2225 (AS-12 IOTA); JM1OMQ 15m 2248Z; JA4KKW 15m 2304Z; Z350GBC 15m 1327Z; T77CD (San Marino) 15m 1434Z; BV5GQ 15m 2353Z; 9G1BJ 20m 2203Z; 5T5U 20m 2213Z; 9J2CE 10m 1349Z; VQ9KH 20m 1504Z (Chagos Arch.); FR5CC 10m 1512Z; 5N0YL 12m 1354Z; 9K2/SQ5DAK 15m 1358; UT3EA 15m 1431; ZD8V 20m 2224Z; 7Z5OO 15m (CW) 1331Z; ES1WW 20m 1513Z; ZD7WRG 20m 0402Z; UX0MM 15m 1330Z. (Band and time info is being listed instead of the DXCC country at the suggestion of a reader; appreciate hearing which info other readers prefer to see -- K8CSG.)

DX Heard -- VK4KTS 15m 2205Z; 3D2RW/R (Rotuma); A61AH (United Arab Emirates); 4S7DA (Sri Lanka); V63AO (Micronesia); VK9LX (Lord Howe Isl.).

QSL Routes -- 9G1BJ via G4XTA; 5T5U via JA1UT; 9J2CE via IN3VZE; VQ9KH via WJ5R; 4U1WRC via 4U1ITU, Geneva; 5N0YL via F2YT; 9K2/SQ5DAK via SP5KQS; 7Z5OO via N2AU.

Local Happenings: Gary KK5WL reports he worked FR5DX on 40 meters. KD5AIG worked C21RK on Nauru Island -- and sounds like a true DX convert. Later, he worked JA9AA in Japan on 15m. KC5JZO worked LY2ZZ in Lithuania for another new one. K1OJ worked HB0 (Liechtenstein) and EL (Liberia) recently. KB5ZXO worked SV (Greece), JA (Japan), and VU (India) from his new lakeside site. K5GQ worked ZP (Paraguay). KK5LO worked XT2DP in Burkina Faso. K5VUU worked a VK6 in Western Australia. Mark K5GQ has been heard telling about a recent mobile DX QSO. In mid-November he was chatting on 10MHz CW with another stateside chap. Upon completion of that QSO, Mark was very surprised to hear a ZS6 (South Africa) calling him. A ten-minute QSO followed, one of which K5GQ is justly proud. K5VUU worked VK6WJH in Western Australia. Loyd KD5AIG worked ZL2ACE (New Zealand) and EA8AMT (Canary Islands). Conrad W5MN worked a UT3 in the Ukraine. He also bragged on the 75m "LID NET" of working, among others, E21CJN in Thailand. Good DX! Mike KM5LA worked a ZF2 on 40m CW.

Listen Up, folks! Mike K5NZ worked his 40th and last zone on Nov. 13 -- VU2RAK (India) on the long path. Now all he needs is the card(s)! I hated to tell him I had worked the fellow in 1992, with no return from a Buro card.

On November 19 during the LID NET on 75 meters, Conrad mentioned he had heard 7Z5OO on 21 MHz CW. Then he casually mentioned the 7Z5 was running 40-45wpm. It seemed a little unusual to have that kind of station coming in at that time of the morning, so I tuned and listened for him. With his good signal, I listened a bit more and then signed my call sign once. Back he came and we swapped 5NN reports to complete a QSO in about eight seconds. I went back to the LID NET and reported I had just worked the 7Z5. This caused a bit of consternation to some of my colleagues who often express disdainful comments about my rarely used CW skills. So there!

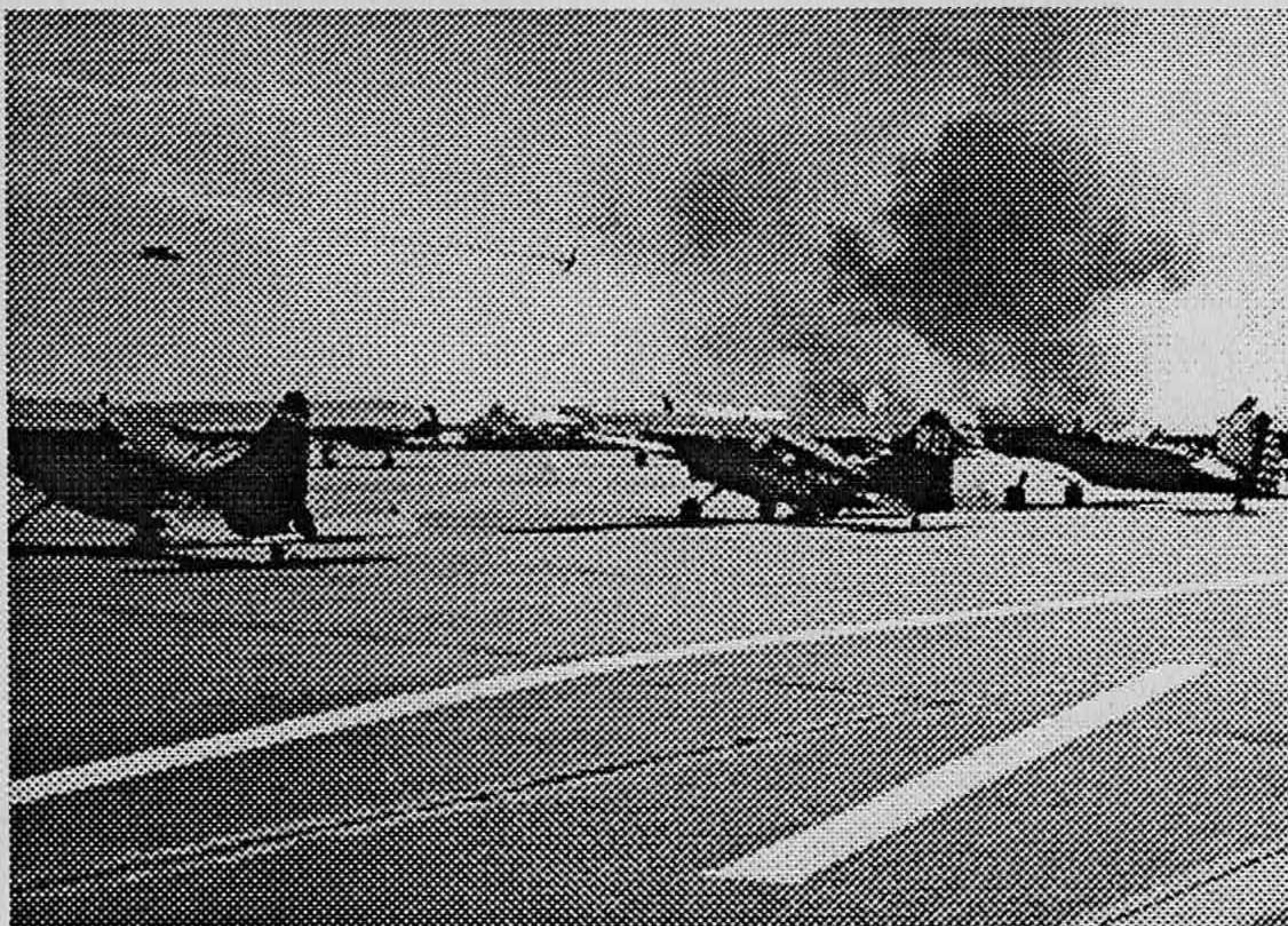
George, K5VUU, reported an interesting contact late in the month. George worked Staten Island -- yes, Staten Island. When did Staten Island become DX, you ask? It all depends upon which Staten Island you are referring to. George worked L20XSI on the Staten Island that is a part of Argentina, lying off the tip of South America south of Tierra del Fuego. George's contact was on 20-meter SSB on November 27, followed by another interesting QSO with Contadero Island, HP1XVH. This little island lies off the coast of Panama, and was also worked on 20-meter SSB on November 28. Thanks for the input, George.

My apologies for the abbreviated column this month. Due to a computer-related glitch, I lost the second half of the column and was able to reconstruct only a small part of it.

Bill Gary K8CSG

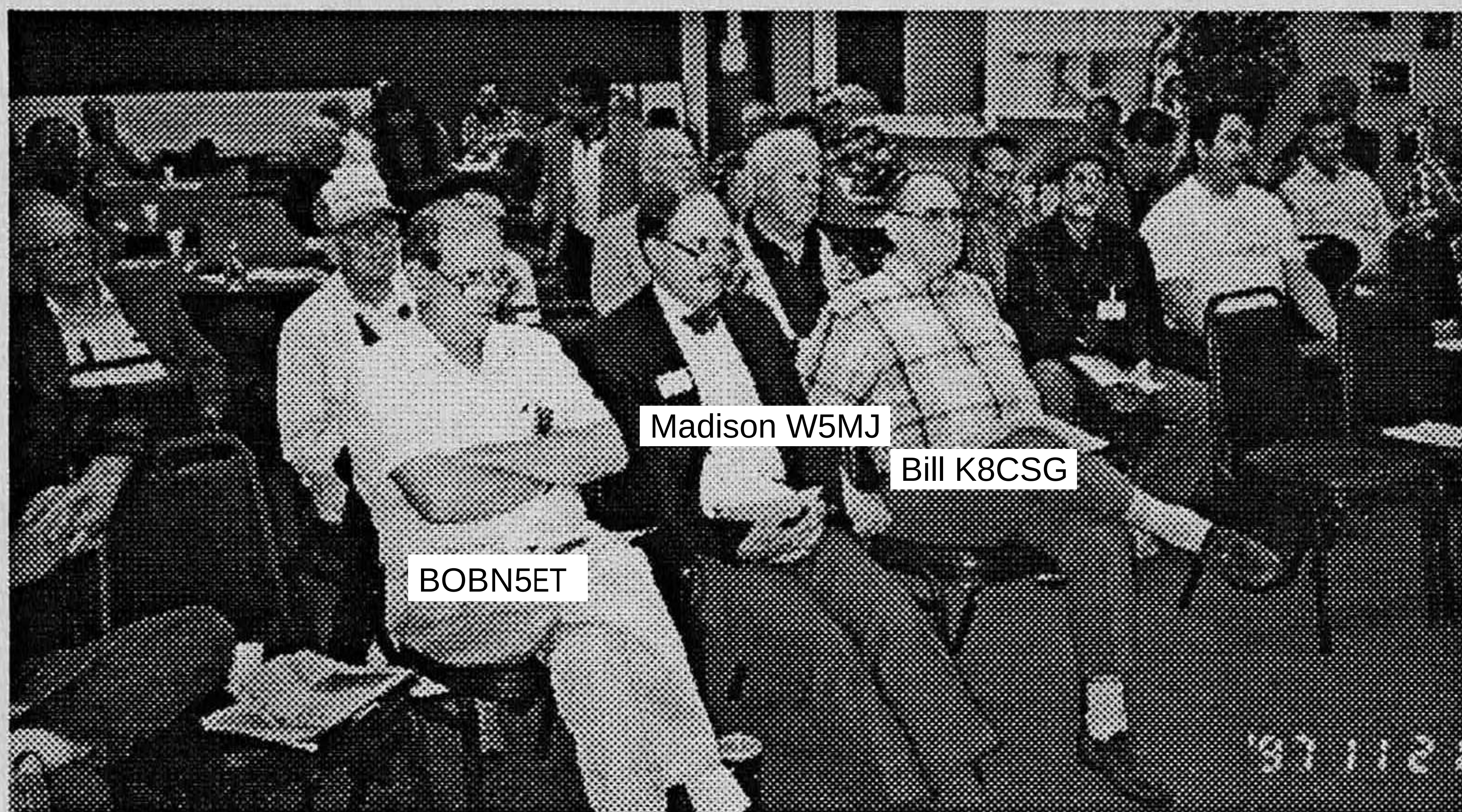


SIRE workers at Moss Rock Farms, Magnolia

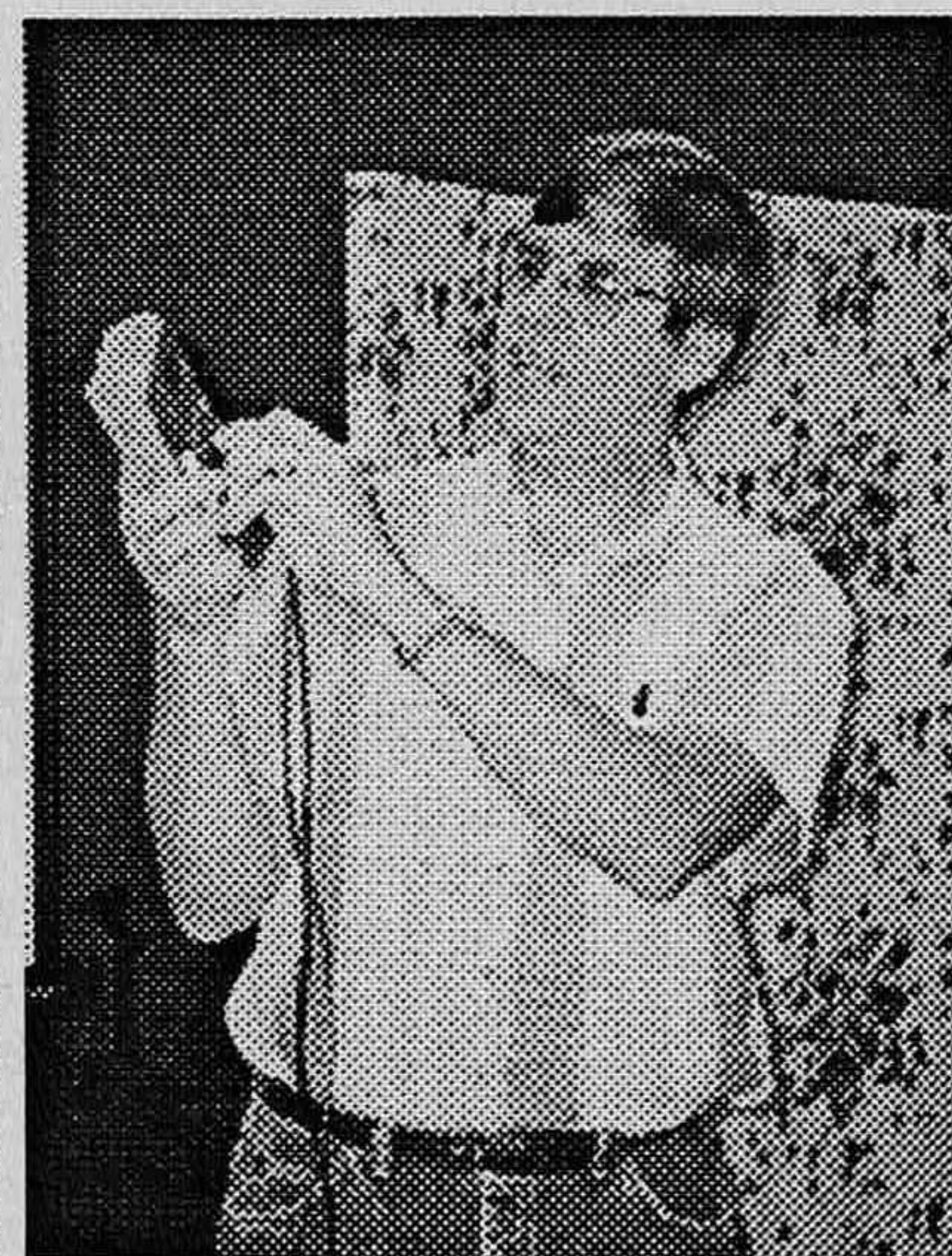


On the flight line at the Wings Over Houston air show. Several NARS members participated including Paul Owen N5NXS, John Allen KC5JRS, Brad Nelson WD5GNI and Keith Dutson WD5DXL

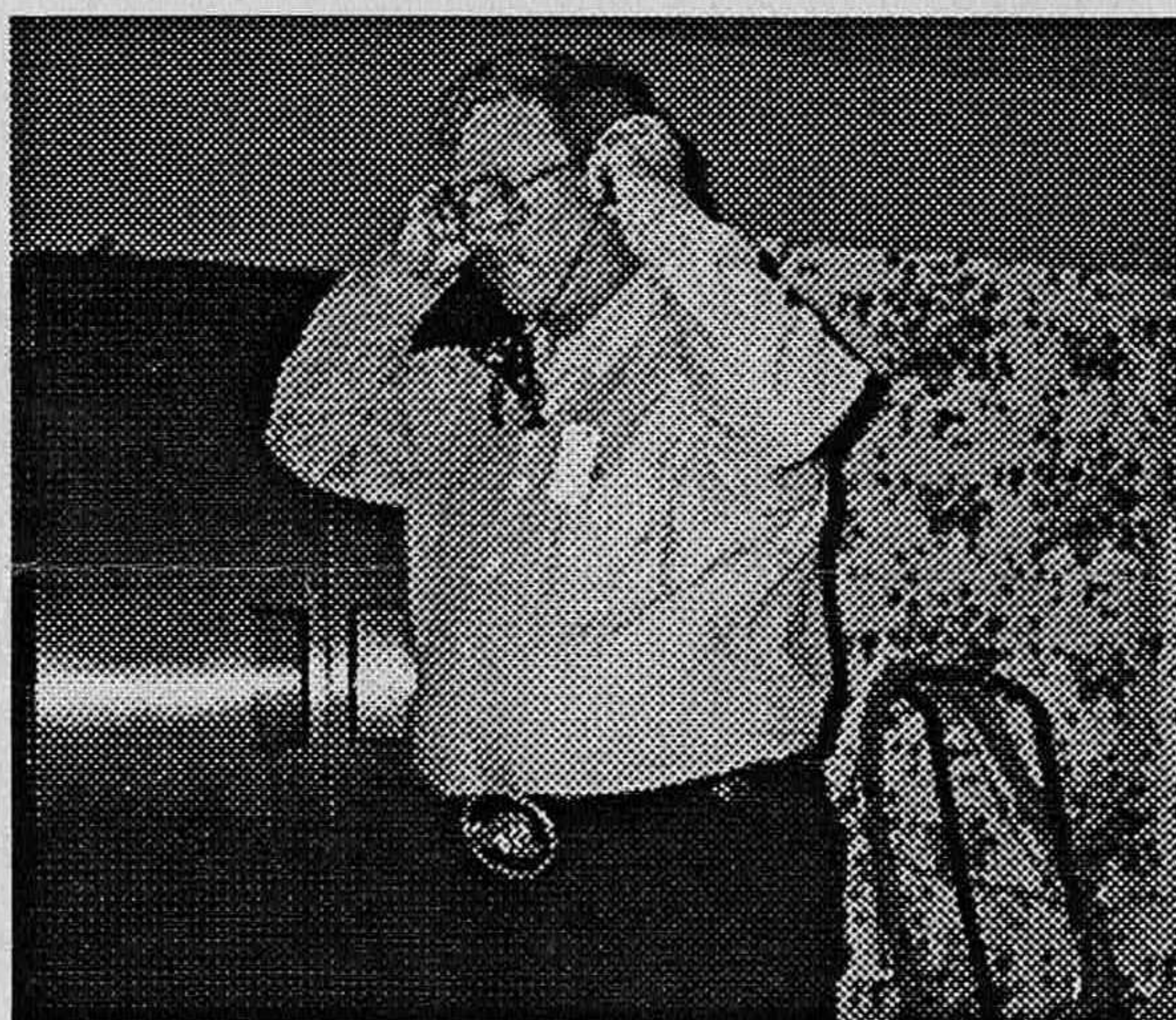
November Meeting



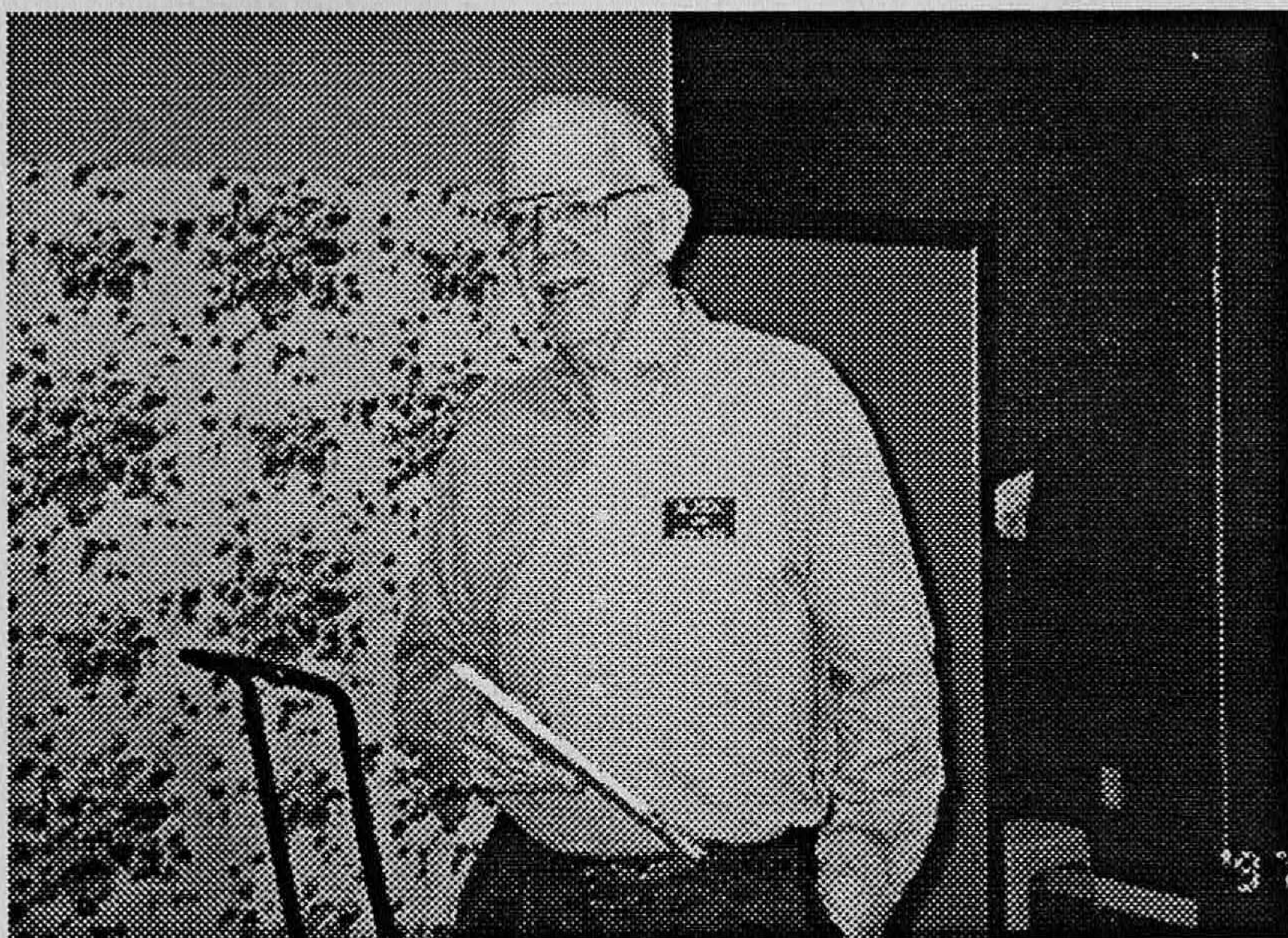
A good group attended the November meeting.



George Carlson KC5RCC giving the Tech Talk on test equipment



Jack Dougherty WA8GHZ, demonstrating his "courtesy" airline earphones used for the Equatorial Guinea DXPedition.



Jim KJ5X, our esteemed lame-duck president.



Marian Denton KB5SGV, our extraordinary administrative secretary.

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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Jim Kirk KJ5X *376-0718

VICE PRESIDENT
Open

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Bob Argo KC5JZO 288-7430

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DIRECTORS
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

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