



FIELD DAY 1999 PREVIEW

THIS is the BIG ONE. FIELD DAY 1999 is finally here, June 26-27. THIS WILL BE THE FINAL FIELD DAY OF THIS MILLENNIUM. This is one of the biggest events NARS participates in during the year. This is a reason a lot of us are in Hamradio. This is a contest, but also, it is an exercise of setting up and operating under adverse conditions. Providing communications for health and welfare for emergency situations is what a lot of us do best. When no one else can get through Hams can. We don't worry about jammed telephone trunks or power outages. In times of disaster, such as after a tornado, amateurs provide great communications. Hams go out and survey the damage and look for survivors to help get them to safety.

Field Day is much like that but without the disaster. We get to have a lot more fun while doing it. The other facet of FD is the contest. Who can make the most contacts in a 24 hour period? There are more Ham radio operators on the air in the United States on FD weekend than during any other period of time. There are literally thousands upon thousands of clubs and groups on the air that weekend. The QRM is horrendous. Our Field Day is held at the Fritsche Family Cemetery County Park and we encourage visitors to come and learn more about us. We will have a visitor table with sign in sheet and information packets. We expect as many as a hundred or so visitors during the weekend. We will have BBQ on Saturday night at 5:00 PM. We are looking for a head count so we have enough. Many come out just for the eats and to visit for a while.

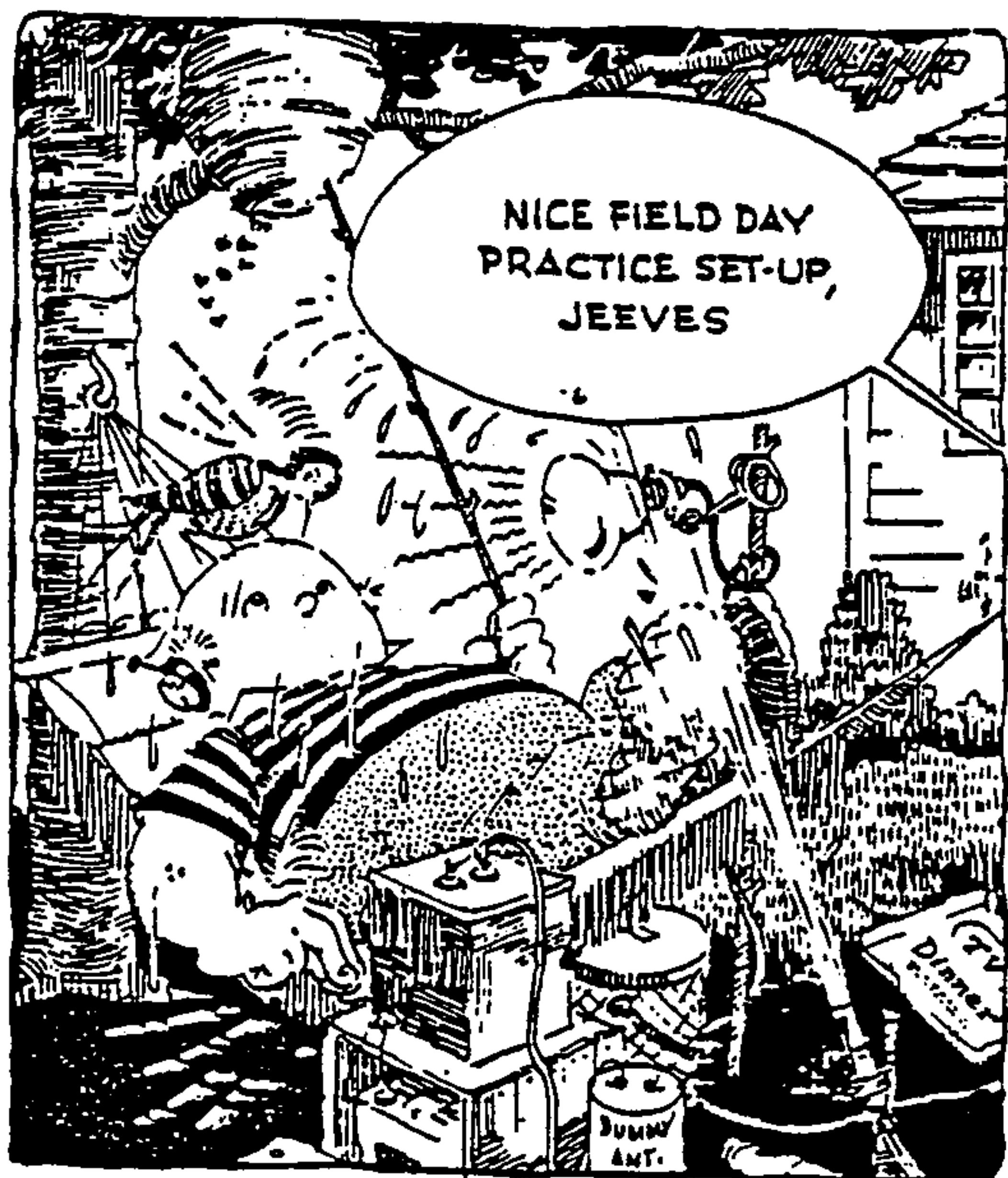
George KD5AYF, the club's Public Information Officer, has sent press releases to all the media and a few have already responded.

A big part of our effort is put on the contest. Over the years we have placed in the top ten nationally. Our effort last year got FIRST place in 2A. We had about 40 people operating the stations. The stations included: HF SSB, HF CW, Novice, VHF, and Satellite. We will erect 3 towers with multi-element tri-band beams, a four element 10 meter beam, several wire dipoles for 75 and 40 meters. We get our power from a large diesel generator, thanks to Ken, KA5AKG. It will run non-stop from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon

when we shut down. We will need volunteers to help take everything down.

Fritsche Park is about 200 acres. It is unimproved with no hook-ups. You are allowed to camp but it is considered primitive. Porta-cans will be provided for your convenience. You can tent camp or bring your motor home or trailer, or stay up all night like some of us fools. There are really only two major rules and violating either of them will get us evicted from the park. Since this is a county park there is NO ALCOHOL allowed. This rule is strictly enforced. A Harris County Constable comes by often and checks. The other rule is, stay

(concluded on page 5)



June, 1965

Important Dates

Friday, June 18, 7:30-9:30 PM

NARS General Membership Meeting at Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 6000 Spring Cypress Road

June 26-27: 1999 Field Day. See Preview article at left.

No Regular License Exam Session in June due to Field Day.

Tuesday, June 29, 7:30 PM

NARS Board of Directors meeting, H.O. Townsend's home, 16880 E. Maglitto Circle

Contests:

June 19-20: Kid's Day Operating Event
WVA QSO Party
All Asian CW DX Contest
SMIRK QSO Party

June 26-27: ARRL Field Day
July 1: RAC Canada Day Contest
July 3-4: Venezuela SSB DX Contest
July 4-5: Mich. QRP Club July 4 CW Sprint
July 10-11: CQ WW VHF Contest
July 11-12: IARU HF Championship
July 17-18: SEANET CW Contest
No. Amer. RTTY QSO Party

Deadline for articles to appear in July issue - **Wednesday, June 30.**

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W. FM 1960

**Saturdays
8:00 AM**

President's Corner June 1999

Howdy all...

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Coy Day - N5OK, our ARRL West Gulf Division Director for speaking at our May meeting. His insight to the League and the members of the West Gulf division was right on the money. If you missed this meeting, I think you missed a good one. Thanks, Coy; we hope you'll come back.

Congratulations to all who participated in this years Texas QSO Party. From chatter on the local repeater, everyone had a good time and returned safely. The Q count for this station was just about doubled from last years. Now, I need to get the logs and final score ready for submission. Please send your logs to Walter - KK5LO so he can turn them in for a Club score. If you send them direct, please add NARS somewhere on the score sheet. Steve - KD5AIJ - can you give us a report on how to single op mobile? Congrats, Steve, on what seems like the winning mobile score from the club!

A big "thanks" goes to Joe - KD5KR and Jim - KJ5X for coordinating this years Novice/Tech classes. And, a really big word of thanks to ALL of the instructors! From the "Old Timers" early report, it sounds like we have a great bunch of new hams and members. It is always terrific to have new folks joining the fraternity. There's one thing about this club that makes it stand out above all of the rest and it's the energy level the members put into it's activities. Way to go!!

Field Day fever is headed for a fever pitch it sounds like. We hope every club member will participate in some way. If you would like to join in the fun, please contact Walter - KK5LO or George - K5VUU FD coordinators, or Bill - W5SB phone, Jack - WA8GHZ and Bruce - WC5CW CW, or Rick - KZ5E VHF/UHF coordinators to sign up so to speak. See Walter's note elsewhere in this newsletter.

73 de H. O. - WA5MLT

I want to talk about signal reporting. QRP ops are probably more in tune to signal reports than QRO ops because of the low power we use. It seems to me that QRO ops try to make the report as big as possible, while QRP ops are curious as to what the report honestly is. How does my 1 watt really sound in Germany? Most of the signal reports that I hear from QRO stations start out 5 something. I can't remember hearing one start out with a 3 or 4 even though many of them should have. I also hear reports like 5 9 ++ and 5 9 + 20db. Is this right? What do these numbers mean?

There are two different methods of signal reporting in general use. The first is a standard system of reporting signal quality to another ham station that was developed and adopted in 1934 to 1936 before there were 'S' meters. CW ops use this system almost exclusively. It consists of a three part report on the Readability, Strength, and Tone of the signal, hence the RST designation in RST 599 of a report. Readability is divided into 5 degrees of readability as follows.

5. Perfectly Readable
4. Readable with practically no difficulty
3. Readable with considerable difficulty
2. Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
1. Unreadable

Strength is divided into 9 degrees of signal strength and was conceived before 'S' meters so you don't need one to report strength. Your ear is at least as accurate as an 'S' meter anyway.

9. Extremely strong signal
8. Strong signal
7. Moderately strong signal
6. Good signal
5. Fairly good signal
4. Fair signal
3. Weak signal
2. Very weak signal
1. Faint signal, barely perceptible

Tone is also divided into 9 degrees of pureness of transmitter carrier wave. In the early days when most all radios were home built, the carriers weren't always as clean as they should

have been. Most radios today get a 9 on this tone report. This third number in the report is for CW only and is left off in a Phone report.

9. Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation.
8. Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation.
7. Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
6. Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
5. Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly modulated
4. Rough note, some trace of filtering
3. Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered
2. Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad
1. Sixty cycle a.c. or less, very rough and broad

Now, by looking at this chart you can see that the best report that you can give using this system is 5 9(9) or "Five by Nine" as they say on the DX nets. That is "perfectly readable with an extremely strong signal" and if it is CW (9) there is a perfect tone. There is no such thing as 5 9++ or 5 9+20db as neither the 5 nor the 9 is related to an 'S' meter that has the dbs on it. Perfectly Readable, Extremely Strong Signal, is as good as it gets. It would also be unreasonable to give a 5 1 report, as that says that he is perfectly readable with a signal that is faint and barely perceptible. With a signal that was faint and barely perceptible you would probably give a 2 1 report on CW, or on sideband it would be unreadable which would be 1 1, in which case you probably wouldn't be giving him a report anyhow.

With the advent of the 'S' meter in receivers there came another way to report signal strength. You read your 'S' meter over the air. This is primarily a phone report method that goes along with the audio reports, radio checks, etc.. Originally, a full scale reading of 9 on an 'S' meter was an incoming signal that produced a 50 microvolt signal on the detector of the receiver with each S unit equaling a 6dB reduction from that level and an attempt was made to adopt a standard for S meters that followed the RST system. It never did come

QRP Stuff (Cont'd)

out just right. Today's receivers have so much processing ahead of the detector that the 50uv=S9 standard has been abandoned and the scale extended beyond S9 to 40dB over. So now the scale is essentially meaningless as there is no reference point or standard to be measured to. Therefore, your evaluation of a signal using the RST system above tells him more about his signal than an 'S' meter report if you use the RST system correctly and don't tell him he's 5 9+ something. You can give him an 'S' meter report as S1, S7, S9 or S9++ or S9+20db or whatever you think will make him feel good using the 'S' to indicate it is an 'S' meter report, but if you really want to tell him what his signal strength is, use the RST system, honestly. After all, that tells him what you are hearing and that's what counts.

There are a couple of exceptions to signal reporting and they are DXpedition pileups and Contests. In these situations 5 9 on phone or 5NN on CW is not a signal report. 5 9 means 5 Nuthin' and 5NN means 5 Nuthin' Nuthin'. DXpedition ops and contesters don't care what their signal report is. The signal report in these two cases is merely a formality to get into the log or a preamble to the rest of the report and in either case those ops would like to have a predictable report (5 9 or 5NN) in the chaos of the pileup.

See you at Field Day, where we don't give signal reports.

72, Unca' Zed

VE Session Results

Eight candidates were examined at the regular May session in Tomball on May 22. A total of fifteen elements were completed, six of them involving Morse code. This was a good session, with five brand new licensees emerging. Two others upgraded. The net result was one new Novice, three new Technicians, and three new Tech Plus licensees. The pass-rate for the session was 80 percent.

VEs participating included K8CSG, K5ZTY, W5VHN, WC5CW, N5BA, W5MJ, and NT5B from NARS. Compaq was represented by K5WH and Willie, W5WJS, who managed the paperwork.

Eight more candidates were examined at the June 2 session for NARS Class participants. One Novice, three Technicians and two Tech Plus licensees resulted.

Participating VEs (all from NARS) included K8CSG, K5ZTY, W5SB, KJ5X, WA8GHZ, KF5ND and WA5SAJ.

-- K8CSG

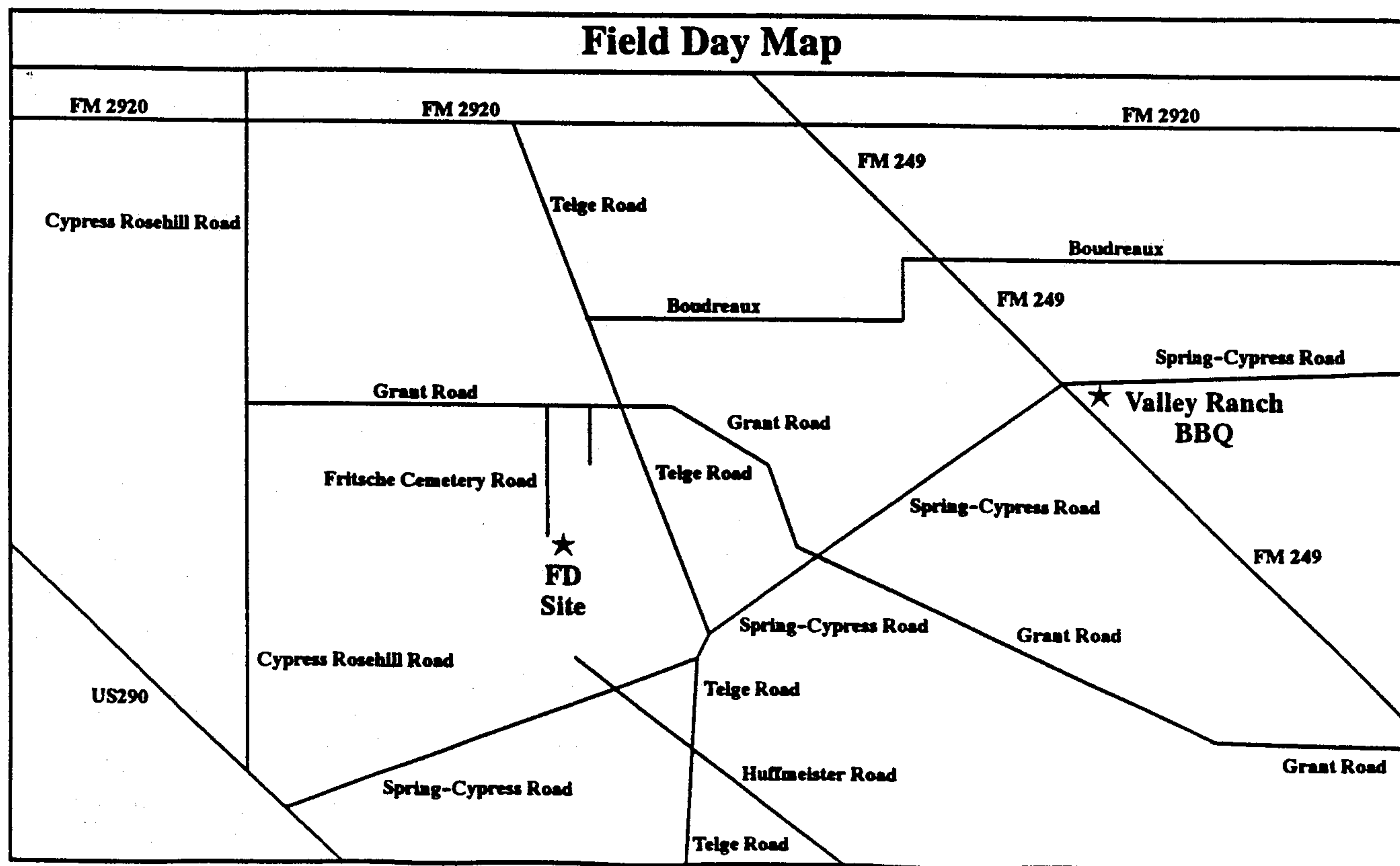
Feed Line Tests

A bad section of coaxial cable, with intermittent connections, loose connectors, faulty crimps or broken braid can cause many puzzling problems. Simple DC continuity checks are usually unsatisfactory because they may not show all such troubles.

I was thinking about building a cable test box with suitable connectors when I realized that I already had an excellent test set consisting of equipment that most hams already own.

Perform the test like this: (1) Connect the suspect length of cable between the station SWR meter and a 50-ohm dummy load. Since little power is required for the measurement, a dummy load may be made from an SO239 and several carbon resistors. (2) Set the transmitter to the ten meter band and adjust the drive (in the TUNE or CW mode) for the minimum power level that gives a valid SWR meter reading. (3) Lock down the key; then twist, wiggle and bend the cable while wayching the SWR meter. Any faults will show fluctuations in the SWR (reflected power). (This concept was described by Warren Laufer, K2FG.)

-- Harry, N5WIZ



DX News

*Somewhere or other,
Maybe near or far;
Past land and sea, clean out of sight,
Beyond the wandering moon,
Beyond the star,
We track DX night by night. . .*

In early May the propagation numbers improved and good DX returned to the bands. Was this a result of actions by the Big Bend Sundancers in anticipation of Loyd's return to West Texas? Perhaps so. Loyd has a habit of dropping in on the Sundancers whenever he is visiting his West Texas DX ranchette; the next visit was scheduled to begin on May 6. Some vague reports of strange drummings had been heard early in May; some thought they were coming from the Big Bend area. The Air Traffic people at Bush Intercontinental in Houston reported some strange sounds coming from those parts, although the usual coordination had been lacking. After reaching West Texas, Loyd did drop by to see the leader of the B.B. Sundancers, whom he found semi-deep into the barancas. "What's been going on?," he asked. The B.B. Leader replied airily "Oh, the usual things. Some practice on new steps; a glissade or two; several tarantella variations; and, additional practice by the bongo players. Did y'al' notice anything different back in Houston?" "Well," Loyd replied, "The Old Timer reported some improvements in the DX he was hearing and working. He didn't know if it was the result of your fellows work, or if was merely the DX Gods providing good testing grounds for the fellows who have new, tall towers and big beams. "What?," bellowed the Leader of the

Sundancers. "Does he have doubt in our ability to influence things?" Wait 'til he sees what we do next. That will make a True Believer of him!"

As noted by the Leader of the B.B. Sundancers above, things showed improvement during the early part of the month. On May 5 the SFI was at 139, with A & K indices of 5 and 0. These numbers were accompanied by a nice morning band opening, and similar conditions in the evening. Twenty meters has been staying open later into the evenings. As the first weekend approached, the SFI reached 147 but the A index jumped back into double digits. On May 5, the SFI reached 00000 175, with A & K indices of 3 and 2. Although a solar flare occurred on May 9, the morning band opening into Asia was notable, with numerous stations having 59+ signals into Houston. Most mornings saw Asia openings, sometimes with good LP in So. Africa. This appears to be becoming a morning norm for those of us here in Texas. The usual array of VKs and the occasional BV/BY/DU helped to keep the mornings interesting. Evidence continues to emerge concerning the likelihood of Cycle 23 excellence. A comparison of the development of Cycles 20, 22 and 23 indicates that Cycle 23 is much more closely resembling Cycle 20, which was not an especially outstanding cycle, rather than Cycle 22 as has been widely predicted. Not the best of news for DXers.

DX NEWS OF THE YEAR! Bill, K5ZTY, has finally achieved a long-time ambition. He has received a QSL card from Jacky, 3B8CF, on Mauritius Island. After several un-

fruitful attempts over numerous years, Bill assembled a precisely constructed request to Jacky. He brought it to the NARS breakfast for inspection by the various DXers who had already obtained a card from Jacky. After thorough inspection of the package and the inclusion of an array of impressive endorsements of his plaintive request, Bill closed it up and prepared to drop it in the outgoing mail. Three weeks later, on May 5, Jacky's QSL arrived at Bill's home, thus closing the loop. Congratulations, Bill!

LOCAL EVENTS: Beginning early in May, excellent band openings into asia occurred each morning, with similar openings into other parts of the world during the evenings. On May 15, TA2DS (Turkey) turned up on 20m in the evening. NARS members who worked him included K8CSG, KQ5U, W5PDW, N1LN, and K5ZTY. K5NZ worked 9M2TO. ER0ITU (Moldova) came up on 20m on May 15. Several NARS members worked him, including K5ZTY, KQ5U, K5VUU and K8CSG. KD5AIJ worked 6O1Z in Somaliland. KJ5X and K8CSG worked HS/IK4MRH. CQ for June announced that K5NZ will receive WAZ CW/Phone certificate #7824. Nice going, Mike! Meanwhile, Steve, KD5AIJ, reports he found success in Zone 26 on May 30, working HS0AC, XV7AC and E21AJC in fairly quick succession (all Zone 26). Steve and Michael have both completed working all Zones and are awaiting the final cards. Added to K5VUU, that makes three more NARS members who will soon achieve WAZ. Nice going, fellows.

HOUSTON
AMATEUR RADIO
SUPPLY, INC.

George DiLetto, KDORW
President

Exit 68 I-45 North
181 Cypresswood Drive
Spring, TX 77388

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281-355-7373
Fax 281-355-8007

DX News - Continued

Mike KM5LA called me about ZC4ATC at 14170 during the evening of May 29. I promptly called my friend W8SET in WV. to tout him onto the ZC4, forgetting momentarily that he is an Advanced Class licensee. Nonetheless, shortly after the call I heard him work the ZC4. Hmmm! KM5LA reports five new countries worked during the last weekend of May -- SU9ZZ, HS0AC, YB1AQS, CY9RF, AND ZC4ATC. Profitable effort, Michael.

DX WORKED: 5X1T (Uganda) 17m 1952Z; A41KJ (Oman) 20m 0216Z; BI5D (China) 20m 1412Z; T22JY (Tuvalu) 20m CW 1432Z; T95A (Bosnia-Herz.) 20m 0039; YB0CEF (Indonesia) 20m 1432Z; 4X4JP (Israel) 20m 0305Z; UX0ZZ (Ukraine) 20m 0321Z; Z32AF (Macedonia) 20m 0324Z; VQ9DX (Diego Garcia) 20m CW 1146Z; T22VE (Tuvalu) 20m 1156Z; ZS6IN (South Africa) 20m LP 1255Z; BV4FH (Taiwan) 20m 1304Z; T22TK (Tuvalu) 20m 1152Z; VK5MA (Australia) 20m 1201; EO6ML (Ukraine) 20m 0230Z; SV1CDY (Greece) 20m 0017Z; 4S7NS (Sri Lanka) 20m 1202Z; P29CC (Papua New Guinea) 20m 1334Z; TJ1HP (Cameroon) 20m 2348Z; 4J3M (Azerbaijan) 20m 0220Z; DS5RNM (S. Korea) 20m 1141Z; A92AG (Bahrain) 15m 1745Z; SU1SK (EGYPT) 20m 2200Z; 9M2TO (W. Malaysia) 15m 2002Z; BV2RS (Taiwan) 20m 1110Z; BV4FH (Taiwan) 20m 1111Z; DS5RNM (S. Korea) 20m 1130Z; OD5NJ (Lebanon) 15m 1948Z; 5R8FU (Madagascar) 20m 1241Z; ER0ITU (Moldova) 20m 2254Z; HS/IK4MRH (Thailand) 15m 2006Z; HL3CJ (S. Korea) 20m 1432Z; EK6TA (Armenia) 20m 0211Z;.

DX HEARD/NOT WORKED: 6O1Z (Somaliland) 15m 1630Z; TA1FA (TURKEY) 15m 1620Z.

QSL ROUTES: T22VE via JA8VE; T22TK via JA3MCA; T22JY via JA1JQY; EO5ML via UX1MM; T95A via K2PF; TA1FA via TA1AL; ER0ITU via ER1DA.

VP2EREM (Anguilla NA-022) - From June 28 until July 8 this Special Callsign will be on the air from the Island of Anguilla. Operation will be on both CW and SSB mainly on 10-15-20 meter bands. QSL Via WB2REM.

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, was the indomitable editor of the West Coast DX Bulletin for its entire publishing run. It began on May 1, 1968 and continued without missing a single issue for over eleven years until July 18, 1979. Cass, as he was and is known, originated some of the memorable characters which appeared in his newsletter: The Old Timer, the Palos Verdes Sundancers, Red Eyed Louie and others. Cass also introduced many DXers to some unique terms of DXing: DX Is!, Deserving DXers, the Eternal Mysteries, True Believers; the Local QRPer(s), True Blue DXers and others. Some readers may have detected Cass's effect on this DX writer. It is not an accident.

Recognizing Cass's impact upon DXing, Martti Laine and a few others originated an idea which will offer additional recognition of Cass and his talents. On May 28 I worked DX IS! That is, I worked DX1S. With Martti at the controls, DX1S made its first appearance on the air and worked a substantial number of The Deserving DXers. The station will be operated during the WPX contest through the weekend. DX1S is the callsign of the newly formed Filipinas DX Society, of which WA6AUD and OH2BH (Martti) are the first invited foreign members. One wonders where this may go, but it was fun to work DX1S, or DX IS! The QSL manager is KU9C.

THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN DXing

On May 11 the following message was placed on the NARS Reflector by K5NZ: "Seems even the 'Oldtimer' gets called down now and then. Heard 9M2TO calling QRZ on 15m this afternoon for South America, Central America. Who calls but Kilo Eight Charlie Sugar George. 9M2TO asks if he is in SA or CA No answer ... "Ok SA, CA ?" ... No answer ... "Ok now K8CSG your 57". You just never know who is listening!!!

K8CSG sent the following to the Reflector, which was summarily rejected: "K5NZ has let his imagination get in the way of his facts -- again. 73, Bill"

Facts of the matter were these: 9M2TO (West Malaysia) called "CQ South America or Caribbean" on three successive tries with no response. After the third call, K8CSG said: "Kilo Eight Charlie Sugar George." Nothing more.

9M2TO responded: "K8CSG, you're 5 and 5." Not at all as described by K5NZ.

Field Day Preview(Cont'd)

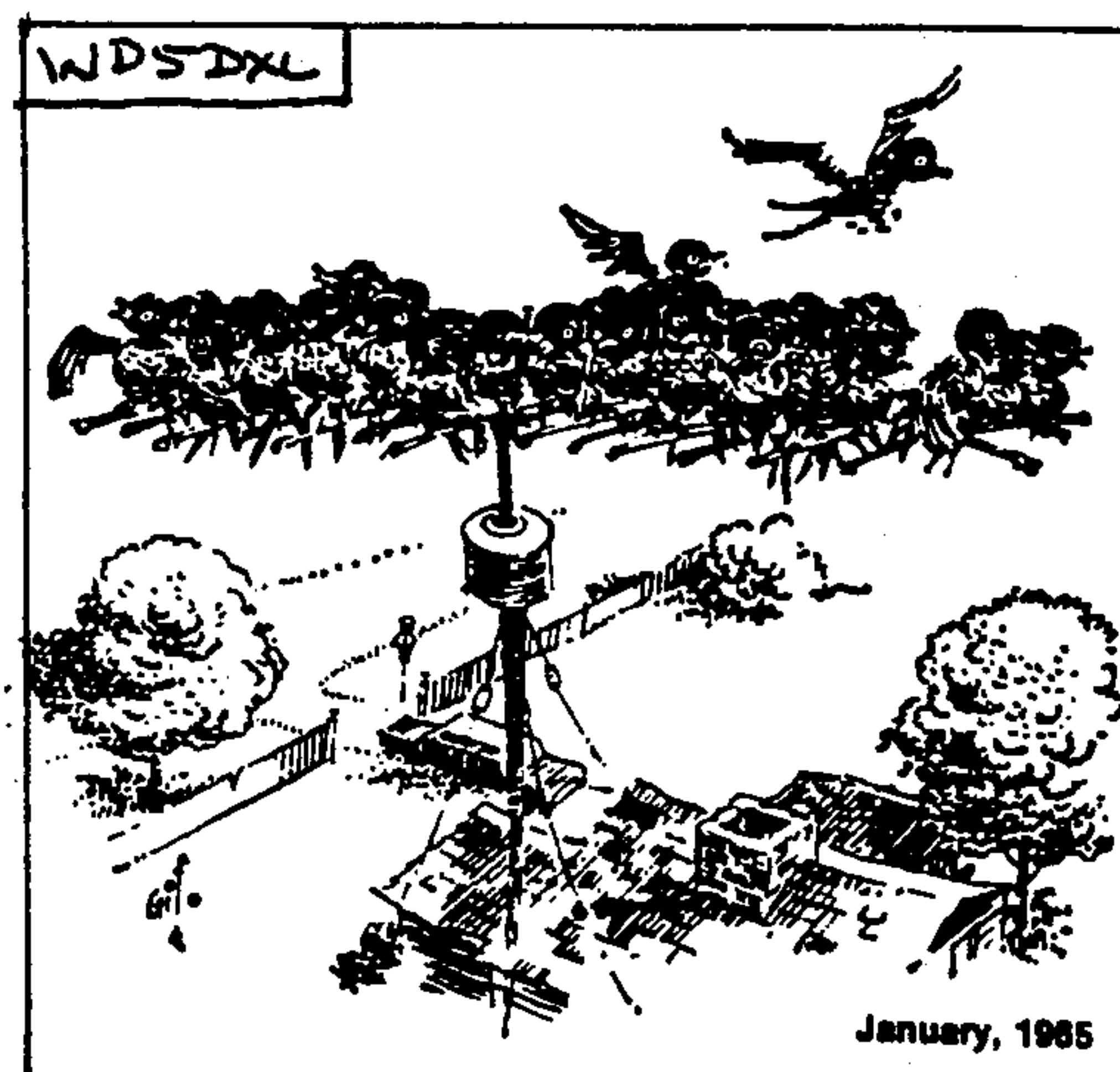
out of the Fritsche family cemetery. It is behind a chain link fence and is OFF LIMITS. Be sure to bring PLENTY of WATER. It will be very hot and you will need a lot of water. For that matter, bring what you will need to drink and eat except for the Saturday evening BBQ.

On Friday June 25, the day before Field Day, we will be meeting at the Valley Ranch BBQ on SH249 at Spring Cypress Road for lunch at 11:00 AM before going out to the park. If you plan to help out with setup, come to lunch with us, or meet us at the park by 1:00 PM. Join us if you can.

Station managers will be making up the night time and early morning operating list for the stations. Let them know what hours you can operate. As of this writing, station managers include: Bill W5SB - Phone; Bruce WC5CW & Jack WA8GHZ - CW; and Rick KZ5E - VHF. I STILL NEED A VOLUNTEER TO HEAD UP THE NOVICE STATION. DON'T BE SHY; THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF HELP. My number is 281 350-6633. We will need operators for the 2 meter talk-in station also. Contact any of these people to sign up for the hours you would like to operate. The contest runs from 1:00 PM Saturday until 1:00 PM Sunday CDT.

Come to the June 18 meeting and hear more about Field Day 1999. We will have sign-up sheets for times to operate and to set up or to take down. See Ya there.

Walter, KK5LO



Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Gregg Erlenbusch, W5IDX.
Congratulations to Dan, KK5LD, on his upgrade to Extra Class.
Congratulations to Ron Pearson on his upgrade to General Class.
Congratulations to Don Skipton on his new Technician license, to Greg Erlenbusch on his upgrade to Tech Plus,
and to Micheal Chang on his new Tech Plus license.
Condolences to the Ossie Adams, XYL of Melvin, KB5GES, who suffered a stroke recently.
Our condolences to Millie Bedell, KA3BKU's XYL, who has been in the hospital.
Best wishes to Aki, N6JMP, who is recovering from surgery.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, 281/893-3901
Allen Majeski WA5REJ, 281/353-8653
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/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA, 713/894-5942

Computer Operations:

Bob Argo KC5JZO, 281/288-7430

Computer Programming:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL, 281/351-7683

Interference (Basic Advice):

Harry Gage N5WIZ, 281/370-7488
Mark Tyler 281/587-0256

Card Checking for Awards:

DXCC - Bob Walworth N5ET, and Linda
Walworth KE5TF, 281/363-0209
WAS, VUCC - Brian Derx, N5BA
281/894-5942
WAZ - Bill Gary K8CSG, 281/537-9240

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10M Ragchew: Monday 8:00 PM. 28.444
Coordinator: Jim Kirk KJ5X
jrkirk@wt.net 281/537-0718

2M Information: Wed. 8:00 PM. 146.66
Coordinator: Bill Gary K8CSG
bsnn87a@prodigy.com 281/537-9240

WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.flash.net/~nars/>
Webmaster: Ben Worell KM5OT
km5ot@bfweb.com 409/773-4484
Trustee: Walter Hock KK5LO
kk5lo@flash.net 281/350-6633

REPEATERS

2M -- 146.060/146.660 (KA5AKG)
70 cm -- 449.375/444.375 (KA5AKG)
Digipeater -- 145.710(W5NC aliasNARS)

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership at
Spring-Cypress Presbyterian Church
6000 Spring Cypress Road
Third Friday each month -- 7:30PM
Saturday Breakfast at Victors Restaurant
7:30 AM
Wednesday Lunch Bunch at various
locations 11:30 AM (Info. on 146.660)

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