

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 1995

## The Way We See The Weather is Subject of February Club Meeting

Have you ever wondered how all that weather information you see on the daily newscasts gets accumulated and arranged for presentation? Join us at the February 17th meeting and hear it from one who does it, Frank Billingsly.

Frank, after serving another Houston TV station as a weatherman is moving to Channel 2 to replace the recently retired Doug Johnson. He will give us some insight into how the weather information is collected and compiled so that we can graphically see what is going on. He can show us the advances that have been made and what we might expect from the new radar we have been reading of.

Be sure to attend this month's meeting to get the real facts on the most talked about subject on the air, weather.

## NARS Amateur License Classes Relocated

The NARS Amateur Radio License Course has been relocated from the Cypress Creek EMS Center to the Prince of Peace Catholic Community, 19222 HWY 249, beginning with the second class. It will meet initially at the CCEMS facility at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 16th, for registration and orientation but schedule conflicts require the move for subsequent classes.

Enrollment will be guaranteed by preregistration and on a first come first served basis at the door. The course text, "Now You're Talking", and code instruction aids, will be available at the class.

One of the greatest assists we can give to future Hams is the personal touch, just talking over their questions and problems. If you are available and willing to extend aid to our students, drop by the classes and support their progress. Anyone wishing more information should contact Jim Kirk, KJ5IP, at 376-0718, Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, at 370-2950, or Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO, at 251-4546.

## DE NARS Slow Code Practice Net

Is any one out there di di da da di dit. For the past few weeks there have been very few check-ins on the code practice net. Do we still need this net? Does anybody need any code practice? Do we need to move it to a different time or frequency? Does anybody want to help operate the net?? Any Ideas? Senior Net Control Operator, Capt. Jim Kirk, KJ5IP, and his Jr. Ops Glen, KC5JLN, and Bill, K5ZTY, would like some input from the membership on this net. If you thought of checking in but weren't sure how, pick up one of the net protocol sheets at the next meeting. We will operate the net for the next few weeks but if we don't hear from anyone and no one else checks in, well .....

## NARS Calendar

--- *plan now!*

**Feb 16 - NARS Novice - Tech License Class begins @ Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:00 PM & continues for 13 weeks. Note location change to Prince of Peace Catholic Community, 19222 Hwy 249, for all following classes.**

**Feb 17 - NARS Monthly General Membership meeting @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00.**

**Feb 23 - NARS License Class @ Prince of Peace Catholic Church - 7:00 PM.**

**Feb 25 - Amateur Radio License Exams by NARS - 8:30 AM - Call Rudy, KB5ZXO @ 251-4546 for location.**

**Mar 2 - NARS License Class @ Prince of Peace Catholic Community - 7:00 PM.**

**Mar 3 - NARS Directors meeting @ 7:00. Location to be announced.**

**Mar 9 - NARS License Class @ Prince of Peace Catholic Community - 7:00PM.**

**Breakfast  
at Bleachers  
2318 W. FM 1960  
Saturdays  
8:00 AM**



## Pouring Concrete for Fun and Profit by Madison Jones, AB5TV

There is no specific hard part in the tower process: it is all hard, from the decision on where, to the decision on what, to the decision on how, to the decision on when, to the decision on what-do-I-do-now-that-it's-all-ready-to-turn-on-the-rig. I suggest, however, you spend lots of time discussing the various aspects of everything with all your fellow hams. I am confident each one of them will have definite opinions on most matters, whether or not they have been there. Carefully weigh all of them, and then make up your own mind based upon what you think will fit your budget of time and money.

Every tower/antenna consists of a minimum of 3 basic components: the tower, the base, and the antenna. The taller the tower, the bigger the base and the more you will invest in it. Although the antenna system you select will have something to do with your needs and budget, generally speaking, you will get better performance from a taller tower than a shorter one. With taller towers, you also attract more attention from at least two unwanted sources, lightning bolts and neighbors. I am not certain that, once you have reached the point where your adventure is visible above the shortest roof or fence, there is a direct correlation between height and either lightning or neighbors, it is safe to say that if it can be seen at all, both of these items will come knocking. All is not lost, however, so read on.

The base should be premix concrete, preferably "5 bag." You can mix your own, but it will backbreaking work hauling the sacks, sand and aggregate (once you locate it), and you will be required to acquire a mixer somewhere, which will doubtless piddle oil all over your driveway while making enough racket to wake the dead (the power unit is not unlike the generator we used at Field Day at Fritsche Park, if you remember that one). The only requirement in a 2" ball on your trailer hitch, and \$65 or so per yard of concrete. A number of U-Rent places have a premix plant, and will toss in the use of a concrete trailer to haul it home. Call in advance, since some are not open on week ends. Premix sets up in 2 to 5 hours, once mixed, depending on the amount of retardant used. I think "retardant" is the same thing as water, but this is a secret which is closely held, available only from the Concrete Guru, located on top of a mountain in India. At any rate, it won't set up during the drive home unless you stop by Gunny's for a few beers on the way.

[Tune in next month as the saga continues - Into the dirt with Part 2.5.]

## Shoot out at the DWX Corral by Bill "Hoss" Denton WA5DWX

The call went out to the top gun slingers of the west. They left their families, their jobs and some were coaxed out of retirement for the big event. They traveled the dusty roads from all over the northwest territory. The drama of the next few hours was about to unfold.

At high noon the mighty team assembled at the DWX Corral. With microphones drawn and rigs loaded the seconds ticked. When the clock finally chimed 12:00, actually 18:00Z, the shoot out began. Woops, the computers started shooting blanks. Deputy Charles (KC5HZZ) lassooed the critters and replenished their chambers with fresh rounds of ammo or chips or something techie. Anyway, whatever he loaded them with worked and the firing began. First to shoot was Buckaroo Jim Bob (KJ5IP). He shot a hole clean through 20 meters. It sturred up all the cowpokes for here to New York City. With Cowboy Glenn taming the mustang keyboard, 20 meter country wouldn't be the same. Just like taming a wild bronco, those wrangles saddled a spirited band. In a blaze Wild Bill (K5ZTY) was out of the shoot. He had to fill some mighty tall boots to fill but Wild Bill, who does not exactly ride side saddle, smoked what was left of 20 meter country.

Now it was time for Cowboy Glenn to take his place at the smoking gun. There was some new territory for the Cowboy to claim. The great planes of 40 meters was the victim. With all the easy ground captured it was time for Hoss Bill (WA5DWX) to stake his claim on the vast waste lands of the pig farmers and ridge runners. 75 and 160 meters look out. Hoss Bill was on the prowl. Shucks nothing to it. They all died like flies with RF bullets right on target.

When the shooting stopped and the smoke cleared the bodies were counted, 1029 copses lay at our feet. The bad lands had been conquered. We holstered our weapons, mounted our might steeds and rode off into the sunset looking for the last round up. Maybe the waste lands of 160 meters would be our next. Final results of the shoot out was 1029 QSO's, for 153,000 points. I was very much pleased with results. I was very surprised at the performance of the big 600ft delta loop. It was outstanding on 75 meters. In about three hours we had around 160 QSO's. One hour period yealded 86 Q's.. All this with 100 watts. Thats about as close to QRP as I get..... See yall at the next roundup. "Hoss" Bill WA5DWX

**Reminder -**

Classified Adds are free to members



## NARS Node Status by Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO

Well, its 1995 and the New Year has started. 1994 was a good year for NARS with a lot of positive accomplishments and a few tragic disappointments, but with the new year comes new goals.

My current objective is to establish a team of officers and club members to provide the membership a variety of activities and programs for an interesting and productive year. The following are a few of the functions that we will be addressing.

1. Monthly meeting - The monthly general meetings should be informative and entertaining. During the next few months I plan to appoint a program director and survey the membership to determine the types of subjects of interest. Then working closely with the HAM Radio community to schedule programs to meet these interest.

2. Field Day - Bill Denton has been appointed Chairman of the 1995 Field Day. Our participation in Field Day should serve four major functions. To practice for emergency communications situations, to inform the public about Amateur Radio, to score the best in the contest as we can, and most important of all, to conduct an activity that is fun for the membership. NARS has an excellent reputation for it's field day activities.

3. Spring Picnic/Auction - I hope to organize a club picnic at one of the local parks sometime in the spring. One of the activities associated will be a equipment auction. Anyone who has an item or two (or more) that they would like to trade for cash, will have the opportunity to have the item auctioned, the club would receive a percentage of the sales price.

4. NETS - NARS currently conducts and sponsors three nets. The 10 meter Rag Chew net on Monday nights, the slow code CW net on 10 meter also on Monday night, and the 2 meter Wednesday night general information net. We invite NARS members to participate in each of the nets, to have a chance to meet other members "on the air" and gain valuable club information. We encourage volunteers to host and participate as controllers. It is one of those activities that provides valuable experience and satisfaction.

I hope this short message lets you know about some of the clubs major activities for 1995. We also need members to become involved in club activities, and will be soliciting your help in the future. If you want to help, but don't know how or what, give me a call.

## License Exam Results by Mark Tyler, K5GQ

NARS-sponsored FCC amateur radio license examinations were administered Saturday, January 28th, at the old HL&P facilities in Tomball. Thirteen candidates were tested and eight licenses were earned.

Elmer Sherrouse, Sharon Sherrouse, Bruce Watkins, and Andrew West earned Technician licenses. Kris Dehnel, KC5IKS, Robert Johnson Jr., KC5IKV, and Chris Marvel, KC5BJA, earned Technician Plus licenses. Richard Risinger, KC5LNO, advanced to Advanced Class. Our congratulations to each of these licensees on their achievements.

The session's examiners and those assisting were Mark Conrad, WT5S, Earl Morse, KZ8E, Bill Stietenroth, K5ZTY, Jim Kirk, KJ5IP, and Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ. Our thanks to each of them for their commitment. The next examination session will be on February 25th.

## NARS Notes .....

Congratulations to Mike, KB5YVT, on receiving NARS Outstanding Service Award for 1994 at the great Annual Banquet last month. Congratulations also to Jay, KI5MD, on his recognition for meritorious service in 1994.

The NARS packet node has now been moved to 145.71 MHz and is live and kicking. Give it a try! If you have any questions call Ken, W5BKK.

If you haven't already returned your dues to renew your NARS membership for 1995, now is your last chance before the roster and mailing list is revised. Please send them to Brad Nelson, WD5GNI, 17606 Telegraph Creek Dr. Spring, TX 77379.

FEB. NARS BOARD MEETING PRESENT: KB5ZXO, K5ZTY, WA5REJ, WD5GNI, AB5TV, WD5BZY, WA5DWX, KA5AKG, and N5SBP. Treasurer says we've got \$3523.75 in account. Banquet was great success. Feb. program to be Weatherman Frank Billingsley. Looking at possible spring picnic. Packet node down and moving to 145.71 mhz. Novice class begins on Feb. 16. By-Laws revision still in works. VE sessions still need help, also need club rep to promote club. Fritche Park has been reserved for Field Day. Board voted to buy NA contest software. WA5DWX is official Equipment coordinator. Nelson Livingston to handle 10 meter SSB net. Low activity may endanger 10 meter CW net. Discussed Vanity calls and club licenses. Board passed resolution to petition FCC about inattention to Amateur Radio. 73



NARS NEWS is published monthly  
by Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Editor: Bill Stientenroth, K5ZTY  
9342 Goldenwood  
Houston, TX 77086  
(713) 893-3901

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

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday 8 AM  
at Bleacher Grill, located at 2318 W  
FM1960. (@ Kuykendahl) , Informal  
ragchew.

## NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN  
Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO 251-4546

VICE PRESIDENT  
Bill Stientenroth, K5ZTY 376-0718

SECRETARY  
Shirley Kujawa, KB5WOO 820-2649

TREASURER  
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934

DIRECTORS  
Madison Jones, AB5TV 350-4330  
David Cole, WD5BZY 370-8711  
Bill Denton, WA5DWX 469-8331  
Mike Lavander, KB5WQJ 357-0614

NARS BOARD MEETS the first Friday of  
each month at 7:00 P.M. at a location to be  
announced. All members are invited to  
attend.

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL  
KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK 376-7660

## NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 P.M.  
28.444 MHz (Nelson, KK5IJ)

NARS CW PRACTICE FOLLOWS  
RAGCHEW NET - 28.185 MHz (AB5KK)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 P.M.  
146.06 / .66 MHz (Ken, KA5AKG)

## EMERGENCY NETS

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY ARES  
WEDNESDAY 8:30 P.M.  
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)

## NARS

KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG  
12034 Laneview Dr.  
Houston, TX 77070