

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 1995

Nuts and Bolts of Mobile Installations

by Ron Forrester, KC5NB

The great debate over just what is the best compromise in acquiring a new, or used, mobile rig is over and there you sit at the table with the new toy strewn out before you. After a few minutes of confusion perusing the instruction manual, you recognize that this thing isn't going to work sitting here. It needs to be properly mounted in a vehicle; that's why it's called mobile. To show us that all important step of mobile installations, George DiLetto, KD0RW, will speak to us at our May 19th Club meeting. George is owner of Houston Amateur Radio Supply, and has plenty of experience in the right way to do it. He'll give some tips on where and how to fasten the rig, connecting it to power and ground, maybe even how to get the best antenna mount without butchering the car. Who knows, after he finishes with us maybe some of that alternator whine we hear on the repeater will fade away. George's talk should be of special interest to all of our new hams who have just gotten their license and are wondering about that next step. Plan to be there and don't forget that question about the problem you've been trying to solve but didn't know who to ask.

Pouring Concrete for Fun and Profit - Final

by Madison Jones AB5TV

Once I had located a source of premix, I found that the trailer to haul it in came as part of the price. It consists of a metal box which can hold 1 1/4 yards of concrete, with a small tailgate/handle arrangement through which you allow the concrete to flow from the trailer to your wheelbarrow. When you pick up the necessary amount at the batch plant, keep in mind that the trailer full of concrete will weigh about 3000 pounds (now you see why the Sturdy Pickup Truck is important), and the stuff will slop over the front of the trailer when you slow down. I suppose if you take off too fast, it will slop out the back as well. Depending on how skillful you are in backing a trailer will depend upon how far away the trailer is from your hole. The drill is to extract a reasonable amount of concrete into your wheelbarrow, push it to the hole, and dump it in.

Because concrete does not always flow into every nook and cranny of your hole, you should have a tamp or other type of persuader to use to stir the wet concrete once you put it in the hole. If you have a deep hole, have a long stick ready before the pour. When you have finished pouring the concrete, use a 2X4 or so to level it out to the top of your forms (called "screeds" by those in the know) and then

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NARS CALENDAR

May 19 - NARS monthly General Membership meeting @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00 PM.

May 27 - License Exams by NARS in Tomball @ 8:30 am. Call Rudy, KB5ZXO for details at 251-4546.

May 27 - Swapfest at Dunbar Park in Lake Jackson. Talk-in on 147.38 MHz. For information call 1-800-374-6477-5021.

Jun 2 - NARS Directors meeting @ 7:00 pm @ Lakewood Forest Fund Office, 12415 Louetta Rd.

Jun 23 - NARS monthly General Membership meeting @ Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's @ 7:00 pm.

Jun 24-25 - Field Day '95 at Fritche Cemetery Park with setup beginning on Friday at noon. BBQ dinner Saturday evening.

Note: There will be NO NARS license exams given during June and July.

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

Presidents Corner

May 1995

Well, they say, all's well that ends well. That's the story on last month's general meeting. Our scheduled speaker didn't make it and we had to do a quick bit of soft shoe, but thanks to Walter Holmes (WD5GAZ) and others, we had a good meeting. I have heard a few members comment, that they really enjoyed having some time just to visit, and chat.

May's activities have slowed some from April. A bit of a break for some. The last meeting of the NARS sponsored Novice Class consisted of the VE session on May 11. Welcome to all those new Hams; I look forward to a QSO with each one of you.

Members, especially Bill Denton (WA5DWX) and Bill Stietenroth (K5ZTY) are busy getting ready for Field Day. They are still looking for "many good Hams." If you are interested in assisting or participating in field day, give one of these officers a call or contact them on the air; I'm sure they would appreciate your help.

We have started making plans to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of NARS with a picnic in August. We will release more details as they are developed. We plan to include an auction of Ham radio gear as part of the activities, so clean out those shacks.

One of the advantages (may be the only one) of being club president, is being published in the newsletter. So here goes.

"In My Opinion"

Repeaters were authorized by the FCC for the purpose of extending the range of portable and mobile radios. It is really nice and enjoyable to be able to communicate with other HAMS all over a large metropolitan area like Houston. BUT!

I was recently discussing Ham Radio with some work associates when one of them referred to it as "UHF CB". I assured him that the Amateur Radio community was in no way an extension of the total chaos of 11 meters. I will have to admit that some of the QSO's now heard on 2 meters have some similar characteristics of that "good buddy" frequency.

During drive times, usually the busier repeater usage windows, some HAMS, located at fixed locations have engaged in long extemporaneous "Rag Chews". I recently had the opportunity to hear an individual's adventures in locating a specific item of interest, including the store by store detailed account. This particular QSO lasted in excess of an hour, without interruption. Both stations could be heard on direct, so they probably could have conducted their QSO on simplex.

When you get ready to leave the job and head home, call the CEO on the phone for those grocery and take home orders. Don't wait until you get in the car and make contact on the repeater, then extend the discussion to include the laundry list, car pool instructions for the kids, and the doctors appointments.

I will not be able to attend the next monthly meeting, since I will be on a trip out of the country. I look forward to some interesting QSO's.

73's Rudy, KB5ZXO

It's almost Field Day Time

by Bill Denton, WA5DWX

As we prepare for field day the last weekend in June here are some reminders of what Field day is all about. The ARRL describes field day as a competitive event where Amateur Radio operators set up radio equipment in the field to compete for a score. An event to test the readiness of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. A chance to meet new friends and to test the limits of your favorite hobby.

Many of you have volunteered your time and equipment and in the weeks to follow all the plans will be coming together. We will be needing as many people as possible for this event. For the most part we will not be calling people to volunteer. It's up to you to let us know when and what area you would like to help. We passed around a sign up sheet at the last club meeting and will do the same at the next one. There are other groups around doing field day. The official NARS Field Day activities will take place at Fritsche County Park on Fritsche Cemetery Rd.. near the intersection of Grant and Telge. It's about 5 miles SW of Tomball. Mark your calendar and plan to be on site with us for the fun and festivities.

Yahoo's Ham-Com Din-Din!

by KB5YVT

Ham-Com Time! Don't miss out on all the fun, buying, and furor that goes with it. The second annual Yahoo Dinner will be held at J Pepe's at 5 pm Saturday night, June 10. Maybe Jim Kirk will show up and buy for everyone again!

J Pepe's is at the corner of Hwy 360 and Six Flags Blvd next to the La Quinta (where the Yahoo's are staying). If you are sure you want to join us please let me know ASAP so I can reserve a table large enough for all. Hope to see ya there!

73 de Slippy

Pouring Concrete

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smooth it out with a flat piece of wood, so you can put your initials or something else which will embarrass you later on the surface as it dries. (I have heard that it is a sign of concrete professionalism to slightly slope the top of the base so water will run off. If mine is sloped, however, it is pure chance.)

Once we finished the pour, we flushed out the trailer with a hose. Unfortunately, the choice of what to do with any excess concrete, and certainly the flushings of your trailer, should be made in advance. Harris County had the good sense, in my situation, to provide some vacant land not far from my house. We dumped the excess watered down aggregate in a vacant lot (being careful to cover the license plate of the pickup with a cloth to avoid identification), and roared off in a cloud of blue smoke. I am sure I can find somewhere among my papers the specific authorization in which the Commissioners permitted me to unload the flushings at that spot.

Well, that's it. Fear of the unknown made the project seem much more difficult than it turned out to be. From the time we picked up the concrete until we were finished with the pour and cleaned up the concrete trailer, we had spent less than 2 hours. If you want advice, ZTY and I have loads of it, and perhaps some of it will be useful to you in your project. If you need us, you can spot us by the rubber boots which we wear to Bleachers on Saturday mornings these days.

Radio Course to be Offered

by Sid George, AB5XU

A four week class in preparation for examination for Amateur no-code Technician license will be offered on Saturdays June 17 & 24 and July 1 & 8. It will be held at the HAL-PC facility at 1200 Post Oak #106 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The cost will be \$39.00 including a text by Gordon West and the exam. For further information, please contact me at 537-0920.

NARS May 1995 Board Meeting

BY Alan Majeski, WA5REJ

PRESENT: KB5ZXO, K5ZTY, WA5REJ, WD5GNI, AB5TV, WD5BZY, WA5DWX, KA5AKG, and KC5NB. Treasurer reported \$3213.43 in account. Discussed programs: May - Nuts & bolts of mobile installations; June - Field Day; July open; August - APRS. Next week is last novice class we will have a VE session there. Discussed Field Day plans and objectives. NARS has applied for club amateur license. New By-Laws to be presented to membership for review and approval. Picnic is to be planned on August 20th, clubs 10th anniversary at Burroughs park with a special event station. Board meetings are changed to 7:30 PM.

NARS License Class adds to Ham Ranks

by Ken Harlan, KA5AKG

On Thursday, May 11, the NARS License Class, which began February 16th, took examinations for Novice and Technician licenses. There are 9 new licensees and 4 people with partial CSCE's as a result. Five of the students had passed examinations earlier and already received licenses. They were Larry Lockhart, KC5NVY, Doug Hudspeth, KC5NRR, Lori Havard, KC5OFF, Doug Struckmeyer, KC5NDE, and Tina Struckmeyer, KC5NRS. In addition Eduardo Gracia, David Henderson, and Reggie Havard earned their Technician Plus licenses and Matthew Henderson earned the Novice license Thursday.

In addition there were four others who successfully completed some elements of these exams, Shirley Kimberling, Dolly Kyle, Holly Jensen, and Edwina Russell. We congratulate each of these on their success and look forward to meeting them on the air.

I want to thank the dedicated group of NARS instructors who committed to making this class a success; Joe Solowski, KD5KR; Jimmy Kirk, KJ5IP; Bill Stietenroth, K5ZTY, Bill Denton, WA5DWX; Herb Phillips, N5RX; and most of all the leader of the Di Da band, Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO. We also greatly appreciate the work of our VE Examiners Mark Tyler, K5GQ; Jim Kirk; KJ5IP; Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ; Larry McCain, WA5SAJ; Madison Jones, AB5TV; King Waters, KB5ZKJ, and Bil Gary K8CSG.

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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
Allen Majeski, A5REJ 353-8652

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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, KK5LJ)

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

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