

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 1996

Ken Edinborgh - Silent Key

NARS has lost one of its early members and one of the founders of the "LUNCH BUNCH." Julius "Ken" Edinborgh, 78, passed away Monday April 29, 1996. Ken was born April 8, 1918 in Edmond, Oklahoma, an Okie you know, and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

He earned his way through college playing trumpet during the big band era with a band called "The Sooners." Jazz from then on was a big part of his life.

During WWII he was an apprentice seaman for the naval research lab in Washington, DC. One of his responsibilities was erecting antennas on shipboard to warn men of incoming critical fire.

Ken retired from Shell Oil after 35 years of service as an Electrical Engineer. Ken was married on June 7th, 1941 to his childhood sweetheart Martha Ann Settle. Together they brought five children into this world - Judith Ann, Betty Frances, Frederick Joseph, Terri Jean and Laura Lee, followed by 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Ken's interests after retirement included music and "surfing the net" but his real love was ham radio. He built his first radio at age 9 from parts he collected on his own and earned his first license at age 13.

He was a member of the North West Amateur Radio Society and a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

To all of his friends on the air 73s from W5BKK. He will be missed by all his friends and family.

Dick Rooney mentioned at the services that when Ken attended Ham Coms it would take him a long time to work his way from one aisle to another because of other hams stopping him to shake hands.

He knew so many and was a friend to all of them. He was a kind and gentle man who passed our way for a time and whom we may never see the likes of again.

In closing I would like to offer a couple of personal glimpses of Ken. One Wednesday not long ago Ken called me to see if I would give him a ride home after lunch - I said sure. Ann dropped him off at Bleachers, and the bunch had a good time as is usually the case. Ken rode with me on the way home - we chatted as we listened to the 2 meter rig. There was a lull in the conversation, we both started to involuntarily whistle under our breath. After a minute or so we suddenly burst out laughing at how silly it sounded, and Ken remarked "We'll never make it in show business Harry." I agreed. That was Ken's last lunch with the "LUNCH BUNCH."

The other glimpse was a little story told to me by Lorrie, Ken's daughter, over the phone the day Ken died. "In the early morning we received a phone call from the hospital, saying the end was near if we wanted to come to the hospital. The family got in the car taking Chris, Ken's grandson with them. Sometime later Ken passed away. After awhile the family left and the storm was moving in. As they drove through the wind and rain there were thunder claps, one thunder clap was very loud and seemed nearby. Almost at the same instant Chris blurted our 'Give 'em hell Grandpa!' I'm sure we all join Chris in that sentiment.

73's Ken - from NARS
Harry Gage N5WIZ

Estate of W5BKK

Radio items are being itemized. Viewing will be in his garage after breakfast until noon on Saturday, May 25th and Saturday, June 1st. A complete list of Equipment will be published in the June Nars News. We will attempt to publish the equipment list in time for the picnic, but no promises.

Important Dates

Friday, May 17, 7:30 pm - NARS monthly General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSO's, 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 18, 11:00 am - NARS Annual Picnic, Meyer County Park, Cypresswood Drive just west of Stuebner-Airline

Thursday, May 23 - Novice Class Testing, Room 208, Prince of Peace, SH249 at Perry

Saturday, May 25, 8:30 am - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry and Market (just south of Main Street).

Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 pm - NARS Board of Directors Meeting, IHOP, 5790 FM 1960 W, just West of Champions Forest Dr.

June 7-9, Dallas Ham-Com, ARRL West Gulf Division Convention, Arlington Convention Center

June 8, ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 22-23, Field Day, Fritsche Cemetary Park, Grant Road just west of Telge

Notice:

NARS membership dues is \$25 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

BREAKFAST

at Bleachers

2318 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

May 1996

The Texas QSO Party results are not complete but it seems to have been a success. Thanks to Bill WA5DWX for the use of his shack for guest operators, OJ WA1YIA for his armadillo express and Hank KK5WK for his mobile shack. Also, thanks to all who will be turning in logs for the club contest.

Saturday, May 18 is the Annual NARS Picnic, which will be at Elizabeth K. Meyer County Park on Cypresswood Drive just east of Stuebner Airline Drive. The gathering will begin around 11:00 a.m. with washer tossing and horse shoe pitching. We will have an HF station set up as a warm up of Field Day, and a VHF radio for talk-in on 146.660 Mhz. So come out and get a taste of open air Hamming and most importantly a taste of Bar B Que provided by the Rib Tickler of Tomball. There will be a \$5.00 donation per adult (kids under 12 years old eat free) for some great tasting food. If you haven't already signed up please let me know so I can get enough food for everyone.

It was of great sadness that one of our founding members became a silent key last month. Ken Edinborgh W5BKK passed away and he will be missed every morning on the Old Timers Net. One person said at the funeral, if he didn't have anything good to say about someone he didn't say anything at all. This was Ken's greatest asset and we should all find ways to follow his lead. So long Ken, I will be listening for your CQ from the Heavens.

Last month's meeting was a great one. Bob White KF5ZL gave a history of the old Houston Emergency Office of Communications and introduced us to the new TRANSTAR facility: a four agency communications center that monitors traffic, weather, and emergency situations. He extended an invitation to all members of NARS and other HAMS to see and man the radios during weather and other emergency situations.

This month's program is a review of Field Day 1994 Slides or Video by Bill Denton WA5DWX. This will be a preview of Field Day 1996. I am looking forward to seeing y'all there.

By Walter Hock KK5LO

Ham It Up - Safely

Recently I wrote an article on an RF report released by the FCC. There wasn't room for an add-on that is equally important - safety when working with live circuits under test. For example, how many volts and amps does it take to kill a human?

There are no hard and fast numbers but the ARRL has adopted numbers generally agreed upon by the experts. The numbers below are general (approx) because people differ in their body mass and whether their skin is normally moist or dry. Therefore the table below is intended only as a rough guide based on the body of an average person.

It's important for all of us to remember, when taking measurements or otherwise working on live circuits, to do so with one hand - keeping the other hand away from the circuitry. As little as 30 volts is considered dangerous to humans.

One second contact / Current effect

1 MA / Just perceptible

5 MA / Maximum harmless current

10-20 MA / Lower limit for sustained muscular contractions

30-50 MA / Pain

50 MA / Pain, possible fainting, "Can't let go" current

100-300 MA / Normal heart rhythm disrupted, Electrocutation if sustained current

6 A / Sustained heart contraction, Burns if current density is high

Safety is important to help us to a longer life (no guarantees) - also to be able to have fun enjoying ham radio - each in his/her own way.

Harry Gage N5WIZ

March VE Exam Results

The Volunteer Exam session conducted on April 27 by Compaq and NARS was a busy time.

Using the newly renovated Tomball Community Center for the first time, sixteen candidates took 31 test elements; nine emerged as new Technician Class licensees and one upgraded to Technician Plus. Twenty-one of the 31 elements were passed.

Participating VEs included Bill Denton WA5DWX, Jim Kirk KJ5IP, Bill Gary K8CSG, Walter Holmes WD5GAZ, King Waters KK5LU, Tom Stamps N5MFK, and Earl Morse KZ8E.

Mark Tyler K5GQ, VE Exam coordinator

March of Dimes WalkAmerica

The West Houston WalkAmerica was Sunday April 14, 1996. NARS has helped the March of Dimes with the walk for the last couple of years and this year was just as much fun as the last few have been.

Weather was low clouds and a stiff breeze. We were waiting for Murphy to send the rain, but only a few drops came down on the walk in west Houston. The course was a 4 mile walk up a road followed by a 4 mile return to the Cullen Barker park pavilion. I had Walter KK5LO on the south side and Herb KF9RX on the north side of the walk. Both were using home brew 2 meter quads. There were 4 water stops in between the start/finish and turn around.

I selected a simplex frequency for the net and Walter did a fine job as net control. He even learned how to get his dual band mobile to cross band repeat. I think everyone had a good time and came well prepared for the event. Everyone did a great job.

My thanks to: KF9RX Herb, KK5LU King, KC5QNJ Justin, KC5OFI Jack, KK5LO Walter, WA5DWX Bill, KC5TFY Clarence.

Till next year gang-73 Paul N5NXX



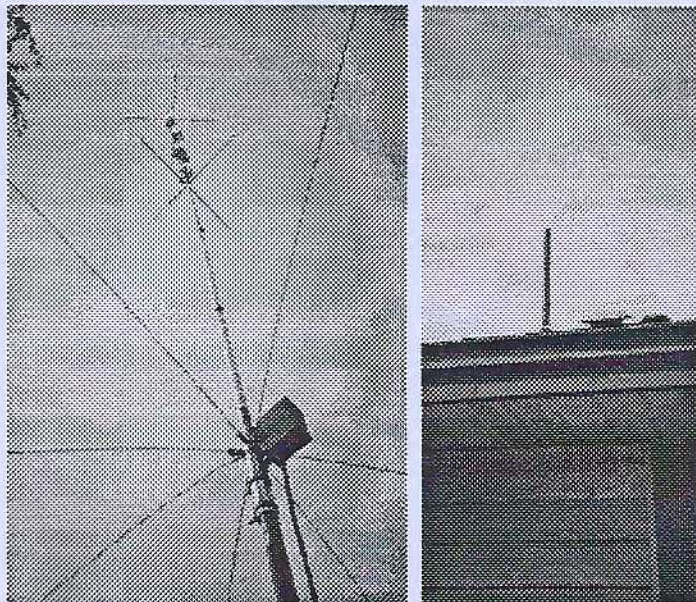
by Keith Dutson

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Are you ready for Field Day? What are you planning to do for FD? The May General Membership Meeting is designed to help us prepare for the BIG DAY in June. Each year NARS competes in the FD as a club. Last year we placed 3rd in the nation. We expect an even better performance this year. But that means more members will have to come out and participate in earnest. Mark June 22-23 on your calendar NOW. Come to Friday's meeting to see past NARS FD operations and learn of our plans for this year.

SHOW YOUR SHACK

Shack: Harry Gage N5WIZ



HF Equipment:

Transceiver: Kenwood TS440S
Power Supply: PS-50 Kenwood
Linear Amplifier: Ameritron AL-811 600 watt (3 tube)
Wattmeter: Daiwa, CN-101, watt/swr - cross needle
Ext speaker: Radio Shack, 8 ohms/5watt 300 - 3000Hz
Digital Signal Processor: Timewave DSP-9+
Mic: Kenwood MC-43S
Ant. Switch: MFJ 1702B, 2 position, coaxial
Antenna: Cushcraft R7 vertical
Antenna: G5RV (in attic)

VHF Equipment:

Transceiver: Icom IC229H 2 meter
Power Supply: Astron RS-20A, 20 amp
Mic: Icom HM-56A
]Xntenna: Ventenna 144 Mhz (3 ft length)

Console: Purchased as a kit/assembled by Harry

Accessories: Cassette recorder

Harry uses his shack for several nets, but mostly for ragchewing on the bands depending on propagation on any given day. Does DX on occasion where some ragchewing is possible rather than "You're 59 - thank you - 73 QRZ," etc



DX News

DX NOTES -- "To rise at six, DX to ten; to sup at six, DX again; makes a man live for ten times ten . . ." We continue on the downward spiral of the sunspot cycle, still approaching, but not yet at, the bottom of Cycle 22. Propagation has been fairly spotty and generally poor as the solar flux index hovered in the high sixties for three weeks in April, frequently accompanied by higher numbers for the A index.

The 67 seen late in April is the lowest SFI seen thus far in this cycle. Low ionization and high absorption in the ionosphere mean poor propagation, hence poor conditions for DXing. My old friend Danny, W8ZCQ (a fine DX writer) in Ohio, perhaps said it best: "The sun is very sick." As noted earlier, however, this does not mean that DX cannot be worked -- as could be observed during a good band opening on the last weekend of the month.

DX worked in April: VK9XM, ET3BT, N5OLS/KH8, 5W1MH, SU2MT, 9G5RP, DU1RAA, 4F4IX, SV8CRI, R1FJZ, YE8T, ZA1AJ, TI9X (Cocos Isl.), JW5HE (Svalbard Is.). Other stations heard: HZ1AB, VQ9DX, ZD9CR, C91CE, A71DX, FK8GX, S02R, and JT1AT.

On April 5 Martti Laine, OH2BH, and his family began a vacation on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean. As usual, Martti went prepared for some DXing from this relatively rare spot. Martti was equipped with a new, truly portable DXpedition station designed to fit into an airline briefcase. Weighing less than 20 pounds, it can be hand-carried and will deliver more than 1-KW output using Motorola MRF-154s and advanced switching power supply technology. It will be interesting to learn more about this radio -- and its cost. Oh yes, it works and sounds very good; I worked Martti, as VK9XM, on April 8 at 1351Z on a 20 meter split.

There are now 329 countries on the DXCC Country List, including North Korea, Pratus Island and Scarborough Reef. Cards are now being received by the ARRL from these last two additions to the List. 320 undeleted countries are required for Honor Roll status.

Regarding QSLs and how to obtain them, I recently received a highly desirable card from an old, old contact. On April 1, I noted in QRZ DX a notice that the operator of 5A1TV still has the logs and can QSL contacts from the 1960s. On April 12 I received a card from W7WQR confirming a contact with 5A1TV long forgotten. The date of the QSO -- 23 July 1967 -- was twenty-nine years ago. On the card is noted "One of my last contacts from Libya in '67 war." Since I was not seriously chasing DX back then, having moved to Ohio shortly before, I had not sought a QSL and the QSO had slipped my mind. At one time last year, Libya was the only country I needed. With this card now in hand, the list is down to North Korea and Scarborough Reef.

Herb, KF9RX, advises that HR2BDC will be spending some time in Houston soon, visiting with family and working on a house owned here.

3V8BB is a club station in Tunisia, a normally difficult country to confirm for DXCC. Recent activity at 3V8BB has helped countless Deserving DXers. One problem, however, is where cards should be sent. People working 3V8BB should be careful to obtain and use the correct QSLing address, since the station has been used by several different operators, usually from different countries.

P5DX, allegedly in North Korea, showed up on April 23 with a very weak CW signal on 40 meters. Although somewhat suspect he attracted a modest pileup, many of them appearing to be individuals needing North Korea (who doesn't) but who could not actually hear the P5. After the 23rd he never showed again (probably Pyongyang Slim).

Another difficult country is Yemen. The last significant operation from there was 7O8AA by Paul Granger, F6EXV, in 1990. Rumor says that Paul is working on getting permission for another operation, despite the political nervousness in that country.

Kermadec Island, one of the more difficult locations to work (14 on the Most Wanted List), will have a significant DXpedition May 4-14, 1966.

A group of New Zealanders and others plan to operate all bands and all modes, aiming for 40,000 QSOes. A good chance for those who need Kermadec!

October should see another operation from Sable Island (CY0). This Canadian island is not that far away or that difficult to work -- whenever someone is there, which is infrequent. Murray, WA4DAN, plans to lead a substantial expedition to Sable Island June 18-July 2, 1996.

Bill Gary K8CSG

Special Interest Group (SIG) List

K5ZTY, Bill Stietenroth
893-3901, General Help
WA5DWX, Bill Denton
469-8331, General Help, Antennas
WA1YIA, OJ Quarles
955-1555, HF, General Help
WA5REJ, Allen Majeski
353-8652, General Help
WA5SAJ, Larry McCain
469-6709, General Help
AB5TV, Madison Jones
350-4330, General Help, CW
K8CSG, Bill Gary
537-9240, General Help, DX
KC5EZQ, Bill Rister
537-8596, 694-6074
VHF/UHF, General Help
K5WNO, Deral Kent
548-7476, RS12/13, Sattelite
KC5RCC, George Carlson
376-8307, Electrical Design,
Troubleshooting
KA3BKU, Don Bedell
370-6576, Packet
AB5XU, Sid George
537-0920, License, Upgrade
N5BA, Brian Derx
894-5942, VHF
KC5JZO, Bob Argo
288-7430, Computer Operating,
Win'95
KC5NRR, Doug Hudspeth
367-8927
Computer Tech/Networking
WD5DXL, Keith Dutson
351-7683, Computer Programming
W5NKZ, Jerry Smith
444-4491, HF, Advanced OSCAR,
Antenna
KB5DTB, Joy Smith
444-4491, HF, Advanced OSCAR,
Antenna

Buffalo Bayou Regatta

"Squid One to net control, there are alligators down here. (How do I get myself in these situations?) Chimney Rock to net control, boat 21, boat 36..." These were the sounds on the repeater on the morning of Saturday, April 13th.

We all met at 7:00 a.m. to provide communications for the annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta. This was quite an experience and we got to eat free Bar B

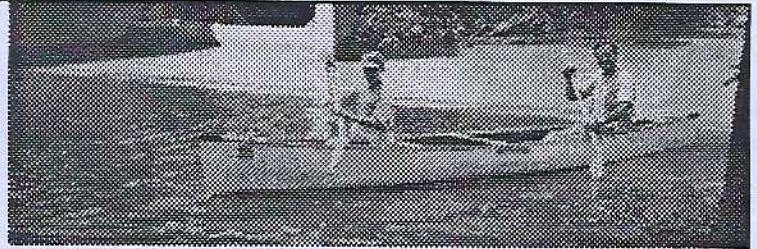
Que after we crossed the finish line. Ed KB5QLX brought his canoe and we provided an on-the-water report of boat traffic.

I want to thank all those who helped: Mike KB5WQJ, Allen WA5REJ, Tom KC5IKK, Scott N5KEU, Keith WD5DXL, Deral K5WNO, Ed KB5QLX, Ed's wife Edy, and Ed's daughter Melody, (without whose help I

would still be somewhere on the bayou). Thanks also go to Ken KA5AKG for the use of his repeater.

The real great feelings of satisfaction you get were thanks enough for me: when you let a loved one know that her husband patched his canoe and he was OK and on his way.

by *KK5LO*



April 26, 1996

NARS Club
c/o Mr. Walter Hoek
74114 Landing Way Drive
Houston, Texas 77071

Dear NARS Club Members,

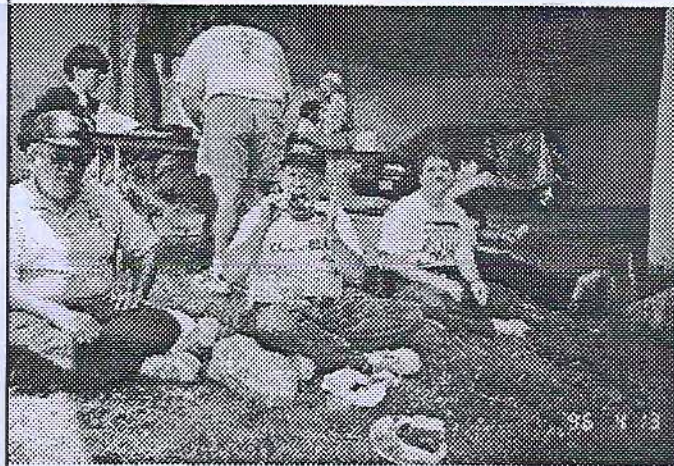
On behalf of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, I want to thank you once again for providing communications for the 1996 Buffalo Bayou Regatta. Every year as the event proceeds and I realize how continuously we use your radio network, I become more and more grateful for your assistance. The safety net which you provide could not be duplicated any other way. It is not an exaggeration to say that we could not hold the event without your group.

The Buffalo Bayou Partnership was very pleased with the outcome of this year's race. We were particularly thankful that all the racers were able to complete the race safely. We feel that the Regatta is an important event for the promotion of the preservation of Buffalo Bayou and its recreational use. We appreciate the ongoing support of our efforts by your organization.

We hope to see you at the 1997 Regatta.

Sincerely,
Claire Caudill

Claire Caudill



NARS NEWS is published monthly by Northwest Amateur Radio Society

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EMail 70570.405@compuserve.com

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

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday 8 AM at Bleachers Grill, located at 2318 W FM 1960 (@ Kuykendahl). Informal ragchew.

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Walter Hock, KK5LO 350-6633

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Owen, N5NXX 894-7758

SECRETARY

Bill Gary, K8CSG 537-9240

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Keith Dutson, WD5DXL 351-7683

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Rudy Novotny, KB5ZXO 251-4546

Mike Lavender, KB5WQJ 259-7257

OJ Quarles, WA1YIA 955-1555

Mark Condit, KC5OFE 550-5659

NARS BOARD MEETS the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at IHOP on FM 1960. All members are invited to attend.

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL

Marian Denton, 469-8331, for General Information and Bill Gary, 537-9240, for VE Exam Information or send E-Mail to nars@houston.net

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 PM
28.444 MHz

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM
146.06 / .66 MHz

Net Coordinator OJ, WA1YIA

EMERGENCY NETS

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY ARES
WEDNESDAY following NARS Info Net
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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