

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 2001

Nars Annual Awards Banquet - Final Notice

Finalize your plans for the banquet NOW. This is always the premiere event of the year for our club. You will see more of your fellow members here than at any other time.

Date: **January 19, 2001**
Time: **6:30PM - 9:30PM**
Place: **Wyndehaven Terrace**
Address: **12716 Cutten Road (Just south of 1960)**
Cost: **\$18 Member, \$18 Member Guest, \$20 Non Member**

Plan to be there at 6:30 to socialize with others. Here is the agenda:

- 7:15 - A sumptuous meal will be served.
- 8:00 - The officers and board members for 2001 will be inducted into office.
 - Awards will be presented.
 - Drawing for the raffle, ICOM 706 MKIIG.
 - Program (Willie Huges Old Timey Radio Show)

So please come and enjoy a great evening!

Wyndehaven Terrace requires a guaranteed head count five days before the event. Therefore, you **MUST** pay or make firm reservations before Monday, January 15 to be included. Otherwise, a seat for you may not be available.

Make reservations to George Levandoski KD5AYF 713-895-0700, Joe Sokolowski KD5KR 281-353-2196, or Keith Dutson WD5DXL 281-351-7683. You may also send email to wd5dxl@arrl.net.

Please make payment to Keith Dutson WD5DXL, or send a check or money order payable to NARS, to PO Box 90387, Houston, TX 77090-0387.

From the Editor

Last month was the last issue of NARS News edited by my dear friend Bill Gary K8CSG, who passed away before completing the December issue of NARS News. Thanks to Steve Niles N5EN for pulling the articles together from Bill's computer, and subsequently publishing them. Thanks also to George Edwards for getting the News printed and over to my house for mailing.

We will all miss Bill for many years to come. I intend to carry on as editor, and promise to uphold the tradition of editing excellence he established over the past two years.

Keith Dutson WD5DXL
NARS News Editor

Important Dates

Friday, January 19, 6:30 PM - NARS Annual Awards Banquet, Wyndehaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Road (just south of 1960).

Tuesday, January 30, 7:30 PM - NARS Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Saturday, January 27, 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just south of Main Street).

Contests:

Jan 13-14 - North American QSO Party - CW

Jan 20-22 - North American QSO Party - Phone

Jan 20-22 - ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 26-28 - CQ WW 160 Meter CW

Feb 3 - Dit-Dit Contest Club All Rookie 10-10

Feb 17-18 - ARRL CW DX

Feb 24-25 - CQ WW 160M SSB

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Jan 17 - Red Lobster

Jan 24 - Strack Farms

Jan 31 - Pepperchino

Feb 7 - Original Pasta Co

Feb 14 - Carlos Mexican

Notice:

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

Deadline for articles to appear in the February issue - Wednesday, January 31.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

NARS - A Perspective from the Top

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society provides a very visible Amateur Radio presence in the northwest area of Houston, Texas and across the whole of the Houston area as well. Our monthly newsletter, "NARS NEWS" chronicles the many and varied on-going activities inviting all whom are interested to attend and participate. In addition to our regular monthly general membership meetings and programs, we also schedule a long-standing Saturday morning breakfast and Wednesday lunches every week. We place copies of our newsletter in all the local ham radio related businesses and meet a lot of new and/or potential hams this way. Couple our newsletter with the our club sponsored 2 meter repeater Wednesday evening rag-chewing net as well as the general information that always seems to be available and it becomes very apparent that we are getting the message of Ham Radio out to the prospective and newly licensed hams in our community. The NARS Voluntary Examiner group also publicizes and conducts monthly VE Examination sessions, which are filled with hams and prospective hams from the surrounding counties. Our club Website <http://www.w5nc.org> has proved to be an effective way to reach folks who are interested in information and direction on becoming Hams and/or learning more about the hobby and the various opportunities to meet with and learn from one of the most diverse groups of folks collected together in any club.

NARS members are prepared to communicate skillfully and effectively during emergencies. Several of our members are equipped for emergency operations and maintain active mobile stations not only on FM Repeater frequencies but all HF frequencies as well. We always set the pace in the Texas QSO party mobile activities to test and prove our mobile/emergency capabilities. For the past several years, NARS has sponsored a SKYWARN Training session as one of our regular monthly meetings. Our 1999 meeting was the largest session on record in this area, training 97 amateurs as severe weather spotters. Our sponsorship of the SKYWARN training is placed on the National Weather Service website and was announced on virtually all 2 meter nets in the greater Houston area. We are capable, dedicated and ready to serve in emergency activities.

The members of NARS are lucky to be in the Houston, Texas area as it is a center of aerospace, high tech companies, and telecommunications and oil and gas related instrumentation and controls companies who manufacture and utilize state of the art equipment. This provides access to the information, resources and people who live and work in these industries. Many of our club members are considered experts in these various areas of ham related activities. Guest speakers at meetings have included the person responsible for communications with the NASA Space Station to a professor at Rice University who spoke to us on Solar Activities. We are fortunate to have such a wealth of knowledge and experience in our community. We are also fortunate that they are willing and eager to share their knowledge and experience with others.

The members of NARS are very successful contesters and competent operators in various modes. We conduct 2 controlled weekly nets. Our practice of rotating the net control station from week to week provides experience to many members. Two of our club members maintain contest level stations and facilities and serve as coaches to the many folks who help to man the stations during major contests. These groups always represent the area well and often come out on or near the top in many contests. NARS is the sponsor of the Texas QSO Party and has won the Club Aggregate Award for several years as well as 1st Place Awards for several individual categories. We have a large contingency of members who are interested in QRP (low power) contesting from DX to FoxHunts and they have placed first individually and as teams. A NARS team won the QRP national level FoxHunt in 1999. We maintain one of the top 2-meter FM repeaters in the Houston area.

The spirit of NARS seems to have three important aspects: service, fellowship and radio fun. The service manifests itself in the NARS faithfulness in furnishing communications support for at least four major civic and charitable events in the greater Houston and Harris County area each year. The fellowship in the club is amply demonstrated by the well attended monthly meetings and weekly breakfast and lunch gatherings. There is no question that the success in radio contests and the high level of participation in local "antenna and tower raising parties" is evidence of the fun and camaraderie had by all. It takes a dedicated group of volunteers to make all of these positive activities happen and we have that dedication among the members of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society.

This will be my last article from the "President's Corner" as Paul Frantz, W5PF will be taking the reins for 2001. I know you will all give him your support, dedication and commitment that it takes to keep a dynamic club going.

73 and Happy New Year!
George K5VUU

DX News

Opening:

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This column is dedicated to Bill K8CSG -SK for his encouragement in DX persistence and his unwavering commitment to DX! Deepest sympathy to his family for their loss, and ours.

Also, deepest sympathy and sincere wishes are sent to Sean Lineman, EI7CV, Dunshaughlin, Ireland on the recent passing of his XYL, Nancy. Sean and Nancy had been married for 42 years. Sean has been a very active ham in Ireland for years and has published articles in the RSGB RADCOM. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Can enough Delta Xray (DX) ever be worked? Probably not, but it's always fun giving it a go. Band conditions were only fair in early December with the SFI at 190 and the A index at 60? What's that? The numbers for mid-December were SFI-187, A-2, and Boulder K-0. By 18 December the A index was at 12. At the month's end, we looked to be in pretty good shape with the A index at 2, the K index at 0. Then, there was the sagging SFI at 170. It's a numbers game, I tell you!

A little rain toward the end of the month eliminated the local QRN of the power company. That helped a lot, but not enough to hear the 3Y0C. No noise blanker was that good.

We had several very good openings on 10 meters in the latter half of the month. I had to drag out my 10-10 number a couple of times. With its ups and downs during Christmas, 20 meters came alive around 0600 UTC on Wednesday, December 27 with Russians 59 plus 20!

3Y0C, Bouvet appeared on the 17th of December. A number of locals (including this station) were ready, but faint signals made going rough! The group will be there into April 16, 2001, so hopefully we will all have multiple chances of bagging this one especially if his operating skills improve.

Local Events:

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The way I count it, Bruce N1LN has three new countries. At press time, Bruce

reports a good 20 meter CW contact with 3Y0C Bouvet at 01:31 UTC, 12-29. Congratulations Bruce! The rest of us are still listening and hoping to hear Chuck through the sheriffs. With the 3Y0C in the bag, he snagged the XW3QBR Laos operation (on 20 meter CW 12-29 at 23:54), and C21JH Nauru (on 15 meter SSB 12-17 21:04 UTC). Bruce also reports that this flurry of DX activity brings him to 300 worked and 271 confirmed. Way to go Bruce! Bruce's log also includes: JT1CO Mongolia, CT3/DL3XX Maderia Is., FR5DX Reunion Is., 9M2TO Western Malaysia, VP8DCD Falkland Is., BA4DW/4 China, E21EIC Thailand, ZK2VF Niue, HL1IMG So. Korea.

Speaking of listening for the 3Y0C as we were, Gerald W5BA reports that the operation has been inaudible on his dipole equipped station other than a VERY light copy on 40M SSB on 12-24 around our sunset. Let's hope Chuck finds his key! Sounds like he did from Bruce's report earlier.

Gerald also reports that the 40M CW ops of JD1BCK (Minami Torishima) around our sunrise on 12-24 may be that of a pirate. Supposedly, per JD1BCK's manager, all ops have been/are SSB only. JD1BCK has been spotted mostly on 15M SSB, working from a list, around 2300-0100Z.

Paul W5PF reports hearing the 3Y0C. But listen to this list of 80 meter CW contacts: HV0C Vatican, SY2A Mt. Athos, ZM8CW New Zealand, HF0POL South Shetlands, and CN8WW Morocco.

Paul also received several notable QSL cards including: TJ1PD Cameroon, EP2MKO Iran, D68/G3OZF Comoros, 8Q7XX Maldiva Is., YI9OM Iraq.

I think a number of us also worked Marek HF0POL, the South Shetlands operation. The operation is being conducted from the Argentinean Antarctic base, Teniente Jubany on King George Is. (AN-010). QSL via SP3WVL.

As a side note, I had the privilege of meeting Don G3OZF for this first time this past July while attending the service for Louis G5RV. Don is the current

President of the RSGB and a fine fellow.

Gregg W5IDX reports a nice CW contact with 9J2BO on 12-31 at 19:24 UTC. Nice going Gregg!

George K5VUU snagged three new countries during November and December. They include: OY3QN Faroe Is., D44AC Cape Verde, and SY9CVY Crete. Congrats George! He also picked up five new QSL cards PZ5JR Suriname, BQ9P Pratas Is., HF0POL South Shetland Is., EK6TA Armenia, and 4L4MM Georgia. This brings George up to 256 confirmed. George, I hope I am as successful in receiving my BQ9 and OY3 cards as you.

Brad WD5GNI worked XE1UN Yuri at 02:56 UTC on 12-25. Yuri was in Houston this past summer and was extended an invitation to attend one of our club meetings, but time did not permit. Hopefully, we can get him to time a visit to a club meeting. And, you didn't think Brad was a DXer! Come on.

From this Station:

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The following DX was worked during the last week of November and all of December.

D44BS Cape Verde Is., CE8/KD6WW Chile, R2/OZ5IPA Kalingrad, BX5AA Taiwan, UA0FO Asiatic Russia, FO0POM Marquesas Is., 5T5U Mauritania, S07U Western Sahara, JW0HR & JW/ES1AKM Svalbard, 3B8GF Mauritius, YJ0PD Vanuatu, VP8DCD Falkland Is., J8/KQ6MW St. Vincent & Dep., TF8GX (Gulli) Iceland, HL5NLQ South Korea, ZD7MY St. Helena, I2VRN Italy, EI6S Ireland, GI0TIC Northern Ireland, ZS6DX & ZS6DCF & ZS3D (Danny) South Africa, EZ3A Turkmenistan, SV1SL Greece, RW9OWD Siberia, OA700 Peru, ON4AEK Belgium, V51AS Namibia, EX2T & EX8W Kirghizia, CO8OM Cuba, W5HNS Texas, JY4NE Jordan, 5R8FL Madagascar, OH9AR Finland, XW3QBR & XW3ZNR Loas, 5B4KH Cyprus, GU4YOX Guernsey.

I'm not sure how Henry W5HNS got in this list. Must have been long path!

Continued on page 4

DX News - Continued from page 3

DX Heard not worked:

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12-17 3Y0C 20 Meters, 12-18 VU2ELJ, 7X5JF 20 Meters, 12-19 VK6BH, JR3NZC, 4U1WB, 3B8GF, P40GH, 12-20 YB0A, 8R1AK, PY2NY 20 meters, 12-21 TU2KC, 3B8GF, A41LZ, 12-22 GI0AIJ Ivor, VK3MO, 12-23 A61AJ, 12-26 SY2A (18:28) 20m, 12-27 DS3BGI (23:52) 10m.

Scheduled DX Operations

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Here's a little something to wet your appetite. Mark these on your calendar!

- * KC4/WA1O - Antarctica thru January 15, 2001 (180 degrees)
- * D68BT & D68WL - Comoros Is. - thru January 28, 2001 (73 degrees)
- * A52 - Bhutan - thru early February, 2001 (354 degrees)
- * P29BI - New Guinea thru February 6,

2001 (279 degrees)

- * VQ9PO - Diego Garcia - thru February 28, 2001 (29 degrees)
- * 3Y0C - Bouvet - thru April 16, 2001 (138 degrees)
- * YK9A - Syria - February 3 - 21, 2001 (39 degrees)
- * CE0XT - San Felix - February 4 - 11, 2001 (163 degrees)
- * D68C - Comoros Is. - February 8 - 28, 2001
- * 3D2 - Comway Reef - February 18 - 27, 2001 (250 degrees)
- * C56 - The Gambia - February 20 - March 5, 2001 (84 degrees)
- * Get your antenna wax out for May! (59 degrees)

Join In

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The Mid Sussex ARS, southern England, meets Monday through Friday at 1330 UTC (07:30 local) (their lunchtime net) on 21.330. It's always a pleasure to hear and work old friends.

Checkins and net controls include Ken G3WYN (who visited with Anita and I this past June), Ron G0WGP (with good pleasure), and Ron G4GKO. Checkins from this side include Bob - N4XAT of Cape May, N.J. and Mike N4MAD of Pensacola. If you drag into work a little late, or if "work" is not in your vocabulary, give the boys a call.

Finally, it has been heard and reported that K5ZTY stopped recently at a yard sale (?) and purchased a \$3 frame for his DXCC award, which now adorns his shack. Can anyone verify this?

Thanks to Paul W5PF, George K5VUU, Bruce N1LN, Gregg W5IDX, John W5PDW, and Gerald W5BA for their input. If you have DX info for the column, e-mail to wa5mlt@arrl.net.

*73 es gd DX to all ...
de H. O. WA5MLT*

Contest Connection

Contesting for Beginners

While I was at home during the Christmas and New Year Holidays, I had quite a number of visitors in my shack. The most common question was, "I hear you guys on the repeater talking about contesting, and it sounds like fun. How do I get involved?"

Well here it is. The Dit Dit Contest Club is sponsoring its first all rookie contest. The event will be the 10 Meter 10-10 contest on February 3rd. Since 10 meters has been open lately this should be a fun contest. There should be no problem working stations all over the

world. During the holidays I worked many new hams running the 25-watt Radio Shack radios and dipole antennas.

This should inspire newly licensed Hams to upgrade their license so they can work stations around the world without a large expenditure of cash for equipment. Regardless of your license class you will be able to work my station using my extra class license and call sign. You will exchange 10-10 numbers with the other stations. I will

provide the 10-10 numbers as well. All you have to do is show up. We will assist you in radio and logging procedures.

If you are interested contact O J or me, and let us know what time you would like to operate. Probably the 10-meter band will close in evening so it won't be necessary to operate over night.

*Bill Denton W5SB
w5sb@arrl.net
k10j@ditdit.com*

VE Session Results

No VE session was held in December. The next session will be hosted by Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY on Saturday, January 27.

Selecting your Antenna System

When should you start in putting together an antenna system? A newcomer to Amateur Radio, an amateur moving to a new location, or someone wanting to improve an existing "antenna farm" might ask this question. The answers: In a comfortable chair, with a pad and writing instrument.

The most important time spent in putting together an antenna system is that time spent in planning. It can save a lot of time, money and frustration. While no one can tell you the exact steps you should take in developing your master plan, these ideas prepared by Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, should help you with some ideas.

Begin planning by spelling out your communications desires. What bands are you interested in? Who (or where) do you want to talk to? When do you operate? How much time and money are you willing to spend on an antenna system? What physical limitations

affect your master plan?

From the answers to the above questions, begin to formulate goals about - short, intermediate and long range. Be realistic about those goals. Remember that there are three station effectiveness factors that are under your control. These are operator skill, equipment in the shack, and the antenna system. There is no substitute for developing operator skills. Some trade-offs are possible between shack, and equipment AND antennas. For example, a high power amplifier can compensate for a less than optimum antenna. By contrast, a better antenna has advantages for receiving as well as for transmitting.

Consider your limitations. Are there regulatory restrictions on antennas in your community? Are there any deed restrictions or covenants that apply to your property? Do other factors (finances, family considerations, other

interests and so forth) limit the type or height of antennas that you can erect? All of these factors must be investigated because they play a major role in determining the type of antennas you erect.

Chances are that you won't be able to immediately do all of your desires. Think about how you can budget your resources over a period of time. Your resources are your money, your time available to work, materials you may have on hand, friends that are willing to help, etc. One way to budget is to concentrate your initial efforts on a given band or two. If your major interest is in chasing DX, you might want to start with a very good antenna for the 14 MHZ band. A simple multi-band could initially serve for other frequencies. Later you can add better antennas for those other bands.

Harry Gage, AC5XD

HOUSTON
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SUPPLY, INC.

George DiLetto, KDORW
President

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

800-471-7373
281-355-7373
Fax 281-355-8007

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Randy Friesenhahn KA5HIA, Alaina Stokes KD5MNZ, Lindsey Stokes KD5MES, Val Stokes KD5MIC, Thomas Stokes KD5MER and Bob Mennell WB5IUU

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, 281-893-3901
Allen Majeski WA5REJ, 281-353-8652
Bill Denton W5SB, 281-469-8331,

Antennas
O J Quarles K1OJ, 281-955-1555, HF
Larry McCain KN5Z, 281-469-6709
Madison Jones W5MJ, 281-350-4330
Bill Rister W5CYP, 713-694-6074, 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, 281-894-5942

Computer Operations:

Bob Argo KC5JZO, 281-288-7430

Computer Programming:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL, 281-351-7683

Interference (Basic Advice):

Harry Gage AC5XD, 281-370-7488
Mark Tyler K5GQ, 281-587-0256

Card Checking Awards Managers:

DXCC - Bob Walworth N5ET,
281-363-0209
walworth@worldnet.att.net

WAS, VUCC - Brian Derx N5BA;
281-894-5942, N5BA@arrl.net

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Send address, phone, email and other changes to:

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PO Box 90387
Houston, TX 77090-0387

For general information call one of the Club
Officers or Board Members.

NETS

75 M Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM, ~3861KHz,
Coordinator: Jim Kirk KJ5X or K5ATY
jrkirk@wt.net 281-376-0718

2 M Information: Wed. 8:00 PM, 146.660
Coordinator: O.J. Quarles, K1OJ
k1oj@ditdit.com 281-955-1555

WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>
Webmaster: H.O. Townsend WA5MLT
wa5mlt@arrl.net 281-376-7416

NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@qth.net
Coordinator: O.J. Quarles, K1OJ
k1oj@ditdit.com 281-955-1555

REPEATERS

2 M - 146.060 / 146.660 (KA5AKG)
70 cm - 449.375 / 444.375 (KA5AKG)

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership at Spring-
Cypress Presbyterian, 6000 Spring Cypress
Road, Third Friday each month, 7:30 PM

Saturday Breakfast at Victor's Restaurant:
7:30 AM

Wednesday Lunch at various locations:
11:30 AM (Info on 146.660)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
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Send all articles and materials for the
Newsletter to:

Editor: Keith Dutson WD5DXL
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email wd5dxl@arrl.net

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