

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 2001

DX Propagation Rant

The Program for the July NARS Meeting on Friday the 20th will be propagation. All the HF bands will be covered, with emphasis on making those difficult contacts to remote corners of the world. The presentation will include many tips on how to work your first 300 countries, and how to keep interest in the hobby long after you achieve Honor Roll "status" (which is easier than you think). I promise the meeting will be lively and interactive, and we will easily divert to other DX subjects such as antennas, pileup busting technique, and contesting. My goal will be to pack as much information into the time allowed, and we will all have lots of fun. Hope to see you there – *de Roy (a.k.a. Quack) AD5Q*

Field Day Photo from 2001



The Wired Choice – Update

The totals for electronic distribution of NARS News are now 47 for email and 26 for web access. This leaves 105 still receiving a hard copy. This is an increase of 8 emails and 6 webs, and a reduction of 10 hard copies. The goal of at least 50 percent electronic distribution is closer: 73 out of 178 is 41 percent. But we need to continue talking up the benefits of electronic distribution.

Are you one of those still getting a hard copy? Do you have an email account? Can you access the web? If so, I ask you to take a look at the web site at <http://www.w5nc.org>. On the first page you will see a link to view this newsletter. Take a peek. I think you will like what you see. The quality is much better than the printed copy.

If you have not already done so, please send an email to wd5dxl@arrl.net with your choice for 1) web access, 2) email, or 3) regular mail. Thanks.

Keith Dutson WD5DXL, NARS NEWS Editor

Important Dates

Friday, July 20, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, July 31, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville, –or– Wynnwood Apartments, N E corner 290 & 1960

Saturday, July 28, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just south of Main Street).

Contests:

July 14–15 – CQ WW VHF, IARU HF World Radio Championship

July 21–22 – NA RTTY QSO Party, Georgia QSO Party

July 28–29 – IOTA, Russian RTTY

Aug 4–5 – NA CW QSO Party, ARRL UHF

Aug 5 – YO DX

Aug 11–12 – WAE CW, Maryland/DC QSO Party

Wednesday Lunch Bunch:

Jul 11: Woodlands House

Jul 18: Brown Sugar's BBQ

Jul 25: Red Lobster

Aug 1: Strack Farms

Aug 8: Pepperchino

Notice:

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

Deadline for articles to appear in the August issue is Tuesday, July 31.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

Field Day 2001 – Report

President's Corner

July 2001

What a great weekend it was! Field Day 2001 was one of our most successful efforts ever. Things ran very smoothly, the weather was fantastic (no rain, not too hot) and we had a very good turnout. The switch to a new location was very well received and the big question was "Bill, why did you keep this a secret for so long?"

Again this year the success is due to the efforts of so many people. Field Day Coordinator Bill, W5SB, and his station captains OJ, K1OJ; Gregg, W5IDX; Danny, WA5OJE and Buddy, KC5NSW did a great job of organizing equipment and people to operate the four main stations. Walter, KK5LO, did his usual fine job of snagging the satellite by getting on the air at 1:30 am to catch a good pass.

It took many people to support all these activities. The highlight was the Saturday BBQ dinner by our master chef Tom, KD5EIJ, and Christy, KD5NKY. Joe, KD5KR, provided the coffee and other treats and George, K5VUU, hosted the Welcome Tent, giving out a lot of information to our visitors. As usual, everything was powered by "Old Jenny" thanks to Ken, KA5AKG.

I think you get the point, it takes a lot of people to put on a successful Field Day, and we had no shortage of volunteers. I don't have room to list all of the operators, erection and tear down specialists and others who contributed their time and efforts. A very sincere "THANK YOU" from the NARS Officers and Board to all who participated in the success of NARS Field Day 2001!

Paul Frantz, W5PF

I think one of the best decisions made by NARS in the last few years was to bring Field Day out of the wilderness. I caught a lot of flack this weekend for working next door to this site for 21 years and never offering it as a FD site. I'm a little slow to catch on. I have been having my lunch under those trees and enjoying the shade and breeze every day for a long time. It took a QRP FD there last summer for us to get the idea.

The school district was really cooperative in allowing us to camp there for a weekend. Joe Kolenda, principle here at the SBISD Career Center couldn't do enough for us. He even volunteered to put up a sign on the Marquee and we used his tables and chairs saving us a lot of expense, since we had been renting them in the past.

One of the best things that happened was having Sgt. John Cortelyu of Spring Branch ISD Police Department come by. John and I have worked on projects together and he is the #2 man at the SBISD PD. We discussed being able to have this site next year for FD since I will no longer be with the district. He told me that he is sometimes involved in letting people use school district property. He said if NARS wants this site next year he could arrange it. John is N5RVG and now a NARS member. He has been listening to our repeater for a long time and didn't realize the FD people and the ones on the repeater are the same.

I heard many people say the food was the best ever... nice going Tom and Christy. I understand the last person through the serving line got the last piece of BBQ. Talk about planning. The sign-up book had over 100 in attendance. A lot of persons signed in as only one person but had wife and family with them.

The ice cream treat at midnight by K5MSQ was a real hit. I found out one thing; eating while operating CW is a lot easier than when operating SSB.

Murphy was a brief attendee at the beginning, but went away for the most part. W5IDX's Kenwood 950 went belly up about an hour before the bell rang. Gregg had its innards exposed and with a good talking to, it started working. It worked for the rest of the show. My trusty laptop of several FD operations had parallel port problems. I had to use one of my station computers.

I think the "stay with it award" goes to KC5NSW and his crew. They tried to make something happen on 6 meters for 24 hours. They milked 132 Q's out of a band that never really opened. They were very hopeful since 6 had been open lately. With a 5-element beam at 60' and 150 watts, they were prepared. George K5VUU and his welcome wagon crew was also a hit. I saw visitors with NARS info and kids with Archie Ham Comic books all over the place. We also have some new members as a result of their efforts. The visitor of the weekend award should go to Hank Rowlands, W9MY. Hank is a retired employee of American Red Cross. He was here as a volunteer helping with Red Cross efforts with the recent flooding problems of Tropical Storm Allison.

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VE Session Results – June

There was no VE session in June.

Field Day 2001 – Report continued from page 2

For the first time we did away with the Novice Station idea. We offered PSK31 for the first time. I don't have a reference to go by but I think it was a mild success. They had 98 contacts. That station also had 302 Q's on CW but was unattended for many hours.

For the first time I can remember all the shifts were covered in phone and CW. Many times the phone station gets abandoned during the early morning hours, or one operator gets stuck with 2 am until 6 or so until someone shows up. Gregg and Danny did a nice job making sure both those stations were covered during the night. Walter increased his satellite output this year by 100%.

One of my best times was having new ham Adam, KD5NDZ, putting the head sets on with me on a really nasty sounding 20 meter band at 11:30 Sunday morning. Somehow I was able to get the rate meter over 100 for awhile, then I let Adam operate for the last 30 minutes of my shift. He did really well for his first

time. He told me this morning he hadn't have enough of Ham Radio and hurried home and made 30 or 40 contacts from his home station on 10 meters. He is hooked.

Special thanks to Ken and Joe for all their usual support and Jacky KM5SC for his overnight stint making sure the site was secure from the bad guys.

Final thoughts. Sunday morning before I left the house to go back to the FD site, Marian asked me "how is it going and who is Field Day coordinator this year?". I was surprised. I hadn't realized that she didn't know I was the coordinator. The real reason is that with all the help every one gives, all I had to do was get the ball rolling. Special thanks to OJ for all his support, and everyone else who pitched in and got the job done, and hauled all the antennas, towers and associated equipment to and from the site.

The band conditions were ok but not great. Our Q count on SSB was about the

same as last year. CW was a lot better.

One disappointment was that we got no media coverage. George, KD5AYF, sent out a lot of press releases and made personal contact with some of the TV stations but they had no interest.

The logs have not been crunched. This is an unofficial Q count:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CW | 1293 + 302 from 3rd station for 1595 total CW. |
| SSB | 1528 |
| PSK31 | 98 |
| VHF | 132 |
| Satellite | 2 |
| Total | 3353 |

Check out FD Pix thanks to Keith. <http://www.dutson.net/PhotoAlbum/Ham/FD2001.html>

Thanks to all for a great FD 2001

Bill W5SB



Public Service Events *Your Radio Skills Are Needed*

SIRE 9th annual Ride-A-Thon, Saturday, October 13
Contact: Keith Dutson, 281-351-7683, WD5DXL@arrl.net

Here's a chance to take part in an event that NARS members have supported

with radio communications since Saddle Up For SIRE started in 1992. With reasonable weather, it is always fun and requires only a 2-meter HT, fresh batteries and a few hours time. Volunteers are stationed along a ten mile trail near Montgomery where

participants ride horses to raise money for SIRE, Self-Improvement Through Riding Education, the charity dedicated to the rehabilitation of children and adults with disabilities.

For more information, call Keith Dutson.

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Have you noticed, the days are getting shorter? Of course this means cooler weather (think snow), but it also means propagation is on the slow move to transform itself into it's typical winter characteristics. Oh yes, Alaska's mid-night sun has reached it's peak and darkness will return! So beware, static-free low-band HF nights are coming soon! Before we whip ourselves into a frenzy, I guess we'd better get through summer first. Nonetheless, June does represent a transition month, and from the reports received thus far sorta reflects just that.

The numbers for June look like this. The highest SFI occurred between June 17th and 19th with readings of 208 and 221. And the lowest SFI occurred June 2nd with a reading of 133. The A index low occurred on June 29th with a reading of 2. The highest A index occurred June 19th with a reading of 31. The lowest K index occurred on June 1st, 11th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 28th, and 29th with a reading of 0; and the highest K index occurred on June 2nd, 10th, and the 18th with a reading of 5.

Local Events:

>From the reports received, June seems to have been a slow month for rare DX. Yet, DX was logged and cards received! Keep the faith, burn the midnight oil. DX is just a few kHz away. Here is this month's review.

Steve, N5EN, reports that #300 arrived in the form of EP3SMH – Iran. Steve's first HF contact was 4 years and 4 days ago with W5SB. Today #300 is in the bag. Quite an accomplishment. Congratulations OM! On top of this, Steve was one of the fortunate ones working the T5X – Somalia station recently on 20 meters CW. Congrats again Steve; a bunch of us never heard them strong enough to call them. (Rumor

has it that there will be another DX there later this year.)

John, W5PDW, says that June was "Slim Pickens." At the same time, John has two new ones in the log: 3W – Vietnam and XW0X – Laos. Not bad! While he was bagging these, new cards arrived confirming VK9M – Mellish Reef and CY0 – Sable Is. John also reports that the CY0 card was from a contact made in 1997 after he sent two cards direct, a third through Les Bannon, followed up by three e-mails. Never give up!

Coming into the speakers of John's station were DX stations heard, but not worked: S21 – Bangladesh, A71 – Qatar, C3 – Andorra, and ZC – UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus. Good grief, John, is this your definition of a slow month? Great going.

Ed, K8EP, also says it was a slow month at his QTH. Ed received cards for VK9M – Mellish Reef and ZC4 – UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus. He tried to work the ZC4 that was on during the all Asia contest on CW, but he just couldn't get through. Ed's report ended with "Wow!" What a chore it was getting all of the cards out for his DXpedition to XX9TEP. >From lots of folks, thanks Ed for the XX9 contacts. Congratulations on that effort and this month's notes.

Larry, KN5Z, was busy in June working the HB9BYZ – Switzerland, EU3AR – Belarus, G0OYQ – England, and 9K2ZZ – Kuwait. Further, Larry reports receiving his FR/F6KDF/T – Tromelin Island card. Congratulations on the Tromelin card. Did you see my call on that thing anywhere?

Jim, KJ5X, signals a slow month as well for June. Jim did log JD1BFA – Ogasawara on 15M CW and HS1NGR – Thailand on 15M SSB. After a two-week trip, Jim had a nice surprise in the mailbox upon arrival: VK9M –

Mellish Reef. Jim's sitting in the catbird set with 312 confirmed! Outstanding Jim.

Jim says he heard and tried to work W5NC on Field Day from his portable setup 9500 ft high in the Sierras between 7 and 8 PM Saturday. W5NC had a good signal there, but they couldn't hear him. After a quick sanity check working KH6 and VE4 among others, he is sure he was getting out.

Keep up the good work guys! Better DX days are just around the corner. I'm sure there's more DX out there than you shake a stick at.

>From this Station:

The shack is still awaiting new sheet-rock and all that goes with it, but have no fear the excitement of HF and DXing has not gone unattended. As I've mentioned to several, I feel like a kid with a new stick of gum. (You remember the kind that had the water-activated tattoo inside. Man them things looked great!) Anyway. . .

On Sunday the 17th I had to make a trip down to the Willowchase Post Office. On the way down I was listening around on 20 meters and I came across VE2MAM/2 from zone 2 working DX like crazy. After listening for a while, I heard Jim Smith VK9NS down on Norfolk Island, South Pacific calling the VE2. After dodging a few nails, I stopped behind the Home Depot and called the VE2 making the contact. At the end of the exchange, I told the VE2 Jim was calling. On the next exchange, Jim VK9NS called and asked if I could assist in a QSY setup moving them to 17 meters where they attempted another contact. Unfortunately, Jim did not make his zone 2 contact.

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DX News – Continued from page 4

After the six-minute ordeal was over with and no flats, I realized I had made contact with full exchanges with both stations! I'm still in shock. I must be near the luckiest man alive! I made 19 mobile DX contacts.

I received several new countries in June: 4L4CR – Georgia, 3D2AG/p – Rotuma Is., and HK3JJH/HK0 – Malpelo Is. That eases the total nicely.

New band countries arrived for 75 meters: PJ7/W3HNC both sides of St. Martin. For 40 meters: VP5/N5DD – Turks and Caicos. This brings my 75-meter total to 20 confirmed and 23 confirmed on 40 meters. I can hardly wait until this coming winter so I can get started earlier on this 75 and 40 meter DXCC thingie.

HamComm 2001

This year's HamComm "DX luncheon" was a nice get together, especially, when you consider that everyone in the room at one time or another has QRM'd everyone else! I thought OH2BH – Martti's presentation was well done and like many of you, I recognized some of the older DXpedition cards. Since the luncheon, I have talked to Martti and I

passed along my appreciation for his presentation ... got to see some old DX'ers from Oklahoma and of course those from NARS and TDXS that attended. Overall, it was worth the price of the ticket and Anita and I had a great time. Wish more of you could have been there.

Scheduled DX Operations

Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for July.

- * Jun 06 – Aug 31 Canada VO2
- * Jun 20 – Jul 03 Dodecanese SV5
- * Jun 21 – Jul 02 Bahamas C6AIE
- * Jun 25 – Jul 02 Crete SV9
- * Jun 28 – Jul 19 Iraq YI1BGD
- * Jun 29 – Jul 02 Mariana Islands KH0
- * Jun 29 – Jul 05 Aland Islands OH0YLS
- * Jun 29 – Jul 05 Finland OH6AW/8
- * Jun 29 – Jul 05 Guantanamo Bay KG4
- * Jun 29 – Aug 12 Crete SV9
- * Jun 30 – Jul 09 Mozambique C93
- * Jul 01 – Jul 15 Malta 9H3
- * Jul 03 – Jul 10 Guantanamo Bay KG4AS
- * Jul 05 – Jul 10 Brazil PY1
- * Jul 06 – Jul 23 Svalbard JW4LN
- * Jul 07 – Jul 10 Aland Islands OH0
- * Jul 08 – Jul 11 Belau T88BB
- * Jul 09 – Jul 11 Faroe Islands OY
- * Jul 12 – Jul 16 Market Reef OJ0U

- * Jul 12 – Jul 19 Iceland TF
- * Jul 13 – Jul 22 Bahamas C6
- * Jul 14 – Jul 22 Bermuda VP9
- * Jul 16 – Jul 21 Aland Islands OH0CO
- * Jul 17 – Aug 02 Cambodia XU7ABR
- * Jul 18 – Aug 05 Bangladesh S21YV
- * Jul 19 – Jul 26 Honduras HR1
- * Jul 20 – Jul 31 St Kitts & Nevis V47
- * Jul 21 – Jul 22 Mexico XF3IC
- * Jul 21 – Jul 24 Canada VE2A
- * Jul 24 – Jul 31 Aland Islands OH0
- * Jul 25 – Aug 01 Bahamas C6AJR

Obviously June was kinda a ho-hum DX month. However, as previously stated, keep the faith, be vigilant, and burn up that rotator each day searching the heavens for new and rare DX. It's there, some days you just gotta look harder. Nothing beats spinning the dial and listening, a lot!

Thanks to Steve N5EN, John W5PDW, Ed K8EP, Larry KN5Z, and Jim KJ5X for adding life to this month's column. Your support for the column is appreciated by all.

If you have DX info for the column, e-mail to wa5mlt@arrl.net.

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



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 Adam McKnight KD5NDZ, Heather McKnight KD5OHL, James Buckner KC5LJZ, John Cortelyou N5RVG, Charles Peklenu KD5MJI and Marylyn Peklenu KA8NSO.

NARS Resource List

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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
281-376-0718, kj5x@swbell.net
2M Information: Wed. 8:00 PM, 146.66MHz
Coordinator: O.J. Quarles, K1OJ
281-955-1555, k1oj@ditdit.com

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Webmaster: H.O. Townsend WA5MLT
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Coordinator: O.J. Quarles, K1OJ
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REPEATERS

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

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership

Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM
Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 6000
Spring Cypress Road

Saturday Breakfast

Victor's Restaurant 7:30 AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

Various locations (Info on 146.660 and listed
on front page in Important Dates column)

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Send all articles and materials for the
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