

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 2001

Field Day 2001 Preparation

The June 15 general membership meeting will be held to make final preparations for Field Day 2001. Bill Stietenroth will present material on band pass filter use and antenna placement. Others will discuss operating strategies. Please review Bill Denton's extensive article covering all aspects of this annual event, included in this issue.

Field Day Photo from 1997



The Wired Choice – Update

The totals for electronic distribution of NARS News are now 39 for email and 20 for web access. This leaves 115 still receiving a hard copy. This is good progress, 59 out of 174, or about a third of our members. The goal is to have at least 50 percent, so we are well on the way to success.

Are you one of those still getting a hard copy? Do you have an email account? Can you access the web? According to the club roster, 98 out of the 115 getting the printout have email accounts. Of these 98, 8 have made a definite choice to get the hard copy. That leaves 90 with email accounts that have not responded to the call to make a choice for email, web or hard copy. Are you one of these?

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.

Visit the NARS web site at <http://www.w5nc.org>.

Keith Dutson WD5DXL, NARS NEWS Editor

Important Dates

Friday, June 15, 7:30 PM – NARS monthly General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, June 26, 7:30 PM – NARS Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Friday, June 22, 11:00 AM (6 hours) – Field Day 2001 Setup, Lucky House Buffet, 10123 Hammerly.

Saturday, June 23, 1:00 PM (24 hours) – Field Day 2001, Spring Branch ISD Career Center, 10660 Hammerly.

Saturday, July 28, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just south of Main Street). **NOTE: NO VE SESSION IN JUNE.**

Contests:

June 9–11 – ARRL June VHF QSO

June 16–17 – All Asian CW DX

June 23–24 – ARRL Field Day

July 1 – RAC Canada Day

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

Wednesday Lunch Bunch:

June 6 – Pepperchino

June 13 – Original Pasta Co

June 20 – Casa Imperial

June 27 – Charlie's Hamburger

July 4 – Jason's Deli

July 11 – Woodlands House

Notice:

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

Deadline for articles to appear in the July issue is Tuesday, June 26.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

June 2001

June is here already and with it comes our usual summer weather: hot, humid and thunderstorms. This year we have more than the usual number of mosquitoes. That can't mean anything except that it is time for Field Day! Are you ready?

This year we have changed our location in order to raise the amount of public exposure for this event. There is an article by Bill Denton in this issue that has all the details. I would like to get on my soapbox a little. Field Day is the premier event with which we can showcase Amateur Radio to the public. It gives us a chance to show non-amateurs what ham radio is all about and how we serve the public interest. This can help the public develop a better understanding of our hobby, and provide some positive public relations.

I urge everyone to consider asking friends, neighbors or work associates to stop by the field day site and see hams in action. The location is not only more centrally located but is across the street from a Houston city park with swimming pool and playground, so there will be lots of things going on. Talk it up.

With our new location come some responsibilities we need to be aware of. We are using a Spring Branch ISD property. This means that the law requires NO firearms and NO alcohol on the property. Spring Branch ISD officers WILL patrol the site. Consequences of violating these laws are serious. Besides kicking us off the site, the person violating the law will be subject to fines and/or jail time. We have not had any problems with this sort of thing in the past, but everyone needs to be aware of the much more serious consequences at this site.

End of sermon; we are also out to have fun. Come out and participate and try some new modes. Don't forget the Saturday evening meal that will be prepared by KD5EIJ. See Bill's article for details.

SEE YOU AT FIELD DAY

Paul Frantz, W5PF

RF Awareness Guidelines

The ARRL RF Safety Committee, based on FCC/EPA measurements with expensive equipment, developed these guidelines.

Although antennas on towers (well away from people) pose no exposure problem, make certain that the RF radiation is confined to the antennas' radiating elements themselves. Provide a single, good station ground (earth), and eliminate radiation from transmission lines. Use good coaxial cable or other feed line properly. Avoid serious imbalance in your antenna system and feed line. For high-powered installations avoid end-fed antennas that come directly into the transmitter area near the operator.

No person should ever be near any transmitting antenna while it is in use. This is especially true for mobile or ground mounted vertical antennas. Avoid transmitting with more than 25W in a VHF mobile installation unless it is possible to first measure the RF fields inside the vehicle. At the 1 kW level, both HF and VHF directional antennas should be at least 35 ft. above inhabited areas. Avoid using indoor and attic-mounted antennas if at all possible.

If open wire feeders are used, ensure that it is not possible for people (or animals) to come into accidental contact with the feed line.

Don't operate high-power amplifiers with the covers removed, especially at VHF/HF.

In the UHF/SHF region, never look into the open end of an activated length of waveguide or microwave feed-horn exposing your eyes to more than the maximum permissible exposure level of RF radiation. Never point a high-gain narrow bandwidth antenna (a paraboloid, for instance) toward people. Use caution in aiming an EME (moonbounce) array toward the horizon: EME arrays may deliver an effective radiated power of 250,000 W or more.

With hand-held transceivers, keep the antenna away from your head and use the lowest power possible to maintain communications. Use a separate microphone and hold the rig as far away as possible. This will reduce your exposure to the RF energy.

Don't work on antennas that have RF power applied.

Don't stand or sit close to a power supply or linear amplifier when the A/C power is turned on. Stay at least 24 inches away from power transformers electric fans or other sources of high-level 60 HZ magnetic fields.

In closing, just remember that common sense is the watchword. I have been a ham operator for only 10 years but I have never heard or read about a ham that contracted cancer from the RF power that hams have been using for about 90 years.

Harry Gage AC5XD

VE Session Results – May

At the NARS VE Test Session held May 26, 2001 we had 12 candidates. This resulted in three upgrades to General and one upgrade to Extra.

The VE's were Norm Covey K5OS, Owen Quarles K1OJ, Peter Wang KF5ND, Virgil Stamps K5OOR, Walter Holmes Jr K5WH, Bob Walworth N5ET, and James Minor N1GXQ.

Thanks to all for their help.

Walter KK5LO

It's Field Day Time Again

Every year at this time all our attention turns to the annual ARRL Field Day. The contest season is over for a while and all the skills that many of us acquired during the year sitting in front of a contest radio, can now be applied to Field Day operations. For those that have not had that opportunity, this is a chance for them to polish their operating skills.

The NARS Field Day is going to have a different look this year including a new venue. Since the early '90's we have been operating FD at Fritsche Park in far NW Harris County. We have had some great times there including a high point score in the 2A class. We came close to an all time record that year. It was the second highest score ever recorded in 2A. We almost always have top ten or better finish. It was at Fritsche County Park where the great Yohoo Challenge was contested: a contest between the CW operators and the phone guys. The losers had to drink a bottle of that disgusting liquid. [I liked it! ED] We've had bagpipes, a blue grass band, Channel 11 News, rain, mosquitoes, ants, news paper reporters, video crews and a whole lot of good times.

We thought it was time to say to goodbye to old Fritsche Park and move on to someplace a little more public and not quite so remote, a place more centrally located, and a little less primitive.

Last summer, a group of us QRP guys was looking for a good place to have a QRP Field day. I suggested the wooded area just East of the building where I work in Spring Branch would do nicely. No only did it do nicely, it was perfect. All agreed this was the place to hold our annual ARRL Field Day.

After making several calls and appointments I persuaded SBISD to allow us to use this property for FD. I got the final approval and we are all set.

It's a park like area with good shade from sun up to sun down. The grass is nice and short and a nice breeze blows most of the time. It's directly across the street from a large City Park, so there is a lot of open area.

Since this is part of a school campus we will need to observe some simple rules. As with the county park absolutely no alcohol is allowed! Not even in your car! SBISD police patrols the area regularly. One whiff and we are out of there.

Park on the paved parking lot. There is a residential neighborhood just to the North of the property. Please respect them by keeping the excess noise down, especially late at night. The noise was one of the main concerns of SPRING BRANCH I.S.D. Since this is not a campground, please no overnight camping and please stay away from the school buildings.

The city park across the street has a large pool and a ten-meter diving platform. There are also picnic areas and play grounds.

This year we are cooking BBQ on site. Tom KD5EIJ will be the master chef. He will serve BBQ and all the trimmings including iced tea. I'm sure he will need some help in serving. There is no set fee for the food. Just leave a donation to help cover the cost. Bring a desert of your choice if you like. The only beverage available will be tea. You are on your own for all other soft drinks. We will serve at 6:00 PM on Saturday.

Now to the good stuff. This year we will be operating in class 3A. This means we will have 3 HF stations on at the same time. The third station is designated as the multi-mode station. We invite Novice, Technician and Tech Plus licensees to operate this station just like in past years. We will be operating some PSK 31 and RTTY

along with SSB and CW. In the overnight hours we probably will turn the station over to the more experienced CW operators. It's been our experience that the novice bands have little activity during those hours. OJ K1OJ will captain that station and call the shots.

Our regular CW station captain will be Danny WA5OJE. Gregg W5IDX is in charge of the phone station. Buddy KC5NSW will be in charge of the VHF station and Walter KK5LO will man the satellite station. The CW and phone station will operate on a sign up basis for the 24 hours. See Gregg or Danny to sign up. Those slots fill up in a hurry.

We will need some volunteers to man the two-meter repeater station for talk in and general information purposes.

George K5VUU will act as official host. He will have a table set up with NARS and general Amateur Radio information for the public. He will also have a sign in sheet for all in attendance. We get bonus point for that service.

I will act as overall FD coordinator. Most of my work will be done by June 23. We have done FD many, many times over the years. With the help and support of all our members, it all comes together and works very well.

One additional change this year; to cut cost we will only have one tent. All the stations will operate in the same tent. That means it will get pretty crowded and noisy. Operators sometimes have difficulty in hearing stations they are trying to work. Please respect the operators and try to hold down the noise while observing the stations operating. There is a lot of shaded area under the trees. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the shade for those eyeball QSO's.

Continued on page 4

It's Field Day Time Again – Continued

Continued from page 3

We hope to have a large turn out. So spread the word. NARS has one of the best Field Day operations of any club in this part of the world. Come out and have a good time. ARRL Field Day may be the largest Amateur Radio event in the world. It will have the highest concentration of radio signals on the air than you could ever imagine. The proof will be when you put the headsets on for the first time. It's awesome!

We will start set up at 1:00 PM Friday June 23. We will meet at Lucky House restaurant at 11:00 AM for our pre-Field Day meal. See attached map for location. We will need a lot of people for set up. At the end of the day on Friday, we will have set up and checked out all stations and antennas. Saturday morning is reserved mostly for tweaking. The on-air operation starts at 1:00 PM and runs for 24 hours until 1:00 pm on Sunday. A lot of

people will be needed for tear down.

As of this writing we have just about every piece of equipment needed to do a first class Field Day. We really appreciate all the folks that donate the use of their prized transceivers and computers to be put through the rigors of FD. Most of this equipment is very high dollar and top of the line.

If you bring anything please mark it with your name and call sign. That includes chairs, coolers or what ever (I have a garage full of unmarked items from past years).

Come to the general membership meeting on June 15th. It will be dedicated to Field Day. We will get more specific about operating and anything else anyone might want to know. We use TR logging software and will have a computer set up if anyone needs any instruction.

In you have any questions on our Field

Day operation please contact me, or any of the station captains.

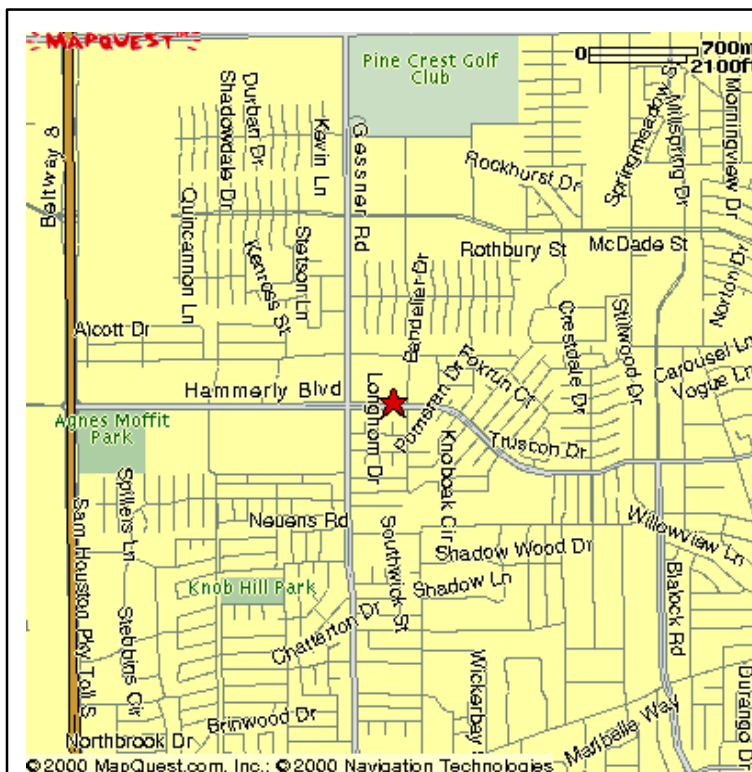
We are looking forward to a great Field Day. Hope to see you there.

Please refer to the maps below for directions to the FD site and Lunch at Lucky House on Friday.

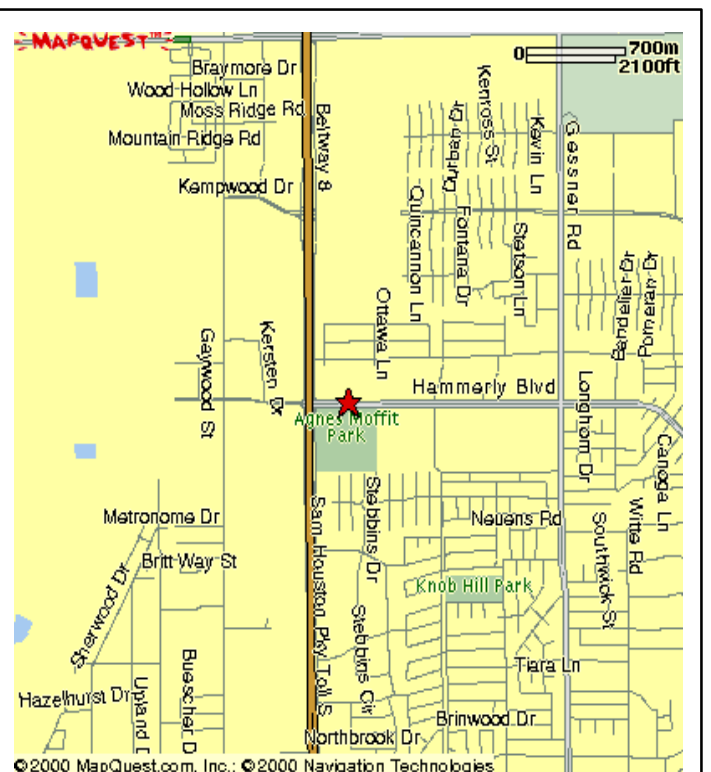
SCHEDULE:

Friday, June 22
11:00 AM – Pre-SET UP LUNCH
1:00 PM – SET UP

Saturday, June 23
8:00 AM – Station Tweaking
1:00 PM – Begin Operation!
6:00 PM – BBQ Served
Sunday, June 24
1:00 PM – End Operation!
1:00 PM – Tear Down
It takes about 2 hours to tear down.



**Pre-SETUP LUNCH LOCATION: Lucky House Buffet
10123 Hammerly (See above)**



**FD LOCATION: SPRING BRANCH I.S.D. Career
Center Campus 10660 Hammerly (See above)**

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Some months are just ho-hum when it comes to solar stuff. May seems like it could have been one of those. The numbers for May look like this. The highest SFI occurred May 1st with a reading of 210 down from the 258 of April. And the lowest SFI occurred May 10th with a reading of 129 down also from April's 123. The A index low occurred on May 1st and the 14th with a reading of 2. The highest A index occurred May 10 with a reading of 27. The lowest K index occurred on May 1st, 5th, 6th, 16th, 27th, 30th, and 31st with a reading of 0; and the highest K index occurred on May 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th, and 13th with a reading of 5.

Local Events:

What's really fun about doing this column is the fact that you get to share in everyone else's excitement. New countries worked and confirmed and you get to hear first hand about fellow DX'ers exploits (some true, some mythical, but all loaded with pure skill and precision).

John, W5PDW, reports May as a stellar month. John, resident heartthrob and chief board member of the Magnolia Texas DX Society, received cards confirming D68 Comoros, PW0S St. Peter and St. Pauls Rocks, 7Z1AC Saudi Arabia, 3D2CI Conway Reef, and 4K8M/4J Azerbaijan. John also logged EP3SMH Iran and 3B6RF Agalega and St. Brandon. Of general shack news, John says one of his DX traps exploded. He tried "simple green" on it (cause this stuff reportedly cleans any and everything in sight) with mixed results. Johns wonders, "Holy mackerel, does it get [ennie] better than this???" Great going OM.

George, K5VUU, had one heck of a month working new countries of VK9ML Mellish Reef, 10 meter SSB, and 3B6RF Agalega & St. Brandon 12 and 15 meter CW. George smiled just right at the postman and received the following new country QSL cards: K5K Kingman Reef ad 5R8FU Madagascar. Additional cards received for new CW countries included: OH2U

Finland, EA8EA Canary Is., FO0AWI Marquesas Is., and BV4RC Taiwan. George's numbers shape up like this: 283 worked and 272 confirmed. His personal goal of reaching the 275-endorsement level before HamCom 2001 is gooooooing toooo be close! Just keep the antenna swinging around, the VFO knob spinning, the postman happy, the mic button down, and W5PDW away from your mailbox. It can happen George! Congrats on the month's activity.

Jim, KJ5X, says it was sort of a slow month DX wise at his QTH. Jim worked 3B6RF Agalega & St. Brandon for a new one on 10, 15, 20 CW and 15 and 20 SSB. His run-of-the-mill contacts included: VP8SDX Falkland Is. on 40M CW, JW0HR Svalbard and ZC4BS UK Sov. Base Areas on Cyprus on 15 Meter SSB. Wow! Jim I think there was some snorting (as in DX Hog) on the 3B6. Congrats on a slow month!

Walter, KK5LO, worked 3B6RF Agalega & St. Brandon on 20 and 15 meters. Walter, I don't know how you got in there around Jim KJ5X, but GRAND! Less cars, more radios and DX! Less cars, more radios! Less cars, more DX! More DX, dude. This was a great catch for all of us. Congratulations!

Bruce, N1LN, sends along a note saying he has two new country confirmations: ZM8CW Kermadec Is. and A71MA Qatar. Nice catches. No new countries worked. New band countries include: ZK1NFK - North Cook, TR8XX - Gabon, YO2LEA - Romania, 3B6DX - Agalega & St. Brandon, VP9/AI5P - Bermuda, and UA2BD - Kaliningrad. Bruce reports more mobile activity especially on CW. Says he is having a ball. I think a little of Ed K8EP and Mark K5GQ has rubbed off on a few of us. Of course, this is old hat to Bruce. I think Bruce and Mark K5GQ and maybe others have been chasing each other and DX around mobile on their way into work. Fine job!

Ed, K8EP, says he had one of his best days DXing in a long time on May 6! Ed worked J5X Guinea-Bissau and ZC4BS UK Sov. Base Areas on Cyprus for new mixed countries (tough to do two new countries in a day when you are over 300). Ed also worked VP8SDX Falkland Is. and ET3VSC Ethiopia for new CW countries. Over all 2 mixed, 3 CW, 1 SSB in one day. Hard to beat that. Ed also threw in a contact with the 3B6RF Agalega & St. Brandon group on CW and SSB (3 bands) although he only needed him on SSB. Plus a Q with ZL7IR Chatham Is. for a new one on SSB.

For the CQ WPX contest, Ed finished with 1485 Qs, 599 mults, 2.15 million points. Ed says that this would have been a third place overall score (low Power) last year. Ed hopes this places him in the top 5, but he'll see. He says thanks to Bill W5SB for letting me use his station. His 2 radio set-up is really world class! Ed did a lot of CQing on this one and was pleasantly surprised when 4W6MM, HZ1AB, JY9NX answered his CQ. He also stumbled on YI1BGD calling CQ with no one calling. Worked him first call! Good lord Ed, is there anything left for the rest of us? Congrats on all!

When ya get to do a column like this, have you noticed each report just keeps getting better! Well, Cal WF5W snagged EP3SMH Iran just ahead of John W5PDW. That's only the first part. Cal says this is number 320! I can't count that high. Congratulations Cal. Thanks for letting us know that the numbers can go that high! I think I've got this story right: Paul W5PF calls Cal on the car phone and gives him the DX spot; Cal spins the truck around; does 80 mph home; calls ahead to have the rig on and antenna pre-positioned, tweaks the AL-80 and commands it work or die; snags number 320 on the 5th call! It's Christmas I tell you, Christmas! And if, the tale isn't exactly right, who cares. Number 320 in the log! Great DXing Cal.

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DX News – Continued from page 5

>From this Station:

May wound up being a pretty good month. Thanks to Bob N5ET for checking my cards at breakfast for the latest DXCC submission. With the ham shack torn up, I didn't get to work as much DX as I wanted to. But, with the new mobile rig, my appetite was taken care of helping me through what might have been deep withdrawal. May yielded 29 QSOs 20 on 20, 7 on 15, and 2 on 10 meters. Logged the ZL7IR Chatham Is., 3B6RF Agalega & St. Brandon, and 9G0ARS Ghana were nice catches. New country confirmed: 5U2K Niger on 20, 15, and 10 meters.

New band countries arrived for 75 meters: FY5KE French Guyana, DJ7ZG/HI9 Dominican Republic, and 8P9Z Barbados. For 40 meters: ON4WW Belgium, CW8C Uruguay, TI4G Costa Rica, OE2S Cyprus, Bulgaria LZ1ANA, KH7Z Hawaii, ZX5J Brazil, HA1KSA Hungary, DJ7ZG/HI9 Dominican Republic, VE3EJ Canada, and KL7RA Alaska. This brings my 75-meter total to 14 confirmed and 22 confirmed on 40 meters. I guess those stamps purchased in April are working!

Mobile DX includes: AH8A American Samoa, ES1AJ Estonia, F5AMH France, G6PZ UK, KL7MF Alaska, PY7ZY Brazil, TI5/N0KE Costa Rica, UA4HKW EU Russia, and VK4DAN and VK6BH Australia.

Scheduled DX Operations

Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for June.

- * now 31/07 IQ8MFC: special station
- * now 31/12 OE75: special prefix (Austria)
- * now 01/06 PV0F: Fernando de Noronha (SA-003)
- * now 07/06 ZB2FX: Gibraltar
- * 21/05-04/06 TM5CW: special call (France)
- * 27/05-03/06 PA6T: special call
- * 28/05-07/06 OY9UR: Faroe Islands (EU-018)
- * 01/06-03/06 3A/IK5GQK, 3A/IK5YOJ, 3A/IW5BZQ, 3A/IW5EDQ: Monaco

- * 01/06-04/06 HB0/DF5UL, DL1GGT, DL5EBT, DL6SAQ: Liechtenstein
- * 04/06-11/06 8Q7WH: Maldives (AS-013)
- * 06/06-31/08 VO2/K2FRD: Zone 2
- * 07/06-12/06 MJ/DL1ZBO, MJ/DJ5BX, MJ/DF4OR: Jersey (EU-013)
- * 08/06-10/06 3D2LB: Fiji (OC-016)
- * 08/06-12/06 EA9/JI6KVR: Ceuta
- * now - 09/06 IS0A: special station (Sardinia)
- * 10/06-22/06 OH0JWL, OH0JWH: Aland Isls (EU-002)
- * 11/06-18/06 FH/PA3GIO/p: Mayotte Island (AF-027)
- * 13/06-19/06 SV1/NB9Q/p and SV1/NA9Q/p: Greece
- * 14/06-18/06 FP/K4JZ: St. Pierre & Miquelon (NA-032)
- * 19/06-22/06 FR/PA3GIO/p: Reunion Island (AF-016)
- * 20/06-03/07 SV5/NB9Q/p and SV5/NA9Q/p: Rhodes (EU-001)
- * 23/06-24/06 Marconi Memorial HF Contest
- * 01/06-30/06 TA: Kefken Island
- * 07/07-14/07 GT3FLH: Isle of Man (EU-116)

IOTA Operations

- * now 03/06 IG9/F5TGR: Lampedusa (AF-019)
- * now 07/06 J49HW, J49DX, J49NG: Crete (EU-015)
- * now June JW3FL: Hopen Is. (EU-063)
- * now 03/09 K1VSJ: Martha's Vineyard (NA-046)
- * now 01/06 PV0F: Fernando de Noronha (SA-003)
- * 26/05-04/06 OZ3UD: Samsø island (EU-172)
- * 27/05-03/06 J48T: Thassos Isl (EU-174)
- * 27/05-02/06 KU4OJ: Ocracoke Island (NA-067)
- * 27/05-08/06 OZ/DL7VOX/p: North Jylland (EU-171)
- * 28/05-06/06 GM3OFT: Shiant Islands (EU-112)
- * 28/05-07/06 OY9UR: Faroe Islands (EU-018)
- * 30/05-09/06 5R8GY: Ile Sainte-Marie (AS-090)
- * 31/05-04/06 TM1H: Houat Island

- (EU-048)
- * 31/05-14/06 VP5/W3RM and VP5/N3MT: Providenciales
- * 01/06-03/06 GN3XRQ: Rathlin Island (EU-122)
- * 01/06-12/06 JA6GXX: Me-shima, Danjo Islands
- * 01/06-03/06 ID9/IT9HLN, IT9FCC, IT9NGN, IT9UHF: Salina (EU-017)
- * 01/06-04/06 JA3MCA/6, JA0KNM/6, JJ1EQW/6: Iriomote Island (AS-024)
- * 01/06-08/06 JW0PK: Prins Karls Forland (EU-063)
- * 01/06-30/06 ZV3A: Ilha do Furado (DIB 62)
- * 02/06-20/06 EA8/GM4XQJ: Canary Islands (AF-004)
- * 02/06-03/06 IA5/: Giglio Island (EU-028)
- * 02/06-03/06 IG9SIX: Lampedusa Island (AF-019)
- * 02/06-03/06 J49HW, J49DX, J49NG
- * 05/06-19/06 VK8AN/6: Troughton Island (OC-154)
- * 06/06-08/06 3D2LB/P: Beachcomber Island (OC-121)
- * 09/06-12/06 KH2: Guam (OC-026)
- * 09/06-16/06 SM7/DL5CX (EU-037)
- * 10/06-22/06 G3HTA/p: Saint Mary's Island (EU-011)
- * 10/06-17/06 HF1UKF: Wolin Island (EU-132)
- * 18/06-23/06 XE: Isla Mujeres (NA-045)

In closing, it seems like the Agalega & St. Brandon antenna wax worked for many a NARS DX'er. Good going all! With 6 meters open already for the start of June, I hope we get a good report from that band for the next edition.

Thanks to John W5PDW, George K5VUU, Jim KJ5X, Walter KK5LO, Bruce N1LN, Ed K8EP, and Cal WF5W for their input this month. Your support for the column is appreciated by all.

Be vigilant, there's enough DX for everyone young and old. If you have DX info for the column, e-mail to wa5mlt@arrl.net.

73 and gd DX to all ... de HO WA5MLT

Ground Noise

Noise in ground systems can affect sensitive radio equipment. It is usually related to one of three problems:

1. Insufficient ground conductor size
2. Loose ground connections, or
3. Ground loops

These matters are treated in precise scientific research equipment and some industrial instruments, by paying attention to certain rules. The ground conductor should be at least as large as the largest conductor in the primary power circuit. Ground conductors should provide a solid connection to both ground and to the

equipment being grounded. Liberal use of lock washers and star washers is highly recommended.

A loose ground connection is a tremendous source of noise, particularly in a sensitive receiving system.

Ground loops should be avoided at all costs. A short discussion of what a ground loop is and how to avoid them may lead you down the proper path. A ground loop is formed when more than one ground current is flowing in a single conductor. This commonly occurs when grounds are “daisy

chained” (series linked). The correct way to ground equipment is to bring all ground conductors out radially from a common point to either a good driven earth ground, or to a cold water system.

Ground noise can affect transmitted as well as received signals. With the low audio levels required to drive amateur transmitters, and with the ever-increasing sensitivity of our receivers, correct grounding is critical.

Harry AC5XD

Web Site Update

Have you visited <http://www.w5nc.org> lately? Please go there now and check out changes to the membership page.

First, there is a new column showing the method of newsletter distribution. Second, you can now sort the list by call sign suffix (default), first name, last name or e-mail. Perform the sort by clicking on the column header. Finally, the date uploaded is shown in the header, so you can see the effective date of the list.

These changes were implemented within the database (MS Access) used to maintain the club roster. Visual

Basic for Applications (VBA) is used in conjunction with several data tables and two forms to generate the web pages. The pages are then uploaded to the web site using a popular File Transfer Protocol program (FTP Explorer). So, after updating the roster, the new web pages are generated by simply opening a form and clicking a button.

In the future (no target date yet) NARS members will be able to enter a new area showing personal data such as address and phone number for all members. This area will be password protected to keep unwelcome eyes at

bay. Ultimately, each member will be able to update his or her record using the web site.

If you are interested in helping with this project, let me know.

One more item: I have a new site up at <http://www.dutson.net>. Have a look around if you like. Check out the Ham Radio page. It has all the electronic newsletters starting in January for your viewing pleasure. There are also some photos you might like to view.

Keith WD5DXL



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 Andy Straughn KD5OIZ and David Rude KD5NDY

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
Bill Denton W5SB – Antennas
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net
O J Quarles K1OJ – HF
281-955-1555, k1oj@ditdit.com
Larry McCain KN5Z
281-469-6709, kn5z@arrl.net
Madison Jones W5MJ
281-350-4330, w5mj@houston.rr.com
Bill Rister W5CYP – ATV
713-694-6074, brister@hal-pc.org

Satellite:

Deral Kent K5WNO – RS 12/13
281-548-7476, k5wno@juno.com
Dick Rooney W5VHN
281-288-8424, dickrooney@usa.net

Electrical Design, Troubleshooting:

George M. Carlson KC5RCC
281-376-8307, geotek@wt.net

Packet:

Don Bedell KA3BKU
281-370-6576, DonKA3bku@aol.com

VHF/UHF:

Brian Derox N5BA
281-894-5942, n5ba@arrl.net

Computer Operations:

Bob Argo KC5JZO
281-288-7430, rargo@houston.rr.com

Computer Programming:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL
281-351-7683, wd5dxl@arrl.net

Interference (Basic Advice):

Harry Gage AC5XD
281-370-7488, hjgage@aol.com
Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com

Card Checking Awards Managers:

Bob Walworth N5ET – DXCC
281-363-0209
walworth@worldnet.att.net
Brian Derox N5BA – WAS, VUCC
281-894-5942 n5ba@arrl.net
H O Townsend WA5MLT – CQ WAZ
281-376-7416 wa5mlt@arrl.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

George Levandoski KD5AYF
713-895-0700, kd5ayf@arrl.net

NARS Information

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Paul Frantz W5PF
281-351-8930, kf5sb@arrl.net

VICE PRESIDENT

George Levandoski, KD5AYF
713-895-0700, kd5ayf@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Keith Dutson WD5DXL
281-351-7683, wd5dxl@arrl.net

TREASURER

Tom Hoherd KK5YU
281-370-2941, kk5yu@att.net

DIRECTORS

Steve Niles, N5EN
281-580-6080, N5EN@wt.net
Bill Denton W5SB
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net
O J Quarles K1OJ
281-955-1555, k1oj@ditdit.com
Walter Hock KK5LO
281-350-6633, kk5lo@arrl.net

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

George Levandoski, KD5AYF
713-895-0700, kd5ayf@arrl.net

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

Send address, phone, email and other
changes to:

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

WEB SITE

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

NARS REFLECTOR

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

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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Editor: Keith Dutson WD5DXL
281-351-7683, wd5dxl@arrl.net

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