

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

November 2001

November Meeting – Annual Election and Campbell Island DXpedition

November is election month for city, state and national elections, and Friday night the 16th is election night at NARS too. There are three officer positions and two director positions open for election. Our current vice president, George Levandoski, KD5AYF, will become president next year and we will need to elect a new vice president, secretary, treasurer and two directors.

The nominating committee has nominated the following slate of officers:

Vice President, Gregg Erlenbusch, W5IDX

Secretary, Bob Walworth, N5ET

Treasurer, Tom Hoherd, KK5YU

Director #1, Danny Richards, N5BE

Director #2, Bruce Meier, N1LN

The floor will be open for further nominations and we encourage you to nominate someone whom you think would serve the club well. Field day, banquet, picnic, meeting programs, public service events and other activities don't just happen, your board of officers and directors plan, coordinate, and make them happen. It is important that you attend the November meeting and help elect new officers.

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY

This month's meeting we change pace a little and watch a DXpedition tape to one of the rare DX sites in the world, Campbell Island. With all the DX interest in NARS, this should prove to be an interesting presentation. It sounds a bit more involved than our recent expedition to Ayers Island in the middle of Lake Conroe.

Bill Denton W5SB

Jamboree On The Air at Rice University Campus, October 20, 2001



Story and more photos planned for next issue.

Important Dates

Friday, November 16, 7:30 PM –
General Membership meeting, Spring
Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball
QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, November 24, 8:30 AM – VE
License Exam Session, Tomball
Community Center, S. Cherry & Market
streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 PM –
Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova
Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Contests

Nov 17–18 LZ DX, RSGB 1.8 MHz

Nov 17–19 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes

Nov 24–25 CQ WW DX CW

Dec 7–9 ARRL 160M

Dec 15 OK DX RTTY

Dec 15–16 ARRL 10M, Croatian CW

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Nov 14: Woodlands House

Nov 21: Brown Sugar's BBQ

Nov 28: Red Lobster

Dec 5: Strack Farms

Dec 12: Peppercino

Swap Fest:

Nov 24: 2nd Annual West Houston
Tailgate & Swapfest – Farm and Ranch
Club – Hwy 6, 2 miles N of I-10, 7AM
till 11AM, Jeff N5CEP, n5cep@flex.net

Notice

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

*Deadline for articles to appear in
December issue is Friday, November 30.*

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

November 2001

"The more things change, the more they remain the same." We've all heard this saying many times. I was reminded of it once again recently when I had occasion to look back 30 years to the time I finally got my code speed up to 13 wpm and dared to go down to the Federal Building to take my General exam. One of the books I bought in late 1970 as I was studying for the exam was the bright, shiny red 1971 edition of *The Radio Amateur's Handbook*. The other day I searched through my bookcase and finally found it. I had a little trouble spotting it since the bright red back was no longer red. The pages were all yellowed instead of being nice and white as I remembered them. Yes, the book had certainly changed in 30 years.

I slowly leafed through the pages and thought about how much has changed since then. At the time, transceivers were just becoming popular. Imagine, a receiver and transmitter in the same box, what will they think of next! And the final chapter was page after page of vacuum tube diagrams and data. How many remember the W1AW code sessions using the tube tables for number practice? These days we have many new techniques such as satellites and digital modes, and the vacuum tubes have almost disappeared. Not only do we have transceivers, but they go from DC to light and aren't much bigger than that 1971 Handbook. The technology has certainly changed since then.

With all the change, Amateur Radio has basically remained the same. It provides us the opportunity to experiment and learn about current technology, and to participate in the development of new technology. It enables us to communicate with others around the world and learn about their cultures and way of life. It gives us the chance to participate in activities to develop our operating skills and test our equipment. It provides us with a means to serve the public in times of emergency and disaster.

Amateur Radio not only gives us the pleasure of doing something we enjoy, it can also provide the fulfillment of doing something helpful to the community. In these times that is certainly important, but it is something Amateurs have been doing for a long time, and that will never change.

Paul Frantz, W5PF

VE Session Results – October

At the NARS VE Test Session October 27, 2001 we had five candidates, which resulted in one new Technician ham, and three upgrades to General.

The VE's were Jim Kirk KJ5X, Jim Minor N1GXQ, Norm Covey K5OS, Virgil Stamps K5OOR, Bruce Wright WC5CW, Jimmy Kraatz AD5FC, and Walter Holmes K5WH.

Thanks to all for their help.

The next Test Session will be held on November 24, 2001.

Walter KK5LO

Local Ham Receives Scholarship Award

I would like to inform y'all about the good fortune of another of our local young hams, Jason Goldsberry, N5NU. I had the pleasure of meeting Jason when he was about 14 years old. He has been an extra class ham for a number of years. Others and myself locally have had the pleasure of contesting with Jason. He is a fine operator. Jason is currently attending college at Stephen F. Austin State University at Nacogdoches. He is carrying a 4.0 GPA. Jason has just received one of the 10-10 International Scholarship awards sponsored by KQ6ES. Once again the combination of Amateur Radio and youth has made good things happen!

Congratulations Jason!

*OJ—K1OJ
Dit Dit*

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President

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DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Bring on more great DX. As reported last month, September marked a significant shift in propagation and it provided us with great DX, but so did October. The numbers and your reports provide perfect proof! Keep up the good work and encourage others to jump in and snag the new ones.

In some respects, the October numbers looked better than those of September, if you can believe it. Here are the numbers for October:

- The high SFI occurred on October 20th with a reading of 248 down just a little from the 283 September.
- The low SFI occurred on October 9th with a reading of 171 up from the 145 of September.
- The low A index occurred on October 8th with a reading of 2.
- The high A index occurred on October 22nd with a reading of 63.
- The low K index occurred on October 5,7,19, and 25th with a reading of 0.
- The high K index occurred on October 1st, 22nd and the 28th with a reading of 6.

The SFI high was a little lower while the low was higher. In a sense, the average solar flux was a little higher. Without looking into the crystal ball too deep, I think this means general propagation was better. On the other hand, I can't remember when the A index ever reached 63. As George K5VUU describes later in this column, regardless of the numbers past and present, sometimes you don't want to look at the numbers. Just spin that VFO and go for it!

Local Events:

In local events this month,

John W5PDW reports that the bands were good most of the month in his shack. John reports logging the following contacts mostly barefoot. Worked: 3D2 Fiji, 3B8 Mauritius Is.,

OD5 Lebanon, VP8, VK9L, SV1, CO7, KC4, YV5, ZK1, XX9TEP, UA0, EX8, K7UGA on 3 bands, VP2E on 3 bands, P43, P40, TI2, V26, KL7. John heard the following: S21, (I need him) a bunch of Africa, and most of Europe. I guess the "Pack" is waiting to pounce on Ducie when it comes up. I'll be there. Got one new one in the mail the 26th of this month, PT0T has a really nice card. I will try to get by to show mine to Bruce!! I've got one that he don't got, doo dah doo dah! OK, when "MY" PT0T card comes, I will put this one back in Cal's mailbox.

John suggests that Anita's (N5AOK) recent upgrade is probably going to free up a lot of my time. John also suggests that this will allow me to do more odd jobs around the house, and it should allow me to hone my logging skills for next years TQP. John, you are correct. Way to go Anita!!!!

Norm K5OS things have been great for K5OS; I've added "twenty" (count them 20) new countries since October 1. My first contact this month was EM1OH, Antarctica on 15m. That was followed by V44NK, Nevis on 10m, F5BBD, France on 20m, YY5ABU, Venezuela on 10m, followed by M5JON/P on the Island of Sicily (EU011) and then IK7CMY on 10m. Beginning on 10/08 Norm worked DJ4BE on 10m and then EA1COZ on 20m and ER4DX on 10m on the 14th. The 15th gave Norm contacts with UA4LCH, HA3KNA, LY2ZZ, San Marino and Wales. Pakistan was logged on the 18th, AP2JZB on 10m. Norm says he worked into the Cook Islands beginning on the 21st and have made several contacts there over the next few days on 20m, Jamaica 6Y5/G3ZMK was also picked up on 20m, that day. The 22nd gave Norm contacts with LU5FC on 10m, FS/AH8DX on 10m, PJ7/K7ZAM on 15m, 8R1USA on 10m, it was a good day! C6A/K5NY on 20m, HB0/HA4DX/P, V31MX on 10m was

added on the 23rd. The pre-contesters offered up several new contacts on 25th, J79WB on 15m, V26DB on 10m, TG9AGR on 15m, RA9XY on 15m. It's good to see 15m beginning to yield a little more favorably to our area. Cyprus fell on the 27th, P3A on 20m as the CQWW began, along with CQ7O. Fifteen meters provided Norm contacts with FY5KE and 8P5A. Norm logged HD2, VK4, V73, VK2, JW5, HC8, SK3, HG6, 6Y6, YL6, SV9, S50, SP5, OG4 and OE1 all on 10m. Norm sums up by saying, "it was a great month!"

Jim KJ5X reports pretty darned good conditions in October and that most of the time he took little advantage of it. The most noteworthy log entry included 3D2CI and EZ8CQ on 10M CW, J28VS on 10M SSB, T32EQ and 3D2CI on 12 M CW, E30NA and ZK1VVV (N. Cook) on 15 M SSB. Jim says he tried to work 9N7RB on 12M CW but couldn't pull it off. He says it was good to see the higher bands perking up. Jim did work VP2E in the CQWW SSB contest on four bands. He couldn't find 'em on 40M. Well into the contest he caught K5NZ at VP2E. He said he was wearying, but the view of the ocean out the window made it all worthwhile. Thanks Jim. I wish that could have been us down there tickling our feet in the water!

George K5VUU says he was not on the air much in October. Did get on for about 4 hrs in the CQWW contest...mainly to try out my gear as I had been working on the "antenna farm"...etc. George reports he left all DX packet and spotter systems off.... and did it the old fashioned way...knob turning and listening! He reports spending about 2 hrs each on the 20 meter and 15 meter bands...tuning from the bottom of the band to the top, and then back down.... working stations as I heard them.

Continued on page 4

DX News – Continued from page 3

This process netted him a total of 54 DXCC countries and many more dupes in just 4 hours. They seemed to be coming from all directions at the same time! George had 2 NEW ONES in the group J88DR St. Vincent on 15 meter SSB, and FK8GM New Caledonia on 20 meter SSB. Mr. Edwards received 2 new confirmation QSL's in October: 9L1DX Sierra Leona 15 meter SSB, and EZ8AQ Turkmenistan 15 meter SSB. Congratulations George. You are right; frequently the old style of operating pays big dividends.

Al W5ADF says he didn't have much to report, then reports he did receive his DXCC certificate, finally! Al reports working 120 countries. Al's DXCC SN# is 32302. Al did log Mohamed A71MA in Qatar on 10M SSB. Al, personally, I can't think of better news to report to this column. That's what it is dedicated to. Sincere congratulations and may many more DXCC QSOs come your way!

Cal WF5W reports no contacts nada, nada, nada. Cal says the radio wasn't even turned on in October! He says he only turned 2-meter rig on once. Cal promises to do better in November. He says the house is about done. Man, I can sure identify with that.

Steve N5EN reports no new countries worked in October. However, Steve does report he has received two new confirmations: 9L1DX Sierra Leone, and PT0T Trinidad Is. Cool Steve. May many more find their way to your log and mailbox.

Jim K5JDB reports logging the following contacts in October. JF1EHM, XF1/DL1YMK, T32CY, TI2/AK0A, S52KA, CO7IC, UK9AA, UA9CUA, CE4FX, RU0VA, 3D2CY, DK1QH, TG/DL3GA, HR1RMG/HR4, V44NK, 3B8GF, 7X4AN, OD5NJ, RA9XY, DL7PP, EM1KCC,

K5NY/C6A, 8R1USA, FS/AH8DX, FG/T97M, J79WB, EA6MQ, ZL4PN, FO/SP9FIH, FO/HG9B.

Jim reports hearing and calling DS5GSP South Korea, but ... no logging him. Jim suggests that November will provide another opportunity to log this one!

Bruce N1LN says that all in all October was not a bad month. In CQWW pre-contest activity he logged the following: D44TC Cape Verde 75 mtr SSB; 9N7RB Nepal 10 mtr CW; XX9TEP (our own Ed K8EP in) Macao 12 and 15 mtr CW, and 17 mtr SSB; 3D2CI Conway Reef 10, 12, 15, and 40 mtr CW; 3D2CY Conway Reef 15 mtr SSB, 20 mtr SSB. During the contest, Bruce logged the following: T88CC Palau on 75 mtr SSB, V73UX Marshall Is. on 75 mtr SSB, VK9NS (old friend Jim Smith) Norfolk Is. on 75 mtr SSB, ZK1KDN North Cook Is. on 75 mtr SSB, VP2E Anguilla on 160 mtr SSB, and FS/AH8DA French St. Martin on 160 mtr SSB. If that wasn't enough, Bruce logged the Bhutan boys A52DA on 15 mtr CW in post contest efforts.

All of the contest 75 mtr SSB QSOs were new band countries. That brings his 80/75 mtr total to 126 worked. The 160 meter QSOs were new band countries also. New 160-meter country total is 51.

>From this Station:

Radio room coming together, finally. Home PC died! Thanks for helping get this month's column out to everyone who contributed.

Scheduled DX Operations

Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for November.

- * 11/01 – 08 Tuvalu T2
- * 11/01 – 12 South Cook Islands ZK1
- * 11/01 – 14 Madeira Islands CT3
- * 11/01 – 26 Kermadec ZL8CW
- * 11/02 – 05 Kenya 5Z
- * 11/04 – 08 Easter Island CE0Y
- * 11/05 – 07 Tanzania 5H
- * 11/05 – 30 Netherland Antilles PJ4
- * 11/07 – 11 Eastern Malaysia 9M6
- * 11/08 – 15 Seychelles S7
- * 11/15 – 17 Kenya 5Z
- * 11/15 – 30 Guadeloupe FG
- * 11/16 – 23 Pitcairn Island VP6
- * 11/17 – 22 South Orkney Islands VP8SIG
- * 11/20 – 27 Turks & Caicos Islands VP5ED
- * 11/20 – 10 West Samoa 5W
- * 11/22 – 27 Mariana Islands NH0
- * 11/24 – 30 South Georgia VP8SGK
- * 11/24 – 01 Midway Island KH4
- * 11/26 – 02 St Martin FS

Great DX opportunities continue. Of the list above, T2 Tuvalu, ZL8 Kermadec, S7 Seychelles, VP6 Pitcairn, VP8SIG South Orkney, and VP8SGK South Georgia are big ones (rare) to go after. However, they are all good catches even if you've worked 'um before. Catch 'um on new bands and modes! The pleasant smells of DX abound!

Thanks to John W5PDW, Norm K5OS, Jim KJ5X, George K5VUU, Al W5ADF, Cal WF5W, Steve N5EN, Jim K5JDB, and Bruce N1LN, for continuing to support the DX activities of the club and this column each month. A special thanks to John W5PDW for re-transmitting this month's reminder. My personal PC went belly up just about the time I was ready to start the draft.

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

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

NO RESPECT AT ALL

By Rodney Dangerousfield – 85CH

I don't get no respect... no respect at all. It all started in February when I got my ham license. I told my wife, "I'm a ham now!" She said, but you've always been a ham.

I say, "no, not a comedian ... a ham radio operator." So, I see that I've got to explain it to her. After I explain it all to her she said, "... So it's like CB radio?" I tell you, I get no respect.

About all she understands so far is it means I go to breakfast real early, on Saturdays, with a bunch of guys. She says its okay though, because she goes to breakfast now with someone, too. She's been getting up earlier and earlier. Usually now, she's already gone when I get home from work on Fridays.

But I was so happy when I passed my ham tests. ...I was so happy. I was like a kid again. I looked in the mailbox every day for my license. When it didn't come I asked my wife. She said she threw it away. I tell you, I don't get no respect at all.

But it wasn't really her fault, see. She said she threw it away like I tell her to do with anything that comes from the government.

She always does it with my jury duty notices and letters from the IRS. Works real good. I haven't served on a jury in 30 years. If they ever ask, see, I can say I never got it.

So I said, "Oh no, you didn't throw away my license did you?" She says, "Of course, it came from the government." I tell you, you can't win.

It was okay though. Because my wife has a photographic memory. She says she opened the mail from the FCC and it had my call sign: "AD5CH." I said, "Are you sure?" She says, "positive." So I repeated it to myself thousands of times so I don't forget. "85CH, 85CH, 85CH, 85CH..."

You won't believe it but there are these wise guys on the air. They say, "What's the prefix of your call again?" They ask for phonetics. I say '85' and they say

spell it. I say "Eighty" "Five". I mean, what are the phonetics for numbers anyways? So I go, "ECHO INDIA GEORGE HOTEL TANGO YANKEE, FOXTROT INDIA VICTOR ECHO." "EIGHTY FIVE". I don't know why that's so hard to get.

There's this guy Mark, W5MMX-FM, broadcasting in high-fidelity stereo from Kingwood, Texas. He says to me, "85CH, what DX country did you get that call from?" I said I got it from the FCC, so what's wrong with 85CH. He says that American calls never begin with numbers. He said my call couldn't possibly be 85CH. He said, "Your call must be ALPHA DELTA FIVE, not '85'." I said, "Whatdaya think I am stupid or something? It's my call. Okay? I know my own call!" Sheeeesh!

Rod Neumann AD5CH

[Ed note: This is an excerpt from a long, funny story; see the entire article at <http://www.dutson.net/PhotoAlbum/Ham/norespect.htm>]

Some Ideas on the G5RV

The G5RV multiband antenna is a very popular design on the HF bands. The "common" G5RV is configured as a 3/2-wave dipole on 20 meters, and works as either a shortened dipole, or a collinear-fed long wire on the other bands. In this configuration, the overall length is 102 ft, with a 28 to 34-ft matching line. In some cases this is still too large to fit in one's yard, and not everyone can convince their neighbors to allow one to stretch the wire across property lines. In this case, a 1/2-size version is useable, covering 7 to 28 MHz. Conversely, some amateurs would like to have 1.8 MHz capability, and have the 204-ft length necessary for this array. Dimensions are included here for both the half-size and double-size G5RV antennas.

Bands	1.8–28 MHz	3.5–28 MHz	7.0–28 MHz
Flat-top Length	204 ft	102 ft	51 ft
Matching lines			
Open wire	67.2 ft	33.7 ft	16.9 ft
Ladder line	62.4 ft	31.5 ft	15.6 ft
"TV" twin lead	56.8 ft	28.5 ft	14.3 ft

(All of the above-mentioned antennas will work on the 6-Meter band, sometimes without an ATU.)

You can buy a G5RV ready made at Houston Amateur Radio Supply for about \$25. All you have to add is coax for the feed line. If you want to roll your own, Radio Shack sells a 70-foot roll of copper antenna wire for about \$8 per roll. You will need enough ladder line or twin lead for the matching section, a center insulator and a couple of end insulators. Houston Amateur

Radio Supply sells ladder line.

Fry's and EPO sell wire and insulators.

So, if you don't have a lot of trees or other antenna supports and don't have room for an antenna farm, here is one antenna that will fit on a city lot and cover several of the ham bands with the use of a tuner. And it doesn't cost a lot of money.

I use a 102-foot G5RV on the 75-meter Monday night net and I am always the loudest signal on the net. [Argumentative statement – Ed]

Unca' Zed
Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Alan Lehmann KD5PWW

NARS Resource List

General Help:

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*For general information call one of the
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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: Bill Denton W5SB
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net

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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 col-
umn)

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