

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

October 2001

October Meeting On Logging Programs

With an influx of new hams, I have noticed a lot of talk and questions asked about logging software. Even some of the operators that have been around a few years are interested in how to use the computer and electronic logging in the shack. We decided it was time to have a program on logging programs at our next meeting. Several of the guys around NARS use various programs developed originally for DOS, and now there are more and more showing up out there for Windows. These programs are very powerful. They will help take care of your QSL card management, print labels and track your DX countries. They will tell what countries you need and the ones for which you have QSL cards. They will even sound an alarm when a needed country comes on. They can control your radios, turn your antennas and make your coffee when one of your needed countries comes on at 3:00 am. They will work the digital modes, PSK31, RTTY, slow scan TV and much more.

We will have several of the more popular programs set up and each will be shown on a large screen projection. We will have a presenter for each program. They will give you an overview of their most important features.

We will also have a radio interfaced to each to show how the software and radios interact with each other.

If you have a favorite logging program, let me know and we will see if it fits the agenda. All programs will be running on laptop computers, so you would have to furnish your own computer with the software already loaded. The programs will be projected so all can see.

We have talked several times about contest software in the past. This meeting will concentrate on day-to-day logging of your station.

See you there.

Bill Denton W5SB



This year's SIRE event will be held October 13th.

Important Dates

Friday, October 19, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

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

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

Contests:

Oct 13–14 Pennsylvania QP

Oct 14 North American RTTY Sprint, RSGB 21/28 MHz CW

Oct 20–21 Rhode Island QP, Worked All Germany

Oct 21–22 Illinois QP

Oct 27–28 CQ WW DX SSB

Nov 3–5 ARRL CW Sweepstakes

Nov 17–19 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Oct 17: Original Pasta Co

Oct 24: Casa Imperial Mexican

Oct 31: Charlie's Hamburgers

Nov 7: Jason's Deli

Nov 14: 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 November issue is Wednesday, October 31.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

October 2001

The events of recent weeks have certainly created for me, and I'm sure many others, a time of much introspection. There are many opinions on why these tragic events have occurred and what must be done to prevent further similar disasters. This is not the place to discuss most of these questions, but I would like to comment on how Amateur Radio may be affected.

Many are probably trying to decide what they can do to be a real help in this new and very different war. I believe that as amateur radio operators we have both an opportunity and an obligation to use our skills. The reality is that there could very well be more occurrences requiring the use of hams for emergency communications. One way to develop and use our skills is to participate in the activities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). This is the organization that has provided radio operators in New York and Washington. It is a field organization of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Bob Ehrhardt W5ZX and the NW Harris County Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer KK5CA explained the organization and purpose of ARES at the September NARS meeting. They are in the process of building the local ARES organization and need your help. I urge you to contact ARES through Jerry, KK5CA, or their web site at www.arrlstx.org/nwhcares/.

On a less somber note, the NARS nominating committee will present a slate of officers and directors for 2002 at the October meeting. In accordance with the club by-laws, nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the October meeting. Voting for the 2002 officers and directors will occur at the November meeting.

Paul Frantz, W5PF

VE Session Results – September

At the NARS VE Test Session September 22, 2001 we had 11 candidates. This resulted in six new Technician hams, one upgrade to General, and two upgrades to Extra. On a special note: another one of OJ's students, Tom Stokes KD5MER, has passed the code test. Way to go Tom!

The VE's were Jim Kirk KJ5X, Bill Denton W5SB, Greg Erlenbusch W5IDX, Norm Covey K5OS, Virgil Stamps K5OOR, HO Townsend WA5MLT, Paul Frantz W5PF, Jimmy Kraatz AD5FC, and Walter Holmes K5WH.

Thanks to all for their help.

The next Test Session will be held on October 27, 2001

Walter KK5LO

ARES Meeting Epilogue

All amateurs have a responsibility to be prepared to provide public service communications, especially in time of emergency (FCC Part 97, Section 1). The ARRL facilitates this responsibility through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). All amateurs are eligible to participate in ARES, regardless of ARRL membership, or membership in any club. The Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL South Texas Section is Bob Ehrhardt W5ZX. There is a statewide Texas ARES HF net at 7:30 PM local time each Monday night on 3873 kHz. All amateurs in the North, South, and West Texas sections are welcome to participate.

An important aspect of emergency communications is the ability to move messages long distances. The Texas Traffic Net is the primary National Traffic System net for Texas. The Net Manager Jeff Salmon N5ECP operates this net each evening of the week at 6:30 PM on 3873 kHz. When ARES is activated for an emergency, this becomes the primary emergency frequency, with health and welfare traffic moving to 3935 kHz. Alternate 40-meter frequencies are 7285 and 7290 kHz, respectively.

The SEC has organized the section into 13 ARES districts, each with 5-8 counties. Harris County is part of ARES District 1, which also includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties. The ARES District 1 Emergency Coordinator is Steve White WB5UGT.

Harris County is divided into four quadrants, along I-45 & SH-288 and I-10. The Emergency Coordinator for North West Harris County is Jerry Reimer KK5CA. North West Harris County ARES conducts a weekly training net Sunday nights at 8 PM local time, rotating among several repeaters and simplex frequencies (146.76, 146.72, 147.30, 146.49, 146.45 MHz). For the emergency plan, training schedule, and additional information, or to register on-line, visit the web site at: www.arrlstx.org/nwhcares/. Those without Internet access may request information during the weekly training net.

Jerry Reimer KK5CA

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Bring on HF DX! It would seem that September marked the complete transformation of the dull DX propagation days of summer to the extended, quiet band openings of winter. Let's hope so.

The September numbers were much better than those of August. Here's proof:

- The high SFI occurred September 27 with a reading of 283 up significantly from 199.
- The low SFI occurred on September 2nd with a reading of 145 up slightly from 117.
- The low A index occurred on September 7th with a reading of 5.
- The high A index occurred on September 2nd with a reading of 30.
- The low K index occurred on September 7th with a reading of 0.
- The high K index occurred on September 23rd and the 30th with a reading of 5.

The SFI jumped up very early in the month and never looked back. It was a linear progression. Most months the SFI numbers will move forward, then regress a day or so before moving up again. But, not this September. Band conditions sure worked to our favor for the Texas QSO Party!

Local Events:

In local DX news, George – K5VUU says September was a pretty good month. George worked 5 new countries including: K3J Johnston Is. 10 AND 15 meters SSB, 9L1DX Sierra Leone 15 meters SSB TL8DV Central African Republic 10 meters CW, AP2IA Pakistan 15 SSB EZ8AQ Turkmenistan 15 SSB. George also received a pair of very nice QSL cards. One from 4S7NZG Sri Lanka 20 meters SSB and 3Y0C Bouvet Is. 15

and 20 meters SSB. This gives George 281 countries confirmed. George submitted his application for his 275 endorsement earlier this month.

Ed K8EP writes from Boston while on the road. Ed reports putting in one heck of an effort to work the K3J Johnston Is. from his mobile with no success on SSB. He has KH3 from years back on CW. Ed will be traveling again to XX9 Macau from October 11 through the 17th as XX9TEP. NARS DX'ers can look for him on 21.370 MHz at 0130Z and on 14.240 MHz at 1300Z. Ed will listen there most days. Ed says "call K8EP" as a signal that you are calling and he will respond.

Ed will also be operating as C6A/K8EP between November 20 and the 27th from Treasure Cay, Bahamas. SOAB LP in CQ WW CW. 160M and 80M scheds with NARS members for anyone who needs it.

Cal WF5W reports missing Cocos Island. Cal did receive two new cards: 3Y0C Bouvet and BQ9 Pratas Is. This brings his DXCC total up to 318. Cal says with the cooler weather and wintertime propagation here, he is ready to get back into serious DXing!

Bruce N1LN reports one heck of a month's DX activity. Here is his rundown for the month: J28FH Djibouti 10 SSB, HJ0QGL San Andres 10 SSB, KC4USV Antarctica 20 SSB (worked with 1 watt), 9L1DX Sierra Leone 15 SSB, AP2IA Pakistan 15 SSB, OH2BH Finland – Martti Lane – 20 CW, VU2TMP India 15 CW, 6A0AA Egypt 15 CW, K3J Johnston Is. 15 CW, 15 SSB, 10 SSB, and 17 SSB, and 9K2USA Kuwait 12 SSB 10 CW. Bruce also adds he worked all of the Route 66 Stations plus 2 mobiles.

Jim KJ5X says a check of his log for

September DX through the 24th confirms a second month of improving conditions. Jim notes 28 countries worked mostly after supertime without trying too hard. Yes, several were contest contacts in the Euro Field Day exercise, but most weren't. There were some semi-tough contacts such as HV0A The Vatican, 5U7JK Niger, YJ0AXC Vanuatu, and HS0/JR3XMJ Thailand all on 15M SSB. Jim heard a couple of 9Ns and an S2, too weak to work but at least "I knew they were there," he reports. "I'm hot after 9N and S2; give me a call."

Jim reports good news on new confirms with the arrival of 3Y0C Bouvet and EZ8CW/3 Turkmenistan cards. "EZ's have been easy to work, but tough to get a card from." The bad news is that now Jim has no outstanding cards. Jim is at 315 confirmed and stuck there. Jim says he needs a taller tower, a bigger beam and MORE POWER.

Steve N5EN reports working 9L1DX Sierra Leone and K3J Johnston Is. for new ones during the month. And, Steve received his 3Y0C Bouvet card. Pretty good month!

John W5PDW worked three new countries in September. ZC4 UK Soviet Bases on Cyprus, A71 Qatar, and VK9CQ Cocos-Keeling. John says the cards ARE in the mail. In addition to this, John says he heard lots of good DX; he just didn't have the time to enjoy it. Seems like the bands have been pretty good.

Further, John reports that Norm K5OS called him a few days back at which time John tried to explain that Norms' TH6 will work better when it's not so grounded! Finally, John reports working all of the Route 66 boys!

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DX News – Continued from page 3

Further, John reports that Norm K5OS called him a few days back at which time John tried to explain that Norms' TH6 will work better when it's not so grounded! Finally, John reports working all of the Route 66 boys!

>From this Station:

Busted! Busted in Kansas. That's right. While visiting Rob – KC0K5X, our #2 son, I drove the HF mobile to the neighborhood elementary school parking lot to a static-free zone to work some DX. As I was leaving, Derby's finest pulled in behind me with lights blinking. After starring a few minutes at my "ARRL Life Membership" (not an NRA) sticker, I am happy to say I was permitted to sleep in the same house with the rest of my family. Lesson, "be very nice during these moments" no quick movements. Say sir a lot.

What a month! During the trip, I made 60 QSOs working a number stations in the All-Asian contest and European FD exercise. The mobile DX log provides further indication just how good propagation was. The log shows 98 QSOs during the month: 7 on 10, 42 on 15, 46 on 20, and 3 on 40 meters.

80 of these 98 QSOs were DX. Here are the prefixes worked: 3D2, 4U1, 7J2, 9K2, 9M6, A71, CM6, CP6, CT1, DL0, EA5, EA8, EI7, EK6, ES1, G4, GW7, HA8, HS1, I4, JA0, KC4, KP4, LA6, LW9, LX1, LY4, M0, OA4, OD5, OE2, OG8, CU3, OK1, ON4, OZ1, PY2, PZ5, RD3, RN6, RW9, S52, SK7, SM0, SM5, SP8, SV1, TG0, TI2, UA9, V73, VK1, XE2, YO4, YS1, YU7.

7 QSOs from the house include: TF4/LX9EG/P, Martti OH2BH, from Iceland; 9K2USA Bob from Kuwait; FR5ZU/T Tromelin, T32EQ East Kiribati, and XF1/DL1YMK.

As you, I really hope this propagation lasts ALL winter.

Scheduled DX Operations

Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for October.

- * 09/06 – 10/15 Tromelin FR5ZU/T
- * 09/15 – 10/12 Curacao PJ2
- * 09/19 – 10/23 Trinidad & Tobago 9Y
- * 09/21 – 10/08 Panama HP1
- * 09/21 – 10/17 Botswana A25
- * 09/22 – 10/08 Australia VK6GIO
- * 09/24 – 10/08 Balearic Islands EA6
- * 09/25 – 10/09 Costa Rica TI2
- * 09/27 – 11/03 Fiji 3D2MH
- * 09/28 – 10/13 Mozambique C98DC
- * 09/30 – 10/13 Swaziland 3DA0
- * 10/01 – 10/10 Eastern Kiribati T32
- * 10/01 – 10/13 Guadeloupe FG
- * 10/01 – 10/16 Mauritius 3B8
- * 10/02 – 10/15 Vietnam 3W2DC
- * 10/04 – 10/11 Conway Reef 3D2
- * 10/05 – 10/07 Luxembourg LX
- * 10/05 – 10/15 Guatemala TG
- * 10/06 – 10/16 Mauritania 5T5
- * 10/09 – 10/15 Lord Howe Island VK9LO
- * 10/10 – 10/14 Eastern Malaysia 9M6
- * 10/10 – 10/24 Malta 9H3WD
- * 10/11 – 10/17 Macao XX9TEP
- * 10/13 – 10/23 Cyprus 5B4
- * 10/14 – 10/14 Solomon Islands H4
- * 10/15 – 10/22 Solomon Islands H4
- * 10/15 – 10/29 Marquesas Islands FO

- * 10/15 – 10/30 Guadeloupe FG
- * 10/15 – 11/30 Trinidad & Martin Vaz Island ZW0T
- * 10/16 – 12/06 Mauritius 3B8
- * 10/17 – 10/23 Solomon Islands H4
- * 10/17 – 10/31 Jersey GH4BJC/p
- * 10/17 – 11/03 Eritrea E30NA
- * 10/17 – 11/05 Austral Islands FO0ARE/A
- * 10/20 – 11/03 North Cook Islands ZK
- * 10/20 – 11/04 Norfolk Island VK9
- * 10/22 – 10/28 Micronesia V63HJ
- * 10/22 – 11/01 Cambodia XU
- * 10/23 – 10/30 Jamaica 6Y5
- * 10/23 – 11/01 Bhutan A52
- * 10/25 – 10/31 Canada VY0
- * 10/25 – 10/31 North Cook Islands ZK1
- * 10/27 – 11/05 Greenland OX3IPA
- * 10/31 – 11/12 Maldives 8Q7QQ

Wake up and smell the DX. It's everywhere. Another month like September, and 100 countries is very doable! QRZedde X.

If you need a new radio, get it. If you need a new antenna, get it. The DX is there for the taking. Buy more gear be patriotic!

Thanks to George K5VUU, Ed K8EP, Cal WF5W, Bruce N1LN, Jim KJ5X, Steve N5EN, and John W5PDW, for continuing to support 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*

ARRL Changes Club Membership Commission Program

As of October 1, 2001 NARS will no longer get the \$2 commission for handling ARRL renewals for our members. Henceforth, NARS members must send their annual renewals directly to the ARRL.

A new program has been placed into effect that should work to our advantage, though. The club can earn \$15 for each brand new ARRL member

that we recruit. A new member is defined, as has not been an ARRL member for two or more years. Renewal, lapsed, blind, family and youth memberships do not qualify for any commission.

NARS members are always urged to hold ARRL membership for a variety of reasons: getting a great monthly

magazine, for one. If you do decide to join ARRL, please give your application form with a check made out to the ARRL, to any board member, or send it directly to: NARS, P.O. Box 90387, Houston, TX 77090-0387.

We'll have it processed in a timely manner and make a few bucks for NARS to boot.

What Is Cross Modulation?

Cross modulation often results in one or more of several kinds of RFI. For instance, if a TV receiver is overloaded by a strong nearby signal, the result can be cross modulation. If a 14 MHz amateur signal mixes with the signal from a 92 MHz commercial FM station to produce a beat at 78 MHz, interference to VHF television channel 5 can result. The 14 MHz signal might mix with that of a TV station on channel 5 to cause TVI on channel 3. Neither of these channels is harmonically related to 14 MHz, and in each case, both signals must be on the air for the interference to occur. Eliminating the unwanted signal at the TV receiver will cure the interference problem.

Many combinations of this type can occur, depending on the band in use and on the local frequency assignments to FM and TV stations. The transferring frequency is equal to the amateur fundamental either added to or subtracted from the frequency of some local stations. Should the amateur station unintentionally (but nevertheless legally) be emitting a strong harmonic of its fundamental

frequency, this harmonic also can combine with the signal from another transmitter to produce cross modulation. When interference occurs on a TV channel or commercial frequency that is not harmonically related to the amateur transmitting frequency, the possibilities of cross-modulation should be investigated.

Yet another type of cross-modulation can occur with amateur phone transmitters. Occasionally a voice from an amateur transmission is heard whenever a broadcast receiver is tuned to a station, but there is no interference when tuning between stations. This type of cross-modulation results from rectification of the amateur signal in one of the early receiver stages. Receivers that are susceptible to this kind of trouble usually also get a similar type of interference if there is a strong local BC station and the receiver is tuned to some other station.

The remedy for cross-modulation in the receiver is the same for images and oscillation harmonic

response – reduce the strength of the amateur signal at the receiver by using a filter. You may also be able to reduce the interference by tuning your receiver slightly off the frequency. The interference level should drop, while the desired signal is still strong.

The trouble is not always in the receiver, Cross-modulation can occur in any nearby rectifying circuit such as a poor contact in water or steam piping rain gutters, and other conductors in the strong field of the transmitting antenna, external to both receiver and transmitter. Locating the cause may be difficult. It is best attempted with a battery operated portable BC receiver. The receiver should be used as a probe to find the spot where the interference is most intense. When such a spot is located, inspection of the metal structure in the vicinity may indicate the cause. The remedy is to make a good electrical bond between the two conductors eliminating the rectification.

Harry AC5XD



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 Wayne Rogers W5KDJ, David Waddell KD5PEK and Michael Warner K5JIN

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 Derx N5BA
281-894-5942, n5ba@arrl.net

Computer Operations:

Bob Argo KC5JZO 281-288-7430, rar-
go@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 Derx 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, w5pf@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, kj5x@swbell.net
2M Information: Wed. 8:00 PM,
146.66MHz
Coordinator: Bill Denton W5SB
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net

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 col-
umn)

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

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
Special Service Club affiliated with the
American Radio Relay League.

ARRL Club No. 2120