

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

September 2001

## *September Meeting – Web Site Development and ARES Program*

Two programs are scheduled for the next meeting.

Keith Dutson WD5DXL will present web site development. This program will cover the steps needed to create your own personal web site, from obtaining a domain name to finding a host and uploading a home page.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization will be introduced at the meeting. ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Bob Ehrhardt W5ZX will explain the section emergency plan. Jerry Reimer KK5CA will explain the Northwest Harris County plan.

ARES consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for duty in the public interest when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any local club, is eligible for membership in ARES.

Please attend this meeting to learn how you can help when a communications emergency arises.

## **Editorial – The National Tragedy**

The national tragedy of September 11, 2001 left me completely stunned for 48 hours. All things planned for those two days, including editing the NARS News, was left undone. Serious thought was given to the idea of not publishing this issue; my mind just could not let go of the horrendous images of vast carnage shown on national television. During these two days every attempt to open the files for editing resulted in failure to keep focused on the task at hand. Surely every concerned citizen of the United States experienced my dilemma.

Then, as if by magic, the shock that was clouding my mind began to clear. Thoughts of sorrow for lives lost, insecurity, hatred for the terrorists and plans for retribution were replaced with the realization that life must go forward. The News had to be published. Doing otherwise would be unfair to those who have written articles for this issue.

For our nation, signs of healing are beginning to appear. While the current posture is understandably defensive, there are now talks of reconstruction. Diplomacy rather than military force is being employed in the attempt to bring the perpetrators of this horrible act to justice.

*Keith Dutson WD5DXL, NARS NEWS Editor*

## **Important Dates**

**Friday, September 21, 7:30 PM** – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, September 22, 8:30 AM** – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just south of Main Street).

**Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 PM** – Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville

### **Contests:**

**Sep 15–16** SAC CW

**Sep 16–17** Tennessee QP

**Sep 22–23** SAC SSB

**Sep 29** Louisiana QP

**Sep 29–30** Texas QP, CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX

**Oct 6–7** California QP

**Oct 13–14** Pennsylvania QP

**Oct 27–28** CQ WW DX SSB

### **Wednesday Lunch Bunch:**

**Sep 19:** Brown Sugar's BBQ

**Sep 26:** Red Lobster

**Oct 3:** Strack Farms

**Oct 10:** Pepperchino

**Oct 17:** Original Pasta Co

### **Hamfest**

**Oct 20:** Clear Lake ARC – Bay Area Community Center, NASA Rd 1

### **Notice:**

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

*Deadline for articles to appear in the September issue is Tuesday, August 28.*

## **BREAKFAST**

**at Victors**

4710 W FM 1960

**Saturdays**

**7:30 AM**

## President's Corner

September 2001

No report for September.

Paul Frantz, W5PF

## VE Session Results – August

At the NARS VE Test Session August 25, 2001 we had 6 candidates. This resulted in two new Technician hams, one upgrade to General, and two upgrades to Extra.

The VE's were Bill Denton W5SB, Bob Walworth N5ET, Norm Covey K5OS, Jim Kirk KJ5X, Virgil Stamps K5OOR, Keith Dutson WD5DXL, and Walter Holmes K5WH.

Thanks to all for their help.

The next Test Session will be held on September 22, 2001

Walter KK5LO

## Ugly Duckling Mobile HF Mount

My philosophy of Amateur Radio is easy to follow. Functionality first and keep it simple. I have enjoyed years of mobile HF operations. Most of the time it is during my commutes from hospital to hospital in my job as a x-ray service engineer. On occasion it is more serious by way of contesting. More than ninety percent of my mobile HF operating is on CW. I drive a mini-van as my primary vehicle and needed a way to mount the radios and antenna that was convenient and easy to operate, yet would allow me to remove the equipment on short notice. After some experiments that included plenty of failures, I have come up with the best installation for my situation.

The van I drive has bucket seats in the front for driver and passenger. There is no console between the seats, which is where I decided everything would be mounted. The first thing for me to build was a mount that would house an Alinco DX-70 for HF, Alinco DR-605 for VHF/UHF, power/swr meter, keyer and paddles. I decided there should be a minimum number of cables routed to the console and everything should be within easy reach. A quick trip to the local building supply produced an armload of aluminum stock of various shapes and sizes along with a new pop rivet gun. Scrounging through a couple of my closet boxes of forgotten treasures produced some additional parts to use.



The first photograph shows the basic layout of the electrical components. The fuse block is from an old car somewhere and contains 4 automotive type fuses. One fuse is 25a for the 100-watt HF rig and the remaining 3 are 15a each for the VHF/UHF rig and accessories. The panel of rocker switches is from a police siren and light control. I chose a terminal strip of sufficient size to allow for distributing the incoming power to the switches, fuses and units.



The second photograph shows the connection of the main power cable to the battery with the automotive fuses in both wires. It is always important to fuse both sides of the power cable to your rigs.



The third photograph shows the equipment mounted at the proper operating and viewing angle for the driver or passenger to operate. The rocker switch to the left of the VHF/UHF rig is to control the DK3 Screwdriver antenna. Also shown are the 4-inch Radio Shack communications speakers with auto power shut off.

Continued on page 5

# DX News

## “For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

From this listening outpost, the HF bands are rapidly improving from those of June and certainly July. Darkness is quickly returning to the Arctic region meaning that our daylight hours in the Northern Hemisphere are growing shorter. Bring on HF DX!

The August numbers seemed to look a little better than those of July. Here are the numbers for August:

- The high SFI occurred between August 28 and 31st with a reading of 199 up significantly from 150.
- The low SFI occurred on August 1st with a reading of 117 up slightly from 115.
- The low A index occurred on August 12th with a reading of 4.
- The high A index occurred on August 18th with a reading of 30.
- The low K index occurred on August 11th, 16th, and 24th with a reading of 0.
- The high K index occurred on August 18th with a reading of 26.

### Local Events:

Michael K7LEX says there wasn't a lot of DX at his QTH for August, but adds he did work AP2JZB Pakistan on 12 meters on the 25th. (From this QTH that has proven to be a pretty good catch.) Then, Michael reports that on June 19th he received the coveted DXCC award number 37,625! Sincerely, this is the best news this column could report. Michael congratulations, and may many more countries come your way!

Another note of good news for NARS DX'ers is that Tim KD5ITM reports passing FCC Element 1 on July 14th and he has quickly pursued DX as one of his goals. Tim says that on August 19th he logged J8/PA7FM on 10 meters at 1745 using his Icom 761 and a G5RV at 40 feet. Tim keep up the good “DX” work and join the pileups! Congrats!

John W5PDW notes that August was

another slim DX period for total contacts having logged only 26 Qs. However, John says he did work the PT0T for a new one and his 3B6RF card arrived for a new country. John logged some of the special event guys (1x1 call sign) and he reports that the J8/PA guys were really busy with good signals and good ops logging a 40-meter Q at 7094/7239 MHz on the first call receiving a 15/S9 signal report. Walter KK5LO delivered John's new TH7DXX a few days back. Sounds like the Magnolia DX society is on a roll. John, please point that thing somewhere else. Good going John. Keep pumping that RF out of the shack.

Cal WF5W reports a month filled with pure summer doldrums no contacts at all! How can this be? Too much golf, fishing? Well, Cal broke his screwdriver antenna with his gooseneck trailer – it is fixable! Cal reports receiving his EP card, which brought a big, smile and number 316 confirmed. Congratulations Cal.

George K5VUU reports a slow month due in part to “other activities.” He does report receiving a very nice cache of cards including: 3B6RF Agalega on 12 meters SSB and 15 meters CW, ST0P Sudan on 20 meter SSB, and D68C Comoros on 15 and 20 meter SSB and 40 meter CW. George now sits at 284 worked with 279 countries confirmed. Excellent George. TQP is coming!

Norm K5OS says he felt fortunate this month; he picked up a few new countries, (H4) Solomon Island, (J8) St. Vincent, (OD5) Lebanon, (HK8) Colombia, (PA2) Netherlands, (AA1) Virgin Islands, and (FM5) Martinique. Norm also reports hearing several other DX countries that weren't strong enough to work, due to his modest rig (propagation). The countries were, Sicily, (5N) Nigeria, (Z2) Zimbabwe, (ZL) New Zealand, and Australia. Twenty meters has been working well for him, 15 meters has been poor, and a

few stations were heard but no signal strength for the last 6–8 weeks. Norm told John W5PDW he was going to put a salt-water moat around his house and see if that helps his signal. Moat size is the question. On the other hand, John seems to feel that Norm's best effort would be to get his TH6DXX off the ground and in the air... Norm isn't sure? He thinks he has misinterpreted the grounding instructions for the TH6DXX! Norm, congrats on the DX logged. Great effort.

Walter KK5LO logged several good contacts after getting his new Force-12 C4 antenna up. Countries worked include: A71MA Qatar 4 August on 20 meters, VU2ELJ India 5 August on 20 meters, 5N6NDP Nigeria 11 August on 20 meters, SV9CVY CRETE 16 August on 20 meters, and CN8NK Morocco 20 August on 15MTRS. Walter is hoping to get a card from Mohamed. Walter QSL to EA5XX. He is a great QSL'er. I have a card from 20 years ago. We are sure glad to hear that the new antenna is up and working well Walter.

Jim KJ5X notes that with one evening's exceptions, it was again a slow month in the KJ5X shack. It even turned depressing when he failed to get PY0T on Trinidad Is. And for that effort, he had all the heat he could muster in the coax from his 80B Amp headed SE. According to Jim, Paul W5PF took what seemed to me to be inordinate enjoyment in telling me he logged the PY0T with 200 watts. But there was one bright spot and sign things may be changing from the summertime DX doldrums. In about an hour's time on August 23, around 9 PM on 20 meters SSB, he worked OD, S5, YU, G6, OK, LZ, EK and 4Z all with 58 to 59 plus signals. Jim says get ready DX'ers. Oh yes, further salvaging the month was the arrival a long awaited 3B6RF card! Jim, great going.

*Continued on page 4*

# DX News – Continued from page 3

Steve N5EN worked PT0T for a new one. And if that wasn't enough, Steve received his T5X (Somalia) and 3D2CI (Conway Reef) cards! Great DXing Steve.

Bruce N1LN says August was a much more active month than the past few. He did log two new countries: TY0CDX – Benin on 12 meter SSB and PT0T – Trinidad/Martin Vaz. Is. On 20 meter SSB (Thanks to John – W5PDW.)

Bruce logged the following: 5N6NDP – Nigeria, 9M6A – East Malaysia, and OD5NH – Lebanon, on 20 meters SSB, and YC8RRK – Indonesia on 15 meter SSB, and H40DX – Temotu on 10 and 12 meters SSB; BA0AA – China and T32Z – Eastern Kiribati on 15 meter CW, and H44RD – Solomon Is. on 15 meter SSB! Bruce also logged these new band countries: WP2Z – Virgin Is. on 160, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters; 3G0Y – Easter Is. on 160 and 80 meters; and T32RD – East Kiribati on 160, 80, and 40 meters. Great going Bruce!

From this Station:

As reported by others in this column, August was a big improvement over previous months. It was apparent early in the month that great things were in store. 20 meters DX seemed to open later in the morning, but was open later at night. In addition, 15 meters opened up at night and 10 meters during the day. All signs that fall and winter are on their way bringing with them some great band openings.

I'm happy to report, my trip to the screwdriver manufacture was very successful although Mod I took a little longer than advertised; visiting with muck-a-dy mucks at the factory was really cool.

This months mobile W5 operations follow: Total Qs: 49; DXCC entities – 27; states –22; and CQ Zones – 18. The band breakdown looks like this: 26 Qs on 20 meters, 7 Qs on 17, 15 Qs on 15, and 1 Q on 10 meters.

## Scheduled DX Operations

Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for September.

- \* Sep 01–08 – Svalbard – JW
- \* Sep 02–09 – Crete – SV9
- \* Sep 02–10 – Gibraltar – ZG2FX
- \* Sep 02–27 – Madagascar – 5R8HC
- \* Sep 03–10 – Netherlands Antilles – PJ2
- \* Sep 04–10 – West Kiribati – T30XU
- \* Sep 05–27 – Balearic Islands – EA6
- \* Sep 06–13 – Christmas Island – VK9XV
- \* Sep 06–10/5 Tromelin – FR/T
- \* Sep 06–21 – Wallis & Futuna Islands – FW5ZL
- \* Sep 07–09 – Nepal – 9N7IG
- \* Sep 07–14 – Guantanamo Bay – KG4DX
- \* Sep 07–16 – Papua New Guinea – P29
- \* Sep 08–14 – St Maarten – PJ7
- \* Sep 08–19 – Bangladesh – S21YV
- \* Sep 09–14 – Austral Islands – FO0FLA
- \* Sep 10–21 – Crete – SV9
- \* Sep 11–18 – Johnston Island – K3J
- \* Sep 11–19 – Nauru – C21XU
- \* Sep 12–19 – Iceland – TF4
- \* Sep 12–19 – Iceland – TF4RX
- \* Sep 13–18 – Swaziland – 3DA0RF
- \* Sep 13–23 – Chatham Island – ZL7
- \* Sep 14–20 – Cocos Keeling – VK9CQ
- \* Sep 14–20 – Madagascar – 5R8HA
- \* Sep 14–10/6 Malta – 9H0VRZ
- \* Sep 15–22 – Luxembourg – LX9SW
- \* Sep 16–10/6 Turkey – YM3CC
- \* Sep 17–26 – Guatemala – TG0R
- \* Sep 19–23 – Mozambique – C91RF/7

- \* Sep 19–28 – Botswana – A25
- \* Sep 20–28 – Fiji – 3D2XU
- \* Sep 20–29 – Midway Island – KH4
- \* Sep 21–28 – Vietnam – XV
- \* Sep 21–10/8 Panama – HP1
- \* Sep 22–29 – Aland Islands – OH0
- \* Sep 22–10/8 Australia – VK6GIO
- \* Sep 23–26 – Madagascar – 5R8HC
- \* Sep 23–29 – Midway Island – KH4
- \* Sep 24–10/4 Mozambique – C91RF
- \* Sep 25–10/9 Costa Rica – TI2
- \* Sep 27–10/2 Costa Rica – TI5
- \* Sep 28–10/4 Micronesia – V63
- \* Sep 28–10/13 Mozambique – C98DC
- \* Sep 30–10/13 Swaziland – 3DA0

While all of the listed DX should be pursued vigorously, the list contains some very good opportunities to snag a rare one. Mark your calendars for the Christmas Island – VK9XV, Tromelin – FR/T, Bangladesh – S21YV, Chatham Island – ZL7, Cocos Keeling – VK9CQ, and Mozambique – C98DC operations.

If you've waited all summer for more DX, your wish is coming true. Select your favorite band and have at it, big time. The DX is there for the taking. So, get the summer dust off those rigs, tweak an antenna here and there and have fun.

Thanks to Michael K7LEX, Tim KD5ITM, John W5PDW, Cal WF5W, George K5VUU, Norm K5OS, Walter KK5LO, Jim KJ5X, Steve N5EN, Bruce N1LN 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*

## Ugly Duckling Mobile HF Mount – continued from page 2



The fourth and fifth photographs show the console in place and ready to operate. The paddle is sitting on a clipboard that I use for quick notes and also to cover the opening and access to the power switches shown earlier. There are only four wires routed to the console. Two antenna coaxes, main power from the battery, and a two-conductor control wire to the screwdriver antenna. The area under the clipboard is used to house a mobile HF amplifier I use when contesting.



The HF antenna is a W6AAQ, Don Johnson, model DK3. The mounting scheme was dreamed up by me and

fabricated by George Edwards, K5VUU. The mount consists of two individual pieces. The upper part is made of G-10 fiberglass. The lower part is made of aluminum.



The object was to mount this antenna with out making any visible holes in the body of the van. I think we found a unique method of mounting that many can use. In this photograph, you can see the bolts used to hold the mounts. They are located behind the taillight. Only minor filling of the plastic was required to allow the cables and mounts to use this location.



When it comes time to trade in the old 'Mom-mobile', chances are it will never be noticed. The next photograph shows the cables routed through the small opening made with a file. When the antenna mounts are removed, the opening can be filled with black silicon plastic and will be nearly unnoticeable.



Here is a close-up of the cable entrance. There is just enough clearance to prevent the cables from getting crimped.

This mobile installation has seen plenty of operation. It was used in the Texas QSO Party for the past few years and has logged thousands of contacts. Many hours of casual rag chews and DX contacts are in the mobile logbook. So when you hear me sign 'da-di-di-da-dit da-dah' down on the bottom end of an HF band, you know what I am running.

*73 and happy mobiling, ditdit.  
OJ Quarles K1OJ*

**HOUSTON**  
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President

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Spring, TX 77388

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# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Marty Fitzgerald W5MF, Jimmie Kraatz AD5FC, Mark McGartland N1VRT, Jaime Moreno KC5WFF, Dennis Peterson WB5PYU, Christy Richards KD5NKY, David Waddell KD5PEK, and Gale Zeiler WB0YEA.

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY  
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### Satellite:

Deral Kent K5WNO – RS 12/13  
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Dick Rooney W5VHN  
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### Electrical Design, Troubleshooting:

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### Computer Programming:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL  
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### Interference (Basic Advice):

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Mark Tyler K5GQ  
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### Card Checking Awards Managers:

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### NARS Public Information Officer:

George Levandoski KD5AYF  
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## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

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### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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Send address, phone, email and other  
changes to:

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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  
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### 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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