

# NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 2002

## February Meeting – How A Cell Phone Works

Maybe we can get some of those questions answered at the February meeting. Our guest presenter will be NARS member Wayne Rogers, W5KDJ. Wayne is a Field Technician with Sprint PCS. He tells me that he was the first person hired when Sprint moved into the Houston area four and a half years ago.

Wayne has been licensed as W5KDJ for 47 years. He has evolved through the hobby like many of us. Recently he sold all his older HF equipment and is now thoroughly enjoying his newfound interest in QRP and sports a new Elecraft K-1. He uses a Mosley Pro 57 to help boost his 1 watt to about 8 watts ERP.

This will not only be a discussion on cell phone operation but a show and tell about various tools of his trade, antennas, feed lines, the operations of cell sites and Spread Spectrum mode.

In addition to W5KDJ, he is ex-TF2WJN. He spent time in the Navy in Iceland and Cypress as SV0WWW while working for the CIA.

This will be an interesting meeting. Maybe Wayne can answer all our questions on how a cell phone works.

Bill Denton  
W5SB

## 2002 Banquet Photos



## Important Dates

**Friday, February 15, 7:30 PM** – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, February 23, 8:30 AM** – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

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

### Contests

**Feb 16–17** ARRL CW DX

**Feb 22–24** CQ WW 160 M SSB

**Feb 23–24** North Carolina QSO Party

**Mar 2–3** ARRL SSB DX

**Mar 10** North American RTTY Sprint, Wisconsin QSO Party

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch

**Feb 13:** Pepperchino

**Feb 20:** Lasagna House II

**Feb 27:** Jason's Deli

**Mar 6:** Charlie's Hamburgers

**Mar 13:** Casa Imperial Mexican

### Swapfest

**Mar 30 8am–noon**, Brenham, Washington County Fairgrounds, Talk-in 147.260 (+600), Brian KA5BKG, bkgaskamp@comwerx.net

### Notice

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

*Deadline for articles to appear in the March issue is Thursday, February 28.*

## BREAKFAST

### at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

**Saturdays**

**7:30 AM**

## President's Corner

February 2002

Howdy my fellow NARTIANS. I feel my first duty as the 2002 NARS President should be to thank all of you who have organized and participated in the many events, programs and other activities that have made NARS such a great organization to be associated with. It takes good people and the energies of those people to make NARS run! Our folks, you folks set us apart from the others.

I can assure you all that this trend will continue. Our Board of Directors meeting in January was filled with discussions of Field Day, licensing classes, activities specific to the ladies in the club, and new and exciting programs at the monthly meetings. Many of these meeting topics already have Chairpersons ready to begin the planning of these activities.

The Field Day site (same as last year) has already been reserved by Super Bill, W5SB for June 21 and 22, and the first batch of press releases have already been distributed to the various media outlets by our new PIO Pete Wang, KF5ND. The Banquet facility for next year's Awards banquet has already been reserved for January 17, 2003 and Gregg, W5IDX has the menu and program planned already (don't you Gregg??).

Laurie Meier, N1YXU has come up with the capital idea to form a NARS group within the NARS group catering to the ladies of NARS. Laurie will be telling you more of this group later in this newsletter.

NARS and the Compaq Amateur Radio Club are teaming up to sponsor a Technician Licensing Class to be captained by Walter Holmes beginning on March 4. We will also be offering a Morse Code course shortly thereafter, taught by the very speedy code master, K1OJ. So pass the word!!

Congratulations are in order to George Edwards, K5VUU. George is the recipient of the 2001, NARS Outstanding Service Award. The Amateurs who receive this honor embody the spirit that a group like NARS survives on. George has had his hand in virtually all that NARS is and does. Thank you George and CONGRATULATIONS!!

Yep, we are a busy bunch we NARTIANS.

Now on a somber note, sadly we have lost another one of the NARS Family. Ed Russell, KB5QLX who a few weeks ago suffered a stroke, has passed away. Our heart-felt sympathies go out to his Wife Edie and Family. Ed was very proud of his association with NARS, and we have all been enriched knowing Ed, and calling him our Friend. *73 Ed, we'll miss you.*

*Until next month, 73 to all!*  
*George, KD5AYF*

## What is the Capture Effect

One of the most notable differences between an amplitude modulated (AM) receiver and a frequency modulated (FM) receiver is how noise and interference affect an incoming signal.

From the time of the first spark transmitter "rotten QRM" has been a major problem for amateurs. The limiter and discriminator stages in an FM receiver can eliminate most of the impulse type noise, except any noise that has frequency modulation characteristic. For good noise suppression the receiver IF system and detector phase tuning must be accurately aligned.

FM receivers perform quite differently from AM, PSSBB and CW receivers when QRM is present, exhibiting characteristic known as the "capture effect". The loudest signal received, even it is only two or three times stronger than other signals on the frequency, will be only demodulated. On the other hand, an S9 AM, SSB or CW signal suffers noticeable interference from an S2 signal. Capture effect can be an advantage if you are trying to receive a strong station and there are weaker stations on the same frequency. At the same time, phenomenon will prevent you from receiving on the weaker signals if that is your desire.

*Harry AC5XD*

## VE Session Results

At the NARS VE Test Session January 26, 2002 we had 28 candidates (yes, I said 28), which resulted in 14 new Technician hams, one upgrade to General and three upgrades to Extra. Congratulations to Pat Bement KK5VN and Rhonda Bement W5RJB; they now have an all HAM family.

I guess everyone was rip roaring ready to go after no session in December. We administered 30 elements with 21 elements passed.

The VE's were Jim Kirk KJ5X, Bob Walworth N5ET, Norm Covey K5OS, HO Townsend WA5MLT, Keith Dutson WD5DXL, and Walter Holmes K5WH.

Thanks to all for their help.

The next NARS VE Test session will be held on February 23, 2002. See you there.

*Walter KK5LO*

## 2002 Banquet Photos



## 2002 Banquet Photos



# Sugar Baker Works the VP8

Since I am not really a DX'er, I decided if I was going to run with "IN" crowd, I would have to at least make an attempt at the VP8. Since I couldn't play golf today and it was cold and rainy, I didn't have anything better to do, so I turned on the DX cluster monitor. There he was spotted on 28.475 listening up 5. Setting up the split on the FT1000D is a piece of cake. I plugged in the headsets and turned on dual receive. Didn't hear anything on .475. Sounded like an empty frequency until I heard the frequency police come on a say in a very vulgar voice, "He's listening up you idiot". Sure enough he was right. Turned over to the split frequency and there they were in full bellow.

At that point I decided that this may take a while, so I went into the kitchen and made a couple of sandwiches, a bowl of chips and 6 Diet Cokes. Oh, and some Excedrin that I was going to

need listening to the mob. Well, I decided to turn on the Titan (a little power would help), and preset the load and tune to 10 meters to give me a little boost. I turned down the power on the 1000D so I wouldn't blow the 3CX800's out of their sockets. I was ready. I listened to .475 and nothing. I switched through the four beams on the tower and on the low KT34XA – there he was about "S" 0. Since I had no idea where VP8 is, I switched up to the C4XL at 115' and started rotating to the south and at about 90 degrees he popped up to about S-3. "That's HIM!" I wonder how long this was going to take. I had plenty of food, it was 50 degrees, windy and raining out. What else does a retired guy have to do?

With my foot shaking on the foot switch, I waited my turn. He worked a W8, then a 9 and I took my chance and pushed the pedal... "Whiskey 5 Sugar

Baker" I said in a squeaky voice. Sounded like I was going back through puberty. "Whiskey 5 Sugar Baker...5 and 9." That was me! "5 and 9 in Texas" I choked. I did it!! But wait, I gave him the wrong report. He was only 5 and 3. What will I do now? I guess I will have to explain it to him when I send him a card – oops, don't have any cards.

As I put him in the log, I didn't remember the amp kicking on when I made the call. A close inspection of the Titan still showed the operate switch in the standby mode and my 1000D was turned down to about 40 watts. I had worked the dreaded VP8 on QRP!!

Now what am I going to do with all this food? Think I will take a nap after all this excitement.

*Bill Denton W5SB*

## YL Update

### Attention, Ladies!! Wives / "Significant Others" Non-Licensed / Licensed

At the January banquet, several women began discussing the idea of organizing a women's group for the ladies associated with the club. The suggestion was brought to the January NARS Board Meeting. To say that the Board was supportive of the suggestion would be an incredible understatement. The women have overwhelming support from the club to essentially organize whatever type of group we choose. An example of the club's support is this article – a portion of each month's newsletter will now be dedicated to the ladies!

Let me share some of the ideas that have been discussed:

1. *Monthly meetings* – Location and time to be determined
2. *Non amateur radio* related activities
  - Outings to local museums and theatre events

- Craft or gardening activities
- 3. *Amateur radio* related activities
  - Learning more about specific amateur radio topics – perhaps, our husbands/significant others could be occasional guest speakers at our meetings!
  - Participating in classes to upgrade licenses
  - Starting a weekly women's net
  - Participating in contests
- 4. *Community Work*
  - Working with the scouts in Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
  - Visiting area nursing homes and children's hospitals
  - Supporting the many community events in which NARS members participate
- 5. *Monthly Newsletter*
  - Updates of our activities
  - "Ham" recipe of the month ☺ !

*So, now what?* Well, that is entirely up

to us! In order for us to decide how we would like to proceed, we should get together, share some ideas, and most importantly get to know each other better. The first meeting will be held the week of February 17th.

If this information has sparked your interest, and you would like to attend the first meeting of the group, please send me an email (blmeier@earthlink.net) or call me [936-271-1096 home / 281-518-9718 work] with the following information:

- Your name, phone number, and addresses (snail mail and email)
- Your preference for a meeting time
- Weekend/weekday? Time of day?
- Suggestion for a meeting location in the Northwest Houston area
- Any ideas you have for the group

*Best regards,  
Laurie Meier – NIYXU*

# DX News

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

Rare DX returned to Texas and the rest of the world this month after a seemingly long dry spell. And a number of the NARS bunch logged VP8THU on South Sandwich Is. and VP8GEO on South Georgia Is., South Atlantic for new ones including this Op. Congratulations to all (including certain DX hogs, not mentioned by call, but by call area 1).

The January numbers were good and by-in-large the bands were also in good shape.

\* The high SFI occurred January 29th with a reading of 261 down slightly over December.

\* The low SFI occurred on January 8th with a reading of 189 down from December.

\* The low A index occurred on January 19th with a reading of 1.

\* The high A index occurred on January 11th with a reading of 19.

\* The low K index occurred on January 4th with a reading of 0.

\* The high K index occurred on January 19th with a reading of 5.

The SFI was over 200 for 27 of the 31 days in January. Not bad! It begs the question posed last year, where are we in this current 11 year sunspot cycle?

### Local Events:

Mike K5NZ reports logging the S. Sandwich Is. VP8THU on 40 CW on the 21st. for number 327. Mike also received his EY8CQ card for number 300 confirmed.

John W5PDW says the S. Sandwich Is. boys DID NOT find their way into his log, although he listened and could easily hear the South Pole group 5-7+. John did bag 9U5D Brunei on the

2nd, with the card returning on the 16th. (Don't tell Matt KD5LOA the card returned so quickly). He also received cards for Laos XW0X, Cocos Keeling VK9C, Turkmenistan EZ3A, and British Cyprus ZC4, Five cards in one month! On top of this, John worked the S. Georgia Is. VP8GEO! After reporting this, John's note was a little fuzzy mentioning something about pouring fried okra down his tower base to the DX Gods. . .

Cal WF5W was back perking again on the bands in January working S. Sandwich Is. on 20 meter CW (after an hour and 44 minutes) for number 321! Cal was quick to thank his son-in-law for getting the station back on the air after a lightening scare. Cal says that Straight Key night was a success where he worked a few old timers using QRP.

Paul W5PF says January was slim pickens, although he did log S. Sandwich Is. VP8THU on 20 cw. Other DX logged included TG, TI, and HR on 6 meters. The last country for which Paul had a QSL outstanding was Trinidad Is. PT0T. The card did arrive for number 311.

Bruce N1LN/5 worked the DXpedition boys to the South Atlantic as follows: S. Sandwich Is. VP8THU n 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 SSB and on 17 meter CW. AND, he logged the S. Georgia Is. VP8GEO boys like this: 20 SSB/CW, 15 CW, 17 SSB, and 80 meter CW mode.

Jim KJ5X says that January was kinda a slow month having been rung out with the flu and other things. Jim did log Burundi 9U5D on 10M SSB, LZ1ANA on 40M CW, and S. Sandwich VP8THU on 20 CW and S. Georgia VP8GEO Islands on 20M

SSB/CW and 40 meter CW. Jim says these are the first new ones since May 6 of last year. That lifted the old DX spirits a bunch. I was beginning to think I had lost my touch.

Steve N5EN logged the S. Sandwich group on 20 and 40 meters and S. Georgia on 15 and 20. Steve says that the S. Sandwich Is. was a new one and that he still waiting on the QSL card from his previous S. Georgia Is. contact of (11/27/01).

Jim K5JDB reports 53 DX contacts in December and 56 DX contacts in January. Most impressive (to him) were V51AS, NAMIBIA; EY8CQ, TAJECKISTAN; T77M, SAN MARINO; 7X2LS, ALGERIA; 9G1PD, GHANA; 5X1GS, UGANDA; D54PAH, SOUTH KOREA; A35VK, TONGA; 4W6MM, EAST TIMOR, AND KC4AAA. FROM THE SOUTH POLE. Got qsl card from 5R8ET, MADAGASCAR and that was from a November contact. What fun!!!

Terry KQ5U says January activity was rather low. However some DX was worked QRP 5W. Those of note were A35VK (15M & 10M); OD5/OK1MO (1ØM); 3D2AG/P, Rotuma (1ØM); DU7/N7ET (1ØM); 7X4AN (1ØM&4ØM); VP8GEO (3ØM). Terry received cards for QRP contacts from D44CF, VK9CQ, T32Z and FM5GU.

The station received WAS-2xQRP (both stations at QRP power) from ARCI. Of course, DE was the last state worked and WV was the previous state worked. This was quite a challenge as Terry was able to work DXCC QRP in half the time it took him to work WAS-2xQRP.

*Continued on page 7*

## *DX News – Continued from page 6*

Put the K2 on 16ØM with a G5RV at 35 feet and tried it out on the band for a total of about a dozen contacts. Terry reports the greatest distance at 5W was W8JI in Georgia. It looks like 16ØM is an area in which the station could be improved.

>From this Station:

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January was pretty good at this QTH working 88 Qs, nn DX. The breakdown looks like this: 12 on 80 meters, 23 on 40 meters, 16 on 20 meters, 1 on 18 meters, and 18 on both 15 and 10 meters. Countries include: 6W, 9K, A3, C6, CX, DL, EA6, EA8, F, G, HL, JA, JW, KC4, KH4, KH5, KL7, LU, OD, OZ, P4, PY, SV, V5, VE, VP5, VP8G, VP8S, VU, XE, and ZD7. I think the best catches were the VP8S on South Sandwich Is., and VP8G on South Georgia Is. New ones for sure! I always get a little nervous; however, when that don't repeat your whole call in one breath! I tried. I can only hope.

Here are the IOTAs worked: AF004, AF022, AN016, AS076, EU004, EU005, EU026, NA002, NA111, OC030, OC049, OC085, SA002, and SA036.

The new Heil (mini) headset arrived along with the latest Flying Horse CD. The headset will sure make this year's TQP easier!

New cards in this month confirm Italy on 40 meters, Mexico on 80 meters, and England on 80 meters.

A very special thanks goes to Mike K7LEX for his reply QSL for last year's TQP confirming four Texas counties, which he cleverly printed on

his card. I, on the other hand, was not successful in getting counties to print through DX4Win on my cards. Sounds like more work. You all may recall that Mike K7LEX and Bruce N1LN are big county hunters!

Last but not least, I received a card from my old friend Sam – WA5RPP who lives in the upper part of Maine, Aroostock county. Potato country!

### Scheduled DX Operations

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Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for February. Format: From, To, DX Country, Callsign, QSL via. Good hunting!

- \* 2/01–10 Solomon Islands, H44, DL7AFS
- \* 2/01–13 US Virgin Islands, KP2, Home Call
- \* 2/01–16 Ecuador, HC1MD, K8LJG
- \* 2/01–17 Dominica, J7, Home Call
- \* 2/02–08 St Marin, FS, K4UP
- \* 2/02–09 Turks & Caicos, VP5, Home Call
- \* 2/02–16 Belize, V31HA, VE7AHA
- \* 2/02–24 Congo (DR), 9Q1, F2YT
- \* 2/03–17 Eastern Kiribati, T32IR, VK3DK
- \* 2/03–18 Niger, 5U, TBA
- \* 2/03–04 Dominica, J73CCM, SM0CCM Buro
- \* 2/04–11 Sao Tome, S9LA, LA2N
- \* 2/04–24 Congo (DR), 9Q0, F2YT
- \* 2/05–09 Turks & Caicos, VP5, JA1MZL
- \* 2/05–27 Tanzania, 5H, IK2GZU
- \* 2/07–10 Marana Islands, KH0, Home Call
- \* 2/08–10 Belau, T88SI, IT9YRE
- \* 2/08–11 Guam, KH2, JH8KYU
- \* 2/09–11 Marana Islands, KH0, Home Call
- \* 2/09–12 Belau, T88XF, JH5OXF
- \* 2/11–17 Mauritania, 5T5, Home

Call

- \* 2/11–17 Western Sahara, S0, JA1UT
- \* 2/11–20 Belau, T88DC, G3KHZ
- \* 2/11–22 St Marin, FS, Home Call
- \* 2/11–22 Sint Maartin, PJ7, Home Call
- \* 2/11–22 Temotu, H40, DL7AFS
- \* 2/12–19 Bahamas, C6AJF, WA2VUN
- \* 2/12–19 Bahamas, C6ALC, K2KJI
- \* 2/14–18 Maiana Islands, KH0, JM1LRQ
- \* 2/14–02 Bahamas, C6AWW, K1CN
- \* 2/15–17 Jersey, GJ6UW, M0BLF
- \* 2/15–08 Namibia, V51,
- \* 2/17–01 Cocos Island, TI9M, AK0A
- \* 2/18–22 Trindade & Martim Vaz, PW0T, KU9C
- \* 2/18–27 Costa Rica, TI, KE0UI Buro
- \* 2/18–08 Nicaragua, YN, Home Call
- \* 2/19–28 Western Samoa, 5W0, Home Call
- \* 2/19–01 Marinique, FM5, F5SGI
- \* 2/23–10 St Peter & St Paul, ZY0SAT, PS7JN
- \* 2/24–01 Easter Island, CE0Y, DM5TI
- \* 2/24–17 Sint Maarten, PJ7, Home Call
- \* 2/27–02 South Orkney Islands, VP8SIG, GM0HCQ

Thanks to Mike K5NZ, John W5PDW, Cal WF5W, Paul W5PF, Bruce N1LN, Jim KJ5X, Steve N5EN, Jim K5JDB, and Terry 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, please e-mail wa5mlt@arrl.net.

*73 es gd DX to all ...  
de — H. O. WA5MLT*

# Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Condolences to Edwyna Russell on the loss of her husband and long time NARS member Ed Russell KB5QLX.  
Congratulations to Adam McKnight KD5NDZ for accepting the team leader role of the March of Dimes Walkathon group.  
Congratulations also to Peter Wang KF5ND for accepting the appointment as NARS Public Information Officer.

## NARS Resource List

### General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY  
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### Computer Programming:

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### Interference (Basic Advice):

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### Card Checking Awards Managers:

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### NARS Public Information Officer:

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## NARS Information

### PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

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Bill Denton W5SB  
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### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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*Send address, phone, email and other  
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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 open

### WEB SITE

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

### NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.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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