

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2002

May Meeting – Field Day Preparation

Topic #1: (Presented by OJ Quarles – K1OJ & Bruce Meier – NILN)

With June just around the corner it is the time of the year to get ready for the annual ARRL Field Day event. Clubs and individual HAMS all over the US and from many countries within IARU Region 2 will have the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities to react in the event of an emergency by setting up and operating stations utilizing many different types power sources and many modes of communication, including SSB, CW, Satellite, RTTY, PSK31 and more on frequencies all across the amateur spectrum. The responsibility for planning the NARS Field Day operation for 2002 is being shared by OJ Quarles (K1OJ) and Bruce Meier (NILN). At this month's club meeting OJ and Bruce will be reviewing the rule changes for this year, discussing the details of the NARS participation, the many activities that you will hopefully participate in, answering any questions you may have and looking for volunteers to help in setup, tear down and, most importantly, signing up OPERATORS to staff the 4 stations that will be on the air for the full 27 hours of the event. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Topic #2: (Presented by Laurie Meier – NIYXU)

Amateur radio is a hobby that truly provides a level playing field for all. Think about it — when you ended your last QSO, did you know the age, race, religion, socio-economic status, or political stance of the amateur at the other end of exchange? More than likely, the answer is no. This type of leveling was an inspiration to a gentleman named Ned Carman, W0ZSW, founder of the HandiHams organization. He believed that people with physical disabilities could find equality in our hobby. And, more importantly, they could achieve goals using their own capabilities.

The NARS ladies group has contacted HandiHams to determine how we might be able to support their work. Part of the May meeting will be focused on the HandiHams organization. Two informative videos will be shown, and a presentation will address the work volunteers can do. Please be sure to attend the meeting and learn how we might contribute back to amateur radio.

We Can Use Some Help

As most of you know, my wife Anne's body does not generate blood. We have no problem obtaining the two units every three weeks that she requires, but the time may come. I know that a lot of you routinely give to the blood bank and my request is that every once in a while donate it to:

Anne E. Rooney
Houston Northwest Hospital

This will give her a cushion to fall back on in case something happens to her insurance, etc. Thanks in advance.

Dick W5VHN

Important Dates

Friday, May 17, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 25, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Contests

May 11–12 CQ–M DX, Nevada QSO Party

May 18–19 Baltic DX

May 25–26 CQ WW WPX CW

Jun 1–2 WW South American CW

Jun 8–9 RSGB Jubilee

Jun 15 Kid's Day

Jun 23–24 ARRL Field Day

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

May 15: Red Lobster

May 22: Woodlands House

May 29: Brown Sugar's BBQ

Jun 5: Casa Imperial Mexican

Jun 12: Strack Farms

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

May 15: Jasons Deli

May 22: Luthers BBQ

May 29: Skeeters

Jun 5: Fast Eddies

Jun 12: Cafe Express

Ham–Com 2002

June 7–8 Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, TX.

<http://www.hamcom.org/>

Notice

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

Deadline for articles to appear in the June issue is Friday, May 31.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

May 2002

Greetings my fellow NARSians. Well I have just returned from another of "NARS' Sponsored" public service events, The Buffalo Bayou Regatta. The event this year named "The Bayou Beckons 2002" was tremendous fun. So much fun in fact that KK5LO and I have tentatively agreed to be a "maritime mobile" station at next year's regatta and actually paddle the event as well as have a little radio fun. The event was uneventful as far as emergencies go, but as usual the NARS Bunch provided a "bridge by bridge" tally of boats that had passed by on their way to the finish at the Wortham Center. The NARS communicators kept the organizers up to the minute with respect to the paddlers' progress or lack there-of. The course is approximately 15 miles in length, and begins at the corner of San Felipe and Voss, where the cannon sounds the start. A "grand prix" start to be exact, where at the sound of the cannon the boats are launched from the very steep and slick 30-foot bank in great haste. You gotta see it to believe it folks! If one can survive the chaos and the death-defying plunge down the banks of Buffalo Bayou at the start, the rest of the trip downstream seems almost anticlimactic. The current this year was moving at a less-than-blistering-pace of 6-feet per second. White water??? . . . I don't think so!

Hazardous duty pay this year goes to Walter, KK5LO and Keith, WD5DXL who braved very slippery and uniquely aromatic "bat droppings" deposited by the hundreds, if not thousands of Mexican Free-tailed Bats calling the Buffalo Bayou bridge at Chimney rock home (man did it STINK under there!).

Thanks to Scott, KM5WE for his coordination efforts and to all that participated. In addition, thanks to Peter, KF5ND for his coordination efforts on another of NARS' sponsored events, the March of Dimes' Walk-America and to all who got up early on that Sunday morning to help out. This event was held at First Colony Mall in Sugarland, and made a big loop around the mall. Thanks to one and all for your participation.

Public service events like these, emergency situations like the recent train derailments in Florida and California, and natural disasters of Tropical Storm Allison's like, are supreme opportunities for we radio amateurs to showcase to the general public why we are granted the radio frequency privileges we enjoy and cherish.

With that said, and being that it is May already, Field Day is rapidly approaching. At this month's general meeting Field Day will be one of the discussion topics along with some background and discussion of the "Handy Hams" program. At last month's meeting we had a wonderfully executed program on severe weather spotting (The Skywarn Program) provided by Charles "Chuck" Roessler, Meteorologist with the Houston, National Weather Service Office. Thank you Chuck! We'll see you next year.

That's it for this month folks. See you at the meeting.

George, KD5AYF

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

March of Dimes WalkAmerica

The following NARS members provided communications to the 2002 March of Dimes WalkAmerica at First Colony Mall, Sugar Land on April 28, 2002: George KD5AYF, Buddy KC5NSW, Pete KD5OCR, Lindsey KD5MES, Tom KD5MER, and Pete KF5ND. Approximately 1000 walkers were guided safely to the Finish Line by the hams, and tens of thousands of dollars were raised to fight birth defects.

Pete KF5ND served as Net Control (Bellville) for the MS150 Houston-Austin bike ride on April 20, 2002. Numerous health & welfare and logistical messages were passed through the net that day. He notes that ham participation in the MS150 was lower than last year, and hopes this situation will reverse itself in time for the 2003 ride.

The following NARS members continue to be active in NW Harris County ARES: Howard AC5VF, Mike K7LEX, Bruce N1LN, Lori N1YXU, Buddy KC5NSW, Rob KD5BZX, Wayne W5GBT, Pete KD5ELH, Paul W5PF, Matt KE5MS, Pete KF5ND, Bob KF5ZL, and James KC5LJZ.

73, Pete Wang KF5ND

Buffalo Bayou Regatta

Once again, the bayou beckoned and NARS answered.

Thanks to all who helped with the Buffalo Bayou Regatta. By all accounts everyone had a good time. And, by the response of the race coordinators our efforts were appreciated

73, Scott, KM5WE

VE Session Results

At the NARS VE Test Session April 27, 2002 we had 17 candidates. The results were 6 new Technician hams, five upgrades to General, and five upgrades to Extra. We administered 19 elements with 17 elements passed.

The VE's were Jim Kirk KJ5X, Norm Covey K5OS, Mike Wheat AD5IX, Keith Dutson WD5DXL, Steve Niles N5EN, Matt Stuofer KE5MS, and Gregg Erlenbusch W5IDX.

Thanks to all for their help.

The next NARS VE Test session will be held on May 25, 2002. See ya there.

Walter Hock KK5LO
NARS VE Session Manager

Ham and “Sheez” News

April Update:

The NARS ladies group April outing was to the International Gem and Jewelry Show. Those who attended the show brought samples of their purchases to our April meeting. After hearing about the show, seeing the beautiful jewelry, and learning about a wonderful Mexican restaurant, we are planning on attending the next jewelry show that is scheduled for June!! More specific information about the date of the June show will be shared at our May meeting and in the next newsletter.

All the ladies who attended our April meeting left with terrific ideas and plenty of tips regarding gardening. Two women from the Arbor Gate Nursery in Tomball were our guest speakers. Many types of plants were shown, passed around the table, and reviewed in detail for specific gardening needs. To assist our guests, we decided to decrease the number of plants to be returned to the nursery by purchasing the plants at the meeting! Needless to say, our cars were rather full when we drove home! We had a terrific evening and are planning to invite the ladies from Arbor Gate to be guest speakers at a meeting in the fall to help us transition the plants in our gardens.

HandiHams Update:

The NARS ladies group has been in direct contact with the HandiHams organization to determine how we might be able to best support their work. A portion of the May NARS meeting will be focused on HandiHams. Two informative videos will be shown; specific work we can do will be discussed; and sample newsletters and other information will be provided. Prior to the May NARS meeting, the following is a brief introduction to HandiHams.

The organization was started in 1967 in Rochester, Minnesota as an inspiration of Ned Carman, WOZSW. At that time, Ned

worked in a clinic where he visited people with severe disabilities. He viewed Amateur Radio as the perfect hobby for those in the clinic – they would be treated as equals with other Amateur Radio operators. With the help of a group of local nuns, several of whom earned their licenses, the organization was formed and grew rapidly. In the years following, the news of HandiHams spread quickly throughout the Upper Midwest, then the United States, and then throughout the world. In 1975, HandiHams became affiliated with the Courage Center, allowing help to be provided wherever needed.

Through instruction, personal tutoring, and camp settings, HandiHam members learn radio, electronic theory, and computer savvy. But, more importantly, the members learn of their own capabilities to succeed. HandiHams relies on volunteers, both individuals and groups, to directly assist in working with physically challenged folks who are interested in Amateur Radio. Details of how we, as individuals and as a group, can assist in the work of the HandiHams organization will be discussed at the May NARS meeting. We will learn how to support their mission to provide tools for people with disabilities to learn Amateur Radio and technology skills and to earn their Amateur Radio licenses.

May Activities Update:

The ladies have decided to treat themselves on Mother’s Day! Our May outing will be on Sunday, May 12. We will be meeting at the EPO store parking lot (in the Willowbrook Mall) at 8:00 am. Directions to EPO will be provided at the May NARS meeting. From there, we will venture to a farmer’s market, Mexican bakery, and Mexican seafood restaurant which are favorites of Margaret Quarles. Mark your calendars and join us in our Mother’s Day celebration!

Our monthly meetings are normally scheduled for the last Monday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church. However, the May meeting will be a barbeque at the Meier residence on Saturday, May 25, beginning at 2:00 pm. Spouses and significant others are cordially invited to join in the fun! If you’re interested in attending the barbeque and are not currently active in our group, please contact Laurie Meier directly. Further detail of the barbeque will be directly communicated to members of the group. Be sure to plan on attending the barbeque – you don’t want to miss the fun!

Monthly Ham Recipe:

Since the arrival of the warm weather, the last place any of us wants to be is in the kitchen cooking over a hot stove. So, get out your crock pots, and let them do the work for you!

Crock Pot Ham and Potatoes:

- 6 to 8 slices of ham
- 8 to 10 medium potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese
- 2 cans cream of celery or mushroom soup
- Paprika

Put half of the ham, potatoes, and onions in the crock pot. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, then the grated cheese. Repeat with remaining half of ingredients. Spoon undiluted soup over the top. Sprinkle with paprika. Cover and cook on low for 8 to 10 hours or on high for 4 hours. Enjoy!!

*Best regards,
Laurie Meier – N1YXU
936-271-1096
n1yxu@arrl.org*

Fading

Fading is a general term used to describe variations in the strength of a received signal. It may be caused by material phenomena such as a constantly changing ionospheric layer height, variation in the amount of absorption, or random polarization shift when the signal is refracted.

Fading may also be caused by man-made phenomena such as reflections from passing aircraft and ionospheric disturbances caused by exhaust from large rocket engines.

Selective fading is a type of fading that occurs when the wave path from a transmitting station to a receiving station varies with very small changes in frequency. It is possible for components of the same signal that are only a few kilohertz apart (such as the carrier and the sidebands in an AM signal) to be acted upon differently by the ionosphere, causing modulation sidebands to arrive at the receiver out of phase. The result is distortion that may range from mild to severe.

Wide band signals, such as high quality FM and double-sidebands may have different fading rates from each other or from the carrier. Distortion from selective fading is especially bad when the carrier of an FM or AM signal fades while the sidebands do not. In general the distortion from selective fading is worse with FM than it is with AM. SSB and CW signals, which have a narrower bandwidth, are affected least by selective fading.

Harry AC5XD

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

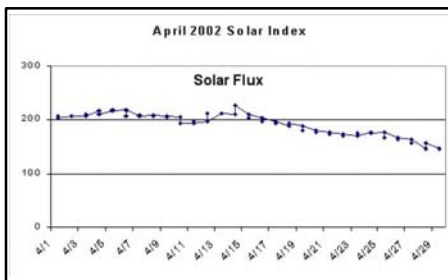
DX IS waiting, tuning, listening, learning patience, graveling at the really poor band conditions, and suddenly realizing that they are indeed still full of life. What an anxiety roller coaster April was. Just in case someone missed it, no communications can take place during a solar storm when the A index is above 45. On the other hand, there's not a sweeter sound than hearing the bands in such good shape and hearing Jim – KJ5X calling K1B on Baker Island. The bands quickly recovered after Jim returned from his trip. On behalf of everyone listed below, thanks Jim.

Let's face it April had a lot going against it after the "six" DXpeditions that took place during January, February, and March. How could April measure up? But, it has after such a scare. You can only imagine what the Baker & Howland boys were thinking as they readied for departure.

The April numbers were mixed to say the least.

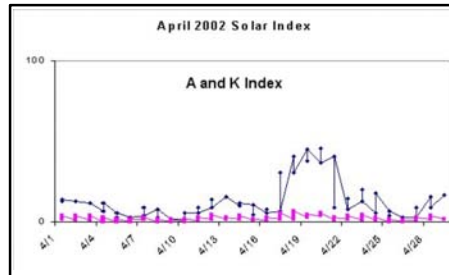
* The high SFI occurred April 14th with a reading of 226 up from the 204 of March.

* The low SFI occurred on April 29th with a reading of 147 down from 166.



* The low A index occurred on April 10th with a reading of 2.

* The high A index occurred on April 20th with a reading of 46 up from the 35 of March.



* The low K index occurred on April 4th, 10th, and 26th with a reading of 0.

* The high K index occurred on April 18th with a reading of 7.

A real nail biter.

Local Events:

NARS Dxr's did very well in April snagging the big ones. Here's their report.

Norm K5OS had a good month with the following new ones: 8P2K Barbados on 15 meters, 3V8BB Tunisia on 20 meters, and 5W0IR Western Samoa on 15 meters. Not only that, but he also received his Pakistan QSL card from AP2JZB. Good going Norm. AP and VU are not that easy from here.

Jim KJ5X was out of town for a while earlier in the month, but still managed to log the important ones. Jim worked VK9ML Mellish Reef on 20 meter SSB and A25/DJ6SI Botswana on 15 meter CW. Late in April he got XR0X San Felix on 80M CW on his low-to-the-ground 80M dipole. Jim says he is proud of that one. He also worked K1B on 10 and 15 meter SSB. Waiting on 9N in early May.

Bruce N1LN reports working the Fabulous Howland & Baker Boys – K1B for #319! For the log: K1B on 10, 15, 20, 40, and 75 meter SSB; and 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, and 160 meters on CW. At report time, Bruce was working on the 80 CW contact! Any bets? Congratulations Bruce. To the common

man, it would appear that the antenna farm is at full tilt and very near final tuning.

John W5PDW flashes with breaking news. John has #300 in the log K1B on both 10 and 15 meters. John stay out of Bruce's mailbox. Congrats! Stay out of Steve's mailbox too.

Steve N5EN logged the Howland & Baker group K1B on 20,15,10 SSB, and 15,12,10 CW Steve also reports that his 9Q1A Dem. Rep. of Congo card arrived during the month! Very good Steve.

Bob N5ET reports logging the Howland & Baker Island group on two bands and both SSB and CW modes 10 and 15 and he logged them in on 20 CW. Thanks Bob and good going.

Mike K5NZ worked the Howland & Baker Island boys on 75, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Thanks for the report Mike and good going.

Al W5ADF worked the Howland & Baker Island group K1B on 10 and 15 SSB, and JY5HX Jordan, and 3XY8A Guinea, and VK9ML Mellish, and C56JJ Gambia, and YJ8DA Vanuatu for new ones. Outstanding Al. I think Al has been sandbagging???

Larry KN5Z logged the Howland & Baker Island group on 10 and 15 meters. Good going Larry! Congratulations.

Gerald W5BA reports working the Howland & Baker group K1B and the VK9ML Mellish Reef DXpedition. As always Gerald congratulations.

Mike K7LEX logged the Howland & Baker Island DXpedition on 15 meters. Thanks for the report Mike. Way to go!

Continued on page 5

DX News – Continued from page 4

Anita N5AOK reports finally logging the Howland & Baker group on 15 meters after a frustrating attempt the evening before. She also reported working an aeronautical mobile carrying Vince Gil to a concert. Yee Haw!

From this Station:

My daydreams about April came true! It was a doggonegood month here. Of course working from home gave me my normal commute time back which provided more time for scouring the bands like a seafaring crustacean!

My totals were up from 80 QSOs in March to 128 for April. In the log, 2 on 20, 18 on 17, 76 on 15, and 10 on 10 meters. The good side was that all of the 17-meter QSOs were for new band countries. The down side was no QSOs on 40 or 80 meters. But, I heard some on 80! A little further break down shows 21 IOTAs and 21 CQ Zones worked.

Yes, Mellish Reef VK9ML, K1B Howland & Baker Islands, and a number of Marconi Day stations are in the log. Yea. Here is the run down: 3B9FR, 3XY8A, 4N1KT, 5N6EAM,

5N6NDP, 9K2KS, 9K2MR, A41LZ, AD4ES, AD5CH, AY1ECZ, C6ANU, CP6XE, EI0CL, FG5DH, FO5QS, G0SWS, G0WGP, G0XAM, G3HUA, G3WYN, G4GKO, GB0MPA, GB4IMD, GB6MD, GU4YOX, GW4GTE, HH4/K4QD, HH4/K4QD, HK5MQZ, IK7MCJ, IY4W, K1B, LY2ZZ, M0RAD, N2MO/IMD, ON5SY, P4/W1USN, P49MR, RN3QY, T26U, T30CXX, T32BI, T77M, UA6LV, UK9AA, VK4DHF, VK9LT, VK9ML, VO1IMD, VO2WL, VP2MHS, VP2MHX, W2RC/IMD, WA2GM, XW1HS, XW3ZNR, YJ0AHK, YJ8DA, YV5EED, Z32XX, ZD7CY, ZD8R, K1AAA, and ZS6AJD.

Finally, I had the pleasure of checking 5BWAZ cards for Don N5DD this month. Very nice guy. That's the second 5BWAZ card check in 45 days. Some body's been busy! If you're not spinning the VFO, you must be burning daylight!

Scheduled DX Operations

Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for May. Good hunting!

- * 01–03/May Swaziland 3DA0LJ
- * 01–15/May Diego Garcia VQ9GB
- * 01–05/May Ogasawara JD1YBO
- * 01–10/May Guadeloupe FG
- * 01–11/May Syria YK1BA
- * 08–09/May Market Reef OJ0VR
- * 10–15/May Maldives 8Q
- * 11–16/May Tuvalu T2DA
- * 11–24/May Marshall Islands V73BL
- * 14–18/May Algeria 7W4HI
- * 16–19/May Mariana Islands KH0
- * 17–27/May Congo TN3
- * 18–24/May American Samoa AH8
- * 20–22/May Faroe Islands OY
- * 21–04/Jun Mongolia JT1Y
- * 23–24/May Iceland TF7
- * 25–30/May Iceland TF1
- * 27–30/May Iceland TF5

Thanks to Norm K5OS, Jim KJ5X, Bruce N1LN, John W5PDW, Bob N5ET, Mike K5NZ, Al W5ADF, Larry KN5Z, Gerald W5BA, Mike K7LEX, and Anita N5AOK for continuing to support this month's column. Your support for this column is appreciated.

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

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

QRP to the Field 2002 de K50J

Another fine event in the logbooks! Many thanks to all the participants. Special thanks to Compaq Computer for the use of their EMC Testing grounds and Rob, KD5BXZ, for making the arrangements! Earl, N5TU, stopped by to give us a tour of the labs and it was indeed impressive!

Setup took an hour and a half, tear down 45 minutes. The 40-meter station was a K2 and a dipole with a vertical as a second antenna. The 20-meter station was a K1 and a 2-element yagi. The 15-meter station was a K2 and a stacked/phased dipole. The 10-meter station was a K2 and a stacked/phased

dipole. Transceivers were powered by batteries and the computers by a Honda 1kw 'EU' generator.

The bands were a little better than last year, but not by much. Last year we made 131 Q's, this year 166 Q's. Here are the details...

10 meters, 10 Q's. SPC's, CA, ID, LA, NJ, NV, NY, OR, TX, WA. 15 meters, 56 Q's. SPC's, AZ CA CO DE HP ID MD, ME MI MN, NC, NJ, NV, NY, OH, ON, PA, TN, TX, UT, WA, WI, WV. 20 meters, 86 Q's. SPC's, AB, AL, AZ, CO, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OK, ON, PA, SK, TN,

TX, UT, WV. 40 meters, 5 Q's. SPC's, AL, LA, OK, TN, TX. 1700 PTS X 67 SPC's X 3(Location) = 341,700 Total Points.

The 'Visitor/Operator' sign in log included: KK5YU, KQ5U, N5LSH, KE4NT, KA5AKG, K5ZTY, N5BE, KD5BXZ, KK5LD, W5SB, W5GFP, K1OJ, AD5IX, W5IDX, K5MSQ, N5TU, W5MG, KE5MS and family. And CQ the Wonder Bird!

*OJ—K1OJ
May the Morse be with you!
DitDit*

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Kent Porter KE4NT and Sherri Porter

NARS Resource List

General Help:

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*For general information call one of the
Club Officers or Board Members.*

NETS

10 M Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM, 28.444 ssb
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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Send all articles and materials for the
Newsletter to:

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

ARRL Club No. 2120