

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

November 2002

November Meeting – Commercial Power Line RFI

Terry Myers KQ5U and Ron Eisenbray AB5WG will give a short presentation on power line RFI. Topics will include the following:

- How to know when it is a problem;
- How to find it with equipment you can build or may already own;
- What it sounds like and what it can come from;
- Who to report it to get it fixed;
- How the ARRL and FCC can help you with it.

All of this will be combined with a blow by blow account of recent adventures with the local utility company and the Texas Public Utility Commission.

The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. It should be lively. A limited number of CDs will be available with RFI information and sound samples.

Terry, KQ5U

The Perfect TQP Check List?

Check List

- * Change of cloths (driver and contester)
- * Toothbrush (driver and contester)
- * Snacks (driver and contester)
- * Ice Chest filled with cold drinks and water bottles (driver and contester)
- * Sunglasses (driver and contester)
- * Hat (driver and contester)
- * Emergency Tools (driver)
- * First Aid Kit (contester)
- * Pillow (driver and contester)
- * Camera (driver)
- * Maps (2) One marked with the route and one backup
- * Headsets (driver and contester)
- * Foot switch (contester)
- * Yaesu FT900 mounted in the floor of the pickup
- * Yaesu FT900 wrapped in a towel on the floor in the back of the pickup (backup)
- * Compaq laptop computer (borrowed for the third time from NILN and N1YXU)
- * Home brew (from the one and only George K5VUU) screwdriver antenna mounted in the bed of the pickup
- * Day off from work (driver and contester)

Well, that was about it. That was just about all we could stuff into the cab of the 2000 quad cab Dodge pickup. We made a similar journey to west Texas just one year before this and so we were pretty sure we would need all of these things. Absent from the trip this year were the six gallon jugs of water, just in case the truck needed a drink. Actually, neither one of us had the strength to lift the same Rubbermaid crate into the back-end of the truck. We decided to take our chances.

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Important Dates

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

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

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

Contests

Nov 16–17 LZ CW DX, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW

Nov 16–18 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
Nov 23–24 CQ WW DX CW, ARRL Int'l EME

Dec 6–8 ARRL 160M

Dec 14–15 ARRL 10M

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Nov 13: Jason's Deli

Nov 20: Charlie's Hamburgers

Nov 27: Woodlands House

Dec 4: Brown Sugar's BBQ

Dec 11: Casa Imperial Mexican

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Nov 13 Skeeters

Nov 20 Fast Eddies

Nov 27 Cafe Express

Dec 4 Chilis

Dec 11 Fuddruckers

Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

12:00 Noon Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport, Tomball

Notice

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

Deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the last day of this month.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

November 2002

Greetings to all of you "NARSIANS"! The month of October seemed to just fly by. It also seemed that we had rain for almost the entire month. I know of at least 2 of our annual public service events, S.I.R.E. which NARS sponsors and The Wings Over Houston Airshow got a bit more rain than bargained for. Congratulations to those of you who participated in these "very wet" public service events. It seems as though we here in Southeast Texas are in for a very wet winter. According to those meteorological types, we are in for an "El Nino" type winter. That means copious amounts of rain for Texas. So to those of you who signed up to provide communications for the Sun Mart Texas Trails Endurance Run better check the rain gear along with the radio gear.

Now on to another subject. As you all know our repeater, more specifically the 146.660, (KA5AKG) repeater is one of the busiest in Houston. It is an "open" repeater, one available for use not only by members of NARS, but by all that carry the proper license. However, it is incumbent on all of us to use it in the proper manner. It is also incumbent on we who support the repeater to inform those using it in an improper manner to reform or refrain from using it. Lately, I have been disappointed by the lack of repeater etiquette being demonstrated by some on this repeater. Therefore, at the risk of sounding elementary, I will for the benefit of all, outline here the more important fundamentals of repeater use. By the way, you can find any of the following procedures in the Section 11 (FM and Repeater Use) of the ARRL Operating Manual. Those who don't have one, I would recommend you join the ARRL and purchase one. Repeaters are incredible tools that make FM radio communications much more efficient when used properly. So here goes! I hope I'm not just preaching to the choir!

- Repeaters are devices that are employed to facilitate communications between radio stations limited by distance, terrain, or equipment.
- Move to a simplex frequency whenever possible and save the repeater for those who need it (like mobile stations on short antennas or portable stations with HT's and rubber duck antennas).
- Keep your transmissions short and to the point. This allows more stations to participate in the conversation. (Rambling conversations with few breaks and pauses, especially by fixed base stations are not acceptable operating procedures). These conversations as stated above should be moved to simplex. If they cannot be moved to simplex, use the telephone.
- Repeater time-out-timers, are used for a reason and you should be familiar with their length and stay well within their limits.
- Acknowledge other stations trying to access the repeater immediately, by saying for example: "KD5AYF go ahead". It is bad practice not acknowledge the station at all, or to acknowledge the station, and then proceed with a conversation as if the station were not there.
- Identify your station every 10 minutes. Your call sign is all you need to say. You don't need to say "for ID" . . . we know what you are doing. Personally, I think it is a good idea to announce your call when first accessing the repeater rather than waiting for 10 minutes or for your departure from the machine.
- Phonetics are not needed or necessary on an FM repeater. Unless you are asked to give your call phonetically by another station having difficulty copying it, a simple KD5AYF will do nicely.
- Listening to a QSO can be enlightening and entertaining. To those of you who feel it necessary to jump on every QSO . . . think about what you might have to offer to the stations already involved in it.
- Lastly and to reiterate, and I will quote the ARRL Operating Manual exactly. "Repeaters are intended to enhance mobile and portable communications. During mobile operating prime time, fixed stations should yield to mobile stations (some repeaters have an explicit policy to this effect)." I would add this about that, I consider Monday – Friday between the hours of 6AM and 6PM prime mobile time in Houston, Texas.

By the way, it is NARS' unwritten policy to completely ignore squirrels (malicious interferers)! Squirrels thrive on the attention and confusion that they manufacture by their abuse of the airwaves. IGNORE THEM! If they get no attention, they go away. Fortunately, we have had very few problems with these folks.

Folks, much of this stuff is common sense. Avail yourselves of the proper procedures and implement them. I would hate to see our repeater become something other than open.

See you all at the meeting.

George, KD5AYF

VE Session Results

At the NARS VE Test Session held October 26, 2002 there were 10 candidates. The results were nine new Technicians, and one upgrade to Extra. Elements administered totaled 12 with 10 passed.

The VE's were Walter Holmes K5WH, Jim Kirk KJ5X, Steve Niles N5EN, Tom Stamps N5TL, Norm Covey K5OS, Kirby Van Horn W7SV, Laurie Meier N1YXU, and Doug Budnek KB5DZQ (non VE helper).

Thanks to Walter Holmes for heading up the session and to all of the VE's for their help.

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

*Walter Hock KK5LO
NARS VE Session Manager*

Public Service Events Your Radio Skills Are Needed

Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Run, Saturday, December 14. Contact Walter Hock KK5LO to volunteer at kk5lo@arrl.net or 281-350-6633.

The Perfect TQP Check List? Continued from page 1

We struck out a grinnin' at about 6:00 Friday morning, headed for Monahans, This was the first leg of the 1500 miles we would travel until we arrived at Charlie's Hamburger joint on Sunday afternoon at 3:30. When we left Tomball that morning, it was 91 degrees on the truck thermometer, but we knew clear skies and a dryer climate was in our future.

Lunch on Friday was at Sonora, Texas. On each trip through west Texas in the past ten years, we have always stopped at the Sonic there in Sonora, but this year we noticed an incredible number of cars at the Sutton County Steak House on the I-10 service road. This had to be a sign. Like all loyal Narsian's, we pulled in for lunch. The "buffet" included fried catfish, fried or boiled shrimp, and STEAK. Dessert was noteworthy – all the cheesecake, pecan pie, or coconut cream pie you could eat. Yee Haw!

We pulled into Ft. Stockton for gas and decided this would be our best chance to find a Radio Shack. We forgot to go to the one around the corner from the house before we left. I asked the lady behind the counter at the truck stop where the closest Radio Shack was.

She said, "Take this road out here into town – go to the second stop light, turn left and then take a right at the first light which should be Nelson Street. It will be down the street on your left. There is no sign though. You need to look for the Wallace Lumber Yard."

Just as she described, the Radio Shack was located in the back of Wallace Lumber Yard. When we got out of the truck, it was 101 degrees on the thermometer and the window air conditioners for the lumber yard were barely dripping, but one very large drop managed to land in the middle of my head running down onto my glasses. Once inside, we located the adapters we needed for the matching Heil headsets. Installed properly, we should both be able to hear the radio!

After arriving in Monahans, we quickly located our motel and checked in. The motel had a restaurant, but didn't see anyone there. We decided to drive around town and see the sights while looking for a different restaurant. This really didn't take too much time and the only competition for the motel's restaurant was a K-Bobs Steak House on the main drag in Monahans. Turned out to be a tasty dinner.

Day One of the Party

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An absolutely gorgeous day greeted us as we walked to the restaurant in the motel – perfect temperature, no clouds, fresh clean smelling air. We had an idea that we should eat pretty well because we did not know what the day might bring, so we both had all of the bacon, eggs, and pancakes we could eat, being careful not to get any syrup on our clothing.

About 8:30 (while the driver was stuffing the gas tank with every drop of gas it would hold), I decided to test the propagation. I had asked Bruce, N1LN, to meet me on 40 at or around 8:30. We had previously decided to stay in the lower end of the general class portion of each band. Hearing no one on 7235, I made my first call. From that point forward, everything was a blur. I remember talking to Lloyd, KM5OE, somewhere around Loving county. Lloyd followed me the rest of the day until late that afternoon when he had to go to work. Sure was nice to hear a familiar voice when crossing over into a new county. It really wasn't until we made it to Van Horn on I-10 that the butterflies began to go to sleep in my stomach. We topped off the tank and put the pedal to the metal as we started around the Guadalupe Mountains on US 90. Had to slow down a couple of times when we saw gumball machines off in the distance, but they all turned out to be INS vehicles. Saw a number of very large coyotes and a few birds of prey on the journey. The wind generators between Ft. Stockton and Balmorra is a story all to itself and will be discussed in some future

edition.

One of the most interesting sites (while traveling 90 miles an hour) on US 90 was the several mile stretch of pecan trees growing in the sand. The pecans were just about ready to fall and the cook in me sure wanted to stop, but I kept calling CQ instead.

When we made it into Alpine, I was talking with Lloyd, KM5OE, on 20 meters and 2 meters at the same time. I recommend to all of you, don't try this at home. You could RF yourself. Once leaving the electrical static of the power lines in Alpine I was surprised that we had not heard anything from Dave, N5DO. He had been following us from county to county, but not a peep did we hear from him while we were a stone's throw from his QTH.

The fog in my head began to lift again about the time we stopped for gas in Irion County. This time I had no choice. I had to pry myself out of the seat and go inside to find the facilities. On the way back to the truck, I found one of the soda fountain things that had a Dr. Pepper Icee in it. I reached in the freezer and got the driver an ice cream sandwich and myself the Icee. When I climbed back in the truck, my first contact was N5ET who was on his way to northeast Texas with his lovely wife, Linda, KE5TF. I took one good slurp of the Dr. Pepper Icee and started calling CQ again.

I had worked N1YXU/M several times during the day, but this time, I heard a different voice behind the call sign. It was Schalee, XYL of Mike, K7LEX, who was along for the ride with Laurie. What a great thing it was to hear her voice on the radio.

The next thing I knew, we were in Sutton County bound for a hot bath and soft bed somewhere in Kerrville. I have to tell you, at this point, I was not sure what my name was.

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The Perfect TQP Check List? Continued from page 3

I knew what the call sign was, but I was having trouble saying it by now. If the truth be told, I wasn't sure I could make it out of Sutton County that night. It seemed as though we were there for hours. Then, out of the blue I heard Matt, KE5MS calling me, another familiar voice from out of nowhere. The brain waves began to gyrate once again and then I heard Larry, K5LDL, I knew I could sprint to the first day finish line.

About 8:45 we pulled into the motel in Kerrville and my voice was getting pretty raspy so I said goodnight to the masses and signed for the night. After going to the room, I discovered that I had left my Dr. Pepper Icee in the truck. Yes, it was warm and melted, but I still wanted to drink it, so I went back to the truck. When I opened the door, I noticed that I had left the rig on and who do you think I heard working a pileup on my old frequency – none other than Bill, K5ZTY.

Day Two of the Party

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The trip from Kerrville to Houston was quite a race. I don't remember much of that portion of the trip at all. The only

thing I can vividly remember was the guy in a green shirt and shorts that we passed somewhere in Gonzales County who was walking along side the road. It didn't mean much until we passed him again in Fayette County, still walking along the side of the road. Not only was my voice giving out, now my vision was going the way of the desert mirage.

We arrived in Harris County about an hour ahead of schedule, so I had the driver check the map to see where we could get the greatest number of counties in an hour. I heard a groan and whimper in reply so we decided to high tail it to Montgomery county. We did a U-turn in Conroe and pulled off the service road of I-45 and finished the contest there. Since we wound up so close to Charlie's Hamburger joint at the end, we decided to go there instead of all the way home and back to Charlie's. The lady who took our order said, now you know this thing isn't supposed to start until 4:00. I said yes, but we were tired and hungry and we figured SOMEONE would show up early like we did. About five minutes later, Norm, K5OS and John, W5PDW drove up with young Ben who was very hungry. The rest of the gang showed up

a few minutes after that and then the story telling went into high gear. Someone had called ahead this year to warn the folks at Charlie's, so we all had plenty to eat.

After some nourishment (including one of Walter's, KK5LO, Taylor Meat Market weenies), a few hugs, and some pictures, we made our way back to the QTH. Three days on the road, two days of which were dedicated to the Texas QSO Party, 1500 miles on the truck – you couldn't ask for a more wonderful trip. After a brief nap, we went out to the truck to unload and take stock of what we had done. We came home with everything we had packed for the trip from the check list. Nothing in the back of the truck had been touched with the exception of the camera, some cheese crackers in the bag of snacks, two cold drinks, and one bottle of water on the whole trip.

Oh, I almost forgot. We (WA5MLT as the driver, and N5AOK as the contester) made it home with one more thing – memories of the most wonderful kind, the ones that last a lifetime.

Ham and "Sheez" News

October Update:

Our October outing took place on Saturday, October 5, when four of us headed north to Canton for Trade Days. Included in this month's newsletter is a separate article updating our adventures. Believe me that one article does not do justice to all we encountered that day. For those ladies who missed the trip, don't fear – we are already planning on going back next year. In fact, I believe this can be dubbed the first official, annual tradition of our group.

Part 1 of our October meeting was on Monday, the 28th. You remember that evening – It was absolutely pouring, and all were thinking about when to

start building arks! Carol Fitzgerald showed the group, who braved the storm, the art of making macramé wreaths. Since the wreaths were not completed in one evening and everyone wanted to finish the project, Part 2 of our meeting was scheduled for the following Monday at Carol's home. Many thanks to Carol for sharing her creativity with the group! The wreaths are beautiful!

Upcoming Meetings:

Our November meeting will take place on Monday, November 25, just before Thanksgiving. Nancy Kinard has graciously offered to host our meeting at her home. While enjoying the festive

holiday surroundings, we will have an ornament exchange. If you're interested in participating, please keep the purchase of the ornament limited to \$10. Also, Pat White will be showing us how to make cinnamon cut-outs which will be gifts to the shut-ins and elderly who are members of the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church.

Details of our December meeting will be included in next month's newsletter. A separate email will also be sent to our distribution list. If you are currently not included in the distribution list and would like to be, please send an email to nlyxu@arrl.net.

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Ham and “Sheez” News Continued from page 4

Upcoming Activities:

Our November outing will be on Saturday, November 16. We will be going to the Houston Museum of Science to see the IMAX production, “Space Station”. The film features the space station and has footage of amateur radio communications. The guys are cordially invited to join us! If you would like to be part of the fun, meet the group at the EPO store parking area (Willowbrook and SH 249) at noon. We will carpool to the museum. To make this a true NARsian experience, we will definitely stop for food somewhere along the journey. Be sure to mark your calendars and join in the fun!

Our December outing will be at Kerry’s Kitchen in Tomball. We will be participating in Schalee Lodge’s 2nd annual Cookie Baking Party. Essentially, Kerry’s Kitchen is opened to Schalee’s guests. We bring recipes and a donation for supplies and have the use of commercial ovens, baking ingredients, pans, and other necessities to make our chosen cookies. It is a great opportunity to make your Christmas cookies, taste new recipes, and take home a sampler bag for the guys! You will not want to miss this party. Further details to follow shortly.

Best regards,
Laurie Meier – N1YXU
n1yxu@arrl.net

Friends, Fun, Food . . . and a little bit of Fear — What more could you ask for? (The Ham and “Sheez” trip to Canton)

First the Friends, Fun, and Food part . . . The aroma of coffee may have been the first thing we noticed as everyone arrived at the Lodge residence. Schalee and Anita had a head start on the caffeine since they had seen their husbands off at 4:30 am when the guys headed to the Belton hamfest. After we enjoyed the delicious homemade muffins that Georgina baked, we (Georgina, Schalee, Anita, and Laurie) packed the van with more coffee, snacks, water, and other shopping necessities and began the trip to Canton around 6:30. Our plan was to arrive in Canton before lunch, get the lay of the land, shop, have some lunch, shop, have some dinner, shop – you get the general theme here, right?

It is always enlightening to spend a few traveling hours with people you enjoy. Our trip to Canton was no exception. The travel time passed very quickly. We each had the chance to share a little about ourselves and learn about each other. Schalee’s favorite question was, “If you could change any thing in your life and yet still be in the same place, what would it be?” If you want to know our answers, you will have to go on the next trip!

Now the Fear part . . . As we were gaining on Canton and enjoying each other’s company, a loud thud came from the bottom of the van. Laurie was driving at the time and attributed the noise to a rock – wrong! A large part of one of the rear tires had literally blown off. We pulled over to the side of the road next to the end of a residential driveway and examined the flat tire. Immediately, another car pulled in beside us, and we heard a gentleman with a Texas drawl asking – “Ya’ll need some help, here?” As fortune would have it, he was a mechanic! The four of us quickly found the spare tire, and Anita “borrowed” a jack from one of the trucks parked nearby. After a lot of elbow grease from the mechanic, the spare tire was on the van, and we were back on the road. We stopped in the next town and had two new tires put on the van. Soon, we were once again heading to Canton and the true goal of the day – shopping! Although our original schedule had changed a little, the flat tire had not dampened our spirits at all. In fact, we commented on the fortune of the mechanic stopping and our ability to assist in the whole situation.

Guys, you may find this paragraph a little offensive to your gender and might be advised to skip to the next paragraph. Ladies, read on because you will identify with each word written! — Let’s set the stage here – Canton Trade Days are held once a month on the first weekend of the month, and October is the first Christmas Trade Days. With that introduction, imagine the amount of people who would have been in Canton at the same time we were. Okay, now triple that number! When we arrived in Canton, we sat in a very long line of traffic for about an hour and a half before arriving at the parking lot. (For those guys who chose to read this paragraph, this is where you will be offended!) The four of us are convinced

that no man would have had the patience to wait in traffic for an hour and a half to go shopping! In fact, we’re convinced that if a man had been in the van, we would have turned around and headed back to Houston. However, we had a great time chatting the entire time and were very glad there were no men with us!

Early afternoon, we finally arrived at our destination! After a quick lunch, our shopping began. To ensure we were armed with the most important item, our first purchase was a wheeled cart that would hold all our purchases and free our hands for more shopping!! It was fun seeing all the interesting items from all over the world, but the only problem was being on a budget (strong suggestion from some of the guys!). Unfortunately, the entire shopping area was so big, and we didn’t think we could find some of the “treasures” again if we walked away. So, our only choice was to buy!

We did not even make a dent in the amount of shopping available. There are acres upon acres of vendors in Canton. (There is much more exploring to be done next year!) After a few hours of shopping and noticing that our wheeled cart was literally filled to the top, we decided to find a place to have dinner. Knowing the line of cars leaving Canton would be very long, we asked one of the vendors where we could eat while we waited for the traffic to die down a little. Vendors always know the best places, and this was not exception! At a German eatery inside the shopping area, we bought two meals for the four of us and had food left over! The best part was the pie, of course!

With our wheeled cart pulled behind us and appetites pleasantly satisfied, we headed back to the van to begin the journey home. One topic of conversation on the way home was how we will plan our Canton trip next October. This year’s adventure ended just before midnight when we pulled into the Lodge residence. After showing off some of our purchases to H.O. and Mike, each of us headed home. The long, fun day had come to an end. Until next year! ☺

– Schalee Lodge and Laurie Meier

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Another month has past and hopefully you've filled a number of entries in your log.

Darkness has now completely gripped the land north of the 66th parallel, the Arctic Circle, and the Gwich'in Athabaskan Indians and the Porcupine Caribou Herd of the circumpolar region are ready to hibernate. This means more good DX is in the air headed for your log. So dust off the logging program, check all coax cables, the winter DX party is officially underway now that the CQ WW –SSB contest is behind us.

Actually, DX was pretty good during October despite the A index occasionally jumping up over 40. Putting this in perspective, when this occurred during the past summer, the bands were completely dead. The fact that DX was available and workable during October under these conditions, illustrates the significance of the earth tilting as it affects DX propagation. By the way, the earth reaches its maximum tilt of 23.5 degrees at the winter solstice, December 22nd.

The numbers never lie. Here we go:

- * The high SFI occurred October 17th with a reading of 183.
- * The low SFI occurred on October 3rd with a reading of 136.
- * The low A index occurred on October 7th with a reading of 7.
- * The high A index occurred on October 5th with a reading of 40.
- * The low K index occurred on October 11th with a reading of 1.
- * The high K index occurred on October 24th with a reading of 5.

Local Events:

Mike K5NZ notes he worked the big six meter station NH7RO way out in Na'alehu, Hawaii. Congrats Mike, a nice Q for the Six meter log!

Cal WF5W says number 324 (EX8CW) has arrived!!! It doesn't get much better than that. Congrats Cal. Besides this, Cal says some new contest software arrived from N3FJP and that he's had a good time going through it. Cal also says he hasn't been in a SSB contest since Korea in

1989, but that he worked a little in the “CQ WW DX –SSB” contest logging about 225 contacts in 5 hours. Cal is also gettin' a little antsy about the “CQ WW DX –CW” contest in late November.

Jim K5JDB reports in with 56 DX contacts in the October portion of the log. Jim says he did not receive any QSL cards that are worthy of mention; however, his notable contacts logged were: 5R8FU Malagasy Republic, Z08Z Ascension Island, V64B Micronesia, Z17C Chatham Island, HC8L Galapagos Island, S9SS Sao Thome/Principe Island, XV5OKT Viet Nam, and S07L Western Sahara. Congrats to you other NARS Hams that really worked CQ WW SSB.

Jim KJ5X says another slow month tip-toed through his shack in October, “related more to laziness than anything else.” He worked the ZL7C Chatham Island boys on three bands and he had a nice chat with Jon LY2ZZ (not a stranger) and JW/OZ4LP on Svalbard. Jim heard (just barely) P5/4N4FN one evening. Jim says Norm K5OS said he was 55 on his G5RV. “Force 12 vs. wire!! What's going on here?” Jim, like so many of us, is still looking for P5, 9N, S2, and LU1ZA among others. Once again Jim reaffirms that there is a reward.

John W5PDW reports that he only worked one new country in October, S07L. John did fill a couple of pages in his log. He worked both of the Cook Islands (North and South). He played in the Cal QSO party and worked N6MU –John, a little payback. John's log goes this way: OH0B, Martti on 20 meters, CA0YAM on 10, ZL7C on 10 and 15, CX, ZK2, ZK1, K8O, PY3 on 10, K8T on 15 and 20, and KH6BB Battleship Missouri on 15 meters.

A few special event cards arrived at John's mailbox last month from the Pentagon and WTC events, most all of he received the Route 66 guys cards and their certificate. John also received his last envelope from the buro with about a dozen cards. John advises, “Lookout November cause I'm ah-gonna bust some pileups!” “Thought I'd start on 3962 and call CQ–DX!! After I clear the frequency of course.” John, thanks for

clearing the bands for us! And, congrats on the S07L contact.

Bruce N1LN says “Not much regular activity in early October as the main focus was on getting the station ready for the CQ WW –SSB contest.” Bruce did grab some very nice Qs for the log: New Band Countries: ZL7C Chatham Island: 75 SSB, 40cw/SSB, 17ssb, 15ssb, 10ssb; HP1XVH Panama on 160 CW, a VP2MPA Montserrat on 160 CW!

Norm K5OS reports that October was not a great month, but not a bad one either. He contacted ZB2JO (Gibraltar) on 15, then ZK2TO (Jan on Niue) on 10. “Jan had a nice signal here that day.” Norm had an interesting day on 10/09 on 15, when he worked HQ2HAC (Honduras), JR3NZC (Japan) and 8N1OGA (Japan special event), all mobile and all had really good signals. On the 11th Norm logged VK2CZ (Dave) on 10, also mobile. St. Helena was logged on the 18th on 15 meters (ZD7CY), and they also had a great signal here at 21:15z. Norm was having a great deal of trouble working ZL7C until John (W5PDW) called on the 22nd, and said they were on 10 meters and loud. Norm worked' em on 10 and then 15 meters. “It helps when you have people watching out for you... the heck with packets, I'll use John.” ZK1TTG was logged on the 24th on 10 meters.

As soon as Norm worked the ZK1, John worked the ZK1 and it took 5 minutes for Norm's rig to recover from John's signal before Norm could hear the ZK1 again. Norm says, “We both called several times and John finally nailed him and I got him on the following call.”

John told Norm that he couldn't believe Norm could hear him, he said the signal was barely moving his S-meter using a beam. “Shoot, I had a good S–2 signal using my G5RV–M,” said Norm. Norm says, “John needs to get rid of that old Icom IC–751A and get an old Kenwood TS–820S.” As for me, Norm, make mine vintage. Norm congrats! Sounds like you had better than a so so month!

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DX News – Continued from page 6

Al W5ADF sends his report along for October saying that only two new countries entered his log. The Chatham Island boys ZL7C on 15 and 10 meters, and 9L1BTB on 15 meters from Sierra Leone, West Africa. Al says he also received a card from Asiatic Russia, RU9VA. This was a direct QSL. Once received, the envelope looked like it maybe had been part of Napoleon's Retreat from Moscow Tire prints, Hoof prints, and about 4 Postal Stamps adorned the outside of the envelope. "Amazing that it made it back to me." Many times Al, we wished we had one or two new countries in the log. Sounds like you had a good month. Congrats!

Gregg W5IDX sent a long a terrific report of his CQ WW –SSB "DX" team effort down at NP2B, St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Island Territories. The team consisted of WD4JR Julio, VE3BW Joe, NP2KW Manny, KP2BH Jimmy, NP2B John Ellis, and Gregg W5IDX. They had a great line-up of equipment: a Ten-Tec Omni with amp, an Icom 706 with amp, a KT-33, 40 and 80 meter dipoles, 160 meter vertical, Hy-Gain Explorer, and a 40 meter rotatable dipole. Gregg says the team could not have been hand-picked any better. At the end, they logged 9,433 QSOs for a rough total score of around 1.5 million points. It goes with out saying that they worked DXCC on 5-bands, worked all states, and all CQ Zones! Great going Gregg! We are glad you had a great time, and glad you are back safely!

I wonder where this leaves us NARS stateside boys? Anyone interested?

Thanks and congratulations everyone for

a great month of DX activity.

From this Station:

I guess I thought October would be a little better than it turned out to be. On the other hand, no complaints! Things can always be worse. I think my expectations were a bit optimistic, ... and I guess that's OK, too. Hope springs eternal DX, ya know.

55 QSOs winged their way into the WA5MLT log. Within that, there were 35 prefixes and 13 CQ zones worked. The band breakdown went like this: 5 QSOs on 80, 5 on 40, 9 on 20, 6 on 17, 9 on 15, and 21 on 10 meters. When adding these up, the 10 meter QSO count looked great, but it's that time of year. Which probably explains why the ARRL 10 Meter contest is always scheduled for early December.

Countries worked: 3D2RW, 6W/F6HLC, 8N1OGA, 8P2K, 9A5E, 9G5MD, 9Y4TBG, CO2JD, CO6XN, FS/AH8DX, GU3UOQ, HB0/HB9 AON, J75WP, J75ZH, K9MDO/HI9, KG4JC, KP3Z, LZ26ZA, MM0CWJ, NP2B, OH0B, PY3CQ, PY7GRM, R1ANF, S07L, SV1SL, SV8CS, T96Q, TI5/W8ILC, TY0T, TY3M, V44NK, VE3HO, VK2ARJ, VK4EMM, VP2MCV, VP2MEB, VP2MPA, YV4GLD, Z31PK, ZK1DKF, ZK1XYL, ZK2TO, ZL6QH, and ZL7C. Yes, I did work the Chatham Island boys on four bands.

See you on the bands! H. O. WA5MLT

Scheduled DX Operations

Here are some of the scheduled DX operations for October. Good hunting! There is some great DX here.

- * 11/01–04 Japan JA
- * 11/01–08 Canary Is. EA8
- * 11/01–13 South Cook Is. ZK1
- * 11/02–24 Equatorial Guinea 3C2MV
- * 11/02–07 Tonga A3
- * 11/04–22 Nauru C21RH
- * 11/05–13 Madagascar 5R8HA
- * 11/07–11 Madeira CT9DLH
- * 11/07–11 Tonga A3
- * 11/07–12/05 Sierra Leone 9L1AB
- * 11/08–11 Ogasawara 8N1OGA
- * 11/09–10 French Polynesia FO
- * 11/10–12/02 Netherlands Antilles PJ2
- * 11/12–13 French Polynesia FO
- * 11/12–15 Vatican HV5PUL
- * 11/12–22 Grenada J38AA
- * 11/13–18 Lord Howe Is. VK9LI
- * 11/14–19 Madagascar 5R8HA
- * 11/15–25 Sable Is. CY0MM
- * 11/16–26 Jamaica 6Y5
- * 11/18–25 East Malaysia 9M6JU
- * 11/18–12/27 Belau T88
- * 11/20–12/01 Gambia C56R
- * 11/27–30 Ogasawara 8N1OGA
- * 11/30–12/08 Luxembourg LX0LT

Thanks to Mike K5NZ, Cal WF5W, Jim K5JDB, Jim KJ5X, John W5PDW, Bruce N1LN, Norm K5OS, and Al W5ADF 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*

NARS LOGO CONTEST – Second Notice

As announced in the last issue, the Board of Directors of NARS is sponsoring a LOGO CREATION CONTEST. Here are the details again.

When:

Have your entries submitted by the December 20 membership meeting
Voting for the winning entry will be during the Banquet on January 17, 2003

Judging:

The Board will select the top 5 entries
We will display them at the January

banquet

The General Membership will vote for the new LOGO

NOTE: If, in the opinion of the Board, none of the LOGOs submitted are appropriate, we will extend the contest.

Prize:

The Club Member submitting the winning LOGO will receive

1. a free 1 year membership to NARS,
2. a NARS shirt sporting the new logo,
3. an ARRL Operating Manual.

The third item was not reported last month, and has been added through the generosity of a NARS member.

How to Submit your entry:

Please send your entry via email or snail mail to:

IF Microsoft PowerPoint email:
n1ln@arrl.net

IF ANY format snail mail:
Bruce Meier
15283 Runnymede St.
Conroe, TX 77384

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Abbey Abbondandolo

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
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NARS Public Information Officer:

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281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

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Houston, TX 77090-0387

*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)

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