

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 2003

January is Annual Banquet

The 2003 Annual Awards Banquet will be held on January 17, the 3rd Friday of the month, our usual meeting night. As was the case last year we will have an evening filled with friends, entertainment and great food. Our menu will be tossed salad with assorted dressings, roast beef and mushroom gravy, marinated grilled chicken breast, a veggie medley, potato dish of some sort, and a desert medley. A cash bar will also be available for those of you old enough to enjoy the occasional adult beverage.

Entertainment will include a presentation By Bill Denton W5SB and a second performance by our own ensemble, the NARS Pickers.

Plan to arrive at 6:30 PM. The evening's festivities should conclude at or around 9:30. The dinner venue will again be Wyndehaven Terrace located at 12716 Cutten Rd.

The costs associated per person are the same as last year, \$18.00, and applies to members and non-members alike. If there is some reason you were not able to make a reservation last month and you plan to attend, please call any member of the board as soon as possible (see back page for contact information).

Hope to see all you there, and thanks again this year for your cooperation.

George, KD5AYF

December Meeting Photos



Important Dates

Friday, January 17, 6:30 PM – Annual Awards Banquet, Wyndehaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Rd.

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

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

Contests

Jan 11–12 North American QSO Party CW

Jan 18–19 North American QSO Party Phone

Jan 18–20 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 24–26 CQ WW 160–Meter CW

Jan 25–26 REF CW, BARTG RTTY

Sprint, UBA SSB DX

Feb 9 North American CW Sprint

Feb 15–16 ARRL CW DX

Feb 21–23 CQ WW 160M SSB

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Jan 15: Lasagna House II

Jan 22: Jason's Deli

Jan 29: Charlie's Hamburgers

Feb 5: Woodlands House

Feb 12: Brown Sugar's BBQ

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Jan 15 Luther's BBQ

Jan 22 Skeeter's

Jan 29 Fast Eddies

Feb 5 Cafe Express

Feb 12 Chili's

Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

12:00 Noon Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport

Notice: NARS membership dues are \$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

January 2003

Changing Times. Looking back over the past year it seems like we were bringing in last year's NARS officers only days ago. The times are changing, probably a lot faster than most of us would like. It seems that with pagers, cell phones, Internet and all the latest gadgets designed to save us time and make life easier, just makes us busier.

I have been asked several times over the years, by non-amateurs, (Regular Folk) what it was that made Ham Radio so great. Why did the hobby bring a sparkle to my eye when they asked the question or what is Ham Radio. I usually gave them a so-so answer and waited to see if they show any serious interests. But here lately I have been giving a lot of thought to what makes Ham Radio so great.

There are so many answers that one could not list them all. The number one answer is The People themselves, such as the members of NARS. Some of the greatest people I have ever met and become acquainted with are Hams.

I am proud to be affiliated with this club and to be the incoming president. This club does many great things and it's the members that help make it happen.

George KD5AYF has done a great job as president and has left some big shoes to step into.

We have a very good line up of officers and I am looking forward to the upcoming year. I believe we are in an era of changing times and NARS will move right out front. I look forward to seeing all of you at the NARS Banquet. Those of you who are new to the club or have never been to the banquet I extend a personal invitation to join in the festivities. We will have "NARS" live entertainment great food and a lot of good times, so come on out and make some memories and life long friends.

A special thanks to my mentor/elmer.
Thanks for everything Bill "W5SB"

Gregg Erlenbusch
W5IDX

Home Brew Project Photos



Colin Jenkins – Antenna Presentation

Public Service Events *Your Radio Skills Are Needed*

Plan to help with one or more of the upcoming events in 2003.

The next scheduled event is the March of Dimes WalkAmerica. This is usually held in April.

Other events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (May), SIRE Ride-A-Thon (October) and Sunmart Texas Trails Run (December).

VE Session Results

There was no VE session in December. The next session will be Saturday, January 25.

Walter Hock KK5LO
NARS VE Session Manager

December Meeting Photos



Anita Townsend and John Ellis



Bill Denton and George Carlson



Bob Walworth, Jim Kirk and Bob Helton



Colin and Stacy Jenkins

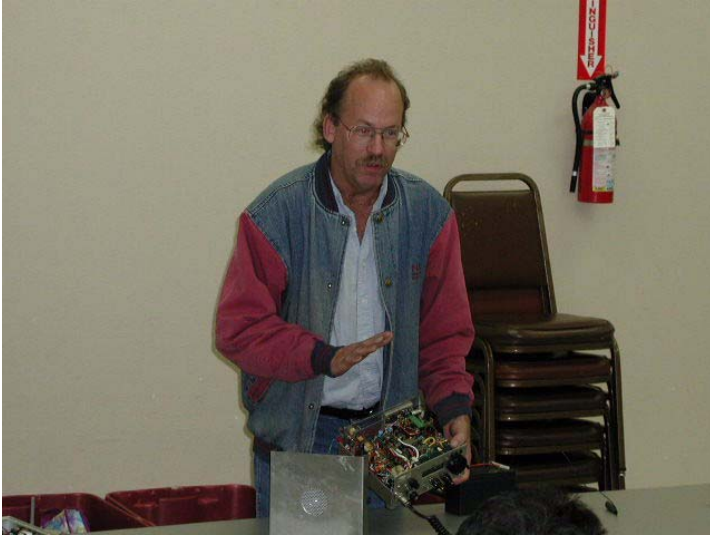


Howard Leverenz, Al Fritsche and Deral Kent

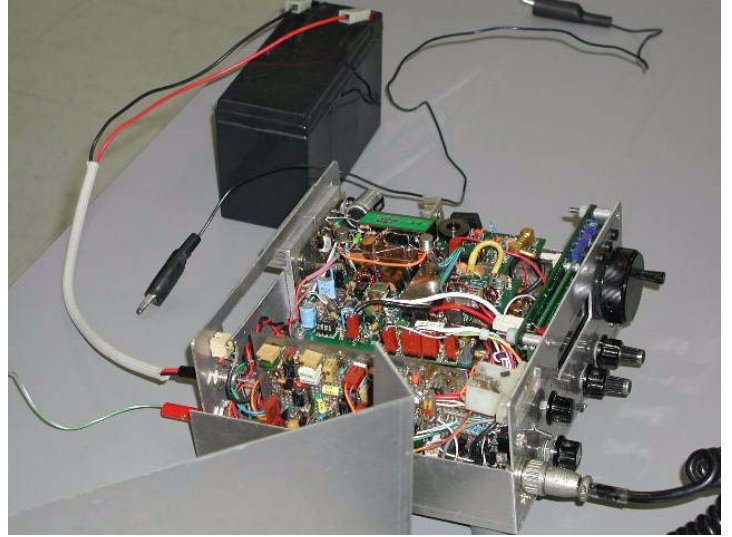


George Pierce, Steve and Nancy Niles

Home Brew Projects Photos



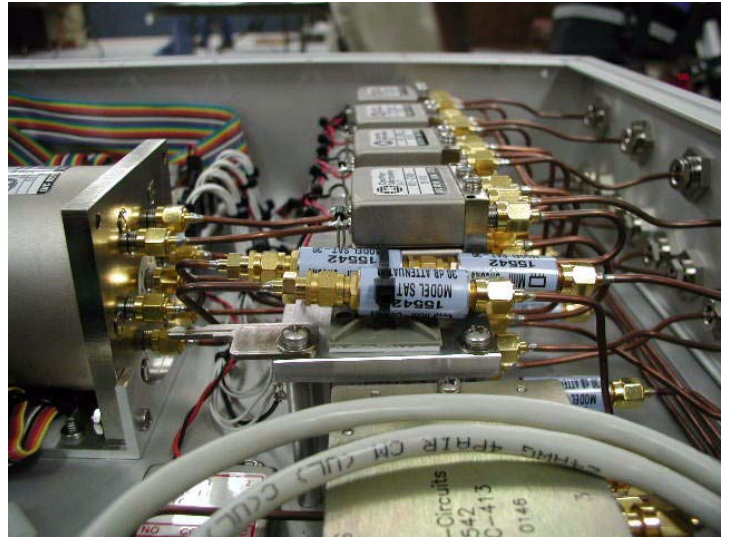
Dan Clark



Dan Clark's Transceiver



George Carlson



George Carlson's Wireless Control Project



Peter Wang



Peter Wang's Bicycle Mobile

Ham and "Sheez" News

Reflection of the Year 2002:

The end of an old year and beginning of a new year often provides time for reflection on past achievements and thoughts toward new challenges. The turning of the calendar to 2003 allows the Ham and "Sheez" ladies to recall our first year as a group. A year ago at the 2002 NARS January banquet, a few of us started talking about forming a ladies group within the club. The camaraderie among the male members of NARS was evident, and we wanted to start an organization for ladies, licensed and non-licensed, to foster friendships and contribute back to amateur radio. If anyone had been able to tell us what we would accomplish in our first year, none of us would have believed what we would have heard! Take a few minutes to look at the following and appreciate the way in which Ham and "Sheez" has grown in 2002:

- Our first meeting was held at the end of February at Denny's on FM 1960. Eight women attended the meeting and immediately began sharing ideas and planning activities.

- Our monthly outings have included such fun activities as – the Texas Flags exhibit at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts; the International Gem and Jewelry Show; Mother's Day outing; Memorial Day Barbeque; (wo)manning the Welcome Tent at Field Day and providing desserts; the Texas Opry Jamboree in Magnolia; Agatha Christie's "Then There Were None" at the Alley Theatre; wine tasting party at the Red River Winery in Old Town Spring; an infamous day trip to Canton's Trade Days; and 2nd annual Cookie Baking Party at Carrie's Kitchen in Tomball.

- Examples of some of our monthly meetings include the following topics: tips on landscaping by guest speakers from the Arbor Gate nursery; color tinting a black and white photograph; decorating a paper mache trinket box; learning faux sponge painting techniques; creating

a macramé holiday wreath; and attending a holiday party at the Kinard residence, complete with a fun ornament exchange.

- At the May NARS meeting, we had the opportunity to introduce or re-introduce the general NARS membership to the work of the HandiHams organization. We're very proud to know that HandiHams has benefited directly by the efforts of NARSians this past year through audio recording of books, mass reproduction of audio tapes, and website updates of the HandiHams events page. The Ham and "Sheez" group also compiled an information book about HandiHams and placed copies in area rehabilitation centers.

- Beginning in February we have contributed an article to each month's NARS newsletter. In addition, we have provided updates regarding the HandiHams associated NARS activities.

- We've also provided culinary delights through our monthly ham-related recipes!

The most important accomplishment of the Ham and "Sheez" organization in 2002 is the wonderful friendships that have been formed among our members. Many of us knew each other before this past year; however, we have all become good friends and a great team!

Planning for the Year 2003:

After reflecting on our accomplishments of last year, we now turn to planning for the upcoming year. The focus of our January meeting will be to plan activities for the next few months. Ladies – please mark your calendars for Monday, January 27, and plan to attend our meeting at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church (location of the monthly NARS meetings) at 7:00 pm. Your suggestions and input will be invaluable as we look toward the beginning of 2003!

January Outing:

To keep with our monthly outing tradition, our January outing will be held on Saturday, January 18. We will be venturing to the Houston Museum of Natural Science to see the IMAX production, "Space Station". We will meet at noon in the former EPO parking lot (next to the Willowbrook Mall at SH 249 and FM 1960) and carpool to the museum. The show starts at 4:00, and the cost per person is \$7.00. There are plenty of exhibits and activities to keep us busy both before and after the show. The guys are cordially invited to join us! We will be stopping for dinner somewhere along the journey! After all, without food, no adventure is "officially" sanctioned by NARS!

Monthly Recipe:

Here is the first ham-related recipe for 2003. It is very quick and could come in handy for the upcoming Super Bowl parties:

BLT Dip (Yields 4 cups) – Southern Living

1 cup mayonnaise
1 (8-ounce) container sour cream
1 lb. bacon (ham-related!), cooked and crumbled
2 large tomatoes, chopped
(If you want a spicier version, substitute salsa for the tomatoes.)

Combine mayonnaise and sour cream in medium bowl. Whisk until blended. Stir in bacon and tomatoes. Serve immediately with melba toast rounds.

For a lighter version, use nonfat mayonnaise, fat-free sour cream, and turkey bacon. Also, it can be used as a dressing over lettuce.

Enjoy!

Best regards,
Laurie Meier – NIYXU
936-271-1096
nlyxu@arrl.org

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Welcome to 2003, a new year and a new page in the DX log just ready for more exciting entries. According to the January 03 issue of CQ magazine, the low for the current solar cycle is predicted to occur somewhere between 2004 and 2005. While I would have expected it to occur another year out, the question is raised “How Bad is Bad?”

While we are presently in the midst of the '02-'03 winter cycle, we are still seeing activity on 10 through 20 meters, even snagging a new band country here and there. The SFI prognosticators say 2003 will be an active year, they also say that overall after smoothing algorithms will cause the adjective description to change '02s “very good,” to “good” for 2003.

So here we are entering 2003 with a predicted solar cycle low to occur in 2005. It's time to do station work; install new antennas, windsocks, and trim the sails for buckets of DX. Let's hope that in the low portion we can add a few countries in the log for the 5BDXCC, and position ourselves for new countries in the next cycle.

On with the numbers. They never lie. Here we go:

- * The high SFI occurred December 17th with a reading of 213.
- * The low SFI occurred on December 31st with a reading of 114.
- * The low A index occurred on December 19th with a reading of 4.
- * The high A index occurred on December 28th with a reading of 26.
- * The low K index occurred on December 19th with a reading of 1.
- * The high K index occurred on

December 21st with a reading of 6.

Local Events:

John – W5PDW reports a little DX and he is a little reflective as the new year rolls over. First, John says he has confirmed S07L Western Sahara and that he worked the K5B and KH6BB special event operations.

John says that, “Looking back, 2002 has been a great year for NARS. When I see brand new hams starting out going every direction at once, full of excitement and questions, going for WAS and “whatever” else excites them, I remember when my Dad and I first got “on the air.” I share their excitement. 1954 Parsons, Kansas PARC atop “Benders Mound”, elevation approximate 200' (that's a mountain in Kansas) Dad and I went to our first field day. That event led to the sale of a couple of license manuals and eventually KN0KFA and KN0KFB. Coffee brewing in a big porcelain pot on the campfire.

Dad made the coffee, he tied it in a piece of cloth and threw it in the pot. I think it brewed till the cloth and grounds were consumed!

This is still fun to talk about. Just think Super Bill, all the stories you have sparked by giving new hams their first taste of HF. George, you made a TQP'er outta me!

Lu and I want to wish all the gang a wonderful new year, a taller tower and more power.”

Jim – KJ5X reports that, “December was the month to struggle out of the deep dark pit of depression fallen into upon hearing that P5 was shut down. Oh well, there's always next time, it

says here. Having to listen to stories about how easy it was to work him was not a bit helpful to recovery efforts. So, I said, I better get to working some DX just to remind me that there are other countries still out there. So, in a burst of frenetic activity 3C2, 9S, D88 (S. Shetlands), C5, EA6, 7Q, K9V, OX3, KH3, 5H, RA0, XT, 7P, 7X, 6F, HR, PV, S5, IU5, OD, and JT were logged with propagation generally pretty darn good. My thanks to WA5MLT for composing The DX report for the past 2 years. A job well done. And remember, if you hear S2, 9N, LU1ZA and FR/J, call. Reward! 73 and Happy New Year.”

Terry – KQ5U reports that “My 80 meter antenna needs to be improved at his station as it only produced three DX QSOs on the 80M band this month. Those were XQ6ET, Chile; HR5/F2JD, Honduras and JA1HQT, Japan. I'm working on DXCC on 80M and have just started. It will take awhile at this rate.

The 40M band was used more often and produced 14 new ones on 40M for me. I am now getting close to having the DXCC on 40M completed. The stations worked were: YV7QP, EA6UN, UW0ZZ, OK2BON, T94FO, LX0LT, CO2CI, YT7YT, 5H3RK, OZ1ING, HG03HNY, HK6KKK, EI/OH2NSM/P, S52KA and C53CW.

The search was on in the higher bands for new countries over all. I managed to snag 4 new ones: 3C2MV, Equatorial Guinea; VQ9DT, VQ9LA, Diego Garcia; 7P8ZZ, Lesotho and XU7ACB, Cambodia. 10M was the most productive band for new countries in general.

Continued on page 7

DX News – Continued from page 6

Next month I will be taking the reins of the DX column and I am hoping to do as good a job as H.O. has done for the past few years. I trust I will get a lot of support and input from all the members. Send me a note by the end of the month and let me know how you have fared. If you work them QRO or QRP, please let me know. My email address is kq5u@arrl.net.”

Cal – WF5W says, “Well well, twas the night before Christmas – and I ended up doing house chores, no DXing.... My TenTec friends let me down for Christmas – they say now if the software engineers come out of their basements (hiding from the office) we may get the new rig in January. Hardware is done and ready.

New 80 meter loop doing a pretty good job – hearing some good DX and working what I hear. Cleaned up the old “Signal Electric Spark” key number 2, (contacts about the size of a dime.) and making ready for SKN. Of course, this is not as old as Zed’s 1865 key he allegedly has acquired... W5PF is coming over to assist and play on SKN as his station is in new process (that means moved) No new cards – all that have been sent, have been answered.”

Al – W5ADF says that December was not all that great for him DX-wise. On the other hand, look what Al worked: XT2ATI Burkina Faso on 20 meters, KH6GMP/KH3 Johnston I. on 15 meters, and 7P8ZZ Lethoso on 12 meters.

Al received the following cards: 9L1BTB Sierra Leone, 5Z4DZ Kenya, ZS6WPX South Africa, and J6R St. Lucia for a contact I made in Oct. of 2000, not bad for a direct QSL (2 years and 2 months)!

Bruce – N1LN reports no new countries, but he has a very nice list of new band countries. Here goes:

8N1OGA – Ogasawara – 75 SSB and 80 CW, VQ9SS – Chagos Is – 40 CW, S21AR – Bangladesh – 15 SSB, XU7ACE – Cambodia – 20– CW, and LX0LT – Luxembourg – 80 CW.

Jim – K5JDB says he was fairly active on DX during December, but not with too much to brag about. 65 DX contacts were made. 9 new IOTA’s were logged. The most newsworthy cards received (my Christmas present) were 5R8FU Madagascar, ZK1SCQ South Cook, DS5XEH/4 Ch’ong San Island, AH6HY/AH8 American Samoa, OZ8ABE Sealand Island, and HF0POL South Shetlands. Good luck to all in 2003.

Thanks and congratulations everyone for a great month of DX activity, again. I don’t know how you guys do it! Keep the logs burning!

From this Station:

Before I run through my meager report, I want to thank each one of you who have faithfully dropped this column a DX note here and there. I can’t express how much fun this has been the last two years. Kudos go to each one of you who have supported the column. Thanks very, very much.

Now. Next month, Terry KQ5U will pick up the duties of assembling the DX notes and gluing them together for the column. A hearty thank you goes to Terry. Please support Terry, it will make his job easier. He needs your support in order to keep the DX logs burning!

For December the ’5MLT log kinda breaks down like this: 27 DX QSOs for 19 countries. The QSOs were distributed like this: 2 on 80, 3 on 40, 4 on 20, 3 on 17, 3 on 15, 9 on 12, and 3 on 10 meters. CQ zones worked: 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 31, 35, 36, and 38.

In the log: AL1G Alaska, VE6CFD Canada, N8Z Virgin Islands, VP9BO Bermuda, XE1/W5FG Mexico, K9V Virgin Islands, FG5DH Guadeloupe, VP5/N5KW Turks & Caicos Islands, WP4U Puerto Rico, FG5FC Guadeloupe, YV5OIE Venezuela, PV7G Brazil, AY1ECZ Argentina, LU6FFL Argentina, GW4BLE Wales, 9H1ET Malta, T77C San Marino, EW4MM Belarus, KH6GMP/KH3 Johnston Island, 9L1AB Sierra Leone, 9L1DX Sierra Leone, 9S1X Congo, and V51HK Namibia.

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.

- * 01/01–07 Bangladesh, S21
- * 01/01–07 Turks Caicos, VP5
- * 01/02–18 Netherlands Antilles, PJ4
- * 01/04–05 USA, NW0L
- * 01/04–18 Aruba, P40AV
- * 01/05–02/25 Belize, V31
- * 01/09–21 Equatorial Guinea, 3C5
- * 01/10–10 New Zealand, ZL1
- * 01/16–23 Argentina, LU
- * 01/17–20 Belize, V31JZ/p
- * 01/18–20 Bahamas, C6
- * 01/18–26 Niue, ZK2GI
- * 01/22–27 Ecuador, HC1
- * 01/30–02/16 Haiti, HH6

Thanks to John W5PDW, Jim KJ5X, Terry KQ5U, Cal WF5W, Al W5ADF, Bruce N1LN, and Jim K5JDB 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 kq5u@arrl.net.

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

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member George Young.

NARS Resource List

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*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

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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