

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

June 2003

June 20th - All Members Meeting Canceled

As you know, the monthly meeting always occurs on the third (3rd) Friday of the month. This year the third (3rd) Friday is also the first day of HamCom and the National ARRL Convention in Arlington/Dallas. As many of the members will be out of town and attending the HamCom/ARRL function, the NARS Board of Directors has decided to use Field Day as the regular meeting and not have one in June 2003 on the third (3rd) Friday.

Please try to spread this information to all NARS members. Talk it up on the repeater and mention it on the Monday night 10 Meter nets. We don't want not to know.

The next All Members Meeting at the Church will be held on July 18th - the third Friday in July. Hope to see many of you in Arlington and everyone at Field Day.

Nars Board of Directors

Thanks To NARS Members

I don't think I can find the words to express my thanks and the appreciation I felt last Friday at your monthly meeting. Laurie Meier and Schalee Lodge, presented me with the lovely plaque and then the coin from Command Sergeant Major Brown from Fort Sam Houston, for what was a fun evening for me meeting a number of NARS members and being able to work with them putting together the Easter Baskets for the families at Fort Sam Houston.

It was truly a pleasure getting to know more of the NARS members at your monthly meeting, and the very warm and caring hospitality that was extended to me. The experience of working on the baskets and being at your meeting, seeing the excitement when Schalee announced she had gotten her call sign, has given me the extra drive to get on the ball and get my permit as soon as possible. I have an 11-year-old granddaughter who is also excited about learning code and getting her permit. I have a feeling she will beat me on getting her code down first.

I am very much looking forward to being with the NARS group on field day. In fact I let Mike Wheat know that I have a turkey cooker to help out with the Saturday evening meal. I am also hoping to get a little time on the GOTA station if Bruce has any openings. The teamwork and the truly friendly caring people in your organization makes your group stand out as very special.

Again my thanks and honor to have had the privilege to work with and get to know the NARS group. May God bless your organization and God Bless America.

73, Don Schaefer

[Ed note. Don has a background in communications and held a ticket almost 40 years ago, but let it expire. Look for him to be back on the HF bands again very soon.]

Important Dates

Friday, June 27, 11:30 AM - Field Day 2003 Lunch, Lucky House Buffet, 10123 Hammerly; Setup at 1:00 PM (6 hours), SBISD Career Center, 10660 Hammerly.

NOTE: NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JUNE.

Saturday, June 28, 1 PM (24 hours) - Field Day 2003 Operations, SBISD Career Center, 10660 Hammerly.

Tuesday, June 24, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Saturday, July 26, 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main). NOTE: NO VE EXAM SESSION IN JUNE.

Contests

Jun 14 Portugal Day, Asia-Pacific Sprint

Jun 14-15 West Virginia QSO Party

Jun 14-15 WW South America CW, ANARTS WW RTTY

Jun 21-22 All Asian CW, SMIRK 6M

Jun 28-29 ARRL Field Day

Jul 1 RAC Canada Day

Jul 12-13 IARU HF World Championship

Jul 19-20 CQ WW VHF

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Jun 11 Woodlands House

Jun 18 Brown Sugar's BBQ

Jun 25 Red Lobster

Jul 2 Casa Imperial Mexican

Jul 9 Strack Farms

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Jun 11 Fuddrucker's

Jun 18 Puma Mexican

Jun 25 Jason's Deli

Jul 2 Luther's BBQ

Jul 9 Skeeter'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

June 2003

June has already arrived, bringing with her our typical hot Gulf Coast summers, mosquitoes and thunderstorms. It seems that the latter is long over due. We are behind in rainfall for the year and as nice as it would be to see rain we will hold our request back during the days of June 27th, 28th and 29th. Field Day is where most of our attention has been focused for this past month. Field Day is an event for everyone to have a great time together, enjoying and sharing the radio hobby with others, and having a fantastic meal in the outdoors along with making some new friends.

You know, remembering back in our younger years prior to the studying and learning required to pass the FCC exams, radio for most of us seemed to be magic or have that magical mystique about it. Even now with the theory and principles we have learned, radio still holds a little magic for us all.

A lot of us have friends and acquaintances that still see radio in that light. It amazes and intrigues them to a certain degree. This is where Field Day comes in. Let's take advantage of our abilities and this situation and invite friends, acquaintances, work associates and neighbors out to see what it is all about. Field Day gives us the ability to enlighten the public and showcase our talents and abilities, and increase awareness and understanding of all the vital roles we can play in the community.

With the recently acquired location, we are now centrally located in the N/W Houston area. Field Day is now located across the street from a city park and a large swimming pool, close to stores and restaurants. We are on SBISD property so there will be NO ALCOHOL and NO FIREARMS allowed on the property. No exceptions here.

This year our chef for the Saturday afternoon/evening meal will be Mike Wheat NA5F and he will be frying turkeys on site. We will have side items available and the Ham & Sheez group will be supplying the desserts all for a nominal fee to participants and guests.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS to relax in. The club will have chairs & tables only for the radio stations and for serving the food.

We need plenty of help Friday for setup so come on out and have a great time. We will all meet on Friday the 27th at 11:00 am at the Lucky House Chinese Restaurant at 10123 Hammerly on the South side of the road just east of Gessner. Let's talk this up. Invite others, including clubs, and most of all let's all get involved.

*Gregg Erlenbusch
W5IDX*

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

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

Events officially sponsored by NARS include March of Dimes WalkAmerica (April), Buffalo Bayou Regatta (May), SIRE Ride-A-Thon (October) and Sunmart Texas Trails Run (December).

VE Session Results

At the NARS VE Test Session held May 24, 2003 there were fifteen candidates. The results were 11 new Technicians, one upgrade to General and one upgrade to Extra. Elements administered totaled 19 with 15 passed.

The VE's were Walter Holmes K5WH, Bill Denton W5SB, Jim Kirk KJ5X, Steve Niles N5EN, Wayne Stovall N5MNT, Mike Wheat NA5F, Gregg Erlenbusch W5IDX, and Keith Dutson WD5DXL.

Thanks to all of the VE's for their help.

There is no NARS VE session in June. The next NARS VE Test session will be held on July 26, 2003. See ya there.

*Walter Hock KK5LO
NARS VE Session Manager*

6D2YFM Contest Photos

(Nuevo Laredo, Mexico)



HMNS Ham Camp this July

This year, Patricia Reiff KD5IZK will host her second round of ham summer camps for kids at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Last year, 39 kids (half 8-9, half 10-12) took a one-week intensive ham radio camp, and ten of them (4 in the younger group) earned their "Technician" class license.



Houston-area teachers also participating and learning how to teach kids as well as becoming licensed themselves. (Her first teacher intern, Lolly Garay, has six students almost ready for the Tech exam).

Last year, Pat was assisted by Jeff Greer WD4ET, who organized the "hands-on" part of the camp (making AM crystal radios for the younger set and shortwave receivers with the older kids), assisted by his daughter Melissa KD5OYB.



Dutson WD5DXL. George Pierce W5GFP brought his rig and showed the kids how to use it. Other students who helped with the class included Lindsey Eakin KD5MES and Patrick Snodgrass KD5QDF.

This year Colin Jenkins KU5B will be helping with the class, and George Pierce is again bringing equipment. Pat would be happy to have anyone else help with the class who can spare the time! She's requesting a contact with the ISS and folks with satellite experience are especially requested. Walter Hock KK5LO has agreed to have a special VE session for the kids again, and I hope we'll have a success again this year.

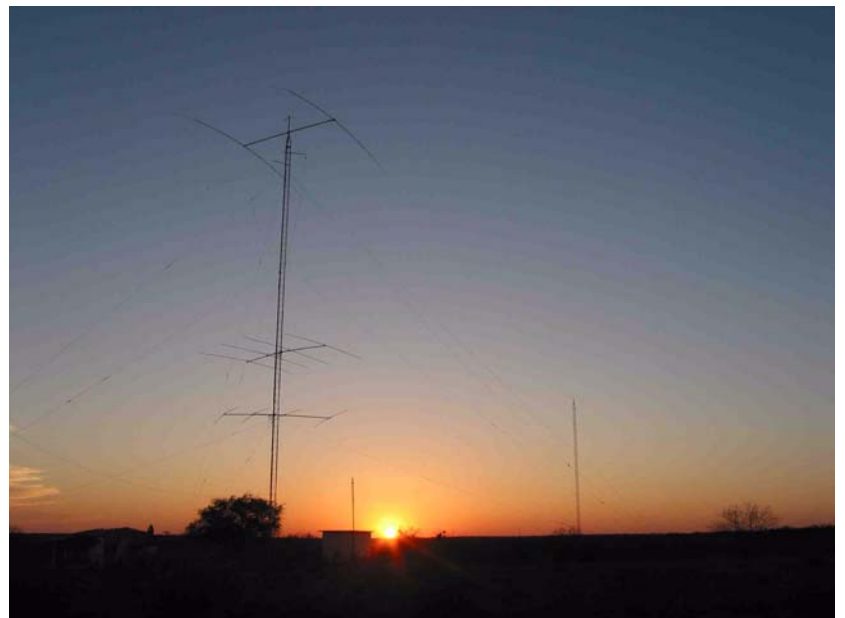


This year, two one-week camps for 10-12 year olds will run sequentially (July 7-11 and July 14-18). And this year will have a special addition . . .

The kits came from Lance Borden WB5REX. The theory part of the camp was team taught with Terry Myers KQ5U, Jim Kirk KJ5X and Keith

Pat Reiff KD5IZK

6D2YFM Contest Photos (Nuevo Laredo, Mexico)



Ham and "Sheez" News

May Update:

Instead of the usual monthly meeting, the 2nd annual Ham and "Sheez" Memorial Day Cookout was held at the Meier residence on Monday, May 26. There were twenty-four people who attended the cookout! Everyone enjoyed visiting, relaxing, swapping tales, and eating - well, after all, it was a NARS associated event! All the food was outstanding and the company even better. You'll see the smiling faces of those who attended (minus the photographer, John, WSPDW) in the picture, which is included in the newsletter. You'll also notice the number of folks who were in the pool, cooling off. It was a pretty warm afternoon and early evening.

After the sun set and the temperature cooled off a little, the 2nd annual World Championship Pictionary Tournament began between the Ham (men) and the "Sheez" (women). Five couples participated in the intense competition. After a few hours of very creative drawing, prompting, and often long bouts of laughter, the women were declared the new World Champions. [Ladies - You would have been proud! It was a stunning victory. We will carry the title with dignity and not gloat too much through the coming year.]

Plans are already in the works for the 3rd annual Memorial Day Cookout. You may as well go ahead and mark your calendars for next year!

Upcoming Meetings & Activities:

Field Day - Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29:

Field Day is approaching very quickly. The ladies will be participating by being the greeters at the Welcome Tent and by providing desserts for Saturday evening's dinner.

We will (wo)man the Welcome Tent on Saturday (11 am to 6 pm) and Sunday (9 am to 1 pm). If you're interested in working at the Welcome Tent for a few hours, please send me an email, letting me know the day and time. Several ladies have already volunteered and are included on the schedule. The Welcome Tent is a very low-key, no stress way to participate in Field Day. We greet everyone who comes to the site, ask that each person signs-in, have information available about amateur radio, and direct folks to the operating stations.

Many ladies have already indicated that they will be bringing a dessert for Saturday's dinner. If you plan on bring a dessert, please send me a quick email. There can never be enough desserts - especially for the NARS crew!

June Meeting:

The traditional monthly meeting will be held on Monday, June 30. We will celebrate the Field Day events from the prior weekend by meeting for dinner and post-dinner shopping. The time and place are yet to be determined. However, the restaurant will be located in the SH 249 / FM 1960 area. If you have a favorite restaurant in that area, please let us know.

July Outing:

On Saturday, July 12, we will be going to Minute Maid Park to watch the Astros play the Pittsburgh Pirates. The game starts at 7:05 pm. If you're interested in going to the game, please let me know by the June meeting (June 30). We will then check on group tickets, pricing, etc. And, yes, the guys are invited!

Monthly Ham Recipe:

Ham, Spinach, and Feta Pizza from Weight Watchers - Trust me, this is delicious!

1 (10 ounce) Italian cheese-flavored thin pizza crust (such as Boboli)
1/3 cup refrigerated reduced-fat Alfredo sauce (such as Contadina)
1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained, and squeezed dry
1 1/2 cups cooked ham, chopped
4 ounce package crumbled feta cheese with basil and sun-dried tomatoes

Preheat oven to 450. Place pizza crust on an ungreased baking sheet or pizza pan. Combine Alfredo sauce and spinach. Spoon over pizza crust. Sprinkle ham and feta cheese over spinach. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden.

[This is also very good with either chicken or beef.]

Enjoy!

Best regards,
Laurie Meier - NIYXU
936-271-1096
mailto:nlyxu@arrl.net



QUA* Colin Jenkins KU5B?

Since I am a “young” HAM... well, I’m only one month old in “HAM years”... I thought it would be fun to feature our youth, and therefore the future, of our hobby. KU5B known to his friends at school as Colin Jenkins is now and will be a very fine representative of amateur radio. When he turns his interest toward an area he pulls out all the stops (Colin, do they have stops on a French horn?).

Colin began attending the Houston School for Performing Arts last year. He began playing the French horn in fifth grade and is basically self taught. He wanted to attend this particular school because they had the best band in the area. He had to audition by playing two of the twelve scales and a prepared piece, both from memory and also sight reading a piece of music. He is hoping to get some individual lessons from instructors next year.

But this story really starts with his family who are very musical. His parents met in their church choir and his father plays the oboe. Colin wanted to play an instrument and they began to search for one he could play with his left hand. The French horn was the only choice and turned out to be a very good one.

He was indoctrinated into music as a very young child because as he slept his father would practice in their home every Tuesday evening with a Broadway musical group. When he was three he would march around the halls at pre-school singing “Do you hear the people sing” from Les Miserables. His mom said the teachers told her it was disconcerting to see a small child with an angelic face singing such an angry song.

Through this group, his mom said he began to participate in “Theater Under the Stars”. He was the “turkey boy” in Scrooge and in the chorus of Evita.

He began playing soccer at three years old and has played at the YMCA every year since. He even played with is

eighth grade team at school, but has never traveled with any teams because he always had other commitments. His other favorite sport he can only watch from the stands... the Houston Comets Women’s Basketball. He enjoys this game over the men’s pro games because he says they really compete. He tries to attend five or six games a season.

Colin’s interest in radio was sparked by his uncle Steve Jenkins N6UNI. He thought the idea of providing a public service through your hobby was intriguing. His first experience was the SIRE Event last year. Those who participated are glad he persevered through that to others. We’re all hoping for better weather next year, Colin.

Speaking of weather, it’s another of Colin’s hobbies. He has a weather station on his roof attached to his computer and has tracked conditions at his home for the last two years. He enjoys reading books on weather phenomena. Now he is combining his hobbies with an interest in Sky Warn.

He was licensed in August last year... see, he is older than I am (well, definitely more mature... he’s an Extra)! He and his father, Stacy, took the test the same day and they received consecutive licenses; Colin was KD5TMF and his dad KD5TME. His mom, Kay Lynn KD5TUR, passed the test on her birthday.

Colin enjoys working 20 meters and up with his Yaesu FT-840 and a 10-meter full wave dipole hung from the tree in his backyard. He also has an Alinco DJ195.

His favorite contact came while he was talking with someone on a frequency when SO5X, a western Sahara DXpedition tuned into the same frequency. He recognized the call and got the contact before he got away. Good job Colin!

That was the easy one... he is still trying to get Kuwait... 9K2GS.

Colin’s current project is preparing to teach Technician classes for kids at the Houston Museum of Natural Science with Dr. Pat (Patricia Reiff KD5IZK). They will be teaching two classes, the first beginning on July 7 and the second on July 14. The test will be given on each Friday. There are still openings, so if you know a young person who would like to get their license, this is a great way to learn.

Colin has also started a “Kids Net” on the NARS repeater on Tuesday evenings at 8:00. It has been going for about a month and will probably have several new members in July!

He also participates in a youth HF net. One evening a 14 year-old from El Salvador checked in. The net is on 20 meters Friday night at 6:00 Central time. The frequency is 14.329 MHz.

It’s hard to catch Colin off guard, but one of his father’s favorite stories is about just that. Colin was in the hospital about to undergo surgery when the family priest stopped by. He prayed with them and then said he needed to go to the car to get his oil. As he left Colin asked what he needed oil for and his father explained that it was for anointing before surgery. When he seemed shocked his father asked what was wrong... it didn’t take long to figure out that he thought the priest meant motor oil!

Both Stacy and Kay Lynn commented that the members of NARS have added to Colin’s enjoyment of this hobby which is probably why he feels this statement sums up his experience with radio... Hobbies are cornerstones to what careers lie ahead in life.

Colin, we can hardly wait to see what you do with yours.

*Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL (that’s me!)
Ham and Sheez Reporter*

* QUA: “Q” signal meaning “Have you news of . . . ?”

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

The input was slow coming this month and the deadline was much earlier than before, but the good news is not everybody was on vacation, graduating or getting ready for Field Day. Some of the members did work some good DX this month and the QSL cards came in with DX ops playing catch-up on their QSLing duties. If you have some input, please email me at KQ5U@arrl.net and put DX Column as the subject. Your information will be included in the next column.

The monthly activity reports:

Lee, K5AVY, reports the bands have been better this month and the AL-80a has helped. K5AVY worked a total of 32 stations, all on 20M except for 2 on 15M. W1AW was a highlight since I never worked them before. VK5JJJ was operating the league station. Also the Costa Rican stations were prevalent, because of the special event celebrating 75th anniversary of radio transmissions from there. TE75MOT, TE75VW, TE75KAC, TE75SCH, TE75RC. Some of the other highlights were: NQ4I/AM over Salt Lake City in a Gulfstream G-V; JW7QIA on Svalbard, Norway; 9A9A; SP3IQ; OM3EY (3 times); OD5NH; ZK1AYL; OK1CF; UX2HO; J88KS; J88JA; LZ03KM (SE Station); RA9XY and RA3GS. QSLs received this month are: HH4/N2WB; V31MX; VA7RR; HK6ISX; YV5LIX; J69MV; RA0FU; NQ4I/AM; TG9CB; V44NK; ZK1CG; OD5NH were all direct and then 6 from the bureau: IV3KAS; SP5KP; OK/KF4HXZ; ZY7C (Brazil); HB9CCL and OE3RSB. I now have 36 countries confirmed and the rate seems to be about 5 new countries confirmed per month. I sent in my 10 WPM qualifying run to the ARRL. With a little luck I will soon be able to do the 13 and 15 WPM runs. Good going Lee. There is a lot of DX out there on CW so as the CW speed comes up perhaps the DX country rate will go up. Also the new Amp will help you a bit as well in breaking the pile-ups.

John, W5PDW, reports from behind the great pinecone curtain in the piney woods that he has 27 entries in the log this month. Also, 20M and 15M have been open well past midnight lately. I'm sitting here this morning 148 am local time and 20 meters is humming!! The breakdown of activities is: 10 meters; PW1A; PU2YDX; TX4PG. 15 meters: PT2ND; OM5XX and 4W1BK. 20 meters: TX4PG; ZK1AYL; VE9MY; VE1OP; KH6BB; ZW8M; 3V8SQ; TM0Y; KH6OQV; SP7AID; YU1AB; FO/F5RQQ; ZL4WA and VK7PKB. Then there was a notable QSO on 146.66 MHz FM with KD5WLL. Congrats Schalee!! The mailbox (mine) was productive this month yielding VP6DI for a new one AH3D and OH0B. The AH3D card is a really nice four-sided card with a fine arial photo of the island, which looks a lot like an aircraft carrier. The OH0B, Alands Islands, was from "The Grand Old Man of DX himself, Marti." One final comment to the all the gals "Keep on Keeping ON, Ham and Sheeze". John good hunting and

thanks for the tips on 20 and 15 meters being open all night.

Jim, KJ5X, says things were a little busier in the shack during May. I worked: ZA1B; LZ2HM; Z34A; OD5NH; S58AL; IK2PZQ; TP6CE; V31ZB; TE75VW; TX4PG; V21JA; 5H3RK; HK3JJH; 9K2ZZ and ZA1Z on 20M. I also worked TX4PG also on 17M and 15M and ZK1AYL on 15M as well. 10M was pretty slim pickens with only ZK1CG in the logbook. I'm still looking for 9N and S2 among about a dozen others. Call! Reward! I really wonder what the XYL will say when the phone rings during the night and Jim runs to the radio? With luck someone will call and we will get the blow-by-blow description of the bagging of a new country by KJ5X.

Al, W5ADF, says he didn't spend much time chasing DX as the band conditions seemed pretty bad. However, he did get a few new cards. The new ones are: XT2ATI, Burkina Faso; A45WD, Oman; OY7QA, Faroe Islands. Al says he now has 199 countries confirmed on Phone. From this report, it looks like we need to encourage Al to get back on the air and into the DX case. He only has a little over a 100 to go to get onto the "Honor Roll." Thanks for the report Al and get "radio active."

Colin, KU5B, says he was having a really good day and just happened to pick the right day to send in his report. "I received my FIRST DX QSL from LU1FAM via AC7DX." We all know this is a really memorable event in our ham radio world. Colin didn't say if it was suitable for framing or not, but it sure brings back memories for most of that first DX QSO and QSL. From the list of new countries worked Colin will soon have cards flying into his mailbox. The new countries are: Greece, SV1NA, 20CW; Denmark, OZ8ABE, 20SSB; Turkey, TA3DD, 20CW; Austria, OE2EGL, 20SSB; Kaliningrad, RK2FWA, 20SSB; Moldova, ER1QQ, 20SSB; Finland, OH3YI, 30CW; Macedonia, Z38Z, 20SSB; Slovakia, OM3EY, 20SSB; Yugoslavia, YT1AD, 20CW; Czech Republic, OL7W, 20CW. The count is now up to 110 worked with 3 confirmed!! With just a little time and a few visits from the mailman, it seems like Colin will be getting some wallpaper in the form of a DXCC certificate from the ARRL. Nice job Colin! I hope some of this enthusiasm for DX is contagious and we start hearing from others on the Teen-net that are working DX.

Bruce, N1LN, said he didn't work anything of interest this month. I think that may well be because he has been very busy getting the club "Field Day" event organized for later this month. We all know this is a big task and our hats are off to him and Greg for their effort. Bruce has been working hard at getting his 160M, 80M and 5BDXCC QSLs in. From the following it looks like his mailbox has been really active with some nice cards. They are: FG5FR, Guadeloupe, 160 CW; 9Y4/IV3IYH, Trinidad and Tobago, 80

SSB; BA4RF, China, 80 CW; CY0MM, Sable Island, 160M & 10M; 5K0Z, San Andres Island, 80 CW; ZD8A, Ascension Island, 80 CW & 17 CW; WP4U, Puerto Rico, 75 SSB; V31LU, Belize, 75 SSB; CY9DH, St. Paul, 40 SSB / CW; 6W/DK8YY, Senegal, 40 CW; EI6S, Ireland, 75 SSB. The current status on my 5BDXCC effort is all bands from 40M to 10M are done. The story is different on 160M with 73 worked and 31 confirmed and 75/80M with 160 worked and 79 confirmed. Bruce with your confirmation rate on 160 & 80M being less than 50% is there a concern with a possible mailbox security issue in your neighborhood?

Bruce also shares the following information from an email exchange with ZK1CG. If you need ZK1 on either 80 or 160 take the time to listen. I know this is not a great time of the year from South Texas on either band - but you may get lucky and then - guaranteed QSL. Here is what Vic had to say. "Been on 3.799.00.00 and 3.852.00 at around 0600 to 0800 most nights into Europe and sometimes when I can't sleep at 11:00 to 14:00 UTC working into the states and Japan, Can hear stations from 55 to 59+20 from here, only using a Dipole (very thick multi-strand copper ground wire Pencil size) up 40 feet into a Icom 751A barefooted (no shoes). Trying to get some more wire; same as the 80 and 40-meter dipole; for 160 meters, but cost for wire and strong rope is high here. The thick copper grounding multi-strand wire little large in size to a pencil gives me a flat SWR across the bands compared to the thin wire. On the HHH net on 7.235.00 0700 to 0800 most nights when 80 meters is dead. Hope you enjoy the Aerial photo of Rarotonga and Manihiki on the front of the card. Will need a little extra power on 160 for you to hear me, I can hear you ok. Please let your General Class friends know that we can hear them in the General class portion of the bands (At 3.852.00) but most of the time they are just rag Chewing and not listening for DX stations like myself. 73 and Regards. Victor Rivera, ZK1CG and ZK1USA." Thank you Bruce for this valuable information as many of was need this one on both 160M and 80M.

Terry, KQ5U, was not very active during the month, putting only 22 QSOs into the log. Some DX stations worked were: TX4PG, 30CW, Marquesas Island; V44KJ, 40CW, St. Kitts Island; PZ5RA, 20SSB, Surinam; VK9LS, 20SSB, Lord Howe Island; UX5MZ, 20CW, Ukraine; 4W3DX, 20CW, East Timor; VK9XY, 15CW, Christmas Island. The mailman lugged a few good QSLs to my mailbox including: AH3D, Johnson Island; 8Q7ZZ, Maldive Island; 3C2MV, Equatorial Guinea and EK6TA, Armenia. Not a lot of activity but some activity. This month was hindered by RFI again as some of the power lines that were oiled with Penetrox weathered out driving my s-meter past S-9 on all bands. Center Point has agreed to come out and do a permanent repair by replacing the faulty parts.

Continued on page 7

DX News - Continued from page 6

The current space weather forecast follows:

Prepared by the US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Space Environment Center
Product description and SEC contact on the Web
<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/wwire.html>

27-day Space Weather Outlook Table Issued 2003 May 27

UTC Date	Radio Flux 10.7 cm	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2003 May 28	130	30	5
2003 May 29	135	15	3
2003 May 30	140	15	3
2003 May 31	140	15	3
2003 Jun 01	130	15	3
2003 Jun 02	120	20	4
2003 Jun 03	110	35	6
2003 Jun 04	100	30	5
2003 Jun 05	100	30	5
2003 Jun 06	95	35	6
2003 Jun 07	90	30	5
2003 Jun 08	95	20	4
2003 Jun 09	95	20	4
2003 Jun 10	95	30	5
2003 Jun 11	100	20	4
2003 Jun 12	100	20	4
2003 Jun 13	105	15	3
2003 Jun 14	105	15	3
2003 Jun 15	110	15	3
2003 Jun 16	120	15	3
2003 Jun 17	120	20	4
2003 Jun 18	120	25	5
2003 Jun 19	120	20	4
2003 Jun 20	115	20	4
2003 Jun 21	120	20	4
2003 Jun 22	125	20	4
2003 Jun 23	130	15	3

From the various DX resources, here is some DX that will be active this month:

AZERBAIJAN, 4K. Rich, 4K7Z/F8LPX, will be active until the end of June. QSL via F8LPX, bureau ok.

THAILAND, HS. Look for John, W6ZIP operating HS0ZEH from May 31 to June 17, mostly CW, on 40 through 10 meters with some SSB toward the end. QSL via his home call.

SUDAN, ST. Dr. Nadir, ST2NH is usually QRV on 10 meters using SSB around 1000z. QSL to home call. Meanwhile, ST1MN is QRV until June 30. QSL via IV3OWC.

THAILAND, HS. Charlie, K4VUD is QRV as HS0ZCW until around June 15. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

LAOS, XW. Champ, E21E1C will be active again as XW11C from Laos between around 3 and 23 June. He plans to operate on 160-10 meters CW, SSB and RTTY, and will participate in the All Asian DX Contest (SOAB LP). QSL via E21E1C.

On the local front

As any DX'er knows, DX is really about antennas, antennas and antennas. This month I had an interesting email correspondence with a ham in Missouri City, which is in our backyard. This is an antenna story that currently is open ended. Many of us have faced all kinds of antenna issues and have had to face all sorts of political issues involving

antennas. Some have been successful and some have been left wanting. I became aware of this antenna situation a year or two ago, but the information was all hearsay. From what I had heard it looked like this case was going to be one that would set many precedents in the state of Texas and the nation. My information was all second hand, but I thought there would be something to be learned from the experience of others in the area of politics when erecting a tower. The ham involved is Orin Snook, KB5F. I asked Orin if he could let me know what was really going on with his case. He agreed and we get the information straight and in his own words. Here are his comments on his case.

"Surviving Summary Judgment and only a 4 month trial date from initial injunction hearing, the no-jury trial for Civil Action H-03-243, Orin Snook v. City of Missouri City, Texas was heard before US District Court, on 20-23 May. Final motions are being finalized to the court, due June 6. The case is one of First Impressions for the 5th Circuit and the court's decision will be published. The judge has ordered the city to leave me alone in the meantime.

I am convinced that our UNANSWERED case was a grand slam home run out of the park. We invited the judge to make some law and believe he will. This means the city will most likely appeal. I believe the case is so strong as to be upheld by the 5th Circuit. Time to navigate the appeal process is unknown and settlement of unspecified damages is also unknown.

The judge noted that a Certified Building Official testified he could not see the tower or find the house driving by. The city's expert drove by and decided it was a 20 m beam only, read PRB-1 attorney's comment that "65' should satisfy most ham radio operators" and took that as his technical recommendation to MOC. We proved "arbitrary and capricious".

Background

I erected a 100' antenna support structure at the back of my property, located at 3719 Stoney Crest in Missouri City, Texas. This antenna was built under a building permit issued on December 23, 1999 by the city. All city and legal requirements and demands were fulfilled *prior* to construction. Although 100' seems massive, trees on all sides top 80'+; screening 80%, but to reasonably operate, the tower needs to be 100' tall to turn above the trees and use a 40 meter dipole, VFH/UHF and above.

In addition, the HOA and members of the neighborhood (save two) have all signed letters of support for the antenna.

After erecting it, the city of Missouri City decided that I was required to submit a special use permit (SUP). As part of the SUP, the city has stated that I can erect a 65' tower. The SUP is basically worthless, given that 100' is necessary *at this site* for 40m and that 100' is required for VHF/UHF, per the city's own expert. The SUP also resets the clock by requiring total disassembly, new building permit, then put the antenna back up.

Two separate written requests, one for a Board of Adjustment hearing and another for a Planning & Zoning Finding-of-Fact have been ignored. I continue to be found guilty by the local municipal

judge for the 30+ violations who refuses to allow the jury to even be told of PRB-1.

Specific Points of Recap

- All city and legal requirements and demands were met prior to construction of the antenna.
- The city issued a building permit on December 23, 1999. It has never been retracted.
- No complaints have EVER been received, even after the erection of the antenna in 2000.
- The city provided an unworkable SUP that was neither reasonable nor accommodating as it removes any ability to function as an ARRL Official Emergency Station, Amateur Radio Communication Emergency Coordinator for Fort Bend County, or comply with the Part 97 stated purposes of my FCC license. Without 2m, 440, 40m and 80m, I am effectively out of the radio business.
- The city has since passed retroactive ordinances without grandfathering any vested rights that they are convicting me with.

Differences to Other PRB-1 Cases

- I wrapped myself up in the ARRL/emergency communication blanket - tightly. While international good will and advancement of the art are also reasons why we are licensed, emergency plays far better as something the city is "beating up" rather than a hobbyist.
- The FCC has not yet preempted, and PRB-1 cases have not given the "right" to use a particular band. This case does that convincingly.

Next Steps

- To learn more see:
<http://users3.ev1.net/~osnook>

I look forward to your comments, similar court cases and good jokes. Before flaming though, be aware of extensive communication with the ARRL through out the process. They MAY be able to provide limited help at the Federal Appellate level only. Also, the HOA SUPPORTS my position - this is strictly a city issue, bent on abusing their power.

No damages have ever been awarded from PRB-1 cases. With federal and civil rights (Sec. 1983) abuses so significant and prevalent that followed the PRB-1 initial claim, my case should break this mold.

73, KB5F, Orin Snook, kb5f@ev1.net
281-431-9539

After reading Orin's email my thought was "Gee! I'm sure glad I didn't have those problems," but realized that even though my antenna has been up for more than 25 years, I could fall in disfavor with some of the local "governing bodies" and develop a similar problem. Antennas are important to all hams and now we have some current information as to what is going on in our own backyard as far as local governments setting antenna standards. No one can tell for sure what effects a case like this will have on the current legal structure, but new ground has been broken and it may well have a significant favorable impact on ham radio in the state and the nation. Only time will tell.

Until next month may the DX be with you. 73 Terry, KQ5U

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Glendon Amos KB5NMG and Cyrus Turner KC5NMW

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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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