

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2003

May Meeting - Field Day Preparation

One of the topics of the next meeting will be an update and planning session for the 2003 ARRL Field Day. This year we will once again be entering in class 2A. The stations will consist of (1) SSB, (1) CW, (1) Get on the Air, (1) VHF/UHF and (1) Satellite.

Come join us at the meeting on May 16th to hear more details about the event and what you may be able to do to help us prepare. This year we want to accomplish at least two things.

1. Have a fun event for everyone
2. Organize a strong enough effort so we have a chance to WIN.

The Ham & Sheez will be staffing the greeter's tent as well as bringing the desert for Saturday's dinner.

More to follow - - - stay tuned. If you have any questions please send either Gregg (W5IDX) or me an email or catch us on .66.

73, Bruce - NILN

The Bayou Still Beckons . . .

Narsians got a late start in forming a communication team to work the Buffalo Bayou Regatta this year, but with a little outside assistance we managed to muster thirteen of our finest to help insure a safe but maybe not so sane event. The flotilla this year consisted of almost three hundred canoes, kayaks and a number of floatation craft that defy description. Floatation may be stretching it a bit. A few of these crafts never made it past the starting ramp! An awesome sight it was tracking this flotilla through the fifteen-mile course. It was enough to make any alligator head for the deep!

Mike Hardwick N5VCX helped us out by coordinating the event with the Buffalo Bayou Commission. NARS provided ten of the thirteen volunteers and were rewarded with the coveted Bayou tee shirt and lunch at the end of the race. Paul Frantz W5PF kept us all in line as Net Control. Other Narsians present were: Collin Jenkins KU5B, Rob Nixon KD5BXL, Terry Meyers KQ5U, Mark Janzer K5MGJ, Catherine Janzer KD5WDR, Howard Leverenz AC5VF, Paul Owen N5NXS, Charles Peklenk KD5MJI and Joe Sokolowski KD5KR. Mike brought on board a couple of his volunteers, Mike Lavender KB5WQJ and Dave Heard N5SRC to round out the team.

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

Important Dates

Friday, May 16, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 24, 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, Apr 27, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Contests

May 17-18 Baltic DX, US Counties SSB QSO Party

May 24-25 CQ WW WPX CW

May 31-Jun 1 Great Lakes QSO Party

June 7-8 IARU Region 1 Field Day

June 14 Portugal Day

June 21-22 All Asian CW

June 28-29 ARRL Field Day

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

May 14 Pepperchino

May 21 Luby's Cafeteria

May 28 Jason's Deli

Jun 4 Charlie's Hamburgers

Jun 11 Woodlands House

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

May 14 Skeeter's

May 21 Charlie's Hamburgers

May 28 Cafe Express

Jun 4 Chili's

Jun 11 Fuddrucker'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

May 2003

Greetings to all Narsians. Well NARS volunteers have just wrapped up another public service event: the Buffalo Bayou Regatta in downtown Houston. I want to personally thank all the volunteers who participated in this event. And a special thanks to Mike Hardwick N5VCK for coordinating this event on a last minute notice and for doing such an excellent job.

A question has been brought up about NARS dues: "What do my dues get me, where do my dues go." I feel this is an excellent question and the answer really is one that should be addressed on a regular basis. In the past a large majority of the dues collected went toward having the newsletters printed and to purchase the envelopes and stamps to get them out to all the members. The second big expense has traditionally been Field Day, the rental on the tents and the fuel and expenses to put everything together.

I think a lot of people don't realize that NARS as a club has to have insurance which is required for our activities. We have to have an insurance policy for the use of the church where we have our monthly meetings, for the use of the building where the board meetings are held, and for the Field Day site and for the use of the Tomball Community Center where the VE test sessions are held.

We also help to support repeater expenses that at times can get fairly costly. Antennas get pretty costly at times. The club pays it's dues for ARRL affiliation and is available to represent any ham in the area that has a legitimate request. The club also makes a donation to the Church in appreciation for the use of their building for our meetings.

NARS in the past has had a limited budget due to the yearly cost of the Newsletters, distribution and Field Day. Keith has implemented some changes in the distribution of the Newsletters to an electronic format that has greatly reduced our spending in that area. We have also made some changes to Field Day that has reduced spending in that category. One of the major changes was to go back to cooking on site and the addition of the ladies participation with desserts and condiments. All this has been somewhat positive for the NARS account.

NARS also sponsors an annual Banquet where as the patrons are responsible for covering the cost of their food and drinks. The club covers the cost of the Plaques, Certificates and Awards and other items. Recently NARS has become a sponsor for both the social and financial aspect for TQP (Texas QSO Party). The club support includes Plaques, Certificates, administration supplies and postage. I am proud to say that in the future NARS will be able to add some more sponsorships like TQP to it repertoire.

NARS also has a cost associated with having a Web Site. Another small item associated with Field Day and other club supported special service events or activities are QSL cards and the postage and administration supplies that go along with it. Special Service events (Certificate mail outs), TQP and similar activities like this bring NARS well deserved national recognition and helps to elevate this club to the standard associated with it and its members.

I feel that myself, and the board as a whole have a responsibility to try and support the members through these activities, to try and support what the majority of the members would like to have happen. To make this happen we need ideas from our members. If you feel that you have an area of interests that the club is missing please come forward with your ideas or, better yet, volunteer to help organize an activity.

NARS has always tried to welcome any new members with open arms. New members are the lifeblood of a healthy club. In doing so we have made a decision to not penalize any potential members by charging him or her more money to participate in any club activities such as the Annual Banquet. NARS has made some recent changes and will be making more in the future. Stay tuned and watch for more club sponsored activities.

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 April 26, 2003 there were eleven candidates. The results were five new Technicians and two upgrades to General. Elements administered totaled ten with seven passed.

The VE's were Walter Holmes K5WH, Bob Walworth N5ET, Paul Frantz W5PF, and Keith Dutson WD5DXL.

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

The next NARS VE Test session will be held on May 24, 2003. See ya there.

Walter Hock KK5LO
NARS VE Session Manager

Milliamps Can Kill

The AARL has put together a chart below showing the voltages and currents that might flow through the average human body. The effects on that body are also listed.

You should make sure all of your equipment is housed in metal cabinets and grounded so that if a short occurs the fuse will blow instead of having a shock hazard.

Everyone's body resistance is different. If a body is perspiring, that will be less resistant to a shock. If the skin is dry, there will be more resistance to a shock. If you are exposed to as little as 100 MA it can be lethal. The figures in the chart below are intended as guidelines for the average human body. Safety is the watchword.

Effects of Electric Current Through the Body of an Average Person

<i>Current (1 Second Contact)</i>	<i>Effect</i>
1 mA	Just perceptible
5 mA	Maximum harmless current
10-20 mA	Lower limit for sustained muscular contractions
30-50 mA	Pain
50 mA	Pain, possible fainting. "Can't let go" current.
100-300 mA	Normal heart rhythm disrupted. Electrocution if sustained current.
6 A	Sustained heart contraction. Burns if current density is high.

Even some batteries can be lethal. Automobile batteries are designed to provide very high current (as much as 200A) for short periods when starting a car, and this much current can kill you even at 12 volts.

So have a good time trouble-shooting while being aware of the hazards. Remember, "it's volts that jolts, but it's mills that kill."

Harry AC5XD

Ham and “Sheez” News

April Update:

On Saturday the 12th, eight ladies met at the Arbor Gate nursery in Tomball and enjoyed a “Heavenly Lavender Luncheon”. After an introduction to several herbs, which grow well in this area, Chef Molly Fowler demonstrated the preparation of three dishes. The chilled peach soup, marinated chicken salad, and lemon lavender tea cakes were absolutely delicious. And - yes, each was delicately flavored with lavender. After the luncheon, we did meander through the nursery and managed to purchase a few plants for our gardens. If you have not visited Arbor Gate, you’re truly missing a wonderful experience. If you’re not quite convinced about that, be sure to ask Bruce (NILN) about his tour through Arbor Gate. He would really enjoy sharing his philosophy about the little red wagons versus the green wagons - You’ll just have to ask him to get the full story!

The focus of our April meeting was to plan activities for the next few months. In the next section of this article, you will read about the upcoming meetings and activities.

Also at the meeting, we made special items for each person who took part in the preparation of the Easter baskets for the families of Fort Sam Houston. If you are one of these folks, please be sure to attend the May NARS meeting on Friday, May 16th. A slide presentation will be shown of the Easter basket preparation and delivery, and the epilogue to the story will also be

shared. You won’t want to miss this special evening.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities:

May is already proving to be a very busy month. Calendars are filling with graduation parties, vacation, weddings, and other special events. In lieu of our traditional monthly meeting and outing, the Meiers will host the 2nd annual Ham and “Sheez” Memorial Day Barbeque on Monday, May 26. Specifics will be sent under a separate update. The 2nd annual Ham vs “Sheez” world championship pictionary game may be one of the highlights of the day. Currently, the men hold the championship trophy; however, the women are already plotting ways to return it to its rightful owners!

Last year, the Ham and “Sheez” group began two traditions at Field Day. We were the greeters at the Welcome Tent, and we brought the desserts for the Saturday evening barbeque. Both of those traditions will continue this year. Field Day will be held on Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29. More information about times needed to (wo)man the Welcome Tent and types of desserts will be sent shortly.

Our June meeting will be on Monday, June 30. To celebrate the tremendous success of Field Day and the fact that we have survived yet another very busy month, we will be meeting for dinner (and, perhaps, post-dinner shopping). The time and place is yet to be determined. Trust us - it will be a great evening!

Monthly Ham Recipe:

Yellow Squash Ham Bake - Garden Traditions Cookbook (appropriate don’t you think - even if it doesn’t have any lavender!)

4 medium yellow squash
1 egg white
1/4 cup chicken broth
1 T fresh parsley, chopped
1 T fresh chives, snipped
1/2 cup fresh lemon basil, coarsely chopped
1 lb cooked ham, chopped
8 oz package grated cheddar cheese
1 cup seasoned bread crumbs, plus additional bread crumbs for topping
1/4 to 1/2 cup parmesan cheese

Heat oven to 350. Slice the squash in half, and spoon out the centers. Set centers aside. In a bowl, beat egg white with broth. Add parsley, chives, and basil. Mix. Add reserved squash centers. Fold in ham, cheddar cheese, and 1 cup bread crumbs. Fill each half of yellow squash with mixture. Place in a 9 x 13 inch baking dish with just enough water to bake the squash. Cover squash with parmesan cheese, and sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake for 30 minutes until squash are tender.

When served with a green salad and fresh summer fruits, this side dish can easily become the main course. Enjoy!

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

Is your Multi-Op full of Hot Air?

No, not the operators . . . I mean the heat from multiple amplifiers.

Heat is a problem that plagues us down here in the south. Ninety degree plus days and a couple of amps running creates a very uncomfortable situation. Why do you think you always see "Gator" N5RZ shirtless while operating? Yes, it's a scary sight, I know, but now controllable.

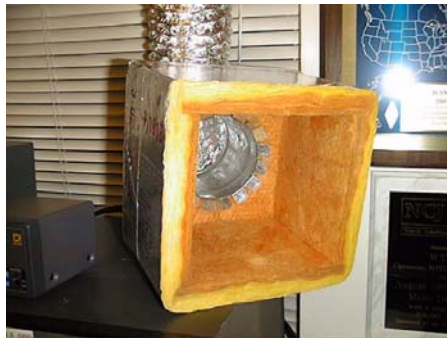
I set out to find a way to exhaust the amplifier heat out of my shack. I have a small room and added extra air conditioning, but the heat from two amps running could not be overcome.

I tried muffin fans, exhaust vented windows, etc., etc. My problem was finding a fan rated for the heat level we are dealing with. Finally . . . to the rescue comes Glenn Thompson with Fantech! Fantech makes several models of clothes dryer boost fans. The fan can handle the heat and overcome the static pressure drop of a long run of ductwork. I settled on the FX4 model with WC15 remote variable speed control. I used hi-temp 4-inch flexible ductwork to connect everything.

For the purpose of showing you how I have this set up, I mounted the fan below my ceiling for the test phase.



Now that I know it all works, the fan is mounted in the attic and only two drops of ductwork come down from the ceiling to the 6" x 6" pickup plenum (see Photos below) sitting on the amp exhaust. (Your local HVAC supplier can make you a duct board plenum.)



In the attic I routed the exhaust side of the fan up to the eve vent at one end of the

house. I have a dryer exhaust end installed to keep bugs out when the fan is not in use.



I have the remote variable speed control mounted by my operating position and it works like a dream. After taking temperature readings at the amp exhaust, use of the exhaust system has dropped the temperature down from 150° to less than 120°. This can only make the tubes happy! Also, my air conditioning system can now hold the room at a nice 75° even when it's 95° + outside.

Retail Costs: FX4 Fan \$148.00, WC-15 Control \$19.00, Duct Board Plenums & Collars \$30, Flex-duct \$15

Mike Hance K5NZ
k5nz@teamcramp.com

A Memorable Evening

For those who were not able to make the NARS meeting last month hosted by Dr Pat Reiff KD5IZK and Dr Carolyn Summers, you missed a most memorable evening. It is difficult to find words to describe this event.

We saw THREE presentations in the planetarium: "Force 5", "Galileo's Legacy, The Astronomer's Of The Vatican" and "Night of the Titanic." All three were excellent, very informative films. The video and sound equipment in the planetarium is state of the art and provides viewing that, in a way, exceeds the capabilities of an IMAX theater. The satellite-in-space simulations were so realistic that the viewers could easily imagine themselves floating through space next to the spacecraft.

Pat was listed in the credits of Titanic, the planetarium's best-selling show. She did extensive research of weather conditions of the time of the tragedy that explained why there was so much ice in the path of the

doomed ship. It was a real treat watching these presentations with live commentary from Pat and Carolyn. It was like reading a best-seller book and having the author at your side to explain the meaning of any passage that was difficult to understand.

After the show Pat and Carolyn served up a large chunk of Jack Cheese, and a variety of crackers. There were also two kinds of wine that complimented the tasty cheese and crackers. Evidence that the crowd enjoyed this treat was the clean platter and empty wine bottles within about 20 minutes!

After the NARS meeting, Pat gave a presentation on her work at Rice University measuring the effects on the earth's magnetosphere of hydrogen and helium plasma ejected during solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CME's). A major CME can eject a mass of protons and electrons equivalent to an entire mountain on earth. She showed a fascinating video

clip of simultaneous auroral activity on both polar caps caused by one of these ejections. Pat takes measurements from data downloaded from a special satellite equipped with a 500 meter dipole and 30 watt transmitter operating in the several hundred KHz to 3 MHz range. Deploying the dipole was quite a challenge that required many small ejections of wire using a cartwheel motion at perigee. The satellite is controlled by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The name of the spacecraft is IMAGE - for more info, see <http://image.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

Pat is the consummate educator. After reviewing this article, she remarked, "For the newsletter write-up you might mention the ham summer camp at the Museum still has spaces for 10-12 year olds (two, one-week classes in July). Students and potential teachers sought! (Colin will be an assistant!)"

Keith WD5DXL

QUA* Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY?

In the last couple of months I have learned many of the reasons people become involved in the amateur radio hobby. It varies between individual, but I have discovered the most important . . . friendship. The latest person to bring this to my attention is Bill Stietenroth. You know him as “Uncle Zed,” who is fiercely protective of the rapport of the NARS club. He even accepts me . . . and I’m not a HAM . . . yet.

Bill was born and reared in Houston and has never lived outside a 50 mile radius. He attended Bellaire High School and has two children, Mike and Terrie, and one granddaughter, Aesha, who is now 18.

In 1980, he met Marilyn Clark and they have been together since. She enjoys landscaping, but he says, none of the frilly stuff. She introduced him to cats and they have three: Miz Woods, who was sitting on his chair and watching him closely as we were talking, Mooch and Meetoo.

Bill has been in the appliance repair business for the last twenty years, but his career started in the petrochemical industry. He was the shop foreman for two companies; Thermex and Heatran Equipment Company, which built custom shell and tube heat exchangers for processing plants. He left this industry to run his own appliance business, James Appliance.

In 1958, an instructor at the Madison Electronics School was a HAM and allowed students to try out his radio. For two years Bill found himself using the instructor’s radio in his spare time and finally got his license in 1960. This was at the urging of his

father, who also became interested in the hobby after hearing about it from Bill.

His nickname is related to his father’s, K5UZW, “Uncle Zed Willy”. OJ found out about this many years later and Bill inherited it. He likes to have fun with it and calls the rest of us his nieces and nephews.

As happens with many hobbies, after thirteen years he set it aside for a while. In fact, he gave his equipment to his father, who never stopped urging him to get involved again. In 1993 Bill’s father died and his mother asked him to take the equipment, which he stored in the attic. He briefly took the two-meter out and listened for a while one day, but became disgusted with foul language and off-color jokes. He almost gave up on the hobby completely, but . . .

His mother also gave him the mail related to amateur radio. He saw a note on the Houston HAM COM and decided to go, just to check things out. There he ran into Jay Rubins, a NARS member, who invited him to the next meeting. Bill Dixon was the club president and the meeting was a recap of Field Day. Bill thought the concept of operating with generated power in difficult circumstances was intriguing. He was hooked. He passed the Extra Class requirements in 1994.

One of the things that have kept him involved is the challenge. His comment was, “anybody can do it if you throw more watts at the antenna”. He likes fishing with a really small hook . . . QRP. Recently he reached the Radio Amateurs of Canada station during their QSO

contest. Quite a feat with 5 watts of power! Two meters is his favorite drive-time radio.

Bill’s favorite radios are the ones he builds himself, such as the Elecraft K2, all band transceiver. He also builds portable antennas and takes them to field day events. In his back yard he has a 50-foot tower with a Force 12, C4S.

Blue grass music is his favorite. The “real stuff”, not the latest popular mixture. In other words . . . I can’t resist . . . he liked blue grass when blue grass wasn’t cool.

Bill has another hobby . . . restoring vintage radios (the kind your grandpa used). There is a challenge and reward to making something left behind useful again. And yes, people in the Vintage Radio hobby are just as opinionated as people in the Amateur Radio hobby!?!

But, he says that we all talk about equipment and contacts but the most important thing that NARS gives us is camaraderie. And, our Uncle Zed defends that rare commodity. In this group he has found very few cliques and unlike many large groups, almost everybody is willing to chip in and help not only with projects, but also with others who are confronting some of life’s difficulties.

I think we all agree, Bill, “If you’re not having fun, you ain’t doing it right!”

*Schalee Lodge, Ham and Sheez
QUA reporter*

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

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

The input from the local members was just great this month. The SFI was on the weak side and getting weaker as we go down the slope to the bottom of the solar cycle. The DX is expected to move to lower frequencies as we go towards the bottom of the solar cycle, so as you work that DX remember to put it on your input list for the next DX column. 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 April report is beginning to reflect the changes in the solar cycle and the local activity report is.

Al, W5ADF, was the first report in this month and he found the band conditions not too favorable the past month, but managed to get a few new ones. OY7QA, Faroe Island, 12M; TU2DP, Ivory Coast, 15M; EL2AR, Liberia, 15M; ZA1B, Albania, 20M; TX4PG, Marquesas Island, 15M. All of these were on phone. Al also received some nice QSL cards this month: 6W1RD, Senegal; ZL7C, Chatham Island; OY9JD, Faroe Island and FS/W2AZK, French St. Martin. Al says he has 197 confirmed on phone with a vertical and a little help from the 15M dipole and Amp. I wonder if Al is going to shooting for a 5BDXCC or the Honor Roll? Which ever it is we wish him good luck.

This next report is just a little different and that may be it is from the guy who has worked just about everything including North Korea. He is going on an IOTA expedition to Bonnie Scotland and sent along this schedule in hope of working some of the local guys while he is in the islands. SCOTTISH ISLANDS (GM): Bob N5ET with XYL, Linda, KE5TF and Peter, GM3OFT, expect to be QRV from RAASAY ISLAND (EU-008, iosa NH-10, Scotia CN-24) from 0900z on SAT. 31st MAY for c. 5 hours. On GREAT CUMBRAE ISLAND (EU-123, iosa CL-03, Scotia CS-17) from 1130z on WED. 4th JUNE for c. 6 hours. Bands 15m, 20m, 40m will be used following propagation. The call sign will be MM/N5ET/P. Direct QSLs EU-only via GM3OFT, all other areas via N5ET or buro. Since these are not tropical islands, the short hours must be a workaround ferry schedules and pub hours. These seem to be good ones to get as the window will be small. Many IOTA chasers will be after these. We will listen for you.

Jim, KJ5X, reports that April was not a busy month in the KJ5X shack. However, worked HU1M on 80M CW; SO5X on 20M and 15M SSB; ZA1B on 20M SSB and J3/HB9CGA on 40M CW. Jim got his

rotator control switch fixed and has the beam aimed north where he is listening for 9N and S2 among others. Actually he heard a whisper one evening from 9N, but no luck. The reward has not been taken so stay on the lookout and call. Actually I need them as well so I'd work 'em and then make the call. If you notice North Korea is not on his short list. Good luck on the quest, Jim.

Bruce, N1LN, reports this month the focus was increased on QSLs and the quest for 5BDXCC. The first step was to check my latest ARRL status report against my log to get 40 and 80 accurate (20 thru 10 are already well over the 100 confirmed mark). As of this writing, I am pleased to state that between the ARRL actual and what I have in hand 40 meters is now at 102 confirmed. I just finished the 80-meter audit and now with the QSLs in to be submitted, when added to the ARRL actuals, I will be at 70 confirmed on 75/80. I currently have 20 somewhere in the mail and lots more to send. I don't think I will make the 100 total by HamCom, but perhaps before the 2003 QSL checking deadline. I have plenty worked, but the paperwork ALWAYS gets me. New Band Countries: SO5X - Western Sahara - 80cw, 30 cw, 17 ssb, 12 ssb/cw; ZD8A - Ascension Isl - 80CW; C56TA - The Gambia - 80cw and I just worked TX4PG - Marquesas Island ... first call on 40cw. Well it looks like Bruce is really getting the job done, but like most things now days the job is not done until the paper work is finished.

John, W5PDW, wrote that he had fun playing radio this month working 18 countries and several "Special Event" stations. However the fun of getting QSL for John has not changed for he reports; "Incoming QSL's have really been slow at "All" locations!" I think the red flag just went up in the neighborhood. John has also had at least one supervised visit in the neighborhood because he says, "Got a look at the new Orion @ WF5W's QTH. Actually, I got to play with it. Had to wear gloves though. I don't think I've ever heard such beautiful audio. The rig is the size of a Heathkit DX-100 and has about as many knobs and buttons as the entire Heath line!!" I'm sure glad Cal was home for this visit. Getting to the business of DX here is John's DX: SO5X on 15 and 20 M; 9K2; S92; 4X4; UA; 8P6; YV5; 8R1; H44; TR8; J69; TG9; FO; ZD8; HC2; HC8; ST2 and VP5. This is a really good report for this month and I just wonder what bands some of these were on as I need a few of them myself. Good hunting John.

Bob, WB5IUU, has a little report this

month. It seems he is searching for a few good countries. He hasn't claimed to have worked any countries this month, but has 330 countries for DXCC but short the following: P5, BS7H, E4, BV9P, VU4, A5, SV/A, XZ, 5A, XW and FK/C. Maybe by the end of the summer I will have the W51 up and the TB6EM tuned and ready to go. With a report like this, I think there may be an antenna party somewhere soon.

K5CX, ex-WA5MLT, and known far and wide by H.O. said he had a meager contribution for April 2003. "What a month? Just too much going on, yet a few nice DX QSOs did tiptoe into the log for a total of 35! Within the log there were: 31 prefixes and 16 CQ zones. The band breakdown once again shows that 20 meters lives up to its name as the "money band." 1 Q on 80 meters, 1 on 40, 16 on 20, 8 on 17, 6 on 15, 1 on 12, and 2 QSOs on 10 meters. New band countries for the month included SO5X on 12 meters, and OY7QA on 17 meters. Also appearing in the K5CX log: 3XD02/P, Guinea; 4X1AD, Israel; 5H3RK, Tanzania; 5Z4BK, Kenya; 6W/F5VHQ, Senegal; C53CW, C53ZF and C56TA, Gambia; CP6XE, Bolivia; CT1DVV, Portugal; EA6UN, Balearic Island; HC2/80, Ecuador; HI3TEJ, Dominican Rep, HU1M/3, El Salvador; I5REA, Italy; JY5HX, Jordan; OY7QA and OY7WP, Faroe Islands; SO5X, Western Sahara; S92UN, Sao Tome & Principe; SU1HM, Egypt; TG9NX, Guatemala; TI2VW and TI5/N0KE, Costa Rica; TX4PG, Marquesas Islands; VP2V/NH7FY, British Virgin Islands; VP5/GM3JOB, Turks & Caicos Islands; ZA1B, Albania; ZF2JC, Cayman Islands; and ZK1AYL, on South Cook Island." It looks like this is one of the better reports for the month and H.O. must be really burning up the ether.

Here at the KQ5U shack things were very slow. The reason here is amateur radio got a little competition from backpacking this month with almost two weeks in the woods. The log shows only ten QSOs for the month, but four new countries were worked: J5UYB, Guinea-Bissau (15CW); EK6TA, Armenia (20SSB); TX4PG, Marquesas Island (10CW, 15SSB, 40CW, 20CW, 10SSB, 17SSB, 20SS and 30CW); VK9XY, Christmas Island (15CW); VK9XC, Christmas Island (20SSB). I managed to get several nice QSL cards this month confirming "new ones." They were: ZK2GI, Niue; 5X1DC, Uganda; CY0MM, Sable Island; 7P8ZZ, Lesotho and ZL7C, Chatham Island.

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DX News - Continued from page 7

Last month the SFI was fairly high, in the 155 area and then dropped to the 90's in the middle of the month. It then came back up to the 150 mark but was accompanied by flair activity limiting the activity on the higher bands. The noise level on 80M seems to high nearly every day now with the thunderstorm activity in the central parts of the country. This is most likely marking the end of the 80M DX activity for most of us. This month we will be passing through the Aquarid meteor showers on May 6, 2003 (debris from Haley's comet) and Mercury will pass between the Earth and the Sun (May 7, 2003) an event that happens only 13 times a century. With all this unusual activity starting of the month I would suspect the SFI forecast is way off target. However, it may be that 6M will be hot and a good shot at some 6M DX may be at hand. Dust off that 6M rig and give it a listen.

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 06

UTC Date	Radio Flux 10.7 cm	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2003 May 07	110	25	5
2003 May 08	105	20	4
2003 May 09	105	15	3
2003 May 10	100	15	3
2003 May 11	100	20	4
2003 May 12	100	20	4
2003 May 13	100	25	5
2003 May 14	100	25	5
2003 May 15	110	20	4
2003 May 16	115	20	4
2003 May 17	120	15	3
2003 May 18	125	20	4
2003 May 19	130	20	4
2003 May 20	130	15	3
2003 May 21	130	20	4
2003 May 22	135	20	4
2003 May 23	145	15	3
2003 May 24	150	15	3
2003 May 25	150	15	3
2003 May 26	155	15	3
2003 May 27	155	15	3
2003 May 28	150	25	5
2003 May 29	145	20	4
2003 May 30	145	12	3
2003 May 31	140	8	3
2003 Jun 01	125	15	3
2003 Jun 02	115	15	3

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

9N - Dov, 4Z4DX will be active (on 160-6 meters CW and digital modes) as 9N7DX from Nepal from 21 April to 15 May. QSL

via home call.

J2, DJIBOUTI. Karsten, DL2LAH, is expected to be active from here between the end of February and the beginning of June. Currently his call sign is unknown. His activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL via his home call sign. Cards will be answered after his return home.

ST, SUDAN. Gerben, PA5NT, states that there is a possibility that he will be active from the Sudan again after March 16th. The latest details and the final announcement will be available via his web site. ADDED NOTE: The ST2X story is now available on Dan's Web site and can also be downloaded in PDF format (as well as the JW0PK story). Dan's Web site is at: <http://www.dx.to/>

8Q - Ivan, 8Q7VR has been active from the Maldives (AS-013) since 16 February and will be there until May. QSL via UR9IDX.

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.

SUDAN, ST. Marco, ST1MN, is a new station in the Sudan. He will hit the airwaves from Feb 28 until June. Marco has no pile up experience at all, so please be patient with him! Claudio, IV3OWC, will join him by the mid of March and will sign ST1C for one month. A participation in the CQ WPX SSB Contest is planned as well. QSL via IV3OWC.

SV9 - Dick, G3URA is active as SV9/G3URA from Crete until 15 May. He will be on RTTY during the ARI and Volta contests; outside the contests, he will be active again on PSK31, including the WARC bands. QSL via home call, either direct or through the bureau.

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.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Trevor, VK7TS and Rex, VK7MO will be QRV as VK9LS from May 3 to 10. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK31. They will also be on 2 meters and 70 and 23 cm using JT44, FSK441, VFSKCW and SSB for Meteor Scatter QSOs. QSL via operators' instructions.

HS0, THAILAND. Charles Harpole, K4VUD, will once again activate his Thailand call sign, HS0ZCW, for the period of April 28th to about June 15th. He states,

"Please note... WARC band operations in Thailand are NOT ALLOWED at the present time. Local hams are working on permissions." He also mentions that 80/160 meters operations are only during some contests and only then in small 3 KC windows, CW and SSB.

LX, LUXEMBOURG. Johannes, DF5AU, will be active as LX5A during the CQ-MIR-DX-Contest weekend, May 10-11th. Activity will be on CW/SSB and on 160-10 meters. QSL via LX1RQ either direct or through the bureau. Visit the Web page at: <http://www.qsl.net/lx5a/activities.htm>

AFGHANISTAN, YA. Nick, G4KUX, is signing YA4F until April 2004. QSL via home call.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Jake, N6XIV, is working on Wake Island until May 19. He plans to be active during his spare time. QSL via K2FF, bureau ok.

This month I would like to reflect on some DX links on the web. I have found a few that are of good quality and might be worth a look. I have not made a special effort to find these and don't necessarily remember how I came across them but felt they were worth passing along. So without further ado I will do so.

If you are looking for beam headings or just general calculations, you should be able to find it here. The first is mostly navigation, but the second is just about anything. <http://williams.best.vwh.net/avform.htm>
<http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators.html>

The following are directly DX related and last two on the list have links to most of the on-line logs that are active. Several are DX clusters that are helpful when DXSummit or your favorite cluster is down. <http://www.425dxn.org/425/calendar.html>
<http://www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/adxo.html>
<http://www.cestro.com/pcluster/>
<http://www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Dxcc/>
<http://www.dxscape.com/>
<http://golist.net/>
<http://www.geocities.com/n6ed/>
<http://www.dxr.org/>

I have a few more "good ones," but to avoid overwhelming the Internet I will hold those for another time. I hope the DX is a bit better as summer progresses. The North/South propagation should pick up.

Until next month may the DX be with you.

73 Terry, KQ5U

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Debbie Lane KD5UOT and David Northcutt WB5KLH.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
Allen Majeski WA5REJ
281-353-8652, wa5rej.tx@netzero.net
Bill Denton W5SB - Antennas
281-469-8331, w5sb@arrl.net
O J Quarles K1OJ - HF
281-955-1555, k1oj@ditdit.com
Larry McCain KN5Z
281-469-6709, kn5z@arrl.net
Madison Jones W5MJ
281-350-4330, w5mj@houston.rr.com

Satellite:

Deral Kent K5WNO - RS 12/13
281-548-7476, k5wno@juno.com
Dick Rooney W5VHN
281-288-8424, dickrooney@usa.net

Web Authoring:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL
281-351-7683 wd5dxl@arrl.net

Packet:

Don Bedell KA3BKU
281-370-6576, DonKA3bku@aol.com

VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA
281-894-5942, n5ba@arrl.net

Interference (Basic Advice):

Harry Gage AC5XD
281-370-7488, hjgage@aol.com
Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com

Card Checking Awards Managers:

Bob Walworth N5ET - DXCC
281-363-0209, n5et@arrl.net
Brian Derx N5BA - WAS, VUCC
281-894-5942, n5ba@arrl.net
H O Townsend K5CX - WAZ
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL
281-351-7683, wd5dxl@arrl.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

Peter Wang KF5ND
281-550-3864 kf5nd@yahoo.com

NARS Information

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Gregg Erlenbusch W5IDX
281-970-6860 W5DIX@qsl.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Bruce Meier N1LN
936-271-1096 n1ln@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Bob Walworth N5ET
281-363-0209 n5et@arrl.net

TREASURER

Tom Hoherd KK5YU
281-370-2941, kk5yu@att.net

DIRECTORS

Danny Richards N5BE
281-999-4481 n5be@arrl.net
Terry Myers KQ5U
281-443-6042 kq5u@arrl.net
Rob Nixon KD5BXZ
281-890-7074 kd5bxz@arrl.net
George Levandoxki KD5AYF
713-895-0700 kd5ayf@arrl.net

ACTIVITIES CO-CHAIRMEN

Terry Myers KQ5U
Danny Richards N5BE

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Joe Sokolowski, KD5KR
281-353-2196, kd5kr@arrl.net

Send address, phone, email and other changes to:

NARS
PO Box 90387
Houston, TX 77090-0387

NETS

10M Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM, 28,444 ssb
Coordinator: Jim Kirk KJ5X
281-376-0718 kj5x@swbell.net

WEB SITE

URL: <http://www.w5nc.org>
Webmaster: H.O. Townsend K5CX
281-376-7416 k5cx@arrl.net

NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.qth.net
Coordinator: Peter Wang KF5ND
281-550-3864 kf5nd@yahoo.com

TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: H.O. Townsend K5CX
281-376-7416 k5cx@arrl.net

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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Editor: Keith Dutson WD5DXL
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

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