

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 2004

April Meeting - FM Communication

Deviation, not the kind that will land you in jail, but the heart of FM communication will be the venue of April's meeting. George DiLetto, KD0RW, of Houston Amateur Radio Supply, will explain how to get your YeaComWood FM two meter radio to work well with your Texas drawl. He will demonstrate the cause and effects of under and over deviation as it passes through the repeater. This is a really important topic as we move from wide FM to narrow FM. Find out how the old and new rigs measure up. If you would like, bring your 2 meter rig or HT and see what it looks like on the test equipment. Come to the meeting 16 April 2004 at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church and learn how to make your FM communication more enjoyable.

Annual Picnic 2004

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 11:00AM until 4:00PM

Location: 24415 Deep Meadow, Tomball - see map below

Food: BBQ and side dishes from Rib Tickler, home made rolls and desserts

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Bring your own chairs and drinks.

Come join the NARS crowd for good eats, games and plenty of eyeball QSO's. Horseback rides will be available for kids and daring adults. There may even be a bit of music entertainment from the NARS Pickers.

Tables will be rented. We need a volunteer to pick them up in their truck. Do you have a truck?

Another volunteer is needed to pick up the BBQ from Rib Tickler. We also need horseshoes, washers and badminton. Do you have one of these? If so, please call 281-351-7683. Thanks.

A dessert or two will be made in the WD5DXL kitchen. Do you have a favorite dessert (hint - chocolate chip cookies - yum) to show off? If so, bring it along. I am sure it will be appreciated and you will receive plenty of comments and critique.

Mark your calendar now for this fun, informal get-together.

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

Important Dates

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

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

Saturday, Apr 24, 11:00 AM - NARS Annual Picnic, WD5DXL's QTH, 24415 Deep Meadow Dr, Tomball.

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

Contests

Apr 17-18 GACW CW DX, YU DX, MI QSO Party, ON QSO Party

Apr 24-25 SP RTTY DX, Helvetia, FL QSO Party

May 1-2 ARI Int'l DX, In QSO Party, New Eng QSO Party

May 8-9 CQ-M Int'l DX

May 29-30 CQ WW CW WPX, Great Lakes QSO Party

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Apr 14 Neal's Restaurant

Apr 21 Matthais' Restaurant

Apr 28 Hill Country Kitchen Buffet

May 5 Red Lobster

May 12 Casa Imperia Mexican

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Apr 14 Luther's BBQ

Apr 21 Skeeter's

Apr 28 Charlie's Hamburgers

May 5 Cafe Express

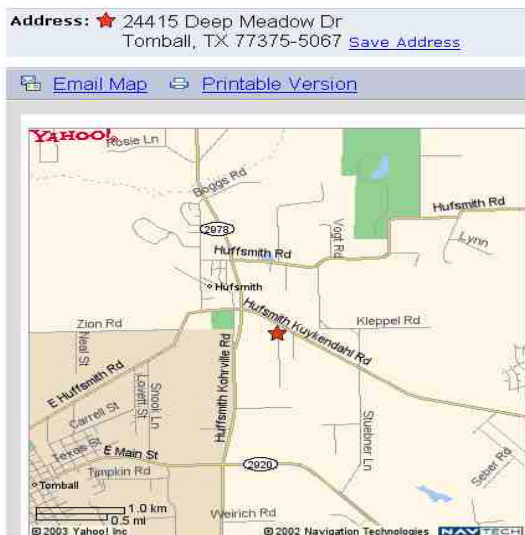
May 12 Chili's

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

April 2004

WHAT GOES UP MAY COME DOWN - FASTER!

The 2003 - 2004 contest season is coming to a close and the cool weather has turned into spring. Before the hot humid summer weather gets here, it is time to start thinking about getting that new antenna up in the air or repairing one or more of the old ones. Find a tower and there is a good chance you will find an antenna project. If you listen to 146.66 you have probably heard some of us talking about the current and future tower and antenna projects. How much work it is, how much fun it is and, when the work is done, how well the new aluminum and copper perform.

I am sure that everyone is very aware that working "ON" towers can be very dangerous. The climbers always wear safety belts and are very cautious during the climb up, the actual time working on the tower and then again during the climb down. It is obvious to all of us that safety and caution are mandatory no matter what height you are working. What we may not realize is how dangerous being part of the ground crew can be. How many of us wear hard hats when part of the ground crew. I would bet less than 5%. Have you ever been helping on a tower crew when one of the climbers dropped something? I have dropped bolts, nuts, and an occasional tool. The ONLY tower project that I can remember wearing hard hats was at Keith Dutson's. Not only did we wear the hats, Keith had them there waiting for us when we got there. WAY TO GO KEITH! Please follow one simple rule this spring and all the time. NEVER stand at or near the base of the tower when something is going on up top even if you wear a hard hat.

Famous last words: "I don't have a tower so there is nothing to worry about in the way of tower or ground crew safety." How hard is it to simply get a line over your favorite tree branch?

Well, you don't need to be working on or around towers to be exposed to situations that might cause injuries. How did you get that line through the tree? Tie a box wrench on the end of a rope and throw it over? Use a sling shot with a fishing reel and sinker? Put that ladder against the tree limb? Last time I used a sling shot I ended up with a big gash in my thigh and blood dripping from my forehead. The sinker got snagged in the tree and after it broke free gravity took over and "BANG". Lucky it hit my forehead and not my glasses. The leg gash was due to me watching the sinker and not what was in the woods where I was working. I still don't know what I ran into, but the results were quite evident. If that happened with a sinker one can just imagine how much faster that box wrench would be moving and the increased "damage to weight" ratio it would have.

I don't think much time is needed to discuss ladders. Just think about branch strength, power lines and aluminum, the bottoms sliding out from under it, keep going!!

So, in closing, it is spring and one of the best times of the year here in Houston to get that antenna project done. Remember - whatever type of rig you have, it is no good without a good antenna. Whatever type of antenna you have, it is no good without a rig. And, most important, neither is any good without YOU.

Bruce Meier
NILN

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

Events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (May), SIRE Ride-A-Thon (October) and Sunmart Texas Trails Run (December). Events supported by NARS members include Houston Marathon, MS 150 and Wings Over Houston.

Plan to help with one or more of these events in 2004.

VE Session Results

The NARS VE Test Session held March 27, 2004, served seven candidates. The results were five new Technicians, and two upgrades to Extra. Elements administered totaled nine with eight passed.

The VE's in attendance were Kirby Van Horn W7SV, Laurie Meier N1YXU, Keith Dutson WD5DXL, Gregg Erlenbusch W5IDX, H. O. Townsend K5CX, Steve Smothers W9DX, Mark Tyler K5GQ, Brian Derx N5BA and Bob Walworth N5ET.

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

The next NARS VE Test session will be held on April 24, 2004. I'll see you there.

Norm Covey K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager

Highlights from the NARS Board Meeting

The regular monthly NARS board meeting was held on March 31 at the Terranova Clubhouse. The following board members were in attendance: Bruce Meier, Jerry Whiting, Paul Frantz, Chuck Sanders, Tom Hoherd, Lee Kinard, Rob Nixon along with the following guests: Joe Sokolowski, Bill Stietenroth, Keith Dutson, Laurie Meier, Mike Lodge, and Marty Fitzgerald. Highlights of the meeting:

Programs - It was reported that the April program will feature a talk by George Diletto on repeaters. As you will recall George received an award from the club at the recent banquet in large part due to his long-standing support of the club in maintaining the repeater. This should be an interesting talk by a recognized local expert. Following on the heels of the excellent talk by Yap DXpedition members Paul and Cal it is certainly true that the club is fortunate to have many interesting programs that keep us all coming back for more.

Voice Repeater - Bill Stietenroth reported that the cabling work on the repeater has been completed and passed around some pictures of the work that was performed.

Field Day - The discussion led by coordinators Mike and Marty centered primarily on the issue of competitive vs. non-competitive focus, possibility for team captains, food, and site. It was decided that, based on last year's excellent fourth place showing in 2A with a semi-competitive approach, the club has a good chance of moving up with a little more competitive focus and it was agreed that the goal would be to increase competitiveness while maintaining the social aspects of the event. Bruce Meier volunteered to be a team captain for either the CW or GOTA station. The primary action item resulting from the discussion was for the coordinators to contact the site administrator to ensure its availability.

Fund raising - The annual raffle was discussed with an exciting departure from traditional NARS raffles. Further details will be announced at the April Meeting.

Publicity - Laurie reported that she had begun making plans for the Field Day publicity campaign and named several notables that she was planning to invite.

Ham & Sheez - Laurie reported that the Adopt-a-Platoon project had received a tremendous response with a large contribution of back-to-basics items as well as cash donations to defray the cost of shipping. She reported that the first package to our platoon would be sent out the next day. We are hoping to receive our first communications from the unit by mid to late-April.

On the last Tuesday of each month the board meets at 7:30 pm at the Terranova Club House to discuss club business and to set direction for the club. All members are invited to attend the board meetings and if interested should contact any board member if directions are needed or if they desire a specific item to be on the agenda.

C. W. Sanders, NO5W
NARS Secretary

Ham and "Sheez" News

Adopt-a-Platoon Update

As usual, quite a lot has happened since the last update from the Ham and "Sheez" group! The most significant is that we have been accepted to sponsor a platoon in Iraq while they are deployed. The organization that we have been dealing with to become a sponsor is called Adopt-a-Platoon [<http://www.adoptaplatoon.org>]. The troop that we are sponsoring is the Army's 428th Military Police Company, 3rd platoon, stationed in Baghdad. There are twenty-eight soldiers in the platoon, and five are women. Currently, they are scheduled to be deployed until January 2005. Our sponsorship includes sending weekly letters and monthly care packages. As of the writing of this update, we have mailed three weekly letters and our first monthly care package -- Back to Basics. Thanks to the tremendous support of NARS members and friends, we shipped four boxes as part of the Back to Basics theme. Each of the twenty-eight soldiers will receive an individual bag filled with toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash, deodorant, soap, shampoo, lotion, razor, chapstick, handwipes, mints, coffee, an individual Easter card, and two plastic Easter eggs filled with candies). The ladies also received a few items especially for them. You made all of this possible -- thank you for your tremendous support!

Your continued support in our efforts to sponsor the platoon in Iraq are requested and sincerely appreciated. Every month, we will have a different theme for the care package. A few weeks before the monthly NARS meeting, we will send a note letting everyone know the theme. If you would like to contribute any items toward the monthly care package, please bring the items to the NARS meeting. If you would prefer to make a donation toward defraying postage expenses, there will also be a coffee can for donations at each NARS meeting. But, the most important thing you can do is this -- help us with the weekly letter. You can do this by writing a note, asking your child/grandchild to draw a picture, taking a picture of your hamshack, writing a postcard, cutting out interesting newspaper or magazine articles, or bringing the comics from the paper. Then, bring the items you have for the weekly letter to the NARS meeting. Throughout the following month, we will put some of the items into each of the weekly letters. Communication is the most important gift we can give the soldiers. Through this communication, the members of the platoon will get to know us, and we will get to know them.

The care package theme for this month is "Spice Up Your Life". For those of you who have been in the military, you're very well aware that military food can be rather (horribly) bland. The idea of this care package is to help add a little flavor to the meals. If you would like to contribute to this

month's care package, please bring small condiment (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, hot sauce, etc.) packages to the meeting. The size suggested is the type of packaging that you find at fast food places like McDonald's. Also, any types of spices in small plastic bottles would also be appreciated. Another suggestion for the care package is beef jerky or beef sticks. Please note: We cannot send any products that have pork due to strict religious regulations. All your contributions will be collected at the NARS meeting on Friday, April 16. We sincerely thank you in advance for your support!

Our first weekly letter was sent on March 10. It included a letter of introduction and some miscellaneous items that we thought the troops would enjoy. At this time, the U.S. Post Office is estimating that letters and packages take approximately three weeks to be delivered to Iraq. Assuming that time-frame is close to accurate, we are cautiously optimistic that we may receive a note back from the platoon in time for the April meeting. We will share all the letters we receive from the platoon at NARS meetings.

Your suggestions for items to send either in the weekly letter or in the monthly care package would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know your ideas, especially if you have served in the military,

March Activities

In addition to starting our work through the Adopt-a-Platoon organization, we had a full month of activities. On Saturday, March 13, Georgina, Pat, and Pat's daughter spent the day on the Azalea Trail sponsored by the River Oaks Garden Club. They had a terrific time going to the various sites along the trail and have already suggested an outing for an upcoming month -- visiting some of the incredible homes that are open along the Azalea Trail. Don't be surprised, ladies, to read that one of our monthly outings will be to go into Houston and tour the homes.

We held our monthly meeting on Monday, March 29. Georgina Frantz was gracious enough to provide each of us with a copy of the Texas Medical Power of Attorney and corresponding Directive document. She reviewed each section of the directive to ensure that we understood the implications both in terms of the wording of the directive and in terms of potential actions from the directive. It was a very informative review and one that everyone should take time to ensure he/she understands implications of having/not having a signed directive. Georgina -- Sincere thanks for providing the overview to our group. It was greatly appreciated.

Also, at our monthly meeting, we began the process of boxing the care package for our platoon. With several hands, the work went very quickly. After completing an inventory of items that were needed, we decided to

meet again on Wednesday, March 31, and complete the packaging. As planned, the first care package boxes were mailed on Thursday, April 1. Many thanks to everyone involved for your tremendous efforts! At each of our monthly meetings, we will be boxing the care package and getting it ready for shipment.

Upcoming Activities

Our April outing has been named by Schalee as a Wine and "Sheez" outing! On Saturday, April 17, we will be attending the Wine and Roses Festival at the Messina Hof winery in Bryan. If you would like to find out more about the full day of events that are planned, please check their website -- http://www.messinahof.com/festival_wineandroses2.htm. If you scan through the events, you'll notice the grape stomping challenge. Who knows -- you may just see a few folks you know participating in the grape stomping event -- at least, I've heard rumors to that effect! Hope to see you there.

Our April meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church. We will be creating beautiful greeting cards with the help of the artistic talents of Carol and Shannon. Be sure to join us and make a personal card for an upcoming birthday, anniversary, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or other holiday. Please bring your fancy-edged scissors; any miscellaneous ribbons, buttons, material, and other notions; and your imagination! Guaranteed to be a fun evening. We will also be boxing the "Spice Up Your Life" care package for shipment. The meeting will start around 7:30. We hope to see you then!

Monthly recipe:

Ham in Cider (Fix-It and Forget-It Recipes for Entertaining)

3 lb ham (or larger; whatever fits into your slow cooker)
4 cups sweet cider or apple juice
1 cup brown sugar
2 tsp dry mustard
1 tsp ground cloves
2 cups white seedless raisins

Place ham and cider in slow cooker. Cover. Cook on low 8 to 10 hours. Remove ham from cider and place in baking pan. Make a paste of sugar, mustard, cloves, and a little hot cider. Brush over ham. Pour a cup of juice from slow cooker into baking pan. Stir in raisins. Bake at 375 for 30 minutes until the paste has turned into a glaze. Serves 6 to 8.

Enjoy!

Best regards,
Laurie Meier - N1YXU
936-271-1096
n1yxu@arrrl.org

QUA* Bill Denton W5SB?

Just about the time I think there couldn't possibly be another interesting person around I talk with another one of our NARS members. I get the feeling that the Earth must sag a little from the combined weight of knowledge in the Northwest corner of Houston on the third Friday of the month! And, I have barely even begun.

I finally hung up the phone yesterday evening after two hours on the phone with "Super Bill" W5SB, Bill Denton. By the way, he doesn't know who started that one, but he does like it better than a few of the other possibilities presented.

Bill started the in Knox City, in Northwest Texas. He had a scholarship at Hardin Simmons College in basketball and track. He wanted to be involved in agriculture and the role of county agent interested him, but he couldn't get the required classes at the College he was attending. He then made what he calls the best move of his life to Lubbock, where he met Marion at a poker game. NO, I didn't say he won her at the game - it was friendly. She was there with someone and so was he, but they noticed each other and were married in 1958. Their wedding was on a Saturday and on Monday he had a notice to appear for his physical - a prelude to the draft. She was from Houston, so they decided to move there where she could attend the University of Houston. He had his paperwork transferred and they gave him three months due to the circumstances. During that time he decided to enlist instead of taking his chances at the draft. The enlisting officer asked if he had ever heard of Military Security. Bill replied, "No." and then asked what it meant. Neither one could figure it out, but they only had one opening, so Bill decided to take his chances. He was sent to Massachusetts for training then to a VERY remote post in northern Turkey. He was stationed there for a year with directional listening equipment tracking Soviet information. After that year he was sent to Ft. Bragg and attached to the 82nd Airborne, specifically working with Special Forces. He was just a few days short of time left to be transferred with several others on the base to the first group sent into Viet Nam.

After the military, and arriving back in Houston, he had decided that broadcasting interested him. He took several jobs to get to know people and find possibilities. When finally interviewing for a job with Channel 13 the interviewer asked him if he had a First Class Radio License and he said, "No, but I'm a Ham.", and he was hired on the spot! He said that every Ham he had hired had been a success.

This is where the really interesting part starts. Bill has so many stories about people he has met and places he has gone that I can only cover a few of the high points, but I'm sure he would love to tell more if you ask. I'll do my best to do it justice.

Bill spent the next six years on the NASA television crew. He was on the teams that interviewed the astronauts, kept watch over their homes, monitored lift-offs and was involved in nearly every major event.

The most memorable was the phone call in the middle of the night when there was a problem on Apollo 13. President Johnson was flying to town for a press conference and all the equipment had to be ready.

When the Huntley-Brinkley group came to town he was responsible for the equipment working properly. But his favorite responsibility was working with the foreign news teams. They would set up a camera and feed and then each reporter had a time slot. They would step in front of the camera

and go live to China, Germany, France, England (the only one he could understand) then step off, exchange feed and the next one would step forward. The coordinator of this group was an Egyptian who spoke every language fluently. It was intriguing!

During this time Bill also worked for Channel 2, but finally ended up with a production company. Their main activity was commercials, but they also covered every Houston Rocket game, the first color game from the Astrodome and the first broadcast from the Summit. He also covered concerts, musical specials, pageants, special sporting events and elections.

Mohammad Ali's first fight from the Astrodome was televised and Bill was on the crew within a few feet of Howard Cosell.

Here are a few more highlights.

At the final show of the Grand Ol' Opry, in the original building in Nashville, everyone had left for lunch and he was the only one in the building. He heard a very deep voice say, "Hey, where did everybody go?" It was Johnny Cash, with wife, June and their son. They had arrived early before the crew had everything ready. He was very friendly and laughed about the place being empty.

After the show Bill was backing out of his parking place when centered in his mirror was the largest bosom he had ever seen. He had to turn and look, can you blame him? Of course, it was Dolly, just trotting behind his car. Can't you just see it!

His crew was in the Philippines covering the Miss Universe Contest while in the parking lot and in several places in the hotel bombs where exploding. They didn't like them being in their country! Lynn Redgrave was one of the judges and she was coming down an escalator when it caught her gown. He looked back and it was around her ankles! A designer, who was also a judge took her back to her room and made a marvelous dress out of a bed sheet. No one knew, until now!

He covered a Kennedy speech from Houston on November 21. He remembers looking up as the band played "Hail to the Chief". Kennedy strode in not five feet away. The next day he was assassinated in Dallas. It still is a sobering thought.

He covered both Johnson's election from Austin and his funeral at the ranch.

He was in Lake Tahoe for a concert when the crew was taking a break in the parking lot. A huge black Rolls Royce limo pulled up and before it even stopped the back door flew open and out jumped a tiny man. It was Sammy Davis, Jr. He walked up, shook hands and asked what was going on.

Ask him about your favorite - Patrick Swayze, Bob Newhart, Sonny and Cher, Kenny Rogers, Bob Crane, Ed McMahon, and probably others he has forgotten! Unbelievably he doesn't have any autographs. The crew always considered backstage the actor's private area and therefore gave them plenty of quiet space.

The events he didn't cover were a Super Bowl, World Series and the Olympic Games. He went to work for the production company the day after they covered the 1974 Super Bowl in Houston. He was scheduled for the 7th game of the World Series in San Francisco. The series ended with the sixth, and he was slotted for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, but the ABC union pulled rank and the affiliate stations didn't get to send crew.

Disappointments seem small in comparison with the things he was able to do.

He burned out in 1981. He walked into his boss's office and said, "I've had enough."

He heard about a job with the Spring Branch School district and went from Class 5 rapids to Spring creek in the summertime! His days were now from 8 to 4 and he had weekends to his family. At first he wasn't sure he could handle the difference, but he did, for the next 21 years. When retired he stepped into another slower level, but still finds too many things to do!

Spring Branch had the largest television production facility in a school district in the United States. They set up some of the first broadcasts from one school to another. A teacher could teach a class in a different school. They could see her and she could also see them.

One of his final projects was to transmit live from the Globe Theater in London to a class in Houston. The class could ask the actors and directors questions and get immediate responses.

Bill and Marion have two daughters who have produced five grandchildren. One daughter lives in Houston and one in Connecticut.

They have five rescued cats. The oldest is 16 years and the newest has an interesting history. Marion's aunt was bedridden for several years and had a three-legged cat that always slept at the end of her bed. When they brought him home after her death the vet said the cat was totally blind. They allowed it to have its own area, but after a while it began exploring. He now sleeps on the window-sill, chases things thrown across the floor and probably thinks he is in kitty heaven.

When I asked my radio equipment question Bill responded that "it isn't important". He enjoys talking with people and learning who they are, where they live and usually never discusses equipment. His favorite band is 17 meters and I did catch that he has a 100 foot tower.

His most memorable contact was when he was in St Croix for the contest and a gentleman said he heard a southern accent and was home-sick. He was a missionary in Africa. He then said, "Have you heard of Tomball, Texas? That's where I'm from."

Another time he called a guy on the east coast who asked if he had heard of the NARS radio group in Houston, Texas. He said he was a past president! Bill replied that he was the current president!!! They talked every Sunday afternoon for several years.

Bill has several hobbies including reading; he is working his way through the Dale Brown fighter pilot series. He also loves photography and videography, which we have enjoyed the results of at our annual banquet.

Recently, Bill was in the qualifying rounds for the regional Golf Senior Olympics. He hasn't yet heard whether he made the cut, but we can ask at the next NARS meeting!

Several years ago, Bill and Marion both qualified for their pilot's licenses and in 1991, when Field Day was held at Friske Park, he gave rides over the site in his Cessna 172.

When I asked Bill how he would sum up his life he replied that he was "dependable". He goes above and beyond the call of duty. Bill, we're depending on you to always be a part of our group and keep adding color to our lives.

*Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL
Ham & Sheez Reporter*

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

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

Hello fellow DXers. March was a good month for some fairly rare DX and somewhat good propagation. I took advantage and worked my share of what was offered.

XF4IH Revilla Gigedo on 20 and 15M Phone; 5V7C Togo on 17M Phone; 3B9C Rodrigues I. on 15M Phone; EM1HO Antarctica on 20M phone for a new band contact; R1FJ Franz Josef on 20M phone; F5TLN/TU8 Ivory Coast on 20M phone; 5W0KE Western Samoa on 15M Phone. Well now that I have bored you completely here are the reports from the Big Gun DXers in the club

From Cal White WF5W and while I am at it, you and Paul did an excellent presentation at the March meeting:

Wore out Rodrigues Island; missed them on 160 and 12, but got all the rest; R1FJ on 20/30/40; A52PRO 2 times on 20. Lots of activity, good month. TS480HX still back at the factory - have Keith's 480 on the bench with the filters in it - what a difference!!! Like a whole other radio (He hasn't missed it yet as he still working on all his coax/cables/rotators/antennas, etc that will go up on his massive tower).

H.O. K5CX tells us:

March Madness arrived with the Big Bang. During the second hour of the recent WPX contest, I logged the last 13 contacts I needed to complete DXCC for 40-meters. The Madness started with: T99W Bosnia-Herzegovina; C4M - Cyprus; YT0A - Yugoslavia; SV5RDS - Dodecanese; LY4XX - Lithuania; SC3AG - Sweden; ES1TV - Estonia; CQ9K - Madeira Island; 5U4JB - Niger; 4U1ITU - ITU Geneva; AN6UN - Balearic Islands; YC8TF - Indonesia; and RU1A - European Russia. I've never heard 40-meters like this before. Surely the new antenna deserves some credit.

In addition to this March Madness, I completed a seven-band sweep with the Rodrigues Island boy's, 3B9C. (No antenna, yet for 160-meters.)

Thanks to Ken KA5AKG and Bruce NILN for artfully crafting the tower work and new Mosley Pro 57-B-40. Thanks to Walter KK5LO, Walter K5WH, Mike K7LEX, Marty W5MF, Norm K5OS, and Ben KE5AFV for processing all the

ground-crew chores! Thanks also to Bill N5BIA for helping with the initial antenna assembly, and to Marty W5MF for coming over prior to the March club meeting to help in the assembly of the top section! And, thanks to George K5VUU for reaming out the lower bearing plate holes so that the top section components would line up. These guys made the new countries possible! Anita and I really appreciate their work.

George K5VUU writes on a different slant:

I really haven't been actively chasing DX for over a year due to the changes in jobs and lot's of travel to DX countries!

I was never much of a DX hound for most of my 40 plus years as a ham, but got the bug from some of the NARS members about 4 or 5 years ago and really started to gear up and go after it. I got the DXCC Mixed, Phone and CW versions in about a year using a multi-band vertical on an eighteen foot mast and a dipole in the attic running 100 watts. I also got the WAZ (Worked All Zones) during the same time frame.

My goal in 2003 was to get 300 confirmed countries and I only got to 299. Then I was inactive on the DX bands until recently when the XF4IH DXpedition fired up on Revilla Gigedo. I had a great time working them on several bands, but fun working them on several modes including CW, RTTY (FSK), SSB AND PSK31! I have high hopes of getting the QSL confirmation card back from them which will give me the big number 300 and I can apply for the endorsement sticker. I worked XF4 back in 1999, but like most folks never got a card after many attempts. Since I usually have a 95% or better return using the direct mail and local SASE envelopes, I was really frustrated not getting one back from Mexico of all places.

So now I am back in the game and keep the DX Summit/DX Monitor program going 24 hours a day to help me get the really hard ones on my goal to the DX Honor Roll ... someday!

Thanks Captain Al

Bruce NILN never has a bad DX month:

This has been a very good month around the NILN shack from the DX perspective.

Progress toward 160 M DXCC - As of Feb 28th: 93 worked / 44 confirmed. As of Mar 29th: 102 worked / 67 confirmed
DX worked - - all new Band Countries: T3G - Cameroon - 15 CW, 17 CW, 12 CW; 5T0EU - Mauritania - 10 CW; 3B9C - Rodrigues Is - 160 CW, 75/80 CW - SSB, 40 SSB/CW, 20 CW, 17 CW, 15 SSB, 12 SSB, 10 SSB/CW; R1FJ - Franz Joseph Land - 40 CW, 30 CW, 20 SSB/CW; 9M2AX - West Malaysia - 160 CW; XF4IH - Revilla Gigedo - 160 SSB/CW, 75/80 SSB-CW, 40 SSB/CW, 30 CW, 17 SSB/CW, 15 SSB/CW, 12 SSB, 10 SSB/CW; UA6LV - European Russia - 160 CW; RA6AX - European Russia - 160 CW; GW3KGV - Wales - 160 CW; GM3YTS - Scotland - 160 CW; EA6NB - Balearic Is - 160 CW; 5V7C - Togo - 80 CW.

The illustrious Captain Kirk writes:

A little excitement in the KJ5X shack in March with 3B9C contacts on 40, 20 and 17M. He was loud on 40 early in the evening. He was also strong on 75M but I couldn't get tuned up in time. Also worked HA9RT on 40 and XF4IH on 10M. Didn't spend but just a few minutes in the WPX contest but heard 5U7JB and worked him first crack. Marion Island ZS8MI will be active in April, a very rare one. Hope I can nab him. Still looking for S2 and 9N. Give me a call. Reward. 73 KJ5X

Hi Jim, believe 9N will be on around April 10-13. Hope you get him. Hope I get him.

Till next month
73 all

Al Fritsche W5ADF

MOTORCYCLE HAMS NEEDED

If you are an Amateur Radio Operator, with or without a motorcycle, interested in volunteering for the BP MS-150 on April 17-18, 2004, please contact:

Jerry Irwin, WAØGLD

Home: 936-856-5178 Cell: 936-537-7524

email: F16Jock@earthlink.net
or visit <http://www.ms150.org>

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Bill Skipper KB5BS, Lesa Skipper KB5GMW, Chanda Bartlett Walker AD5IQ and Dale Walker AA5DW.

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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)

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