

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 2004

January is Annual Banquet

The 2004 Annual Awards Banquet will be held on January 16, the third Friday of the month, our usual meeting night. We expect the tradition of an evening filled with friends, food and fun to be continued. The menu will consist of sliced roast beef in mushroom gravy, marinated chicken breast in a tomato/onion/cheese sauce, tossed salad with assorted dressings, corn, green beans, rolls / butter, assorted deserts and coffee / tea. A cash bar will also be available if desired.

The location will once again be the Wyndehaven Terrace, located at 12716 Cutten Road. Plan to arrive at 6:30 PM for the QRM hour with dinner served at 7:30 and the evening coming to a close around 9:30.

The cost for members and non-members will be \$15.00 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting any NARS Board member. If you have an item that you would like to donate as a door prize please bring it along. It will be appreciated.

Hope to see you all there.

Bruce - NILN

December Meeting Photos



Important Dates

Friday, January 16, 6:30 PM - Annual Awards Banquet, Wyndehaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Rd.

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

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

Contests

Jan 10-11 NA CW QSO Party

Jan 17-18 NA SSB QSO Party, Hungarian DX

Jan 17-19 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 24-25 CQ WW 160M

Jan 31-Feb 1 UBA SSB DX

Feb 21-22 ARRL CW DX

Feb 28-29 CQ WW 160M SSB

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Jan 21 Pepperchino

Jan 28 Luby's Cafeteria

Feb 4 Jason's Deli

Feb 11 Horn's Texas BBQ

Feb 17 Matthais' Restaurant

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Jan 21 Fuddrucker's

Jan 28 Escalante Mexican

Feb 4 Jason's Deli

Feb 11 Luther's BBQ

Feb 18 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

DXpedition to the Island of Stone Money - YAP

(Continued from December Issue)

Page Three - YAP DXpedition

We set up two stations, one for CW and one for SSB. Paul used his FT100 on SSB and I used the IC706 with a 250 filter on CW. N1LN was the first Houston ham to work us on CW; K5NZ was the first on SSB. That first night brought the reality of massive overload from the JA's up front and personal! How to work them - but we did figure it out. First evening hours brought some 200 QSOs.

Monday morning: not much going on the bands - dead in fact. Later in the morning Paul got SSB going on 15 and was on a roll - 75 QSOs in 40 minutes!! We are now working.

CW was a little tough as we did have a little problem with getting too close on the bands. But not to worry; later in the PM 30 meters got going, then 40. We worked the rest of Houston and of course another bunch of JA's. At this time we had 14 countries on CW and on SSB.

Typhoon LUPE

The afternoon was fraught with some worry about Typhoon Lupe. She is coming and said to arrive Tuesday noon. The island people are battening down the hatches. The hotel crew has put ropes on all the overhangs, put out extra anchors and hawsers on the Mnuw. They say not to worry. Well, we came for an experience - this will surely be one.

Early morning on Tuesday brought dead bands: gray skies and rain. Guess it really is coming. Took photos of the STEPPIR to catalogue how it was put up and to see if it really will withstand 100 mile winds - more on that later.

Continued on page 7

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

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).

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

VE Session Results

There was no VE session in December. The next session will be Saturday, January 24.

*Walter Hock KK5LO
NARS VE Session Manager*

HARS to host ICOM Day January 17

George DiLetto, KD0RW, of Houston Amateur Radio Supply will once again host ICOM Day on Saturday, January 17, 2004. There'll be a tailgate sale in the parking lot starting at about sunrise, for all you "junkologists." Here's your chance to get rid of all that stuff you've been hoarding in your garage from last year's tailgate event. Come on, dude, let someone else see what they can do with it!

The store will open at 8:30 a.m. and will be offering door prizes throughout the day. And, as before, free hot dogs and soft drinks will be available for those wishing to indulge themselves in these culinary delights. (Eat your heart out, Emeril!) The ICOM sales rep. will also be there to answer any questions you may have about the ICOM product line, and will make available discount coupons for the purchase of certain items.

If you need further information on this event, give George or Charlie a call at 281 355-7373. They're located at Exit 68, I-45 North, 267 Cypresswood Drive, close to the new Target store.

Ham and "Sheez" News

What happens when eleven ladies get together on a Sunday afternoon and have the freedom to use all the commercial ovens, baking ingredients, and cooking utensils at Carrie's Kitchen in Tomball? Well, if you had attended Schalee's 3rd Annual Holiday Baking Party on December 14, you would know the answers to that question - A ton of fun is had by all. A ton of delicious cookies and other treats are baked, and a little less than a ton are brought home to share (after all, we do have to sample what we bake)! As you can see by the pictures that are in this newsletter, we had a great time and are already starting to plan what we will make next year. [Schalee - Thank you very much for arranging this event each year. It truly is one of the annual highlights. The guys thank you also since they get samples of our baking!]

At our December meeting, we planned activities for the banquet and for the upcoming few months. Ladies - please get your calendars and make notes for the following days:

- The annual NARS banquet will take place on Friday, January 16, at the Wyndhaven Terrace on Cutten Road. The banquet starts at 6:30, and the price per person is \$15.00. You really don't want to miss this event! Please check the NARS website (<http://www.w5nc.org>) for more information. BTW - The Ham and "Sheez" ladies will be presenting a few awards at the banquet.
- Our January meeting will be held on Monday, January 26, at the home



Anita preparing her famous "Fudge Meltaways"

of Nancy Kinard. The evening will be spent enjoying a BeautyControl product demonstration, makeovers, and (yes, probably) some finger foods and wine! Be sure to mark your calendars. After surviving a hectic holiday season, we need another excuse to pamper ourselves! Directions will be sent under separate cover.

- If you don't already have plans (or are some of the fortunate few with tickets to the game), you are cordially invited to a Super Bowl party at the Lodge residence on Sunday, February 1. Pre-game festivities will begin around 5:00. The game is scheduled to start about 5:30. BYOB and your favorite snack. If you have folding chairs that are easy to transport, please bring them as well. RSVP directly to Schalee Lodge at 281-357-4308. Hope to see you there!
- Our February meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church. We are planning on a craft night with Shrinky Dinks. If you've never used them before, come join the meeting, learn about this fun and easy craft, and create something unique!
- To ensure that Valentine's Day is celebrated appropriately, the Ham and "Sheez" ladies are conspiring to make dinner plans and include the men in our lives. If you would like to join us, please keep Saturday, February 14, open. More details to follow.

- Recently, we have really enjoyed



Tina using the commercial ovens at Carrie's Kitchen

learning how to play Mahjong and Bunko. Friday, March 19, will be our next ladies game night. The location is yet to be determined and will be communicated shortly. Trust me - you'll want to be sure to join us for this evening which promises to be a lot of fun!

Monthly recipe:

Bruce and I received a few wonderful slow cooker recipe books for Christmas. I plan to share some of the ham-related recipes over the next few months. Ladies - Get out those slow cookers and give yourselves a break as far as spending a lot of time in the kitchen preparing dinner!

Ham 'n Cola

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 teaspoon prepared horseradish
1/4 cup cola-flavored soda
3 to 4 pounds pre-cooked ham

Combine the brown sugar, mustard, and horseradish. Moisten with just enough cola to make a smooth paste. Reserve remaining cola. Rub entire ham with mixture. Place ham in slow cooker and add remaining cola. Cover. Cook on Low 6 to 10 hours or on High 2 to 3 hours.

Enjoy!

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



An example of the sample cookies that everyone brought home and hopefully shared!

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

From John Ellis W5PDW:

Dec was a good month. I'm really enjoying my new radio.

DX worked:

CU2,9Y4,PJ2,DJ7,HP1,T32,J8,TI1,
PJ7,P40,P49,VE9,OA4,HI3,CO2,H
P3,ZX2,TI5,3D2,PY4,PU3,XE2,ZX
5,VE6,PJ2T,VE5,VA3,VY2,K5NZ,
LU1,LT1,LW7,LS1,W1AW,KH6,ZF
2,ZL6,W5LBU/ZS6,D2,VC3,AL1
(Alaska),RA9,YV6,HC8,WP4.

Several lighthouse stations, 3 special event stations, and KD5YIT, Daniel on the Redd Middle School 2 meter station. I played in the 10-meter contest for a while, made 186 contacts. Also got into a Canadian contest and worked 46 stations.

Super Bill is always telling me something about "The Other" John Ellis, NP2B. I told Bill that I knew 2 other John Ellis'. The first I met in Kansas City in the early 60's. His call was K0MMI. I had worked him on HF from Parsons, Kansas. Thought I would personally deliver his card as I was making weekly trips to K.C. Turns out we had exactly the same design cards. Had a nice visit and a story to tell from then on.

Now, for the rest of the story!! I worked John Ellis, NP2B on 14 MHz last week. We had a nice visit. I looked him up on QRZ. Lo and behold, he used to be K0MMI in Kansas City. Now ain't that a hoot?

Best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthful New Year.

John and Lu

From Bill Rimmer N5LYG:

Overall, these are not new countries for my total but are new for 10M. All worked during the 10M contest.

5U7JB - Niger
3D2YU - Fiji Island

I worked quite a few Australian and South American stations. What was discouraging is that the window to Europe was not there. I was hoping that the propagation reports were going to be wrong but they weren't. Oh, and probably the best DX was working W5PDW.

73, Bill, N5LYG

From Allan Fritsche W5ADF:

Lots of good DX offered this month and I managed to snag a few new ones.

3B9FR Rodriquez Is. 15M phone
T30Z Western Kiribati 15M phone
P29TL Papua New Guinea 15M phone
ZW0S St.Peter 15M phone

I worked the TO4E Europa gang twice on 15M phone but didn't make the online log. I guess I will have to wait a long time for another chance.

Picked up 3 new cards this month.
ST2CF Sudan for 20 and 15M contacts made in March 03
V63ZT Yap for a 15M contact made in October 03
EL2AR Liberia for a contact made on April 03

That puts my confirmed count at 208. I guess that's it.

73, Al W5ADF

From Jim Kirk KJ5X:

Did not do much radio in December but got a Christmas present early in the month when I worked TO4E, #324. I thought I had him on three modes: CW, SSB and RTTY, all on 15M. Unfortunately their log shows only the SSB and RTTY contacts.

I got a second Christmas present when I discovered a broken wire in my rotator cable. A real bit of luck as I was about to ship the rotator and controller off to Yaesu for repair.

Still looking for 9N and S2 among several others. Call. Reward.

73, KJ5X

From Bruce Meier N1LN:

New Band Countries:

3DA0TM - Swaziland - 20 SSB
T04E - Juan de Noaa - 40 CW, 30 CW, 15 CW, 15 SSB, 10 SSB, T97M - Bosnia - 80 CW T32WW - E. Kirabati - 17 CW OH5BR - Finland - 75 SSB

Here are a couple of "worked but not new" for this month:

OZ1DD - Denmark - 75 SSB
LY2ZZ - Lithuania - 80 CW
HB0/DL2SBY - Liechtenstein - 40 CW
7X4AN - Algeria - 40 CW
A45WD - Oman - 40 CW
ZK1CG - So. Cook - 75 SSB, 40 SSB
VU2GSM - India - 40 CW

*73,
Bruce - N1LN*

DXpedition to the Island of Stone Money - YAP

Continued from page 2

Tuesday the 24th: Great day. Talked to STEPPIR folks, Mike, a lot of Houston folks and great news! Lupe did not come on us, just to the North, and we had some winds, 70 knot gusts, but did not hurt anything. The dipole (really a V) had both vertical and horizontal polarization - the wind swung it out almost horizontal.

Still working the JA's - did get South Africa and Haiti - as new countries. Paul had a great run on 15 this morning. N1YXU Laurie called both Pat and Georgina and let them know the typhoon did not get us. K5NZ recorded Paul for Keith Dutson to put the audio on the web site.

Ready for the 11 PM 40 meter run, with the JA's and hopefully some US.

We have worked about 900 contacts so far in total and somewhere around 30 countries.

Wednesday morning brought a little calm. Several houses with thatch roofs had problems; one near us fell. Lots of palms were uprooted. AND, our STEPPIR was turned almost 30 degrees. When we went up to look at it, found that the 3/8th rebar that was drilled through the pipe and secured to another piece of rebar in the deck had actually been bent by the force on the mast!! You could not bend it back by hand or even with some leverage. It was put back backwards so now the antenna is pointed about true North.

Back to the shack and found 30 dB noise levels across the bands - may be transformers arcing or something, but makes this a useless morning for HF. Still hearing some JA's, bless their hearts, on 40.

So the DXpedition continues. Dipole on the ship is still holding. Winds still coming in gusts - went back up and looked at the STEPPIR and found the rebar had been re-bent back to its original. Winds are powerful.

Page Four - Yap DXpedition

Some YAP tradition and native background

While the bands are out, we walked to one of the local villages - talked to a small vendor who had some little bags of what appeared like buckeyes and some small green leaves also in the bag. They were for sale for \$1.75. I asked what they were, having seen every native in view use it. He told us it was beetle nuts. He explained they take the nut, place it in the leaf, put some powered lime on it (the lime is made from baked coral), then roll it up into a small package and put it in their cheek and chew it. He said the first time you use it and swallow the juice, you can get very sick. It is a tradition here; all natives use it. It makes their mouth, tongue and teeth bright red. When they smile, it can be frightening!!

It is said to have a similar affect as taking a double espresso, and seems to be very addicting, but does not stop workers from working.

Stone Money

On the way back we stopped by a small hut on the water (everything is on the water here). A young man was sitting on the matting under the thatched roof pad. In front was a small about 20 inch diameter round stone. I asked him about the stone. He said they are still valuable - that his stone's value was one half acre of land and A WIFE. See the photo of this stone later. Tradition is still alive and well in YAP - right along side the internet.

Back at the shack we found the bands still filled with atmospheric noises - no signals heard - time for another nap. The DXpedition continues.

Yap Groups

At 8 PM local the bands are still dead - worked two JA's but difficult, we will hope for the best. 11 PM will tell the tale for today. Went out to do laundry, and spend some time people watching in town. Come away with an understanding of the broad reach of American influence. Even the folks who can be called the "natives" have the latest groceries from the states. They have

social security. When the typhoons blow down their houses, they have our FEMA to help rebuild. Went into the local hardware - thought I was in an ACE store - all the same brands of stuff. But back to the "natives," seems like most that come to town have a car or ride in a taxi. You can tell by the type clothes which group they belong in.

My unofficial categories for the Yap folks, makes one bunch the "natives." These folks dress traditional (women in bright colored skirt only. Men in a bright colored large diaper type wrap only. Some wear slip on tongs; others are barefoot. They don't work. Men fish some, but no other job. They all, even their kids, chew the beetle nut; it seems like all the time.

Second group are the paid workers with local jobs. They dress mainly in some sort of shorts and tee shirts (both the women and the men) - wear the same sandals as the natives in group 1. Some of them chew the beetle nut on the job (the postal lady did).

The third group is the people who have been off the island, to school, and come back with good jobs, and mainland style of clothing. They have their own cars and the women drive. They don't do the beetle nut chewing (at least in public).

So back to the shack found V63PF frustrated and reading a book. Noise levels were too high and SSB not available on any band. We then took off and had a nice lunch in town. Walked around for some exercise, came back to the Hotel office and checked the internet site. The hotel had many professional photos on CD which they let us browse for use in the QSL cards - hope you all will find them interesting.

Up to the shack and back on CW. Paul reluctantly worked CW on the higher bands and voila - worked 40 contacts in 40 minutes!! Maybe he will think about CW more often. Think he secretly was having a blast.

Look for page 5 in the next newsletter!

WF5W

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new member Mark Rensi KD5UKL.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
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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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