

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

May 2004

May Meeting - Field Day Preparation

One of the topics of the May meeting will be an update and planning session for the 2004 ARRL Field Day. This year we will again be entering in class 2A. The stations will consist of (1) SSB, (1) CW, (1) VHF/UHF, (1) Satellite and (1) Get on the Air. Station Captains will be on hand looking to fill the last remaining gaps in their operating schedules.

Come join us at the meeting on May 21st to hear more details about the event and how you may be able to help us prepare and to participate. 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.

There is more to follow so stay tuned. If you have any questions please send Marty (W5MF) or me an email or catch us on .66.

73, Michael - K7LEX

NARS 2004 Raffle

As you know, each year NARS hold a raffle to raise funds for the club. In past years, the prize has been related to amateur radio. No offense intended -- That has tended to limit the audience of potential raffle ticket buyers. This year, we are departing from the radio theme.

Here are the details:

- The raffle prize is a \$1,200 gift certificate from galvestoncruises.com!!
- The winning ticket will be drawn at the Friday, September 17, NARS meeting.
- The gift certificate is valid on both Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise Lines.
- It will be good for one year from the date of purchase and will be purchased in September of this year.
- It is valid for departure from any U.S. port with no blackout dates; however, the cruise is subject to availability. There are several four, five, and seven-day cruises for two passengers leaving Galveston for less than \$1,200.
- The gift certificate can be used toward the base cruise cost, meals, insurance, gratuities, and shows. It does not cover beverage charges, on-ship extras (e.g. spa, massages), and shore trips.
- The winner will be able to upgrade to a more expensive cruise if he/she wants to by adding personal funds to cover the incremental cost.
- To make sure there is somewhat of a radio theme -- The winner will also receive a pair of family radios, suggested for use on the cruise ship.

Important Dates

Friday, May 21, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 22, 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Contests

May 15-16 U.S. Counties QSO Party
May 22-23 Baltic
May 29-30 CQ WW CW WPX, Great Lakes QSO Party
Jun 12-13 ANARTS WW RTTY
Jun 19 Kid's Day
Jun 19-20 All Asian CW DX, West VA QSO Party
Jun 26-27 ARRL Field Day

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

May 19 Strack Farms
May 26 Pepperchino
Jun 2 Luby's Cafeteria
Jun 9 Jason's Deli
Jun 16 Neal's Restaurant

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

May 19 Fuddrucker's
May 26 Escalante Mexican
Jun 2 Jason's Deli
Jun 9 Luther's BBQ
Jun 16 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

Continued on page 3

President's Corner

May 2004

Little-bit of Dayton right here in TEXAS

How many of you have ever been to the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio. Well, if you are like me it is on your list of things to do, but for a few good reasons, it has not yet made it up to the top. I will get there someday, but until then the next best thing for those of us lucky enough to be within a reasonable driving distance to Arlington, TX (Dallas) is the annual HamCom. No, it is not nearly the extravaganza of the Dayton Hamvention, but it ain't bad. The dates for this year are June 18 - 19th with the doors opening on Friday, June 18th at 12:00 noon. Annual attendance is typically between 4000 and 6000.

The organizing committee does an excellent job with the venue and there is something there for everyone. Here are some of the offerings.

DX Luncheon: One of my favorite events is the annual DX luncheon on Saturday. Past speakers at the luncheon have included Martti Lane (OH2BH), John Devoldere (ON4UN) and Tom Christian (VP6TC). This year's speaker is not yet announced.

Flea Market: HamCom offers both inside and outside flea markets. As the weather is usually quite warm by mid-June, the inside market is a welcome opportunity to browse at your own pace without concern for rain, heat and humidity. The inside flea market has over 300 tables featuring items from used radios, amplifiers, tuners, a wide variety of new and used components, jewelry, computers, antennas and more. I never come away with empty hands or a full wallet. ...ask Laurie!!

Vendor Displays and Exhibitors: As you would expect the major manufacturers are always there - Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood, TenTec, SteppIR, Force12, MFJ/Ameritron, Bencher, Comet and more. Additionally many of the distributors such as Houston Amateur Radio, Texas Towers, Array Solutions and Radio Shack have excellent prices on many new products. Same comment as above... regarding my hands and wallet!!

Presentations: Amateur Radio operators interested in education, weather, Emcomm, APRS, DX, QRP or microwave have a LOT of programs to choose from this year. All of these topics are major tracks in the workshop and forum schedule. This year's event has over 80 hours of program material to choose from. Many of the programs scheduled for Saturday, June 19, 2004 are NEW to Ham-Com (taken from the HamCom web site).

Local participation - Every year there is a group of fellow NARSians and Ham&Sheezians that strap on their HF mobile radios, VHF / UHF mobile and HTs and head north. For Laurie and I this year will be our 4th in a row. We usually leave on Friday morning and talk on the radios all the way up I45 (either VHF simplex or 40 mtr SSB around 7235 - 7245). Also, NARS will have two tables in the flea market area to get the word out about the Texas QSO Party. We will be there again this year spreading the word, and trying to get people signed up for that rare Texas county and, while we are at it, sell a bunch of the raffle tickets for our fund raiser.

If you decide to go this year I am sure you will have a very enjoyable time. While there don't forget to come by the NARS - TQP table and say HI!

>> If you would like more information about HamCom events, directions, local accommodations, and hours of operations please refer to the following URL: <http://www.hamcom.org/>

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 April 24, 2004, served twelve candidates. The results were four new Technicians, and two upgrades to General.

The VE's in attendance were Kirby Van Horn W7SV, Steve Smothers W9DX, Walter Hock KK5LO, Matt Stouffer KE5MS, Wayne Stovall N5MNT and Walter Holmes K5WH.

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

The next NARS VE Test session will be held on May 22, 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 April 27 at the Terranova Clubhouse. The following board members were in attendance: Bruce Meier, Jerry Whiting, Paul Frantz, Terry Myers, Chuck Sanders, Tom Hoherd, Lee Kinard, Rob Nixon along with the following guests: Joe Sokolowski, H.O. Townsend, Bill Stietenroth, Keith Dutson, Colin Jenkins, Laurie Meier, and Mike Lodge. Highlights of the meeting:

- Programs - It was reported that the May program will focus on Field Day Planning.
- Field Day - Co-coordinator Mike Lodge gave a brief status report on the Field Day plans reporting several items where he has obtained commitment and is awaiting a confirmation. These include the site and the tent. Mike reported that all station captains are confirmed and will be working to acquire the list of required items for each station. He also reported that Bar-B-Que will be the main dish this year. A team captain for Bonus Points is still needed. Mike reported that this job is primarily a bookkeeping task to make sure that all bonus points are properly accounted for and documented -- an important, but straightforward, job as NARS seeks the top spot in 2A. Interested volunteers should contact Mike.
- Voice Repeater - Bill Stietenroth reported that the recent problems with the repeater are likely the result of a desense problem and poor receive capability resulting from lowering the antenna to meet the requirements of the building owner in preparing the building to be sold. He is hoping to address the desense problem in the coming weeks.
- Fund raising - Laurie reported that the raffle tickets for the cruise are selling like the proverbial hot cakes.
- Publicity - Laurie reported that the Field Day publicity campaign would begin the next day with a mailing to various members of the media.
- Texas QSO Party - H.O. reminded the group that as soon as Field Day is over it will be time to start getting ready for the TQP. He announced that this year a new category, CW-Only Single Operator Mobile, would be introduced. He also reported plans to send out a solicitation for plaque sponsors to other Texas clubs.
- Ham & Sheez - Laurie reported that the first package to our platoon was sent out April 1. Due to the very slow mail service to and from Iraq we have not received a response to our mailings. However she reported she would get the word out by the NARS reflector as soon as a response has been received.

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

Our "Spice Up Your Life" care packages were mailed on April 30. There were four packages weighing between twelve and twenty pounds each. Due to your continued support of the Adopt-a-Platoon work, we had no issue funding the postage to ship the packages. The total cost was just over \$74. Thank you very much for your continued support through the donation of items for the boxes and monies to help fund the postage.

Through an update from the Adopt-a-Platoon organization, we also learned of an immediate, one-time need for toiletry items for a group of soldiers in Afghanistan. There is currently an influx of Army and Marine soldiers, and the camps have run out of personal hygiene items. Due to your generosity for our first care package, we have some extra toiletry items that we have decided will be sent to Afghanistan. Also, due to your tremendous support, we have enough funding to cover the postage costs to mail the toiletries. Thank you for making this possible!

As of the writing of this article, we have not yet heard directly from the soldiers. The trip to our mailbox each day is filled with anticipation that a letter will be there. As soon as one is received, trust me, you will know! In the meantime, the most important thing we can do is to continue to send weekly letters and monthly care packages. As you read in a recent note that I forwarded to the reflector, one soldier wrote his Adopt-a-Platoon sponsor and said, "Let everyone know to please keep writing letters and sending cards to soldiers even if you don't hear from them. Mail is the lifeblood that keeps morale high and we depend on you."

The care package theme for this month is "Fun in the Sun". To lighten up their lives a little, we are going to send a few beach theme games -- Frisbee, whiffle balls, Nerf footballs, etc. -- and small, sample bottles of suntan lotion. The weather is not tremendously hot in Iraq now; however, these soldiers will be stationed in Baghdad until, at least, January 2005 and will have need for suntan lotion. If you would like to contribute any items toward the monthly care package, please bring the items to the NARS meeting

There is also a prize for the NARS or Ham and "Sheez" member who raises the most funds through raffle ticket sales. The prize is a choice of a \$50.00 gift certificate to an amateur radio store of the winner's choosing, a \$50.00 gift certificate to the restaurant of the winner's choosing, or \$50.00 in cash!

Now, here's the amazing part -- The cost of the tickets is \$1.00 for one ticket or \$10.00 for a book of twelve tickets. Trust me - They just about sell themselves!
If you did not pick up raffle tickets at the April

on May 21. If you would prefer to make a donation toward defraying postage expenses, there will also be a coffee can for donations at the meeting. The most important thing you can do is 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. Bring the items you have for the weekly letter to the NARS meeting. We will put some of the items into each weekly letter. Communication from home is the most important gift we can give the soldiers.

April Activities

As usual, we had a busy month! On Sunday, April 4, several of the ladies attended an herb talk and luncheon at Arbor Gate nursery in Tomball. We had a wonderful afternoon learning about several herbs that are recommended for Texas gardens; observing the culinary talents of Molly Fowler, chef extraordinaire; eating the delicious lunch that included fresh herbs in each recipe (the lemon mousse was absolutely fabulous); and, of course, buying some of the demonstrated herbs and other plants. We will definitely make this an annual event for the Ham and "Sheez" group!

Six couples took a day road trip to Bryan on Saturday, April 17, to enjoy the Wine and Roses Festival at the Messina Hof winery. It was a perfect day to enjoy the guided tour of the winery, stroll through some of the vendor booths, relax over a slow-paced lunch, watch some brave souls stomp grapes, and sample a few of the wines. If you have not tried Messina Hof wines, they come highly recommended by the group. Several of us were seen carrying wine bottles back to our cars and trucks to bring home! Since Bryan is a relatively short, picturesque drive, I'm sure we will visit Messina Hof again on another wine excursion.

At our monthly meeting on Monday, April 26, Shannon Horsely was gracious enough to show us how to make homemade greeting cards. We had an absolutely fantastic evening! Shannon brought all the supplies, a few incredible samples that she and Darlene had made, and an infectious imagination.

meeting to sell, be sure to come to the May meeting and get some tickets. If you are currently selling tickets, please bring the ticket stubs and monies collected to the May meeting. The number of tickets sold and dollars collected will be reported at each meeting.

You can also find information about the raffle on the NARS website. Additionally, for those of you who are selling tickets please go to the following URL for information about the raffle: http://www.w5nc.org/raffle_inst.pdf

Creativity and thinking outside the box were the mantras for the evening. In fact, several of the patriotic cars were included in the care package that was just mailed to our troops in Iraq. We had such a great time that we're already planning an encore.

Upcoming Activities

Our May meeting will be on Monday, May 31, at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church. We will start the meeting around 7:00ish and will be packing up the "Fun in the Sun" boxes for the troops. We will also be planning our activities and meeting themes for the summer months. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a fun-filled evening.

As already mentioned, we had such a great time making homemade greeting cards at the April meeting that we're going to make some more! In fact, we're planning a pizza / pina colada / greeting card making slumber party for the Memorial Day weekend. If you don't have plans for the holidays, keep your options open. More details on the party will be coming shortly!

Monthly Recipe

Grilled Rosemary Pork Chops - Recommended by Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL

1/4 cup olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 rosemary sprig, chopped, or 1/2 tsp dried salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper
6 center cut pork loin chops

Mix the oil, vinegar, garlic, rosemary, salt, and pepper. Brush mixture on the pork chops. Refrigerate pork chops for at least 30 minutes or overnight. Preheat the grill. Grill the chops for 5 to 8 minutes on each side, depending on the thickness. Let the chops rest on a plate for 1 or 2 minutes before serving.

Enjoy!

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

NARS 2004 Raffle continued from page 1

The goal of the raffle is to raise enough profit to defer some of the costs of the banquet in January. With your help, we will be able to reach our goal!

If you have any questions or need further information, please let me know.

Happy selling!

Laurie - N1YXU

QUA* Mike Felcyn KC5HEI?

We all know how much smaller amateur radio makes our world. We (when we've passed our code) can talk with people anywhere in the world. I know, I know there are places like North Korea; wouldn't they have appreciated HAM radio last week? But as you will see later in the article I interviewed a man from Honduras and I know his mother in California! Mike Felcyn, KC5HEI, is a missionary in Guaimaca, Honduras. He has also started a broadcast radio station - so I have a question. Can you still be an amateur if you are a professional? Well, I'm not sure he gets paid for what he's doing anyway, at least not in dollars.

Mike was born in Detroit, Michigan and lived there for about five years. His dad was with Price-Waterhouse and the family moved many times. He also lived in New York, but spent most of his childhood in Saratoga, CA. He described this town as a small place of which nobody had ever heard. Well, I had, and expressed my surprise. Michael and I lived there for several years. He then said his step-mother was an accountant and my mind started clicking. He mentioned her name - Gloria. She was our accountant. He described her as an accountant to the stars and she is - no not me. In the beginning of her career she worked for Howard Hughes and now does the accounting for many famous people. I was working with her on some special projects and told her we were having to pay taxes that year. She said, "Bring your records to the office." We got a refund that year and she went back three years and we received more refunds. She learned this early on because Mr. Hughes would fire his whole staff if he had to pay any taxes! I guess since she helped us accountants must also do pro bono work! She wanted Mike to be an attorney or a doctor, but he started life by getting into trouble. He was kicked out of high school for using drugs. His father lived in Texas and said he should move there, where there were no drugs. Mike went through some rehabilitation programs and finally settled back into King High, in east Houston.

When Suzie met him he was dating a friend of hers and she couldn't stand him. She told her friend to drop him, but two years later she married him! For seven years Mike worked installing audio systems in cars and ended up managing the store, but it wasn't what he wanted to do with his life. He then began to look into drug and alcohol abuse counseling. He and Suzie both became licensed counselors and remained in that field for 13 years. They began to be frustrated with the system because Texas had one of the largest drug programs, with one of the smallest fundings.

Mike and Suzie became Christians in 1991 and separately felt called to go into mission work, specifically in Honduras. Mike had been fighting it for several months because he thought Suzie would think he was crazy. They had two kids, no extra money - it was ridiculous, right. When he finally mentioned it to her she started crying. She had had the same thoughts, but hadn't told him either.

They had friends in church who were going down for a short time to work in the Guaimaca Valley. They kept waiting for doors to close to their going, but they kept opening and with a commitment of \$300 a month, they headed down.

Steve Niles got his license because Mike wanted to

be able to communicate with a friend in Houston. He thought amateur radio would be the only opportunity. Boy, was he right. The village they moved to had only gotten electricity seven years before they arrived and to this day there are only 181 phones in the valley and even today a call to the States is \$1.00 per minute. Many NARS members have contributed equipment which has been invaluable. He remembers specifically the 500 watt tube amp from Bill Denton, W5SB.

When they first arrived the only communication they had with family in the States was through phone patches. There was a HAM in California who dedicated his time to missionary patches and communications.

He laughingly remembers a 600 baud terminal-node controller. They would watch in anxious anticipation for each letter to appear on the screen. It was a thrill to have "direct" communication. He now has a computer with e-mail and his address is focus@datum.hr.

Just this past year Mike began to broadcast on 97.7. His station is HRIG. He is using a Crown FM 100 running on 100 watts. His support group called Focus International in Houston has just allocated an additional \$6,000 to expand the station because it has been so successful. It operates from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and is the only form of communication for most families. They receive about 500 letters every two weeks. These come from mountain-side families who have their children write the song they want to hear or a message they need to get to their family. The messages come by mule or foot with someone who is making the trip to town. Many times Mike has gotten an early morning phone call from the hospital in the main city to let a family know that their mother has made it through surgery, etc.

But, it took seven years and a visit from the President's wife to get the license. She actually came to see what they were doing with children. She had heard of their "feeding program" and wanted to see for herself. They now have 121 children that they provide a hot lunch for every week day for \$1.20 per week per child. They also help with clothes, books, etc. when necessary. She was so impressed that she asked if there was anything he needed from her. He said he had been trying for seven years to get a broadcast radio license. He had it within a couple of months! He jokingly says that he would love to have her back - but, "do you know how hard it is to get your house cleaned for a visit from the President's wife?"

They weren't always accepted as they are now. Suzie was hanging laundry when some people ran by the mission and threw rotten tomatoes at her and the laundry. She sat down and cried.

Mike recalled that it took 25 gallons of water carried from the village well in five gallon buckets to wash one load and another 25 to rinse! The next spring Suzie noticed strange plants growing under her laundry line. It was tomato plants!

They have suffered through malaria several times, but now have a well dug by members of First Baptist Tomball. They are one of the only places with fresh water and ran a faucet to the wall surrounding the mission for everyone to use. It has a plaque bearing the verse, John 4:13 Jesus

answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. 4:14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water given him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

They are now raising \$22,000 for a "bunk-house". There is currently no room for visitors who visit each summer to help with projects, or people who come in for training to start new missions. Of which one is a trip through the jungle this summer to select a possible site for another church. Their only form of communication will be a portable rig with a wire antenna.

When they moved to Guaimaca they had two children, Michael "Bear" and Summer. Bear is currently in college and Summer is graduating from high school this year. Mike says she is dating a "strange" boy - don't all fathers say that? They had a rule at their house - if you want to drive a car, you must first get your amateur license! Bear is KD5JDS. Summer tried, but decided she doesn't want to drive. Each child is allowed to return to Ohio with family to attend their senior year.

They have had an addition since moving to Honduras. David was abandoned as an infant with the Mennonite midwives working in the valley. They cared for him as long as they could then approached the Felcyn's to continue the care. They did and have adopted him. Mike's interest in radio started at a young age with short wave. When he moved to Tomball, on Cherry Street, he attempted to use some equipment borrowed from NARS for HF, but it drifted off frequency. His neighbor next door was Wayne Stovall, N5MNT. He came over to "see if he could help adjust things." Mike said it was probably getting into his TV.

He especially enjoyed CW and spent many hours into the night. It is exciting to ID from Honduras because he is now the recipient of a pile-up! Although he still hasn't been granted an HR call sign, he expects one soon. He currently ID's backwards, so people in contests know he is in Honduras. It sometimes confuses their record-keeping, which would frustrate his accountant mother, I'm sure.

Mike and Summer enjoy scuba diving, but it is a very expensive hobby that requires a long trip on bad roads to the shore.

Mike and Suzie are currently traveling to Tennessee and then Ohio to see relatives and other support churches. He mentioned to Mike, K7LEX, that he needed an antenna for his dual band mobile rig and we happened to have an extra in the garage. They will be back in Tomball toward the end of May and look forward to saying hello on the repeater.

Mike, we wish you and Suzie the very best. Thank you for showing us what perseverance and faith can provide. And for making the world a little smaller.

*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. For the last few years April has always been a good DX month for me, but I now find that the end of cycle 23 is at hand and my favorite band 15M is rarely open during the day. Did manage to work the group down in Banaba T33C on 10 and 15 M phone but that was a wash as I already had it confirmed from the last group down there in 1999. JW7QIA Svalbard on 20M phone which was a new band contact and that was about it. On a brighter note did get a few QSL cards in this month, 4U1UN on 20 and 15M phone, TU2DP the Ivory Coast from a contact about a year ago and ZK3MW Tokelau on 15 phone. Spent some time trying to work the ZS8MI on Marion Is and never heard a whisper. I was on the band when Cal W5FW worked him and even with his big gun station had to get a signal report a couple of times to confirm. Congrats Cal. Well now that I have bored you completely, let's see what the other DXers have to report.

From Jim KJ5X

The big excitement in the KJ5X shack in April was the contact with ZS8MI, the station on Marion Island 1000 miles off the SE coast of South Africa. Number 325. Their signal strength was pretty minimal so luck was involved. He gave me a 4X1 report. I lied and gave him a 5X1. Hope they will be good about QSLing. My card is already in the mail. Another highlight was a contact with YA8G in Afghanistan on 20M CW. To top off the month, at the end of the Monday night NARS 10M ragchew net on the 27th, VK2VFFV, Carlin in Sydney, checked in with us. I'm still looking for 9N and S2. Give me a call. Reward

Well Jim, Congratulations on the ZS8.

From Terry KQ5U

I didn't work very much this month as life's little surprises ate up a good bunch of my time. I did manage to get four new countries for the log book and I hope the QSLs will get here sooner or later. I worked TU8/F5LPY, 15CW; TU8/F5TLN, 20SSB, Ivory Coast (got both modes on that new one); V8PMB, 20CW, Brunei; VP8LP, 15SSB, Falkland Is. (someday I will get a card from someone down there). I also made a few entries in the log with T33C, Banaba Is. as I got them on 40CW, 40SSB, 20CW, 20SSB,

15CW, 15SSB, 10SSB, 12CW and 17CW. I don't expect to see the T33 for a long time so I worked them when I could hear them. I managed to get my 80M confirmed count up to 63 so far and I have heard JAs the last few days on 80M at sunrise with quite good signals. Around the same time in the morning 20M is open good to the West and Northwest yielding some nice DX.

Also some info from Terry about 4U1UN

I just remembered something; the recent (May) QST has the wrong information on the QSL route for 4U1UN. I worked them last month and the QSL turned around in two weeks. I guess the change happened after the article in QST went to press.

Here is the right information: the QSL route for 4U1UN (United Nations Headquarters) is via HB9BOU. The QCWA, Helvetia Chapter #209 supplies the card and the address information is: Herbert Aeby, HB9BOU; Rte. du Moulin 1; CH-1782 Belfaux; Switzerland.

I thought this information may help some of the readers as 4U1UN has become somewhat rare as access has been caught in some kind of political fight, but currently there has been some operations taking place. I think it is in the top 50 needed in Europe, but I'm not sure of its rank in North America. At any rate it is a good catch.

Well Terry, it's not in the top 100 in North America but it's still a good catch.

El Capitan Bruce, NILN always has a good report.

>> Still moving closer to DXCC - 160:

As of Mar 29th: 102 worked / 67 confirmed
As of Apr 29th: 103 worked / 82 confirmed

>> New Country QSLs - (317 confirmed / 320 worked)

4U1ITU - ITU HQ Geneva - 80, 40, 15, 10 CW
EZ3A - Turkministan - 20 SSB

>> As for new ones worked: (all band countries)

DU9/N0NM - Philippines - 160 CW
T33C - Banaba - 8 band SSB/CW sweep (missed 160 mtrs...)

YA8G - Afghanistan - 20 CW
5T0EU - Mauritania - 20 CW
7Q7MM - Malawi - 20 SSB, 40 CW, 15 CW

H.O. reports

If the low-solar cycle propagation gets any worse, I'll need a new logging program to keep up with all of the QSOs. 70 DX contacts found their way in to the K5CX log here on the K5CX ranchette. Within that there were 19 CQ Zones, 28 countries. Several new band countries. Notable in this group was Albania on 17 meters, T33C Banaba on 10, 12, 15, and 40 meters, KH8/DL1VKE American Samoa on 12 and 17 meters, 7Q7MM Malawi on 15 meters, CN2MP Morocco on 17 meters, and C21DL Nauru on 17 meters. The band breakdown shows the distribution of QSOs: 3 QSOs on 80, 1 on 40, 38 on 20, 11 on 17, 9 on 15, 4 on 12, and 4 QSOs on 10 meters.

K5CX

And Last from the world's greatest DX'er. W5PDF

Had a good month. Some DX and a lot of fun at the Redd Middle School. Here's some of the DX: TJ3G, T33C, FW/F6DVD, KL7FQO, YN9H, ZS2H, SV9CVY, VE3XN, VA3, D44AC, ZP9XG, RA9CUH, PJ2/K9SG, T30LP, OK25AI, T300J, ZS6HWC, ZL2KOT, UR9MC, 9K2YM and several special event stations.

The Redd Middle School Summer Science Festival was a huge success. There was an HF station and two 2 meter stations manned by WF5W, K5VUU, N5ET, KU5B and W5PDW. NA5F dropped by for a visit. We managed almost a page in the log despite poor band conditions. K5ZTY loaned the second 2 meter rig. Thanks Zed. Had lots of ARRL handouts, thanks NARS. Our next door neighbor, Dr. Pat came over for a group photo. All in all, it was a great day. Plenty of food and a country western band.

73 es good hunting
w5pdw

Till next month
73 all

Al Fritsche W5ADF

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Ray Dillard WA5F, Bill Fanning KD5WVC, William Frink K5WAF, Dominic Mazoch N5TCB, Eddy Reynolds AD5PD and Mark Sanderson KE5BAY.
Condolences to Bill Denton W5SB whose father passed away, and to Nora Stovall KB5FYJ whose husband passed away.

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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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