

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

October 2006

October Meeting – Antennas for Emergency Use on 2 Meters

Antennas for emergency use should be simple, easy to transport, and reliable under adverse conditions. Murphy's Law states that anything which can go wrong, will and in the worst possible direction. Therefore, the KISS principle (keep it simple, stupid) should be our guide.

This is my view of three antennas for 2 meter emergency use which do not require a ground counterpoise.

Charles Birkhead, AD5VQ

Chalk up another successful self-study session!

NARS conducted its second self-study Tech session on October 1st. Headed up by Jerry Whiting KB5VGD, Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY and Joe Sokolowski KD5KR, enrollment topped off at a whopping thirty participants. Many of these came from as far as Beaumont and Port Arthur. It was a well rounded group consisting of teenagers on up through senior citizens. Norm Covey's V.E. team consisted of Eddie Reynolds K5WQG, Sarah Connell W0HXO, Terry Myers KQ5U, Steve Niles N5EN, Jimmy Kirk KJ5X, Matt Stouffer AE5MS and a guest V.E., Tom Hauff K8VZD. These folks logged in twenty-four out of the thirty as certified Technician licensees. This session boasted an 80 percent pass rate! We hope to continue the self-study program with the next session sometime in March 2007.

Joe Sokolowski KD5KR



Important Dates

Friday, Oct 20, 7:30 PM – General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, Oct 28, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, Oct 31, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Contests

Oct 21–22 JARTS WW RTTY, ARCI Fall QP
Oct 21–22 Worked All Germany, IL QP
Oct 28–29 CQ WW SSB
Nov 4–5 ARRL Sweepstakes CW
Nov 18–19 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
Nov 25–26 CQ WW CW

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – North

Oct 18 Luby's Cafeteria
Oct 25 Jason's Deli
Nov 1 Neal's Restaurant
Nov 8 Sweet Tomatoes
Nov 15 BJ's Restaurant & Brewery

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Oct 18 Cafe Express
Oct 25 Willie's Grill 290
Nov 1 Fuddruckers 290
Nov 8 Fajita Willies 290
Nov 15 Jason's Deli

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Medical Center

Oct 18 Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille
Oct 25 Silver Palace Chinese Buffet
Nov 1 Pappas Barbecue
Nov 8 Fred's Italian Corner
Nov 15 Jason's Deli

Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

11:00 am, 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 Denny's
7720 Louetta
Saturdays
7:30 AM

President's Corner

October 2006

During the week of the September meeting Charles Birkhead, AD5VQ notified us that he had an out of town for business trip come up and could not present his program. Chuck, NO5W was available to present his software presentation was just in time for TQP. Thanks Chuck.

Keith, NM5G graciously offered an operating position with him for TX QSO Party. During the TQP, each of us had some good Q rates. My best was on 20M CW. I worked 40M SSB, and CW; and 20M CW. Keith worked 20 and 15 SSB. It was difficult to find many mobiles and difficult to work them. Operators posted results and comments on the 3930 reflector, <http://lists.contesting.com/3830/>. Those new to working TQP will return; they had a great time. Those who worked it in the past are glad to see that it is alive after Katrina!

I am taking a poll of those that read the presidents report. Please send an email to K5GQ@JUNO.COM. In the subject line "read presidents report" and for the message text put your name. Next month I will publish the results.

Start thinking about the December Home Brew Meeting. The NARS News will list those prepared to show off their projects. I will send out a reminder to RSVP before the end of November (If you plan to present).

YOUR club is what YOU make it. Many opportunities exist. If you would like to be in on charting the direction, join the board. Find out about public service by helping one of the public service events.

Mark K5GQ

Public Service Events

Your Radio Skills Are Needed

Events officially sponsored by NARS include Buffalo Bayou Regatta (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 2006.

Following is a report from K5ZTY.

The ARES General Membership Meeting was held on Saturday morning Sept. 23rd at the Houston Emergency Center (HEC). The major subject of the meeting was the distribution and building of the Anderson Power Pole distribution box kit project. Ken Mitchell built the prototype and brought it to the July Meeting where it was well received. He and Hal Merritt put the kit project together for the September meeting. ARES is trying to establish a standard for power connection at all of the emergency management locations and Power Poles are to be the standard. The idea is that everyone's equipment has the same power connectors on it and can be hooked up to any other power source without a lot of connector juggling and possible reverse polarity damage. The project was well received. I believe there were 45 kits distributed. Genuine Anderson Power Pole connectors can be bought at EPO now.

Speaking of HEC, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (I didn't even know there was such a department) has determined that construction of the proposed 500' emergency communications tower on the HEC property would have no significant impact on the environment. The proposed tower would have a 50' to 60' wide spread at the base and would provide reliable emergency communications over a wide area. There would be Amateur Radio antenna space on the tower. Neighborhood civic organizations are not happy with the decision and plan a suit in federal court. Even the city has problems putting up a ham antenna.

The Hams for Hospitals project is moving along, albeit slowly. The Tomball Hospital group has all of the legalities settled, has money allocated for equipment, has space for antennas and equipment and a training room. Cal White has done a masterful job of ram-rodging that project and the Hams in the Tomball area have responded in good numbers. Cal has had to put the H for H project on hold lately while taking care of his home moving project but he plans to get it going again next month. If you want to help with the Tomball Hospital project, contact Cal, WF5W.

Terry Meyers and Jerry Whiting are at about the same place with the Northwest Hospital project. They need volunteer communicators to become familiar with the hospital equipment and staff and commit to helping the hospital in the event of a communications failure. Northwest has put the Amateur Radio project on the back burner for now but they will expect us to be ready if they need us so we need to go ahead with volunteer recruitment, training and planning.

Methodist Willowbrook has all of their equipment in place and is ready to hook stuff up and test it. There will be a Coast Guard drill on Tuesday morning October the 24th that the Methodist Hospital system is involved in and Willowbrook has requested that we have an operator there to activate their Ham radio communications on that morning. We will be there. If you live in the Willowbrook area, we need volunteers who will commit to operate the Ham Radio station in the event of a communications emergency if you are available. You do not have to be a member of ARES, RACES, NARS or any other group to do this. Some experience with conducting nets or working public service events is a plus. When the group is formed we will do some orientation and training. This will mean going through the hospital volunteer application and screening process the same as all hospital volunteers do. You will then be issued identification that will allow you in the building in the event of an emergency. This is about the same process at all the hospitals. If you want to help with any of these hospitals, let me know.

Mike Hardwick, N5VCH, (who has also been busy with his day job) is hoping to have a "second step" Hams for Hospitals meeting in October on a date TBD. He is working toward having a first H for H drill sometime in December. I'll try to keep us up to date on this.

Continued on page 7

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

DX IS! Yes . . .

DX IS . . . what you make of it.

Beginning DXing:

1. One of the old and well known tools for beginning DX-ers are “DX Nets” or “Lists”. These are useful tools to gather new countries and at the same time be learning . . . the methods of DXing. Generally, The DX that checks into a net regular, is a good QSL-er.

Some of the Ole’ Timers DXers will say “No way; no DX nets; no lists; I’ll work them on my own, I don’t need a crutch!”

The truth of the matter is that probably 99 percent of those old time DXers participated in either or both DX nets or lists. And, they most likely did it during their DX-beginning era. But now, most of the DX they need is not on a net or list-operation. So it is easy to say “No way . . .”

But, let North Korea, P5, show up on a net operation and you will hear thousands of “old time DXers” with very high DXCC or CQ Magazine country counts checking into the net.

Today, someone might find a similarity to DX nets and . . . DX Clusters! How about that ‘Ole Timer’? Also, some DX operators; particularly those that are one of the few or only ham in the country prefer the order and simplicity of a list or net operation. They cannot turn their radio on without getting inundated with pileups.

When I was working in Beijing and operated BY1QH at Qing Hua University; those young op’s all used the W7PHO Family Hour DX net on 14.225 MHz for their ham operations. It was relaxed and very orderly and the operators that needed “BY” for a ‘new one’ were spoon fed to these operators. Pile-ups just intimidated those young Chinese operators. Their English was extremely limited; in most cases, to the standard QSO exchange terminology.

One of the operators, Yuan Bo, had me go by 14225 and get to know “Mr Bill” (Bill Bennett, W7PHO [sk]). I would only visit with Bill about any equipment needed by the 3-4 active Chinese stations. Bill would put the word that something was needed and it would appear. It would be shipped to my Casper address and I would piggy-back it w/ me on a return trip. Then Bill would run me off as I only worked CW from the 2-3 Chinese stations; primarily BY1QH and BY9GA in Lanzhou that I regularly operated. The Chinese at that time were not real comfortable with CW; for the most part. (There are tons of stories about “Mr Bill”; a true gentleman of amateur radio. He was instrumental in getting equipment donated to the club stations that had no funds for equipment when China re-opened amateur radio in the very early 1980’s.)

. . . Anyway:

I do not know the status or reputation of any nets today. The one or two I knew of a long time ago, I believe, had impeccable reputations. There wasn’t the stigma that may exist today. Stigma or not, they are useful and you can pick up a lot of new countries and get them out of the way for your DXCC this way. No relaying of calls or reports or ‘filling-in’ was allowed. Do your part and conduct yourself properly.

For the purposes of this article, I must apologize for not having any kind of list of nets. Usually they are on 20 meters, somewhere between 14225 and 14265 (?). There used to be “Afrikaner Net” on 21355 MHz in the afternoons. But with the condition of the higher HF bands it may not exist or be uncallable.

“The Drill”:

The nets have a usual start and finish time. Learn those. There will be a “net control station” (NC) who gathers the DX and also breaks for operators to call in if he needs to QSO that particular DX station. When he asks for callers, please give your full call; even if he says “last two letters of your call sign”. Be a “nerd”

in this regard; it’s the law!

The NC will list out what DX is available today. From this you can learn what may be available that you need for your country-count.

Spend some time listening to the various nets that may exist. Learn the style and then jump in a make some contacts. Get those ‘plain vanilla’ countries out the way in your quest for the DX awards. Whether you decide to use nets or lists is your choice. If you can’t weather the big pileups; this may or may not be an option. You set the standards for your station and your DX quest.

2. Contests:

Another absolute exceptional way to build your country count and your country count for particular bands or zones is contests. You do not have to be a participant in that contest at all. The participants love to have DXers active during a contest. You need them and they . . . need you! With the right contest, e.g. CQ WW CW, SSB and RTTY and band conditions; you can work DXCC in a weekend. Mark your calendar for the dates, start and finish times and required exchanges and allow some time that weekend to get in there and make contacts.

Many times it takes a big contest to awaken a band. You can make a lot of quick and fast QSO’s and fill in those holes in your DXCC, 5 Band DXCC, 5 Band WAZ and other programs. Many contesters, themselves, are active DXers and fill holes in their DX quests via their participation in contests. Heck if DX conditions are good; just set up on a frequency and run DX stations. You will work a lot of DX countries you already have; but you will also pick up some ‘new-ones’. Many, many times rare DX operators who are not active in the contest will cruise the bands and work stations that are running a frequency. All of us have snagged ‘new-ones’ that way.

Continued on page 4

DX News continued from page 3

Contest QSLing:

This can be confusing until you develop a system. So many times, the callsigns used during a contest was just for that contest. A special callsign like our 1X1 calls, e.g. "K5N". This is where QSL bulletins are useful. Do a search for QSL bulletins or info and put those URL addresses in your Favorites for reference later. When you get one of those strange calls; work them first, always, and then check later for the QSL information. There's an old saying about working strange callsigns: "WFWL"; "Work Them First and Worry Later" . . .

DX Reports:

DX reports are super-slim this month. Band conditions, I believe can be attributed to the best reasoning. I find myself being slack in DX activity also. In the Rockies, the summertime was 'outside' time and the winter was cabin time, except for snow-mobiling or skiing. Except, in South Texas, August/September can be pretty uncomfortable . . . outside.

I came to Houston one time in August, before our transfer here. While here I was visiting a ham friend and talked about his 40 meter Yagi needing repair. I cautioned him that he better get to fixing it while summer is here. His response was, "You don't understand; in South Texas, we wait until fall and winter to do antenna and tower work. No way would we do this work in the summertime"!

1. John ("Burrito Juan"), W5PDW a.k.a. "Mr NARS Dxr": And I will quote: "Route 66 on the air. Got all 17 of them, plus two contacts with J-38 (would that be the V31 boys, Juan?) and made my first Echolink contact and into the Barstow 2 meter repeater. Got my kicks on Route 66!" John also had a good time with TQP. Made 130 QSO's, 72 counties and 21 states. Like myself, John was also able to work Willard, KD5EKA running the frequency (yes!) looking for TQP contacts. John worked a lot of states during TQP that nothing but good to say about 'our' TQP. "One of the best and most friendly." (Of QSO parties.) We knew that, John. W5PDW also added HB9AL to his 'new-one' stack. Was this over-all new or band-counter, John?

2. Cal, WF5W now has no excuse for not

operating the radio. He put up his first tower at the new abode and it was for a 2 meter Yagi. I stopped by there recently and there was a 3 element HF Yagi on the tower. At least he has his priorities in order. Additionally, the shack is to be a combo office and radio shack. I noticed on my visit that only the radio was setup; rather primitive and temporary, on a small file cabinet and saw horse-table; no office setup at all. Again, he has his priorities in order.

After Cal's straight key DXpedition to Belize, I hear that he can crush bricks with his right (key) hand! I guess Eddy, K5WQG, has over-developed forearm muscles from long hours on the straight key . . . Now you know why some of us did not join you guys in V31!

Speaking of V31, Belize; John also has a log full of Q's with the guys while they were there.

3. H.O., K5CX is temporarily in a DX Abuse Clinic in an attempt to improve his time on the radio. Heck, we know who the operator is in this family. Big boy; it "ain't" you! Anita, N5AOK did an outstanding job during TQP while "somebody else" just relaxed behind the wheel.

4. Bruce, N1LN a.k.a. NC4KW or "NARS-East" was quite active during TQP working the Texas stations with his "waires". Bruce hopes to start grading, plotting, digging and pouring cement very soon and then stacking tower right afterwards. Almost cannot get the vehicles into the garage for the entire Rohn tower sections stacked in there! October is the month to do this kind of thing. So, be looking for a big wave of RF coming from North Carolina very soon.

Bruce does report some new band-countries:
TU2/F5LDY, Ivory Coast 40 CW; S9SS, Sao Tome 15 CW; MD0LON, Isle of Man 17 CW; 7P8JF, Lesotho 40 CW

5. K5UO, Mike ('le columnist): As mentioned earlier, I haven't been doing much on the radio. Watching and tuning is all. Did receive a few new band counter QSL's this month:

1. 4W6AAB Timor Leste (ex-YB) on 20 and 40 CW. I still need this one on fone for one of my last two, second

time.

2. KH8SI Swains Island 80 through 17meters
3. YU6AO and 4O6DX Montenegro 80-12 meters CW/SSB

. . . And my ARRL "Challenge" is stalled at 2161. Come on winter!

Starting to see North American spots on 80 and 160 meters so I put up my 400 foot Beverages and 160 Inverted L's raised radials for the season. Been some contacts; but still lots of noise.

Had fun in TQP, also. Thanks to all the mobiles and drivers. That is a really fun contest.

Upcoming DX:

1. Madagascar: DL7RJ/5R8 active 80-10 Meters from October 1-27. Always a good one to get! QSL to his home call in Germany.
2. French Polynesia: FO/KM8D has been quite active on 40, 80,160. QSL via OM2SA and LoTW (real fortunate in this case)
3. Nicaragua: YN2EJ October 26,7,8, 9 for the CQ WW SSB test: K5LBUB, W5GCX, K5UO . . . QSL via K5LBUB
4. According to the AR-Cluster Network summary there were 217 countries spotted during September.
5. Georgia: 4L8A will be active on 20 meters as a SO 20 meters during the CQ WW SSB test. QSL to DJ1CW.
6. Bill Moore, NC1L, and ARRL DXCC Manager remind us that the KH8, Swains Island QSL submission and credit are not accepted until October 1. So go-for-it now.
7. Speaking of Swains Island, well known Dxr YT1AD and a six-station team are said to be going to Swains Island; to be active September 12 through October 3 . . . 2007. But, the owners of privately held Swains know nothing of this visit.
8. Montenegro YU3AD: If you missed this new country; YT1AD, Hrane will be active all of October. QSL via YT1AD, his home call.

Many thanks to the contributors to this column and those of you who "forgot": hope to hear from you next month.

*73 es gud DX,
Mike Bragassa, K5UO*

VE Session Results

Special Technician Class

The new licenses have been issued for the Special Technician Class, held last Sunday, October 1. Please welcome to the hobby all of the following;

KE5KSS Obrosky, Richard F, Magnolia
KE5KST Obrosky, Cynthia L R, Magnolia
KE5KSU Shows, Douglas W, Seabrook
KE5KSV Lang, William A, Houston
KE5KSW Trimble Jr, James M, Houston
KE5KSX McAughan, Matthew C, Houston
KE5KSY Foreman, Karen S, Houston
KE5KSZ Goodman, Harding R, Spring
KE5KTA Mackey, Lester E, Cypress
KE5KTB Schnell, Richard B, Houston
KE5KTC McKee Sr, Terry L, Tomball

KE5KTD Warnell, Terry G, The Woodlands
KE5KTE Schnell, Deborah D, Houston
KE5KTF Rajwany, Amin K, Houston
KE5KTG Miaji, Liaquat A, Spring
KE5KTH Christian Jr, Percy L, Pasadena
KE5KTI Christian, Ruth A, Pasadena
KE5KTJ Tolley, Henry C, Houston
KE5KTK Makani, Suleman S, San Antonio
KE5KTL Lakhani, Karim G, Houston
KE5KTM Panjwani, Nasir S, Sugarland
KE5KTN Jehle, Allen L, Houston
KE5KTO Kosmoski, Michael A, Houston
KE5KTV Whitehead, Christopher H, Pasadena

The training team did a wonderful job with 24 of 30 passing the examination.

My thanks to the VE volunteers, without whom, this would not have been possible; Jim Kirk – KJ5X, Sarah Connell – W0HXO, Eddy Reynolds – K5WQG, Terry Myers – KQ5U, Steve Niles – N5EN, Matt Stoffer – KE5MS and Tom Hauff – K8VZD.

Our next regular VE test session will be held on 10/28/2006 and this will be the last regular session offered by the team this year.

73
Norm Covey/K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager

NARS becomes charter member of New Ham Promo Project

A new program to promote Amateur Radio is underway, and NARS is a sponsoring charter member. Designed to reverse the slowing growth rate of the Amateur service, the objective of the project is to spread the word about our hobby and to recruit new licensees.

“We’re happy that your radio club is among the sponsoring clubs that recognize the need to grow our ranks by active recruitment”, said Dee Logan W1HEO, President of the Indian Hills Radio Club, a project sponsor. “Clubs are tremendously important to the effort, by conducting various promotional activities, offering licensing classes and supplying volunteer members of the newly formed ‘Elmer Corps’.”

An important first step in the project was to produce several promotional tools that will make it easier for clubs to present Amateur Radio to the public. A major step was the production of a new, 21 minute video, “Amateur Radio: Wireless Window to the World,” that introduces the public to our hobby. The video

includes several area hams, plus scenes showing many aspects of ham radio, including emergency communication. This video was shown at our earlier meeting in April. Other promotional items available to the club are a tabletop display, signs, and banners that can be used in various demonstrations, displays or talks.

As you might expect, getting a project such as this requires a lot of planning and participation of the membership. NARS has entered this arena by sponsoring our second Technician Self Study Session, coming up on October 1st in an effort to get a few more folks interested in the hobby. Hopefully, some of these newly licensed individuals will continue their interest by becoming members of NARS.

But, there’s a catch, and it involves participation, in assisting in the presentation of programs, and in the form of Elmer support from our experienced members. Getting a person to join NARS is the easy part. Helping him to stay a ham is the hard part, and that involves

being available when he or she needs assistance in going forward, whether it be advice on what antenna to use or the type of equipment that best suits that individual’s needs. Making one feel part of the group and not just another newbie will go a long way in keeping that person an active member and a proud addition to the amateur radio ranks. Most of you know what thrill it was to have made that first contact. You can help pass that thrill on to another. You can make it happen. A Ham is made, not born!

For us at NARS, this is just a start. Plans are in the making for more promotional projects for 2007. Can we count on you? Sorry, no operators are standing by to take your calls, but the e-mail pipeline is always open. kd5kr@arrl.net will work to start. Come on Dudes, stand up and be counted. No reasonable offer will be turned down, and there’s none of that MSRP hype to worry about! The continued existence of amateur radio is a stake!

Joe, KD5KR

QUA* John Ellis W5PDW?

My latest interviewee's life has held many illuminating experiences. W5PDW, (Papa Drinks Whisky), John Ellis, has an engaging personality and has a way of encouraging many people to become involved in his interests and hobbies.

John was born in Parsons, Kansas and lived there for 22 years. He fondly recalled his many vacations with his family to his grandparent's home in Oregon. Along the way, they seem to have visited every state park west of the Mississippi. His father took him and his older brother hunting and fishing and began to teach them how to use a camera before they were ten. This developed a life-long love of photography, and he graciously says his brother was the better photographer. His father's mentoring skills have been passed to John. His daughter has recently been taking some very good photographs of flowers. The latest is a beautiful Angel Trumpet.

John's father had an appliance store in their town and rented some space near the front to him so he could run a hobby shop. He loaned him a cash register and let him go. John sold the business at 16, to buy a plane ticket to Aruba to visit his brother, who was running a photography shop for a company located there.

Just prior to leaving, John and his father both passed the Novice exam. They received consecutive call signs while he was out of the country. John received KN0KFA and his father was KN0KFB. His brother and father-in-law later received their licenses. His father-in-law was 77 at the time and later upgraded to Advanced with the call, K0VUA.

At 22, John moved to Morgan City, Louisiana where he began his thirty year career in the oil business. The culture was so different he could have as easily moved to Thailand! He lived there for eight years and enjoyed the fresh seafood and began to acclimate to the environment.

Having his license helped him get his job and then he easily qualified for the Commercial General Class radio telephone license.

He then moved to Houston. Shortly after arriving he went into a San Antonio based photography store called Stuers. There he saw a beautiful young lady in yellow. Lucille, known as Lu, managed the company's ten Houston stores and studios. They were married a year later. Lu had two daughters and a son. John adopted her son, the youngest and also has two boys of his own. They have eight grandchildren and five great-grandkids. When I asked, it took a while to count them all – I think they had to take their shoes off to get to their toes! I hope we have that problem some day soon . . .

This is Sarge's favorite part of the article – then he knows who he is smelling on your knees (or in this case, feet!) when he meets you . . .

John and Lu have two dachshunds, Tomakseh (Poor pitiful one) and Kijhto (Shadow). Their names are from the Potawatomi language, which is the native language of Lu's ancestors. (Sarge is afraid he won't be able to communicate!?!).

John worked for a small company that had several names, the most common was Oceanics. They seismically mapped the ocean floor. While working in the Gulf he would help his team pile all the gear into the back of a van with only two front seats – somebody would have to sit on the floor, or on the equipment. Then they would take a small boat or a helicopter to the rig. Then there would be six people sharing a room designed for two.

After a few years he went to work for Boots and Coots, whose projects were in the North Sea and off the coast of West Africa. He actually met Red Adair when his company was capping a well in Parsons, KS, his home town and it was exciting to be deeply involved in the same business.

He recalls in his new job being picked up by a limo and flying business class through London, where he was allowed to stay and explore for a few days. The rooms they were given on the floating hotels next to the platforms were as nice as any Holiday Inn in Houston and unlike the Gulf experiences; he was the only person in the room!

John's responsibility was navigator and he had a GPS system that was built on a seven foot rack with another table full of attached equipment. Most of the job was trailing 2 1/2 mile cables to get seismic readings of the ocean floor to find the existing cables in order to lie new. It was often a spaghetti bowl of pipes and they had to be sure a barge dragging anchors didn't snag one. The biggest challenge was the shrimp boats capturing their buoys during the night!

It was always a surprise to bump into someone you had been hunting with in Katy a few weeks earlier or meet someone new who lived a couple of miles from your home, when you were standing in Angola!

In fact, once when he was in West Africa his manager offered him a bonus. Instead, he asked for Lu to be flown to Paris along with two weeks of vacation. She had just received her Art degree from the Glassell School of Art in the museum district. They visited as many museums as possible and were sitting before a large painting when she saw one of her instructors and another student walk up.

In 1994, John decided to pursue his hobby full-time and began his photography business. He enjoys capturing special moments in the lives of people, knowing that they will be passed on to children, grand-children, and so on.

While he was traveling his dad and brother, now both silent keys, were collecting QSL cards from the Mercury and Gemini stations through the first few STS stations. He has the cards and intends to frame them one day.

One evening John was on 2-meters with a couple of friends when they said they wanted to contact Muir passing directly over-head. They all pulled over and John's brother, in Kansas, heard his contact and four minutes later, he contacted them while John was still listening. Now, that was exciting!

Continued on page 7

QUA continued from page 6*

When John first when to Aruba in 1956 his license hadn't yet arrived, but he went back in 1969 and with the help of some of his brothers friends was able to get PJ9AK within a few days. He had a great time with his Collins KWM2 and power supply with its own special fitted Samsonite suitcase to lug the 51 pounds through airports. He also used this unit for maritime mobile contacts in international waters.

Now that John is on solid ground, he has an Icom 775DSP and a 50 ft crank-up with TH6DXX. He also has 40 and 80 meter inverted V's.

But, his real pride and joy is the vintage equipment . . .

An Elmac AF67

Accompanied by an Elmac PMR7

And he has a Hallicrafters SX100

He is very possessive of his J38 code key that he and his father bought before they were licensed in the early 50's from government surplus.

W5PDW's favorite band is 3962 1/2. He meets friends every night at 11:00 for the Possum Trappers Net. They just celebrated their 30th anniversary at Lake Tawakoni.

John has also contacted some of the WWII code talkers. Their published stories are some of his favorites.

He also enjoys a wide variety of reading from Hillerman to Hemmingway. He

buys copies of "The Old Man and the Sea" to have and give to spur the enjoyment of reading.

John answered my question about his life very quickly with one word, "Great!"

He explained that his wife has been his best friend for 36 years. He has a wonderful family, good friends and hobbies that have provided years of enjoyment.

John, thank you for the opportunity to "capture" your life in words rather than pictures.

Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL
Ham & Sheez Reporter

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

NARS Satellite News Report

On September 9th I had the opportunity of driving out to the Wharton Airport to see first hand what a balloon launch was all about. Yes a balloon is a kind of a satellite. It was a rainy overcast day and one would not think that it was proper weather to be doing a balloon launch, but as K5WH (Walter Holmes) and I drove out there we heard on one the repeaters that it was still on. As soon as we walked in to the airplane hanger I immediately could tell there was excitement all around us. Everyone was rushing around, but all had a purpose.

Very well organized – the guys doing the balloon filling had it weighted down so it couldn't fly away and were wearing latex gloves to prevent damage to balloon

from oils on their hands. Then there was Andy working on the package itself. The package contained a FM cross-band voice repeater for 2mtrs and 440, a 1200mhz FM ATV (Amateur TV) transmitter hooked to a camera pointed at the horizon that had infrared capabilities, and 2 GPS systems transmitting coordinates on 2 meters.

The launch was perfect; right thru the rain and clouds. The beacon was chirping along with coordinates and after a few minutes the package broke thru the cloud layer and into sun light. The ATV pictures were nothing short of spectacular. You can see a video of the whole launch at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfsCcz2vcYM>. The

cross-band repeater was repeating signals from Corpus Christi with ease. I really enjoyed this event and highly recommend it if you should ever have a chance to see one.

PCSAT2 is officially down. It has been removed from the ISS. Stay tuned, rumor has it NASA is planning to attach or launch more amateur satellites real soon.

Next month, more information on how to listen for FM birds with you handheld.

Send any updates on Satellites to me so I can include them in this column.

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
Fitz6@swbell.net

Public Service Events continued from page 2

One place to learn some net procedure is the Sunday night Northwest ARES training net that rotates between 4 local repeaters and a simplex net on 5th Sundays. Here's the schedule: 1st Sunday, Rosehill repeater, 146.72; 2nd Sunday H.P. Club repeater, 146.76; 3rd Sunday, Houston Amateur Radio repeater, 147.3; and 4th Sunday, NARS repeater, 146.66. If there is a 5th Sunday it is held simplex at 146.66 MHz. You

don't have to be a member of any group to participate in this either.

Mike Urich, KA5CVH, EC for dist.14 Southeast ARES reports there is a RACES net on Tuesday evenings starting at 18:30 on the 145.29 (-) 103.5 repeater in Pasadena. You do not have to be a member of RACES to check in but RACES members check in first then visitors.

We have been lucky this year and haven't had a real emergency. We need to take advantage of this and put plans, equipment, people and training in place. Think about what you can do and get involved. If you have questions, ask me, I'll get you the best information I can.

Become Active!

Bill, K5ZTY

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Andy Aronstam KE5KDU, Peter Aronstam AD5YD, Dan Bates N5TM, Judy Bates WB5TFS, Robert Foreman KE5KLB and Mark Stringfield KE5JTW.

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
Madison Jones W5MJ
281-350-4330, w5mj@hal-pc.org
Larry McCain KN5Z
281-469-6709, kn5z@arrl.net
Deral Kent K5WNO – Antennas
281-548-7476, k5wno@juno.com

Satellite:

Dick Rooney W5VHN
281-288-8424, dickrooney@usa.net

Digital Modes:

Don Bedell KA3BKU Packet
281-257-6425 donka3bku@ev1.com
Gregg Erlenbusch, W5IDX PSK/RTTY
281-970-6860, W5IDX@ARRL.net

VHF/UHF:

Brian Derx N5BA 281-894-5942

PC Programming and Operations:

Keith Dutson NM5G
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

Interference (Basic Advice):

Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com
Terry Myers KQ5U
281-443-6042, tmyers1031@sbcglobal.net

Card Checking Awards Managers:

Bob Walworth N5ET – DXCC
281-292-2221, rwalworth@charter.net
Brian Derx N5BA – WAS, VUCC
281-894-5942
H O Townsend K5CX – WAZ
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net

NARS Public Information Officer:

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

NARS Information

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN

Mark Tyler K5GQ
281-587-0256, k5gq@juno.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
281-583-5588, g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY

Charles Sanders NO5W
936-321-0053, no5w@txucom.net

TREASURER

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

DIRECTORS

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281-251-4301, fitz6@swbell.net
Mike Lodge K7LEX
281-255-2202, lodgem@swbell.net
H O Townsend K5CX
281-376-7416, k5cx@arrl.net
Rick Aikman KZ5E
281-351-5341, ki5mera@sbcglobal.net

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

TBA

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

NET

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: Bill Buoy N5BIA
281-370-3510, n5bia@arrl.net

NARS REFLECTOR

NARS@mailman.qth.net
Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

TEXAS QSO PARTY

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

VE SESSION (ARRL)

Manager:
Norm Covey K5OS
281-252-8285, k5os@arrl.net

REPEATERS

2M: 146.660 / 146.060 (KA5AKG)
Tone: 141.3
70 cm: 444.375 / 449.375 (KA5AKG)
Tone: 103.5

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership

Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM
Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 6000
Spring Cypress Road

Saturday Breakfast

Denny's, 7720 Louetta, 7:30 AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

Various locations (Info on 146.660 and
listed on front page in Important Dates
column)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by
Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Send all articles and materials for the
Newsletter to:

Editor: Keith Dutson NM5G
281-351-7683, keith@dutson.net

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
Special Service Club affiliated with the
American Radio Relay League.

ARRL Club No. 2120