

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

February 2008



February Meeting

Antarctica

Lollie Garay KD5WZM is just back from this 7-week trip Antarctica. She will be presenting a review of her trip at the February 15th general meeting.

Lollie joined a team of international scientists on the Oden icebreaker including Drs. Robert Sherell and Walker Smith. Dr. Sherell is a professor at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences and Department of Geological Sciences at Rutgers University and the US science lead on the expedition. His research attempts to understand the processes that control the distribution of trace elements in the water column of the ocean. He is particularly interested in the role of primary producers, and how these organisms influence the global concentration and distribution of trace elements. Dr. Walker Smith is a professor of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Dr. Smith studies the year-to-year changes in the biology, physics, and chemistry of Antarctica's Ross Sea and how these changes control the growth and fate of phytoplankton in the ocean.



Lollie journeyed across the world to participate in a unique co-operative endeavor between the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). Along with researchers, teachers and other personnel from Sweden, and the United States, Ms. Garay boarded the Swedish icebreaker Oden in Punta Arenas, Chile and traveled to McMurdo Base in Antarctica, finally returning home via Christchurch, New Zealand.

Cont - See page 2.

Important Dates

Friday, Feb 15, 7:30 PM - General Membership meeting, Cypress Creek Christian Community Center - Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 PM.

Saturday, Feb 23, 2008 - 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, Feb 26, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Los Cusco Restaurant Feb 20th
Spring Creek Barbeque Feb 27th
Pepperchino Mar 5th
Luby's Cafeteria Mar 12th
Jason's Deli Mar 19th
Baker Street Pub and Grill Mar 26th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Skeeters Feb 20th
Cafi Express Feb 27th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Mar 5th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Mar 12th
Fajita Willies W. Little York Mar 19th
Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Mar 26th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Pappas Barbecue Feb 20th
Fred's Italian Corner Feb 27th
New Orleans Cajun Kitchen Mar 5th
Jason's Deli Mar 12th
Buffalo Grille Mar 19th
DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers Mar 26th

"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 Road

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

February - 2008

Hope this finds everyone in fine spirits, as it happens, this Super Bowl Sunday.

I am hearing nothing but nice reports regarding the January Awards Banquet. On behalf of the participants, I thank you!

A lot of effort is expended in preparation for the banquet, in particular, Bill Denton and his video review of the clubs activities during 2007. Aside from the compiling and editing, Bill has to gather the video material throughout the year.

Also, the NARS Pickers are getting too good! With amount of practice going back several months, you would think with the excellent presentation they made, that they are 'moon-lightning' somewhere else! They get too good, deservingly so, and we could not afford them, Hi!

We have a few new board members and officers going forward in 2008. Along with the existing board members we have a lot to do this year. See where you can fit in!

You, as members are asked to help all you can in the activities coming up. This isn't a private club for 5-6 of us; it is all our club. Please, I am asking, don't sit back "like a bump on a log" and take it all in. Do your part and volunteer (or ask) for a project. You and the club will enjoy it and we will do better. OK?

I want to try to get more or predominately the newer members involved in projects, but have at least one or two 'ole timers' as advisors to the individual 'newer' volunteer. Someone might say: "That job takes previous experience." It will not with an experienced advisor to get the newer person started and stand in the background along the way. But, it's going to take volunteers to make it work.

To get it started, anyone willing to volunteer for an upcoming project (We have so few, really) please email me and let me know your interest. I'll get you an advisor!

Another volunteer surfaced recently. Actually, I tapped him on the shoulder to work a project for the club. My goal was to have the meeting program efforts performed by a committee, rather than just one individual. It adds variety-thinking to selecting programs and spreads the workload out amongst three people. Paul Owen, currently vice-president couldn't have agreed fast enough. We need more like Paul.

Paul will head up a committee of three to search, solicit and decide upon meeting programs for this year. He will be looking for fellow-members of this committee; so be ready. Thanks Paul, you have set a fine example.

Field Day is coming up faster than you think. Whom (plural) is going to help with that fun event?

Tks es 73, Mike Bragassa, K5UO

VE Session Results

Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG
NARS VE Session Manager

Here is the VE Test Session Results for Saturday, August 25th:

There were a total of two candidates - two passed the element they took.

Please welcome the latest additions to the hobby.

- Ashwin Ashok - KE5SPV - Technician

And congratulations to the upgrade:

- Tobin Melton - KD5ZKX - upgraded to General

Special thanks to the VEs in attendance for their time and hard work: Keith Dutson - NM5G, Martin Rogoff - N5GPS, Tom Rum - W5RUM, Bob Walworth - N5ET, and Bruce Wright - WC5CW

The next session will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 8:30 a.m. at the Tomball Community Center, located at the corner of Market St. & S. Cherry St.

Parking is in the rear (south side) of the building. The entrance is on the S. Cherry St. (west) side of the building. 73, Eddy Reynolds - K5WQG

February Meeting - Antarctica (cont)

The scientific objectives of the cruise were to collect a range of data in rarely traveled areas of the Antarctic seas and coastline, including the Bellingshausen, Amundsen, and eastern Ross Seas. An international research team studied the oceanography and biogeochemistry of the region while in transit to Antarctica, with a particular emphasis on the processes that control the growth and fate of phytoplankton in the ocean. These studies will add to our limited knowledge of these remote corners of the Antarctic Seas and allow future researchers to expand their monitoring efforts in these regions.



Lollie boarded the Oden icebreaker in Punta Arenas, Chile, the southernmost city in South America and then traveled across the southern Pacific Ocean to McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The largest research station in Antarctica.

Around the Circuit

NARS Assist Scouts in Obtaining Radio Merit Badge

We had so much fun last March in helping local scouts in getting their Radio Merit Badge, we decided to do it all over again. This year's class will be held on **Saturday, March 1st at the Champion Forest Baptist Church** on Stuebner Airline Road. Gary Greer N5EXP, is a radio merit badge counselor and has signed up well over fifteen lads bent on adding the coveted

badge to their banner. The team, consisting of Tom Atkins, Bill Skipper, Ray Clutts and Joe Sokolowski will be looking for a couple more volunteers to assist with the "hands on" QSO's the students will have to participate in. All you will need is a 2 meter hand-held to get the job done.

Report on ARRL Winter Board Meeting Reception

NARS and the Texas DX Society co-sponsored a social January 19th, at the Greenspoint Marriott for the ARRL Board of Directors and staff.

See report: <http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0801/>

There were approximately 110 in attendance, and the NARS presence was certainly good. Those in attendance had an opportunity to establish new friendships while renewing existing ones.



(Left -to-right) ARRL President -Joel Harrison W5ZN; NARS President -Mike Bragassa K5UO; CEO, Executive VP, and Secretary of the American Radio Relay League -David Sumner K1ZZ; and TDXS President -Steve Smothers W9DX.

DX NEWS

"For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print"

Mike Bragassa - K5UO
NARS DX Editor.

DX...IS !

Many thanks for the responses to my forever request for DX, etc. information. Without it there would be no "DX News".

1. Jim, KJ5X, reports having made 20m QSO's with FJ/OH2AM and TO5FJ, both on the new DXCC counter, Barthemely Island, FJ. He also finally had another QSO with Montenegro, 400CE, but this time he received the QSL card...and in three weeks turn-around time. I guess the other fellows he worked are a bit lazy (or richer?).

Last couple of months he has had QSO's with ZS6VDW, ZS1SR, VK2GWK and C91R. The ZS and VK (longpath) QSO's were like talking to your neighbor and at 3:00PM in the afternoon on 20 meters. (ed: 30 meters in the morning has been good longpath into Tagizstan and that area.)

2. Cal, WF5W, has developed into a real lowbander. Welcome to the frustrating bands, Cal! He has taken his HyGain 18HT vertical, modified it a bit and is working DX all over Europe and South America on 160 meters. The recent outstanding DXpedition to Guinea Bissau, J5C, got into Cal's logbook on four bands. The special QSO was on 160 meters! 80, 40 and 30 meter QSO's with Barthelemy Island also were had this last month.

3. Special: At an undisclosed location, recently, a secret test conducted by certain NARS members, names withheld, was being made on a new wire vertical (well, sort of), sloper (well, sort of), inverted L (well, sort of) for 80 and 160 meters. The antenna was assembled at another undisclosed location, prior. A purchase at a farm store rounded out our secret materials. Antenna was placed into test the weekend of the recent CQWW

160meter contest. Many QSO's into Europe and DX in this hemisphere were made. There are several of these antenna's in use now in the North Houston area to Santa Fe area.

More specific details soon.

4. Eddy, K5WQG, worked all three of the DXpedition stations this past month. Barthelmy Island: FJ/OH2AM on 20,40,17 meters CW. TO5FJ on 20,30,40 meters CW and/or RTTY. Guinea Bissau: J5C on 20,30,40 meters CW and/or RTTY.

5. John, W5PDW a.k.a. "The Banquet Foto-Guru", made his first-ever 160 meter QSO in working WF5W recently. John's shack was randomly chosen as one of the test sites for the heralded 80 and 160 meter antenna in item 3, above.

John's list of DX contacts is lengthy. A brief summary using all of his antenna's: PY5YV/20m, 15m, 40m SSB, TO5FJ/40SSB, J5C/20m SSB, ZD7X/15m SSB.

6. Mike, K5UO, was able to work the three DXpeditions this last month, Saint Barthemely being a 'new-one', as it is for everyone, I worked either FJ/OH2AM or TO5FJ on all bands except 12 and 10 meters. J5C, Guinea Bissau on 160 and 80 meters. So far this season, 160 meters has been a fair to good success. Now have about 9-10 new ones this season on that band for 170 countries worked. A few 'new-one's on 80 meters, too. My full-size vertical does excellently on 80 meters. Good low take-off angle. Those 67 @ 65 foot buried radials about killed my back!

7. Paul, W5PF, had a busy, busy January as many of us did:

a) TO5FJ, Saint Barthelemy, on four bands and three modes!

b) J5C, Giunea Bissau, on five bands (!!) and three modes.

c) FO/OH1RX, Marquesas Island, on five bands and three modes.

d) VP6PR, Pitcairn Island, on 3 bands, including RTTY.

e) Several 80 meter new-ones and some IOTA's.

f) And last, but not the least: First two-meter SSB QSO in twenty years with WF5W. Remarks that there is almost no activity noticed on this band.

Paul had his new shack wired for 220 volts. Now he has some smoke for the big pileups!

DXCC NEWS. Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, states the following in a press release (dated Jan. 21st) about "Adding FJ to DXCC": "There has been some confusion circulating regarding the current processing time and how it is affecting the addition of St. Barthelemy to the DXCC list and LogBook Of The World.

Before processing 2008 applications (containing St. Barthelemy cards) DXCC must complete and close out all 2007 applications. Once this is done, 2007 has ended for DXCC staff. The pace of the current application processing allows an estimated completion period of late March.

Upon completion of 2007 applications we shut DXCC down for about a day while we run all of the yearly lists. Only after these lists are completed can we add FJ to the DXCC List and in turn, Logbook of The World.

DXCC staff is working hard to reduce the turnaround time, and we appreciate your patience and understanding while we work to get caught up. You can help by planning your submissions wisely and taking steps to make sure your applications are prepared according to the instructions posted on the DXCC application form and as noted in the FAQ. There will be plenty of time for everyone to have their Honor Roll submissions in place by December 31, 2008....Be patient.

Continued on page 5.

DX NEWS (cont)

TI9 - COCOS ISLAND, NA-012

The DXpedition of the week is going to Cocos Island (Isla del Coco, NA-012) will be on the air as TI9K from Feb 6-14. They will run up to seven stations simultaneously with at least one digi-mode station operating MixW 2.18, PSK and all other digital modes. Another station will work also via EME (2m/70cm). Operation takes place in CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK on 6-160m including 60m. The antennas for the six stations include: 5 band Spiderbeam, AV 640 verticals, HF6V, 4 squares for 40m/30m/20m, verticals and dipoles for 160m/80m/60m. The team appreciates any donations and the QSL manager EA2CRX confirms QSLs direct or via bureau. An online log will be published on their website after the expedition ends. You can find all necessary information about this DXpedition including an EME schedule at: <http://www.ti9.eu.com>

E5 - SOUTH COOK ISLANDS

Richard Lemke, AD7AF, is active as E51WWA from South Cook between Jan 27 and Feb 21. He stays on Rarotonga (OC-013) first until Feb 7 and will then relocate to Mauke (OC-083). He works with 100 watts and plans to take part in the upcoming ARRL DX CW Contest on Feb 16/17.

QSL cards should be sent to AD7AF or via LoTW.

JD1 - MINAMI-TORISHIMA, OC-073

Masa, JA6GXX, will be QRV again as JD1BMM from Minami-Torishima (OC-073) between Jan 31 and Feb 19. He will focus on the lowbands during his scarce spare time. Masa confirms QSLs direct or via bureau to JA6GXX.

9X - RWANDA

The dates for the 9X0R expedition to Rwanda are from 16

to 27 March. A band/mode survey has been added to the website (www.9x0r.com), and its results will help the operators' station configuration plans. The team will be active on 10-160 metres CW, SSB and RTTY, with at least three stations operating simultaneously on different bands and modes. QSL via EA5RM.

HB0 - LIECHTENSTEIN

Mario/DJ2MX, Simon/DJ4MZ, Manfred/DJ5MW, Matthias/DK4YJ and Christoph/DK9TN will be active as HB0/homecall from Liechtenstein on 14-18 February. QSL via home calls. They will participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest as HB0/N0MX in the M/2 category (QSL via DJ2MX). Full details on the operation, including

on-line logs, can be found at <http://www.dk9tn.de/2008/hb0>

YN - NICARAGUA

Andrei, NP3D (EW1AR) will be active from Nicaragua in February. He will participate in the CQ WPX RTTY Contest as YN2S, while before the contest (3-8 February) he will operate RTTY, CW, PSK31 and SSB on all bands as H7/NP3D. QSL via W3HNK. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW. The six stations (one for each continent) collecting the highest number of different band/mode slots for YN2S and H7/NP3D will receive "a special T-shirt".

SILENT KEY:

Alan Wright, 9H1AW, passed away tragically at the age of 71: He fell from his tower while doing some maintenance on his antenna. Our condolences are with his XYL Maureen, 9H1JN. Alan and Maureen were friends of several NARS members from our DXpedition to Malta several years ago. Alan and Maureen were extremely helpful to us via email prior to departing Houston and then again when we landed in Malta.

73 Alan y vaya con dios! Great people!

Tks folks es 73, Mike, K5UO

NARS Banquet Photos Courtesy of John W5PDW



NARS 2007 Board of Directors.



Ben Covey KE5AFV and Grandmother Jean Covey.



NARS 2007 Texas QSO Party winners.



Jim KJ5X and Julia Kirk



Right - Norm Covey K5OS Ham of the Year



Cal White WF5W

NARS Banquet Photos

Courtesy of John W5PDW



(L-to-R) H. O. K5CX and Cal WF5W.



(L-2-R) Kathy Hock, Sheryl DiLetto NN0A, Pat Marcy W7PZ.



Table #1 !



George DiLetto WD0RW and friends.



Dan KK5LD and Kathy.



The NARS Pickers!

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Congratulations to all who attended this years NARS Banquet!

NARS Resource List

General Help:

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NETS

10-Meter Ragchew: Mon 8:00 PM,
28.444 MHz Coordinator: Open

2-Meter Wedneaday Night: 8:00 PM,
146.06/66 MHz, Coordinator; Jerry
KB5VGD

WEB SITE

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Webmaster: Bill Buoy N5BIA
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NARS REFLECTOR

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TEXAS QSO PARTY

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VE SESSION (ARRL) Manager:

Eddy Reynolds K5WQG
reynolds_eddy@yahoo.com

REPEATERS (KA5AKG)

2-m: 146.06/146.66 MHz Tone: 141.3
70 cm: 444.375/449.375 MHz Tone:103.5

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership

Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM
Cypress Creek Christian Community
Center, 6823 Cypresswood Drive

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)

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