

NARS NEWS



The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 2008



January Meeting

Annual Banquet

Awards Banquet almost upon us!

The NARS Awards Banquet is only days away, and for those of you that need that final reminder, here are the details one mo' time.

When: Friday, January 18th.

Where: Wyndehaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Road, about 1/2 mile south of FM 1960

Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person

Who: Members and non-members, wives and girlfriends

Dress code: Casual to comfortable. Your call, but please, no tank tops or "speedo's." Thaaat's all, folks! See you all Friday night.

Call Joe, KD5KR at 281 353-2196 and we'll talk about it. (On the QT, of course!) But hurry, this offer won't last long!

New Officers for 2008

The annual election of new club officers took place at the November general meeting. The election of the 2008 officers were voted on with a unanimous vote for the full slate.

President - Mike Bragassa K5UO

Vice President - Paul Owen N5NXS

Secretary - Chuck Sanders NO5W

Treasurer - Joe Sokolowski KD5KR

Director 1 year - Marty Fitzgerald W5MF

Director 1 year - Brain Derx N5BA

Director 2 year - Tom Atkins KD5EIJ

Director 2 year - Joe Chambers KF5AT

Marty W5MF is completing his second year as Director. The current board welcomes these new board members and is looking forward to a successful 2008.

ARRL Winter Board Meeting

NARS and TDXS are co-sponsoring a 2-hour social January 19th, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Greenspoint Marriott bar for the League's Board of Directors and staff.

This is your opportunity to meet your West Gulf Division Director, Coy Day N5OK, and the rest of the ARRL Directors and League officers from Newington.

If you plan to attend, e-mail H. O. - K5CX (k5cx@arrl.net) to be included in the headcount! We hope to see you there.

Important Dates

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

Saturday, Jan 26, 2008 - 8:30 AM - VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Tuesday, Jan 29, 7:30 PM - Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - North

Luby's Cafeteria Jan 16th

Jason's Deli Jan 23rd

Baker Street Pub and Grill Jan 30th

Sweet Tomatoes Feb 6th

BJ's Restaurant & Brewery Feb 13th

Los Cusco Restaurant Feb 20th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - West

Cafi Express Jan 16th

Fajita Willies W. Little York Jan 23th

Fajita Willies W. Little York Jan 30th

Fajita Willies W. Little York Feb 6th

Jason's Deli - Katy Fwy Feb 13th

Skeeters Feb 20th

Wednesday Lunch Bunch - Medical Center

Jason's Deli Jan 16

Buffalo Grille Jan 23

DJ's Old Timey Hamburgers Jan 30

Marco's Mexican Bar & Grille Feb 6

Silver Palace Chinese Buffet Feb 13

Pappas Barbecue Feb 20

"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

January - 2008

As the New Year begins so does this end my tenure as your president of NARS. This past year has been eventful. A lot of success has come as a direct result of the members stepping up and participating in the many events that NARS sponsors and other civic events. Keep up the good work.

Best wishes and success to the new board in the year 2008. Lets keep NARS one of the best amateur radio clubs in the Houston area. Remember the club Motto "What can you do for Nars, get involved"

Thanks for all your help; I am looking forward to the up coming year.

Jerry Whiting KB5VGD

Remember our motto "what can you do for NARS"

Jerry Whiting Kb5VGD

Houston Amateur Radio Supply to host Manufacturer's Day Jan 19th

George Diletto KD0RW, of HARS is hosting the annual Manufacturer's Day and tailgate sale on Saturday, January 19. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For those of you that attended the previous events, you know that his hot dawgs, chips and drinks (soft, that is,) are out of this world, and the price is zilch (zero, to those not fluent in Yiddish!).

But that ain't all! Numerous drawings will be held throughout the day, and many items sold at the store will be at special prices. No reasonable offer will be refused, but of course, only George will determine what's reasonable... Representatives from ICOM, ALINCO, and others will also be on site to answer questions concerning their products.

If you have something ham related to sell, you're welcome to set up shop in the parking lot. Your trash could be someone else's treasure.

For those new to the hobby, HARS is located at 267 Cypresswood Drive, Exit 68, I-45 North, near the Super Target store.

Banquet Video Program

Bill Denton - W5SB

This year's program video takes a look at many of the events that NARS members were involved in during the past year. I took my video camera to many of these events and captured some of the behind scenes activities. You will see and hear the radio operators as they provide vital communications for these events. The first event I went to was the Houston Marathon and later on the Bayou Regatta. You will also see a report from the quarterly ARES meeting at Houston Transtar. I went to a couple of Hamfests and I also have a nice bunch digital photo of the Wings Over Houston Air Show with audio of the Ham Radio activities. I think one of the most interesting segments is a few minutes of Texas QSO Party activity that I recorded from actual QSO's being made by local members and other operators around the country. You will have to come and see what else is included in the video. I hope everyone will enjoy it as much as I did in preparing it.

Another part of the program will be running in the back ground as you come in and will run through during the dinner hour. I collected pictures from many of the other event during the year they will be shown as a continuous slide shown up until the main program starts.

DX NEWS

"For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print"

.DX...IS !

Many thanks for the responses to my forever-request for DX, etc. information.

Members Activity:

1. KQ5U, Terry, has made several QSO's with OH2AM/FJ, Bartholemew Island, the new addition to the ARRL's DXCC entity list. This adds a "new-one" to his DXCC effort.

2. K5GQ/M, Mark , relates that his new and different work location is too close to get much if any mobile-DXing in. He monitors the DX cluster while enroute. In earlier times he was able to work JA's on 40CW while traipsing down the road to work.

3. KJ5X, "Cap'n Kirk", also was able to snag FJ/OH2AM for a new one on 20M SSB. He was fortunate to have...finally... received a QSL from 400CE for some earlier Montenegro (YU,4N,4O) operations, to log a new-one for DXCC. It was three weeks turn-around time for the QSL card! Earlier QSLing efforts to other 40 operations must have been snapped up by that mysterious QSLing-envelope-eating monster, as nothing has been received. Jim still needs eight DXCC entities to finish up all of them.

4. W5PDW, "Sr. Juan", our special event expert and collector managed to work some "December Salute To Our Veterans" stations operating from well known military installations: W2W/ Pearl Harbor S.E; W3HEM/ Pearl Harbor S.E; W5FSB/ Pappy Boyington and W4AVM/ U.S.S. American Victory underway with 300 pax in the Florida channel. Other contacts were with: U.S.S. Midway, U.S. Wisconsin, and U.S.S. New Jersey and the Boy Scouts at the ARRL station- W1AW.

All of John's efforts were on 20 meter SSB in the morning or early afternoons. John also snagged FJ/OH2AM on both 20 and 75 meters, SSB. Additionally, in

December, he made 9 straight key contacts on 40 and 80 meters. Good going Senior Juan!

5. Others on the list of working FJ/OH2AM, WF5W (40/80M); N5EN (20M).

6. N1LN, Bruce, a.k.a. NC4KW reports sidetracking the buildup of his North Carolina

Super-Multi-Multi-Contest-Station to grab some new-ones on 160m. He wanted to experience the thrill of being 1/3 the way (closer!) to EU DX (as compared to South Texas) during the December-January (+) peak low band season. He put up a temporary simple inverted vee tuned for 160m on his 40/10m tower at 50 feet up. The first night he bagged two 160m 'new-ones': YL2SM and OZ1CTK. Others he worked that evening on 160: PA0CLN, CU1CB, SM2LIY, LA3MHA, DJ0MDR, G3SED, and SP3BQ!!

On another later day, he rigged up a couple of temporary Beverages to use with the inverted vee. On another night, for new-DXCC-160-counters, he bagged ET3JA and ES5QX. (ed note: grumble, grumble..)

7. WF5W, Cal, is getting a group ready to travel to San Andres Island (HK0) Caribbean Sea. In an effort to serve the DX low-band enthusiasts, it was decided to build a wire antenna for 80 and 160 meters. The choice Decided on was the renowned Dxpeditioneers favorite, The Battle Creek Special...only modified a bit and made of wire; not tubing. As a SteppIR 40 meters vertical will be taken to HK0, it was decided to make the BC. Special only 80 and 160m. As HK0 will probably only have trees no more than 30-35 feet tall, it was decided to fold it over in an inverted vee fashion. Every effort will be made to use the original vertical design and height; but it appears very well, that the height will not be available. In mid-December Paul (W5PF) , Cal and myself built the 80

meter trap; tested it and then made plans to rig it all up. It did well...and I will leave it at that! More details will come later at a more appropriate venue.

8. K5UO, Mike ('ye columnist) was able to snag FJ/OH2AM on four bands: 40-80-20-17 meters. So far, on 160 meters, this season, have logged a few new-ones: E51NNN, South Cook Isl; 4O3A, Montenegro; YN2N, Nicaragua; V63KZ, Micronesia; OX3XR, Greenland and 5H3EE, Tanzania. My DXCC 160M country count sits at 161 now. It's a tough band!

80 Meters hasn't netted me that many new-ones so far this season as the focus has been on 160 meters. New-ones on 80 are C91KDJ, Mozambique; 5L2MS, Sierra Leone; FJ/OH2AM and FJ5KH, both Bartholemew Island. FK5KH is the local club station there. DXCC country count on 80 standing at 262.

Thanks to many of the club's members; my 3 element 40 meter Yagi is up and breathing fire...again. Especially to W5RUM, Tom and WB5IUU, Bob, who performed the tower work; something I cannot do for awhile, at best. That's what it is all about. I could not have done it without the help of our members. Thank you!

And now the bad news: (Sadness is upon us.)

Thanks to a first alert from Terry, KQ5U: Bartholemew Island in the Caribbean Sea was part of St Martin (FS/FJ) both a "department" of France. As of December 14, 2007 They became separate departments. The Finlanders, OH2BH and OH0XX using the call "FJ/OH2AM", a club call, started their operation on the 18th.

Right or wrong; good or bad; the local club on the island was...totally, totally upset with the OH operation and researched it well. Their complaint, stated as a violation of the CEPT Agreement (reciprocal licensing) was sent to the and the ARRL CEO and the

DX NEWS (cont)

DXCC manager, with the appearance of a threat to go farther with the issue. There is a little known rule in the French-CEPT regulations, simply put, that only personal home calls are recognized for authority-to-operate in France and it's departments around the world. I do not think or feel that anyone in the amateur radio community knew of this regulation. In effect, CEPT regulations do not recognize club calls. The local club felt that they should be the group to start up the new DXCC Country; not an outsider. Guess they do not know Martti Laine! All of us know or know of OH2BH, Martti Laine and his reputation and contributions to amateur radio worldwide. I for one, know that Mr Laine would not perform this operation if he felt it was illegal. There

are way too many other places he (or 'we') could operate illegally in this world without offending someone.

This looks like a real clash of ego's. But that's not at all that new in the World today.

Guys, we have to start all over!

But it's not all bad! Relief is on the way!

Members of the KH8SI (Swains Island; another recent new-one) "are happy to announce their upcoming activity from the newest DXCC entity, Saint Barthelemy Island. With the help and support of FJ5DX, FJ5AB and FJ5KH, both Yuichi/JR2KDN and Paul/F6EXV will sign FJ/F6EXV (callsigns used for both SSB and CW) and FJ/JR2KDN (callsign used for RTTY) from January

6-20th. With beam antennas from Cushcraft, vertical and dipole antennas, Yaesu FT2000 and FT857 plus 500 W amplifiers. ...//..." A web page is being prepared now that includes log checking online.

Thank goodness I worked FJ5KH, that club station! I wasn't going to QSL them. But now I will!

All is well, now; at ease.

The ARRL DXCC desk has approved the St. Barthelemy "FJ/OH2AM" operation by OH2BH and OH0XX. It passed all of the CEPT regulations in their interpretation, simply put.

Tks es 73, Mike, K5UO



Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

Welcome: Mitchell Leben KA5YIX, and Ed Fournier KA1BCK.

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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Eddy Reynolds K5WQG
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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)

NARS NEWS is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society. Send all articles and materials for the newsletter to:

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