

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

January 2005

January Meeting – 2005 Annual Awards Banquet

Come One! Come All! Get your tickets now for the "Greatest Show on Earth!"

Well, not quite the greatest show on earth, but the 2005 NARS Banquet will be very close to it. And speaking of close – the banquet is VERY CLOSE – time wise! Send in your money now and reserve your seats. Joe Sokolowski is doing the registration, taking the money and making your name tags. Send full names and your checks (made out to NARS) for \$19 per person to "NARS Banquet" at PO Box 90387, Houston, TX 77090-0387. We are going to have a great time, great food and enjoy great company.

Doors open at 6:30 PM 21 January. The theme for the event this year is "Excitement." And there are exciting things in store for you. When you arrive, you will put your numbered ticket into the basket for the door prize drawings. There are several nice gifts that have been donated by club members and Houston Amateur Radio Supply and ICOM. The cash bar will be open and you may purchase either wine or beer to steady your nerves and resolve your fears. Then you can browse the exciting photo gallery assembled by our professional photographers who are members of the club; John Ellis, Loyd Overcash, Paul Flag and Bill Denton. There will be a review of banquets past flashing on the BIG screen for your enjoyment. At some point, grab your significant other and make your way to the photo booth manned by one of our professional photographers for a photo remembrance of the evening. These are excellent, studio quality photographs folks. Each photo will be printed and distributed to you at no charge at a later date. Be sure to get one made.

Then about 7:15-7:30 the buffet line will be ready and we can fill our plates with yummys and enjoy supping together.

After dinner, we will do the awards and changing of the guard for the NARS administration, recognize guests and contributors and generally review the year of activities for the club. And an unusual, but great year it has been! Oh, yes, and a special non-member will be recognized! You have to see it to believe it!

We will give away the door prizes during the evening to the lucky people with the winning tickets drawn out of the hat. Then an exciting light and sound slide show has been prepared and will be shown. And last but certainly not least, we will close the evening with a one time showing of a Bill Denton video of the Native American Pow Wow celebration held here in Houston. You certainly don't want to miss a breathtaking Bill Denton video, now do you?

We look forward to seeing everyone at the banquet for "The Greatest Show on Earth!" Come one, come all.

Lee Kinard K5AVY

Important Dates

Friday, Jan 21, 6:30 PM – Annual Awards Banquet, Wyndhaven Terrace, 12716 Cutten Road.

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

NOTE: New location for Board Meeting!
Tuesday, Jan 25, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Ponderosa Fire Station, 17061 Rolling Creek drive. This is one signal light west of Ella on 1960, go north about 200 yards and park on the south side of the fire hall, NOT in front of the big doors.

Contests

Jan 22-23 BARTG RTTY Sprint
Jan 22-24 ARRL Jan VHF Sweep
Jan 29-30 CQ 160M CW, UK DX RTTY
Feb 5-6 VT QSO Party, 10-10 Int Winter SSB, Mexico RTTY Int
Feb 6 NA Sprint SSB
Feb 12-13 CQ WW RTTY WPX, LA QSO Party
Feb 13 NA Sprint CW
Feb 19-20 ARRL Int DX CW
Feb 26-27 CQ 160M SSB, NA QSO Party RTTY, NC QSO Party

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Jan 12 Red Lobster
Jan 19 Casa Imperial Mexican
Jan 26 Strack Farms
Feb 2 Pepperchino
Feb 9 Luby's Cafeteria

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Jan 12 Jason's Deli
Jan 19 Luther's BBQ
Jan 26 Skeeter's
Feb 2 Charlie's Hamburgers
Feb 9 Cafe Express

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 Joey D's

5918 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

2004 Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Run Picture



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 2005.

VE Session Results

There was no VE session in December.

A reminder, the next NARS VE session will be January 22, 2005.

73, Norm Covey/K5OS
NARS VE Session Manager

2004 Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs

Some of us got an early start at the Friday night banquet at the Sheraton Hotel on JFK. I saw Bill Stietenroth and YL, Bob Walworth and YL, Jerry Whiting, and myself. I had to leave for another engagement but I heard it was a very good meal. Saturday's weather for this year's race could not have been better. The morning crew was Allen KB5UJS, Bill K5ZTY, George KD5AYF, Jerry KB5VGD, Kevin KD5ZUI, Mike K7LEX, Paul N5NXS, Rob KD5BXZ, and Tom KD5EIJ. We met at the Wells Fargo Bank on North Freeway at 5am. We then headed for Huntsville State Park to provide communications for the Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs, an ultra marathon on foot trails for approximately 775 runners. There are two races, one is 50 miles and the other is 50 Kilometers. There are some serious runners out there and then some that walk the last lap. We manned 6 aid stations while the runners made their way on the 12.5 mile loop around Lake Raven. Some used hand held radios and some used their mobile radios in their cars.

The afternoon crew was Bob N5ET, Brian N5BA, Keith NM5G, Thomas KD5MER and Valerie KD5MIC. They had their lunch at the main tent and then headed out to their stations. With the weather being so good we did not have many of the slip and slid injuries that we usually see at these races. I thing there were three runners that had to see the doctor at the main lodge. All were treated and limped away with their chins and ankles held high.

I want to thank all Hams for volunteering their time and equipment. This event would not get the support it needs if it were not for some of our fellow club members to step up the task. Pat them on the back and say well done. I would like to say thank you to Bill and George who stayed at their station from 6:30am to 4pm and 6pm respectively. And, a big thank you to Brian and Kevin who stayed with me till the last station closed at 7:30pm.

I talked to John Cook, Sunmart sponsor; Dan Miller, Sunmart coordinator; Roger Soler, Sunmart Race Director and they all were extremely happy with our support for this year's event. They definitely want us back next year so mark your calendars for the second Saturday in December 2005 for the 16th running of the Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs. You too can build many wonderful memories of a great time with some great Ham buddies. Some of us got an early start at the Friday night banquet at the Sheraton Hotel on JFK. I saw Bill Stietenroth and YL, Bob Walworth and YL, Jerry Whiting, and myself. I had to leave for another engagement but I heard it was a very good meal. Saturday's weather for this year's race could not have been better. The morning crew was Allen KB5UJS, Bill K5ZTY, George KD5AYF, Jerry KB5VGD, Kevin KD5ZUI, Mike K7LEX, Paul N5NXS, Rob KD5BXZ, and Tom KD5EIJ. We met at the Wells Fargo Bank on North Freeway at 5am. We then headed for Huntsville State Park to provide communications for the Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Runs, an ultra marathon on foot trails for approximately 775 runners. There are two races, one is 50 miles and the other is 50 Kilometers. There are some serious runners out there and then some that walk the last lap. We manned 6 aid stations while the runners made their way on the 12.5 mile loop around Lake Raven. Some used hand held radios and some used their mobile radios in their cars.

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Paul N5NXS

Ham and "Sheez" News

Year in Review

It certainly has been a very busy year for the Ham and "Sheez" ladies. As I look back on the year 2004, I am reminded of several activities and events. Allow me to reminisce for a moment. . .

With the help of the entire NARS membership, we worked with the Adopt-a-Platoon organization and "adopted" a group of Army soldiers who served in Baghdad. It was truly amazing to see the outpouring of support that everyone provided in donations and letters for the monthly boxes that we shipped. This effort started in March and ended in November. Thank you sincerely for all your support!

Several annual traditions were carried on: the 2nd annual wine tasting party at the Sinclair's (an absolutely fantastic evening!); the 3rd annual Memorial Day Barbeque (with the new twist of the world famous team Trivial Pursuit championship); the 3rd annual Holiday Party (also an absolute blast!).

A few new traditions were started: the 1st annual H&S Member of the Year Award (earned by Schalee Lodge, KD5WLL, for her tremendous contributions); Valentine's Day dinner at Buca di Beppo's (you won't want to miss it this coming year).

Some new interests were sparked: stamping was introduced to us by Shannon Horsley (several of us are now hooked and starting a monthly stamping club!); bunko parties were hosted by Desi Livingston, KB5YGG, in her very cool dinette.

In the spirit of Houston hosting the Super Bowl, the Lodge's invited the H&S ladies to their Super Bowl bash (some of us were happy to see the Patriots win - again!). At Ham-Com, several of the ladies sold cruise raffle tickets at the NARS table (in fact, we raised over \$500 in raffle ticket sales at Ham-Com!). And, of course, we continued to occasionally work in the wine theme throughout the year.

Most importantly, our membership continues to grow, and we continue to be a very active group. Thank you to all the H&S ladies who have made the 2004 such a special year!

For the ladies who are not yet involved in the Ham and "Sheez" group, may I suggest that the first resolution on your New Year's list should be to join us? We hope to see you at an upcoming event or meeting.

Passing of the Pen

I have truly enjoyed writing the H&S update for the NARS newsletter for the past (almost) three years. Frankly, it is a chance for me to brag about a group that I am very proud to be part of! Anita Townsend, N5AOK, has graciously offered to write the H&S update for the newsletter throughout 2005. (My sincere thanks, Anita!)

With that, allow me to pass the pen. . .

*Best regards,
Laurie - N1YXU*

Thank You Laurie

I will take this opportunity and attempt to voice a deep heart-felt thank you to Laurie Meier, N1YXU, from all of the Ham and Sheez. Over the last three years, we have all contributed to the success of this group of ladies, but none can compare to her. Laurie has and always will be the "glue" that holds the Ham and Sheez together. Her ability to lead and conquer innumerable tasks with a smile is testament to her spirit. The women of NARS would like to take this opportunity to salute her - for she is truly the heart and soul of an organization that has astonished many of our NARSIAN husbands. The accomplishments of the Ham and Sheez over the last three years are directly attributed to her dedication and hard work. Thank you Laurie. If there were ever a Wonder Woman - she would be proud to call you her equal.

December Activities

December proved to be a very busy month for everyone. Somewhere between the shopping, the Christmas cookies, the eggnog, and the family we managed to have our annual Christmas Party at the home of Tina Sinclair, KD5FME. Thank you Tina. The gift exchange has become what some would call legendary, a truly wonderful collection of gifts and good cheer for all. Along with the gift exchange, we had a cookie exchange, which we all know benefited the men among us, some more than others - but I am not naming any names here.

At the Christmas Party, Schalee Lodge presented Laurie Meier with a beautiful necklace and earrings as a thank you for her contributions to our organization. This was an especially wonderful moment for all of those who attended. Laurie has been seen wearing the ensemble on numerous occasions since the presentation was made.

It is very hard to make Laurie blush, but that mission was accomplished. Thank you Schalee.

Upcoming Activities

January will be another busy month. The annual NARS banquet will be held in place of the regular monthly NARS meeting. What a wonderful opportunity for us all to get together and share some of the more memorable events of the previous year.

The HAM and SHEEZ meeting for January will be held on the 31st at the Presbyterian Church on Spring Cypress. Cheryl Tompkins, KD5AXC, will be demonstrating how to decorate glass plates. Please bring a plate and a piece of material that you would like to use as a decoration on the plate to the meeting. Cheryl revealed some of her gorgeous creations during the annual Christmas party last month. If you missed it, you won't want to miss the meeting and the opportunity to create your own.

The February outing will be the second annual Valentines dinner at Buca di Beppo's. More details coming soon. This is one of those traditions that will grow each year.

Again, I would like to say thank you to Laurie for her years of hard work and dedication to writing this column each month.

Monthly Recipe - Here is a quick recipe that might be good for a Super Bowl party.

Ham and Asparagus Strata (from Campbell's Kitchen)

4 cups Pepperidge Farm Cubed Country Style Stuffing
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
1 1/2 cups cooked cut asparagus
1 1/2 cups cubed cooked ham
1 can Campbell's Cream of Asparagus soup
2 cups milk
5 eggs, beaten
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

Mix stuffing, cheese, asparagus, and ham in greased 3-quart shallow baking dish. Mix soup, milk, eggs, and mustard. Pour over stuffing mixture. Bake at 350F for 45 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes. Serves 8.

*Best Wishes for a Wonderful New Year,
Anita - N5AOK*

QUA* Franny K9DOG?

What can you say about a girl who –? Had large brown eyes, a shiny black coat, accessorized with leather and her heart was made of gold. “K9DOG”, aka Franny had many special traits and quirks that I would like to remember with you, my friends. (Yes, there is a ham with that call sign – I googled it. I hope he will allow me this whimsical reference.)



Franny was born August 9, 1993 in the whelping room at Guidedogs for the Blind in San Rafael, CA. At ten weeks she went to her puppy-raisers; a teenager, Leanne and her family in Phoenix, AZ.

I was in the plane accident on September 2, 1995 and after several months of orientation and mobility training, I was approved to have a guide dog. I flew to California and was matched with her after three days. The next four weeks were intensive training, for me, that is; she already knew how to do her job!

Michael’s company had an office in Salt Lake and San Jose, so he coordinated his meetings to see me on weekends, when possible. The first time he met Franny is one of his favorite memories. We were waiting on the side-walk when he drove up and I bent down and said something to her. She must have known he was special because when we hugged she put her head between us and did the snicker thing, which I will describe later. We decided then that we had added another partner to our relationship.

At our graduation friends drove up from San Jose and down from Redding; Gram took Amtrak and Christopher and Michael flew in from Salt Lake.

She had many favorite things. No I don’t think she ever had a dog bite or a bee sting but lately I’m a little blue, so I’ve chosen this as our theme.

---A Bowl–full of Kibble, A fast flying Frisbee
Michael and I often wondered which she would choose if we offered her food and her Frisbee at the same time. We never tried it because we were afraid she would explode in frustration! She could inhale a meal in seven seconds! She licked the bowl and the floor around it. When Michael would dump the food from the 40 pound bag into the storage container she would stand at the pantry door and wait for any “dropped” pieces to be kicked out under the pantry door.

She always knew by how I was preparing dinner that it was “grill night” which to her meant Frisbee time! She would sit on pins and needles watching every move Michael would make to see his hand reach for the drawer that held the lighter to start the grill. She would then run circles around him to get the key and the Frisbee and she would carry it to the door waiting impatiently for

him to hurry. She would play until she dropped if we let her.

---Hearing Laughter, Silly Snickers

My friend Rachel and I were standing on the driveway laughing at something and she stopped and said, “This is when I miss Franny the most.” She would hear laughter and come running to get in the middle of the fun. She knew it was a good thing and wanted to be a part.

She also knew how to laugh at herself. When I first came home with her we were shopping at Sam’s and she was concentrating on following Michael. I was so proud of her that I reached down and patted her. I surprised her! She jumped and then did that “snicker thing” like the cartoon dogs Mutley or Snuffles. One time I heard her claws ticking on the tiles in the entry. I hid behind the dresser and jumped up and said “Boo!” when she came around the corner. It scared her, but she loved it! She snickered and wagged her tail.

---Meeting new friends, seeing old Friends

I was at Willowbrook with a friend from California when we heard a mother chasing a small child from the right around a corner. He came running and ended up nose to nose with Franny. His eyes were like saucers and he stood stock still. His mother right behind him said, “See, I told you – look what you’ve gotten yourself into now!” Pam and I laughed all the way home deciding that he probably never left his mother’s side again.

She loved airports for two reasons. The first was the long, straight halls with lots of room to maneuver around people. Others had a hard time keeping up. Also, she couldn’t wait to see who we were picking up, or who would be at the other end when we landed somewhere. She would get to the gate and swing her head from side-to-side looking for someone she knew. It was especially fun when it was Becky and her guide, Pantera from Utah. For a few seconds the area would come to a standstill as the girls greeted each other. Then, they would get right back to business as though the other wasn’t even there! Becky and I would be jabbering, hugging, waving our arms and they would sit quietly watching us and glancing at each other. Probably rolling their eyes and thinking, “Look at our silly humans”.

---Taking long walks, Catching short naps

Franny was raised as a puppy in Arizona. Her puppy-raisers would take her on hikes in the mountains. She and I were always in competition at our training with one other team, Roger and his guide Silken. We finished Muir Woods 15 minutes ahead of the other 20 teams. We also participated in a walk sponsored by SAS shoes in Medina, Texas. She even had her own Franny fanny-pack to carry her water and baggies for clean-up. One year there was lots of rain, and the usually dry creek beds were running with water. They had placed boulders to cross and I would let Franny step onto the next rock and she would stand still while I put a foot on each side of her to get across as many as 25 boulders. One creek we were at the second to the last rock when it did, rock, that is, and I ended up fully submerged! Men with radios came running, people were screaming and I came up laughing. Franny was standing on the rock looking down at me as if she was saying “Now, why did you do that?”

When she wasn’t working, Franny was probably napping. She could fall asleep in seconds. On our last Sunday at a church in Salt Lake City the pastor asked if we were in the congregation. Michael responded and then the pastor asked me if Franny was with me. I said, “Of course,” and held up her leash. He then asked if she was snoring, a big mistake – I quipped, “Not yet, you haven’t started preaching!” It brought the house down.

---Turbo Tail wags Good morning Hugs

Franny and I were in training in San Rafael, October of 1996. The weather was great and I usually wore shorts. We had to be prepared for five miles of walking per day. When I would get back to the dorm people who could see would tell me that I had red streaks across the backs of my legs. When I would tell her she was a good girl she would wag her tail, which would slap the back of my leg! She slept at night on tie-down because they didn’t want 22 loose dogs running around the building at night. As soon as she would hear me wake up she would stand in the corner and bang her tail on both walls – whack, whack, whack! The girl next door would bang on the wall for her to stop!

So, the way I would solve that problem was to pull her away from the wall for our morning hugs. I would kneel down on the floor and she would bury her head in my lap, face first. I would start with her ears and forehead and work down to her tail. She would twist her rear around so I could scratch her rump and it would keep her tail off the wall when it was wagging.

---Doing Guide-work, catching someone’s eye

A friend said of Franny that she completely fulfilled the job that God sent her here to do. She was so smart. Toward the end of our training we were working through busy street crossings. We were partly across and she stopped, I told her to “hop up” and a few feet later she stopped again. I again gave her the “hop up” command, but she waited a few seconds. (This is called selective disobedience.) Then she continued to the other curb. The instructor ran up behind us and said, “Here’s what happened – the first stop was a Doberman off leash. Franny put herself between you and him. The second stop was a car full of teenagers making a right turn on red. He wasn’t paying attention and Franny knew it. She stopped and eyed him and didn’t go until he motioned to her.” I was amazed. He then said she was one the best guides he had ever trained.

Guidedogs are trained to never eat things out of someone’s hand. We would practice this when we spoke at schools. I would call for a brave person in the audience and hand them a sausage. They were to offer it to her, being careful of their fingers. She would turn her head away.

This came in handy when we were back in Salt Lake for a Utah Jazz basketball playoff. A man tapped me on the shoulder and said, “I can’t stand it anymore, you have to move.” I asked him what the problem was. He explained that a small girl next to us had an ice-cream cone. She would take a lick and then put it in front of Franny’s face. Each time Franny would turn her head away and lean it on my leg.

Continued on page 5

QUA* Franny K9DOG? continued from page 4

When we would be in a crowd of people Franny would make eye contact for me. I might not know anyone when I walked in, but within minutes she would attract someone's attention and they would come up and ask about her, or ask her about me!?!

The comment I heard most often about Franny was, "She has special eyes". I have a theory that her black body absorbed so much light that it came out her eyes and people couldn't resist it! I think some of the energy ended up in her tail and added the turbo-charge.

Franny was so much a part of my life that I wasn't sure people would know who I was after she left. When we would walk into stores the clerks would say "Hi, Franny and then Oh, yeah, what was your name again?" "Oh, I'm just the one who holds the checkbook, that's all." It was fun to have fun with her. Michael and I were at Willowbrook and an acquaintance saw us and

said it was good to see someone from home, meaning Tomball. Later, Michael said, "see she knew us without Franny." He seemed rather surprised also.

We were so close that all I had to do was look up and she would tap her tail on the floor so I would know where she was. When I wanted her I would put my hand down at my side and she would run up and put her wet nose on my palm. She was so tuned into my needs that she would come running from the other room if she heard me sneeze!

The region manager of Guidedogs put it correctly when he said, "She's much more than a family member or friend, because there aren't very many people we could stand to be around 24 hours a day!"

She left us on December 15, 2004 after a surgery to remove cancer of the spleen. We had no idea

what was wrong with her; we just knew she was slowing down. She worked the day before and kept working until she didn't have any strength. The vet assured me she was in no pain. He said Labradors will work until they die, and she did.

I can only hope when I leave this world people will remember me with so much fondness. Thank you, Franny, for bringing me so much pleasure and protection. I'm a better person for having known you.

Since I couldn't ask her how she would sum up her life I found a Bible verse I think does it well.

Romans 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

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"

Hi Gang

Another year has gone, but what an interesting year it was for DX. Most notable was YV0D on Aves Is. and the VU4's on Andaman & Nicobar Is. I know that some of the deserving members of NARS worked both and I congratulate you all for having a fine station. Unfortunately I never heard either one. Well, December wasn't too bad for me. Did get one lone card in from FK/KF4TUG for a 15M Phone contact in September of 04. That put me up to 223 confirmed on Phone. Hey, if I can get a card a month I'll be happy. O.K., enough from this peanut whistle station.

Here's a nice report from Colin KU5B, Hey where have you been?

New Band Countries:
15m A35RK SSB
20m ZD7ZA CW
30m 6Y5/KN5G CW
40m 6Y5/KN5G CW
EA4BQ CW
PJ7/AA4V CW

New QSL's RX'd: YV0D, 3B9C, 3XY1L, Z38/LZ1JZ, 7P8DA, SV1/LZ1JZ bringing the total DXCC Mixed to 45 cfm'd and 192 overall worked.

And from the Gentleman DX'er, Jim KJ5X

Things were a little slow in the KJ5X shack in December what with Christmas necessities and other requirements. But did work TN6X on three bands and Jim, VK9NS on Norfolk Island. He is a first class ham and a nice guy. He gave his regards to all his ham friends in Houston with a booming 59 long path signal. And lots of hours were spent listening for and almost never hearing VU4RBI and VU4NRO. My C3SS at 33 feet was a little out of its league although it was plenty adequate for hearing N1LN and K5CX work 'em like they were next door. However,

one evening I could actually hear VU4RBI and I hollered till I may have been heard. I say may have. I think I heard some of my call and a 55 which seemed to be the report du jour. Being in a highly agitated state I returned a much over generous 4X4. We will see when the card arrives someday, or doesn't. If it does arrive it's #326 and if it doesn't there's Glorioso and Kerguelen in 2005, it says here. How's that for thinking positive. Happy New Year and 73 from KJ5X.

Jim, K5JDB always has a good report.

K5JDB had an uneventful DX month. Had 25 contacts, with one of them worthy of mention. Did get a packet of cards from the Bureau and received cards from R1FJ, EU-019; TM0Y, EU-064; CT9D, AF-046; TN3B & TN3W, Rep of Congo; FO/F8CFU, OC-152; 3B9C, AF-017; V63PF, OC-012. As one can see, IOTA's are my specialty. Does anyone know how to get a card from TJ/F6BJY? Best wishes to all for a great 2005!

73 Jim K5JDB

Jim, can't help you with that TJ call, waiting for contacts made to TJ3SP in October. Gud Luck

And from our fearless leader, soon to be replaced, Bruce, N1LN.

Well - still inching closer and closer -
As of Nov 30th: 106 worked / 95 confirmed
As of Dec 29th: 106 worked / 97 confirmed
New Band Countries Confirmed:
MU2A - Guernsey - 160 ssb
TJ3FR - Cameroon - 160 cw, 80, 30, 20, 17, 12 ssb
TJ3SP - Cameroon - 20m ssb
New Countries Worked:
VU4RBI - Andaman & Nicobar - 20 ssb
VU4NRO - Andaman & Nicobar - 20 ssb, 20 cw, 40 cw

New Band Countries Worked:
YA7X - Afghanistan - 40 cw
YJ0AKA - Vanuatu - 40 cw

And from Mike, K5UO

Best happening was getting VU4NRO on CW (14 MHz 12/23). Leaves me 2 more to finish up having them all on CW (second time): P5/N.Korea and BS7/Scarborough still elude me... (My first time HR#1 was before P5 and BS7 were in effect.) VP8WWW: Thanks to our local Tomball "penguins" for some new WARC band countries I needed from VP8-Falklands! Thanks to Cal, the head-penguin for putting this all together.

S9BB was a nice new 80m band country. Humongous pileups on this bunch on 80! Took several attempts over several days as the EU competition was tough (599 x 599) and S9BB's signal wasn't too strong here. Only had to fight the east-coast ("right-coast") competition; nyet-problemo. Must mean my 1/4 wave 80m vertical w/ raised radials must be working? Should give me 229/231 countries on 80.

TZ6JA was a new one on 40m CW on December 01. Puts me at 295/299 on that band. 160m: Nil new ones. Been a tough band so far this season. Still caught at about 110. (+/-)

Other than those nice catches above, I had some nice WARC band fillers:
12m: EA6NW
17m: D4B; S9BB; XT2MF; Z33A; TA3BN
30m: FR5ZL; KH0PR; ZK1COW; A61AJ

Well, I guess that's it for this month. Hope to hear you on the Bands.

73
Al Fritsche W5ADF

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Congratulations to Paul Owen N5NXS and his team for the highly successful Sunmart event.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
281-893-3901, k5zty@juno.com
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REPEATERS

2M: 146.060 / 146.660 (KA5AKG)
Tone: 141.3
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

Joey D'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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