



SARA Newsletter

August 03

Shreveport Amateur Radio Association

Meeting:

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. in the Bossier Main Library History Center

Local Amateur Information

Available at:

www.qsl.net/nwlarn/

SARA Repeaters:

145.050 - K5SAR
DX Packet Cluster
145.110 - N5FJ
146.700 - K5KDO
146.820 - K5SL
440.900 - N5FJ

2003 Club Officers

President - [Terry Atwood, WA5ARJ](#)
Vice President - [David Crosby, K5SRZ](#)
Treasurer - [Robert Fincher, K15XE](#)
Secretary - [Laura Webb, KD5IHT](#)

Using the Repeater

Randy Fulco gave us a great presentation on "Repeater Etiquette" and special features of our 146.820 repeater. Randy based this information on an article published in QST by WB4NAY.

Procedures used on HF tend to be cumbersome and ineffective on VHF and UHF repeaters. High bands don't experience the same issues that low bands do. Speaking louder on FM will not "push" the mic as it does on SSB. On FM, peak "loudness" is limited by the clipping action of deviation limiting and speaking louder often results in reduced intelligibility.

Long continuous transmission tends to only monopolize the frequency because FM does not experience wavering band conditions like HF. Additionally, "rag chewing" may make it impossible to pass emergency traffic.

Similarly, use of unnecessary transmissions crowds repeater time. The amateur service requires each operator to identify himself or herself once each ten minutes. No need to identify the other operator(s) until the end of a conversation. Another unnecessary transmission is excessive verbiage during call-up. "Are you there, Bob?" is redundant.

Here are eight repeater guidelines from the article and a couple more from Randy and others present at the August meeting:

1. Keep radios in good repair.
2. Pause several seconds between transmissions
3. Use your call sign to "break" into a QSO in progress
4. Don't "break" into a QSO unless you have something to say that adds to the conversation
5. Don't use repeater frequencies to test telephone tone codes
6. Minimize repeater use for base stations
7. Use the minimum power
8. Avoid using the repeater for DX
9. When possible, call on the repeater then switch to simplex
10. Welcome new voices and include them in conversations

Randy also instructed those present how to use the 146.820 auto patch. There are four steps to dialing a number.

1. Transmit your intentions "**Call-Sign**, bringing up the auto patch." Where "**Call-Sign**" is your call sign.
2. Activate the auto patch by pressing "*" and the access code followed immediately with the phone number. Remember to press the transmit key and use the DTMF tones.
3. When the party answers, identify yourself and let them know they are transmitting on an unsecure radio. Then complete your conversation. The timeout is set for 120 seconds.
4. After the party hangs up, transmit "Call-Sign, clearing the auto patch." Where "**Call-Sign**" is your call sign.

There are many special features on the auto patch such as autodial, extend time code, touch-tone test code and reset. To learn the specifics about the auto patch or obtain the codes necessary to use it, contact Randy Fulco rfulco@bellsouth.net

JOTA

In its 46th year, Jamboree on the Air is an annual event jointly sponsored by International Scouting and ARRL to peak the interest in amateur radio by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Brownie Scouts. The event is scheduled the third weekend of October each year, that's October 17th, 18th, & 19th, 2003. JOTA takes place starting Saturday at 0001 hours local time to Sunday, 2359 hours local time.

Last year SARA members and Scouts met in Betty Virginia Park in Shreveport to make contacts and learn about amateur radio. Although the weather was slightly wet, Scouts showed up both Saturday and Sunday and some even spent the night at the Troop 18 Scout Hut located in the park.



Scouts had the opportunity to build a 40-meter dipole and use it to make contacts with other Scouts around the world. Contacts included **K2BSA** -- BSA Scout Headquarters, Dallas, Texas and **HB9S** -- World Scout Bureau, Geneva Switzerland as well as Canada, Mexico, England, and one to a small island in Oceania. There was a special call sign W5J for the event and custom QSO cards were printed.

This year, we would like to make JOTA really special. Offer lessons in Morse Code, build a simple project, use digital modes and SSTV, provide log pages to Scouts, host a recurring "fox hunt."

BUT... We need your help. We have a vested interest in JOTA and its success. JOTA is one of the best ways to introduce youth to our hobby. Everyone knows amateur radio demographics is primarily the over 30 crowd, but it is probably the over-40 or over-50 crowd instead. Your chance is now to impact the life of a boy or girl and revive our hobby for the next generation.

We need help:

1. Designing and printing QSO cards
2. Providing simple hands-on training
3. Providing simple electronic projects
4. Implementing a "fox hunt" for children
5. Obtaining a special call sign for JOTA
6. Demonstrating digital modes including SSTV
7. Designing and printing special logs for Scouts
8. Securing donated materials like world maps, copies, etc.
9. Securing reference section with maps, atlas, etc.
10. Provide refreshments for Scouts, parents, and members
11. Provide special information for parents
12. Promote JOTA to local media
13. Your ideas

Contact Randy Fulco, K5SL, or Glenn Pettiet, K5TGP, to learn how you can help.

Repeater News

The 146.700 repeater is back on the air, call sign K5KDQ. The machine is located at the VA Hospital.

SARA has a 70 cm (440) repeater 444.900 tone 186.2, call sign N5FJ.

SARA also has a VHF DX Packet Cluster on 145.050, call sign K5SAR. To get to it one must have a TNC. To access the cluster, press the ESC key a ":" (colon) should appear. Next, hit the space bar one time and type "k5sar (space) v dxc" and press the ENTER key. If everything is ok it should come up and prompt you with "Hello." The system will ask you questions. If anyone needs help please e-mail John Mussey n5fj@arrl.net.

The 146.820 repeater has an auto patch available to SARA club members. Access codes are available by contacting Randy Fulco rfulco@bellsouth.net.

President's Sidebar

I just heard from W5ZA Steve Bienvenu's brother-in-law, Ron DiIulio.

Ron and I are active amateur astronomers. Ron just used Lowell Observatory's historic 24" Clark refractor located in Flagstaff, Arizona to image Mars Tuesday night, August 12th, using several CCD imagers.

Ron is the first person to ever shoot CCD images through the 107-year old telescope which was custom made in 1896 for Percival Lowell. That makes three technologies now used through the telescope. Percival Lowell made drawings of Mars in 1896, Slipher made film images of Mars in the 1950's and 1960's, and now Ron has shot CCD images through what many experts claim is the best made refractor on earth!

Don't forget the meeting on September 4th at the Bossier Main Library

Note from the Editor: CCD (*Charge-Coupled Device*) images are created on silicone wafers in special digital cameras. These wafers collect heat energy as well as light thus they are cooled to a temperature of 35 degrees C or lower to negate the heat "noise" and produce much greater detail pictures. More information on CCD and amateur astronomy may be found on [Al Kelly's CCD Astrophotography Page](http://www.ghg.net/akelly/) (<http://www.ghg.net/akelly/>) or <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/>.

Repeater Links

Those fortunate enough to have access to the World Wide Web should review some of the guidelines published by other clubs across the nation. Below is a short list. Those without the Web can get the same information from the front of the ARRL Repeater Directory.

<http://www.w4dfu.ufl.edu/rptrules.html>

<http://www.islipares.org/repeater.htm>

<http://www.trac-online.org/page4.html>

http://www.baltarc.com/membership/repeater_guidelines.htm

http://www.ba-marc.org/events/ada/ada2002_repeater_notes.htm

http://www.bvkhawaii.com/billyg/using_kh6jpl_echolink_repeater.htm

http://www.netarc.us/club/netarc_repeater_general_use_guide.htm

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1173/repeater.html>

<http://w9eoc.tripod.com/repeaterguidelines.htm>