



# SARA Newsletter

November 2004

Shreveport Amateur Radio Association

## Meeting:

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

## SARA Net:

Each Wednesday evening at 8:30 P.M.

## Local Amateur Information

Available at:

[www.k5sar.com](http://www.k5sar.com)  
[www.qsl.net/nw1arn/](http://www.qsl.net/nw1arn/)

## SARA Repeaters:

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

## 2004 Club Officers

President – [David Crosby, K5SRZ](#)  
Vice President – [Glenn Pettiet, K5TGP](#)  
Treasurer – [Randy Fulco, K5SL](#)  
Secretary – [Ellen Dupuy, K5LND](#)

## JOTA 2004

JOTA 2004 could best be described as the one that almost did not happen. Thanks to Glenn, K5TGP it did, and turned out well at that. PJ, K5XPJ came through again with our special call "W5J" that we had used for the past 2 years. With everything set up for Garland Scout ranch after 4 years of not being there for JOTA – Murphy Law set in. On the weekend before JOTA at Garland and a big Scout campout – the rain started. Over 6 inches of rain starting Friday, and continued through Sunday caused the Akeala Cub Scout campout for that weekend to be rained out. Norwela Council decided to delay the Boy Scout Camp-o-Ree until January 2005 and reschedule Akeala for the JOTA weekend. No problem. SARA would just provide JOTA for the Cub Scouts instead of the Boy Scouts. Then someone noticed that the entrance road to Garland Scout Ranch was washed out. Oops, all campouts at



Garland were canceled until the roads could be repaired. It was looking bad for JOTA 2004 in the Ark-La-Tex.

Quick work by Glenn, K5TGP and he put together another campout for the Scouts, at the Bodcau Wildlife Management Area. Tuesday night he was sending word to other troops to come on out. Wednesday afternoon, Glenn and I made an after work trip to the site to check for antenna locations. It was perfect. Beside the entrance to the campsite we found a nice 30' long, lighted covered pavilion with 110v at each support. Many 90' tall pine trees surrounded it, with an opening custom made for our FD loop. The other side had trees great for Rick's, KH2DF, G5RV. Things were really looking up. We went back Friday afternoon and set up with the FD loop and KH2DF's G5RV. All went up very well with antennas 50' in the air. Floyd, N5FH donated the use of his IC 746 for JOTA, and Rick brought out his TS 440 with PC

setup for all the digital modes. The WX was great, sunny and cool, no RF noise at all, and the antennas were tuning/performing well. A quick check of antenna's Friday night showed they were going to be great. Four of us also enjoyed a nice grilled steak dinner with potatoes Friday evening. (No, I bought the steaks, not the club!) Setup was with Glenn, K5TGP, Randy, K5SL, Jerry, W5JLH and Bruce, KE5CPL. Bruce also brought out his camper and stayed the weekend.

Glenn, K5TGP with 2 other troops camped out Friday and Saturday night. Saturday morning we all showed up around 8:30am and started on 17m working anyone we wanted, usually with W5J being called. Everyone caught that special call, and it helps during pile ups! 10m opened up in the evening to the Pacific. Rick, KH2DF came out and started working the world Saturday also. He found JOTA coincided with a RTTY

contest. He kept prefixes were that he knows how rare the are on any mode! All talking to Scouts all overseas. Saturday W5WRG made a yogi in one hand and other. He did this pointing, while Retta elevations. It was of us! The Bodcau this ham radio stuff left him shaking his

W5J talked to Scout Rouge to the island western Pacific, to

continents. Rick's KH2DF's digital setup was very impressive on the G5RV. He was right; the kids were very interested in the digital modes. Something about seeing the rig and PC work together is right down their ally. He was making contacts from near Antarctica to South Africa.

Almost 2 complete log sheets were filled by the SSB station, going well over the 50-70 QSO mark. Bands used were 40/20/15/17/10. W5J even checked into the Louisiana Traffic Net on 3910 Hz. K5MC knew exactly who were, and where. I forgot I had invited him out earlier in the week.

Saturday afternoon, the club bought a nice pizza lunch with soft drinks for the SARA operators and a few young Scouts who just didn't seem to get enough of ham radio. It hit the spot. We had two young Scouts who stayed around both rigs all day Saturday. We think the radio bug bit them good, and maybe it won't get go away. Rick, KH2DF came across with an offer of a 2m handi-talkie to each if they passed their ham test. Quite an incentive for a 12year old!!!

Both stations worked quite well, and in the evening Rick, K5VXT, and Clint, VK2ACM, spotted some great DX stations and relayed them to us via 146.82. Floyd, N5FH summed up how good the loop and propagation was Saturday – he worked Antarctica Saturday night. A great contact from anywhere. It is just more fun outside under Field Day conditions. JOTA is like field day, but not as stressful as the contest. Try to check it out next year. It is really fun operating in a park atmosphere, letting kids talk to kids, on a sunny fall day.

Thanks to Glenn, K5TGP, who kept JOTA alive this year, and the many others who helped out in different ways. Bodcau WMA turned out to be a great spot for operating. Amateurs who came by, or operated were Glenn – K5TGP, Randy – K5SL, Jerry – W5JLH, Floyd – N5FH, Rick – KH2DF, Retta – WB5HXD, Dave – W5WRG, Shane – KE5BSY, Tom – W3GAT, Bruce – KE5CPL.

Randy K5SL



asking where certain was working. He now South Shetland Islands day long we had Scouts over the US and morning – Dave, satellite contact with a a dual band ht in the standing in the road gave him azimuths and really impressive for all park ranger thought all was neat, but that one head in awe.

stations from Baton of Kwajelein in the stations on all

## QRV to Vote?

"I'm a ham radio operator, and I vote!"

Make sure you can say this to your elected officials by getting out to vote Tuesday, November 2. Voting is a precious right. As a citizen of a democracy, informed participation in the electoral process is also your duty.

While we are on the subject, remember also to attend the SARA meeting on Thursday, November 4 to elect officers and board members for the 2005 year.

# BPL Report and Order

The FCC has released the full BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 that it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to "protect licensed services from harmful interference."

"We recognize that some radio operations in the bands being used for Access BPL, such as those of Amateur Radio licensees, may occur at distances sufficiently close to power lines as to make harmful interference a possibility," the FCC conceded. "We believe that those situations can be addressed through interference avoidance techniques by the Access BPL provider such as frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement."

In a footnote, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas; in many instances an antenna relocation of only a relatively short distance can resolve noise interference."

"While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC added. It described typical amateur operations as "routine communications and hobby activities."

ARRL officials are studying the R&O and considering possible responses. The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) already has authorized filing a Petition for Reconsideration. The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

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## [www.VanityHq.com](http://www.VanityHq.com)

N4MC's Vanity HQ Web site to go dark: Mike Carroll, N4MC, has announced that he no longer is supporting his Vanity HQ Web site <<http://www.vanityhq.com>> "At some point in the near future, the [www.vanityhq.com](http://www.vanityhq.com) domain will no longer be active," he said in an announcement on the site. "This is not an action based upon lack of funding, but a shift in my priorities. Thanks to all!" Over the past several years, the Vanity HQ site often has been the first stop for those interested in obtaining an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. Among other information, it has provided a list of recently issued vanity call signs as well as available call signs and active vanity call sign applications.

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## How Long Should an Antenna Be?

by Harry Lythall - SM0VPO

A full wavelength antenna is rarely used for amateur work. We more often than not try to use a 1/2 wavelength, in the centre and fed at the two ends of the cut to a transmitter via a balun (transformer) and feeder. The formula for a 1/2 wavelength is  $150/f\text{MHz}$  metres long. The ends of a 1/2-wave antenna are not connected to anything, so there is no current, but there are loads of volts. At the centre of the 1/2-wave there is loads of current, but no volts. This is what it will look like if you could see the voltage waveform on the antenna driven by a transmitter.

