



SARA Newsletter

August 2005

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/nw1arn/

or

www.K5SAR.com

SARA Repeaters:

145.050 - K5SAR
DX Packet Cluster
145.110 - N5FJ
146.700 - K5KDJ
146.820 - K5SL
440.900 - N5FJ

SARA

PO Box 37632

Shreveport, LA

71133-7632

2005 Club Officers

President – Richard Lee, N5PFZ

Vice President – Glenn Pettiet, K5TGP

Treasurer – Randy Fulco, K5SL

Secretary – Ellen Dupuy, K5LND

Fox Hunt in September



The Fox is out and about. Can you find him first? Do you have the VHF DF gear needed? How about the technique? Which way did he go? Come out for the fun and join us for lunch to discuss better techniques and equipment. We will determine the exact time and date this Thursday at the August SARA meeting. Don't Miss It.

Canada Drops Morse Requirement

Industry Canada (IC) has adopted elements of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) "Proposal on Morse Code and Related Matters" and has essentially removed the requirement for Amateur Radio applicants in that country to obtain a "Morse Qualification" for access to bands below 30 MHz.

"Morse code will no longer be the sole additional requirement by which Canadian radio amateurs will gain access to the HF bands, but it will remain as one valid criterion," Industry Canada said in its Notice announcing the regulatory change. Industry Canada said it will continue to include Morse code as a consideration in granting access to the HF bands. "However, this is only one criterion and the measure of HF operator abilities should not be limited to this one facet of operator skills," IC added.

Effective immediately, amateurs certified with the Basic Qualification prior to April 2, 2002, and amateurs certified with both Basic and Advanced Qualifications may operate on the HF amateur bands. ~~Licenses~~ Licenses holding only the Basic Qualification who were certified after April 1, 2002, and who achieved a passing grade of at least 80 percent also are allowed to operate on HF.

Amateurs certified with the Basic Qualification after April 1, 2002, who did not achieve a score of at least an 80 on the examination will either have to attain the Morse Qualification, write the Advanced test or rewrite the Basic examination and obtain at least an 80 percent grade to obtain HF privileges.

This last requirement is related to a decision to increase the passing grade for the Basic examination to ensure that candidates have been tested in all areas of the syllabus. Details of the Industry Canada decision are in the Canada Gazette Notice <<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08435e.html>> and on the Latest News page of the RAC Web site <<http://www.rac.ca>>.

FCC Amateur Service rules in §97.107(b) grant Canadian control operators "the operating terms and conditions of the amateur service license issued by the Government of Canada" but, in any case, not to exceed the control operator privileges of an FCC-licensed Amateur Extra class operator. §97.107 does not apply to US citizens who may hold Canadian amateur licenses, however.

FCC PROPOSES DROPPING MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement

to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the provision in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Dropping the Morse code requirement or any other changes to Part 97 would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM&O consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community. Several petitioners simply asked the FCC to drop the Morse requirement, but some--including the ARRL--also proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on what the FCC calls "our tentative conclusions" in its NPRM&O.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

The NPRM&O is on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf> A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM&O in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days.

DF 'ing . . . Signal Tracing

Steve W5ZA will be demonstrating the art of 2m fox hunting and Randy, K5SL will be demonstrating some simple DF'ing we can all use around town with existing rigs and an S meter.

The art of tracking down a signal can take many forms and can cover a neighborhood or thousands of miles. Antenna systems with directivity and sharp lobes are best for signals coming in over miles or thousands of miles. A 2m yagi either horizontal or vertical can pinpoint a signal many miles away. Getting a "fix" usually involves 2, 3, or more vectors crossing. The more vectors coming in at right angles to the source the better the pinpoint. This was demonstrated very accurately with a single sharp beam by Carl KB5WMY in pinpointing a stuck mike across Shreveport. Of the 2 hams he knew which crossed his vector - we found the stuck mike.

DF'ing can be more accurate with a system having a sharp beam width - either a null or peak. One of the more valuable tools is knowing your system's capabilities before trying to use it. Experience has shown that a HT with an accurate meter can be an excellent DF tool. Many times in transmitter hunting, taking the antenna completely off still shows a full scale signal. Usually this means the transmitter is within sight. Whether it is on 2m or HF, the big key is to not have so much or so little signal the direction capability of the antenna is useless. A full scale reading of a mobile or base station using an omni usually means a few blocks to a few miles. On a stuck transmitter, or a malicious interfering station, checking for his level at your house with a base rig, or your HT can be very valuable. Many times just "he is full scale at my house on my HT" is valuable information. Having other stations not hear it at all or very weak can pinpoint a neighborhood.

When a keyed transmitter happens, malicious interference, or even a spur from a mistuned transmitter comes up, check the signal at your house, or car and write it down. Get with someone who is compiling the info, and who may have some DF gear to do the close in work. Your few minutes can go a long way, and save valuable time.

With HF rigs, nowadays many garage door openers, clean air machines, and even faulty commercial transformers on poles can generate interference. Again, check with ham friends a few miles away to see if it may be natural or just in your block or neighborhood. A simple AM radio can find multi-frequency noise. Tune it off a station to static and match it with the heard signal on the HF rig. Then go walking to try and find the strongest signal. If it is at your house - start slowly turning breakers off in the house. If it goes away, you can then start unplugging things on that circuit. (it's good to "map" your house wiring before you have to do it in

the dark by trial and error.)

Another trick is a long (150') piece of RG-58 with the last foot having the shield stripped off. You can then go inside and outside your house with this "sniffer" antenna. A tri-band yagi can also peak the noise in the neighborhood and send you looking down the block in the right direction. Get someone to talk to you either on the phone or a HT while they are listening to the noise. If you find the house and are trying to do this by yourself, call them on the phone and set the phone next to your speaker. Then go to their house and start turning things off. You will know immediately when you find it. I have personally seen garage door openers, clean air machines, timers in dryers, arcing light bulbs, fluorescent lights, along with electronic timers cause harmful interference on HF rigs.

There is also an excellent web sight with actual sounds of these devices causing interference to listen, <http://ve3hls.tripod.com/noise/appliances.html> and match your sound up with. This helped Richard NZ5S track down a Bionic Breeze clean air machine a few doors away in his neighborhood.

Good Luck and Good Hunting
Randy K5SL

Bossier – Caddo ARES

Bossier Caddo ARES members will conduct a ARES 2-meter net on the 146.82 repeater on August 20th at 8:30 PM on the K5SL Repeater, 146.82. This will put us on a permanent schedule of the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. The NET will consist of check-ins, passing traffic (formal or non-formal), and a short training session on basic operating techniques during an emergency.

Hope to here everyone on the NET, 73

David Crosby K5SRZ
EC Caddo/Bossier ARES

VE Testing

The new site for the remaining testing for 2005 (Aug 13, Oct 8)will be at the main Christus Schumpert Hospital on St Mary Place, Shreveport , 1st floor Class Room #1. Signs will direct the way.

If any one has questions have them contact me via e-mail (n5fj@arrl.net) or phone 318-688-3785 or 318-686-6616

John N5FJ & the VE Group
