



# SARA Newsletter

January 2006

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.K5SAR.com](http://www.K5SAR.com)

or

[www.qsl.net/nwlarl/](http://www.qsl.net/nwlarl/)

## SARA Repeaters:

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

SARA

PO Box 37632

Shreveport, LA

71133-7632

## 2006 Club Officers

President – [Richard Lee, N5PFZ](#)

Vice President – [Paul Blankenship, KD5RUI](#)

Treasurer – [John Stewart, AA5KV](#)

Secretary – [Ellen Dupuy, K5LND](#)

## Prospects for 2006

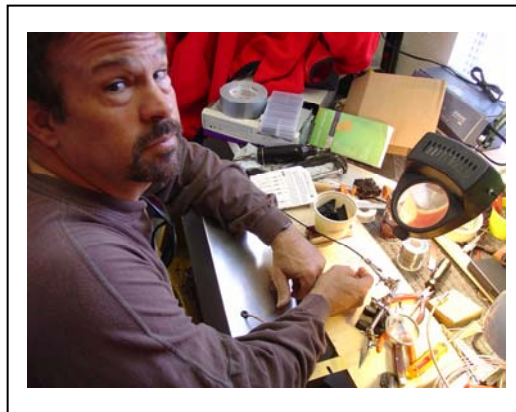
This Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the new SARA officers and Board of Directors take the helm. With them, new vitality and possibilities swell. They deal with many situations, some we control and some we are just passengers on a fast train.

Which direction should they turn? What is important to the membership and what might wait? Is new equipment needed? How can SARA plan for another Katrina or Rita? What role does the spectrum above 30 MHz play in the daily life of the SARA membership? How can we influence prospective new members and what will it take to get young people involved in ham radio? Should the club create “special interest” groups or be everything to everyone? Would “special interests” really be “splinter.”

Richard Lea, NZ5S and SARA President, made great strides in 2005 to learn what members wanted and provide a way to get there. 2006 will see his vision continue as his second term begins. He relies on excellent instinct to guide his leadership and on superb character to enlist the best people to make things happen. You can expect him to challenge each of us and then be our greatest cheerleader as we move toward the goal.

So, what are our prospects for 2006? They depend on you. Are you responsible enough to share the load? My mother loved to play paper dolls as a child. She would spend hours drawing and coloring new, exotic outfits for a doll she cut from the Sears catalog. Then, when all was ready, she spent fifteen minutes showing the cloths to all her friends before spending more hours getting ready to “play” paper dolls again. By sharing the load, you are like my mother. Getting ready to play paper dolls takes the most time. It is also where most of the fun is centered. Think about the time you spend designing your shack, setting up antennas, building those things you can not buy. This is where the real fun is found. Share your experiences, research something new, plan a special operating event, host a contest station. Contact Paul Blankenship, KD5RUI, our 2006 vice-president and volunteer to become radio-active.

## K5SL/R Gets a Retrofit



As many of you are aware 82 was down this week from Wednesday afternoon until Saturday evening. It seems the Aerotron PA acted up again and dropped power to the antenna to 10 watts. Connections were re-soldered, but once again the output trimmer arced while tuning at low power. This time it welded itself and shorted the main 20-amp 13.8-volt supply to ground. Luckily, the 4 new pass transistors installed during Hurricane Rita weekend held on.

Marcel (N5VU) and I pulled the

transmitter and took it to my workbench. We replaced the bad trim cap and got it working, but the PA issue that caused the problem alluded us.

John, N5FJ, mentioned he had a similar problem on the 146.70 Aerotron.

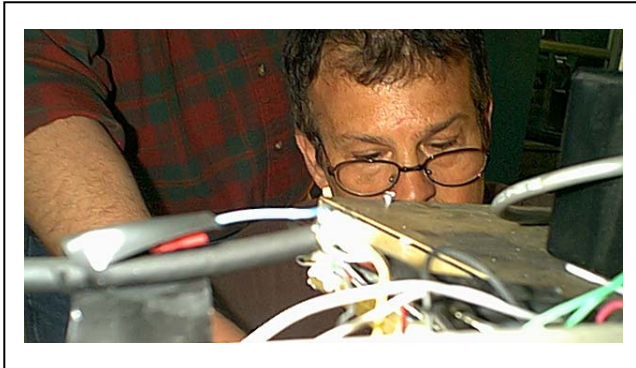
Seemingly, a poor design that age made worse. He had offered a spare PA a month

or two earlier, and now it is time.

John, N5FJ, provided an adjustable power, GE, 100 watt PA Thursday morning. It only requires ¼-watt drive to deliver the full 100 watts. However, it was missing a back cover. Thanks to K5TGP's old-time ham attitude "if you can't buy it, build it," a metal chassis box was cut and fit with holes for coax lines, power lines, and even a CPU fan inside to pull out any heat that collected. We built a few patch cables and it was ready to install within 2 days. Glenn really came forward, and used his ham/workshop to get it ready. I hear Eddie, KD5YNY, was the original owner of the chassis box.

Saturday afternoon, Glenn, Eddie, and I headed to Schumpert and about four hours later, 82 was back on the air. Boy, it would punch out the power. While the GE amplifier only needs ¼-watt drive, the Aerotron provides a half-watt. That made the power adjustments very sensitive. Little more than a touch and the power to the antenna went from 75 watts to nearly nothing. When we got 45 watts it was time to quit and hope the receiver was not de-sensitized too badly. Eventually, a 3 dB attenuator will be needed to fine-tune the power.

The Ramsey selective preamp Floyd, N5FH, built for the receiver was finally made to work with an improved ground and a makeshift capacitor made from RG174 coax. Glenn got a charge out of my 3-inch coaxial cap! The receiver seemed to be hotter than ever and the new PA has not caused any de-sense – it may be a cleaner signal. Handi-Talkies in Haughton and west Shreveport were holding the repeater well both inside houses and outside. All in all it was a big step up in transmit and receive for K5SL/R.



In other news for the K5SL Repeater, I met last Friday with Schumpert plant officials to see about moving it to a cleaner, cooler spot. For twelve years carbon dust from electric elevator motor brushes has found its way into the cabinet, and the electronics. Schumpert is checking on an air conditioned, clean room nearby. It is a pleasure to deal with their new plant officials, no red tape, and 13 years of a good relationship with them at the site helps.

Thanks to John, N5FJ, for the PA, Glenn, K5TGP, for his metalwork and assistance in the retrofit, and to

Eddie, KD5YNY, for lending a hand today. It is much easier to keep old equipment operating when good people lend their talents to the task and sharing the load gives everyone a little "ownership" in the equipment.

Randy, K5SL  
146.82 Trustee

Continued on the Last Page

Reported by 

AMSAT ECHO Satellite Launched Successfully

Posted: 2004-06-29 09:38:28.580

The AMSAT News Service reports that the AMSAT ECHO satellite was successfully launched today from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The launch vehicle carrying ECHO and several other (non-amateur) satellites lifted off on schedule at 0630 UTC and an AMSAT representative at the launch site confirmed that all of the satellites had separated successfully.

Controllers will try to turn ECHO on during its first pass over the United States at approximately 1430 UTC (about the time this message is being written). Initial downlink signals will be telemetry at 9600 baud on 435.150 MHz (+/- Doppler shift). Anyone interested in viewing the telemetry and reporting the data to AMSAT may download the decoding program, TLMEcho, at <http://web.infoave.net/~mkmk518/echo.htm>. CSV files of recorded telemetry should be e-mailed to ke4azn@amsat.org.

AMSAT asks that amateurs do NOT try to transmit to ECHO until it has been checked out and made available for general use.



## Introduces the "CQ DX Field Award"

(Hicksville, NY - March 14, 2005) -- CQ Amateur Radio magazine today announced the introduction of a new operating award, the "CQ DX Field Award," recognizing achievements in contacting at least 50 of the world's 324 10x20-degree "grid fields." This is the first of three new programs to be announced by CQ over the next three months with the goal of revitalizing ham radio's core activity of DXing, or contacting stations in faraway places.

The CQ DX Field Award is based on the Maidenhead Grid Locator system, already popular among VHF DXers and contesters, in which the world is divided, based on latitude and longitude, into 324 10x20 degree "fields" and each field is broken up into 100 1x2 degree "grid squares" or "locators." CQ DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF, has calculated that there are 177 fields with which the active ham stands a pretty good chance of making a contact, noting that many fields are in Antarctica, the Arctic or wholly within oceans.

Williams estimates that a ham who has achieved the basic levels of the traditional CQ DX Award program and/or the ARRL's DXCC program - both of which require confirmed contact with at least 100 DX "entities" - will probably also qualify for the basic CQ DX Field Award level of 50 confirmed fields. Endorsements will be issued for each additional 50 fields up to 150, then in increments of 25 fields to a final level of all 324 fields.

Contacts made on or after January 1, 1980 (the year in which the grid system was adopted for amateur radio use) will count toward the new award. Complete details and rules will be published in the April 2005 issue of CQ magazine and posted on the magazine's website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. In addition, Williams has developed an online cross-reference guide for converting countries to fields. It will be accessible at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bfwillia/gridfieldsx.html>.

## Kids Day - An Operating Event

The second Sunday in January is the day to turn your shack over to the kids for some ham radio fun with a purpose. The first running of Kids Day 2006 begins Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time (the second Kids Day will be Saturday, June 17). Kids Day provides a terrific opportunity to show youngsters what Amateur Radio is all about--and that includes its role in emergency communication.

Call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange for Kids Day contacts is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz. Contacts via VHF repeaters are okay too, with permission from the repeater owner. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs <<http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>>.

Visit the ARRL Web site for full information on Kids Day <<http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>>.

### Other events and contests include:

ARRL RTTY Roundup--1800Z Jan 7 - 2400Z Jan 8. Operate for 24 hours max. with no more than two off periods. Frequencies: 80 -- 10 meters. Categories: SO-LP, SO-HP, MS-LP, MS-HP, 10-minute band-change rule for MS. Exchange: RST + state/province/serial number. QSO Points: 1 pt/QSO. Score: QSO points x States + Provinces + DXCC entities counted only once (KH6, KL7 count as DXCC only). For more information - <http://www.arrrl.org/contests/rules/2006/rtty.html>. Logs due Feb 7 to [rttyru@arrrl.org](mailto:rttyru@arrrl.org) (Cabrillo format only) or RTTY Round-Up, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

DARC 10-meter Contest--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 0900Z -1059Z Jan 8. Frequencies: CW 28.000 - 28.200 MHz, SSB 28.300 - 28.700 MHz, work stations once only. Categories: SO-Mixed Mode and SO-CW. Exchange: RS(T) and serial number, DL stations add DOK code. QSO points: 1 pt/QSO. Score: QSOs x WAE and DXCC entities + DOK codes. For more information: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm>. Logs due 23 Jan to [10m-contest@dxhf.darc.de](mailto:10m-contest@dxhf.darc.de) or Frank Steinke, DL8WAA, PO Box 1188, D-56238 Selters, Germany.

## Membership Renewal

Dues must be paid before March 1, 2006. Members who are terminated because of failure to pay dues by March first must re-apply and are subject to all terms and fees of new membership as provided by the SARA By-Laws. **Contact John Stewart, AA5KV, with your renewal by sending it to SARA, P.O. Box 37632, Shreveport, LA, 71133-7632.**

# Vanity Call Sign Processing

Resumes January 4th

The FCC has announced that routine processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will resume Wednesday, January 4, 2006. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) suspended vanity processing in September as an indirect result of its hurricane-related extensions of certain regulatory and filing deadlines..

In September, the FCC said it had to suspend routine vanity call sign processing because the extensions included the two-year grace period and could conceivably affect the vanity program.

## 2006 Contest Calendar

Date(s)	Contest	Links
<b>January</b>		
Jan - Dec	<b>CQ DX Marathon</b>	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
1	<b>Straight Key Night</b>	<a href="#">Rules</a>
7 - 8	<b>ARRL RTTY Round-Up</b>	<a href="#">Rules</a>
21 - 23	<b>ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes</b>	<a href="#">Rules</a>
28 - 29	<b>CQ WW 160 Meter / CW</b>	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
<b>February</b>		
11 - 12	<b>CQ WW RTTY WPX</b>	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
13 - 17	<b>School Club Roundup</b>	<a href="#">Rules</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
18 - 19	<b>ARRL International DX Contest (CW)</b>	<a href="#">Rules</a>
25 - 26	<b>CQ WW 160 Meter / SSB</b>	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
<b>March</b>		
4 - 5	<b>ARRL International DX Contest (Ph)</b>	<a href="#">Rules</a>
25 - 26	<b>CQ WW WPX / SSB</b>	<a href="http://www.cqwp.com">www.cqwp.com</a>
<b>May</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Wknd	<b>CQ Nat'l Foxhunting</b>	<a href="http://www.homingin.com">www.homingin.com</a>
27 - 28	<b>CQ WW WPX / CW</b>	<a href="http://www.cqwp.com">www.cqwp.com</a>
<b>June</b>		
10 - 12	<b>ARRL June VHF QSO Party</b>	
15 - 16	<b>CQ WW VHF</b>	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
24 - 25	<b>ARRL Field Day</b>	
<b>July</b>		
8 - 9	<b>IARU HF World Championships</b>	
<b>August</b>		
5 - 6	<b>ARRL UHF Contest</b>	
19 - 20	<b>ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest</b>	
<b>September</b>		
9 - 11	<b>ARRL September VHF QSO Party</b>	
16 - 17	<b>ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest</b>	
23 - 24	<b>CQ WW RTTY DX</b>	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
<b>October</b>		
28 - 29	<b>CQWW DX / SSB</b>	<a href="http://www.cqww.com">www.cqww.com</a>
<b>November</b>		
4 - 6	<b>ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)</b>	
18 - 20	<b>ARRL November Sweepstakes (Ph)</b>	
25 - 26	<b>CQWW DX / CW</b>	<a href="http://www.cqww.com">www.cqww.com</a>
<b>December</b>		
1 - 3	<b>ARRL 160 Meter Contest</b>	
9 - 10	<b>ARRL 10 Meter Contest</b>	

## Coming DX Events

ARGENTINA, LU. Special callsign LR3DX is QRV until January 6 to celebrate the 100 years of the Recalada Lighthouse at Bahia Blanca. QSL via operators' instructions.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Look for OH0/IZ0FKE to be QRV from the Alandia Club Station from December 31 to January 4. QSL via IZ0FMA.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Ken, S79NC has been QRV on 40 meters around 2200z. QSL via 9V1NC.

EGYPT, SU. Greiss, SU1GS is QRV from Cairo and has been active on 40 meters around 2100z. QSL to home call.

GREECE, SV. Special callsign SY2EEC has been active on 40, 20, 17 and 15 using SSB. QSL via SV2KBB.

ICELAND, TF. Ari, TF3ARI continues to be QRV on 60 meters after 1130z. QSL direct to home call.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Kaoru, JA3MCA is QRV as V73Z until January 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call. Meanwhile, Randy, N5LE is QRV as V73RY and has been active on 20, 17 and 15 meters at various times. QSL to home call.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Bob, VP8LP has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB around 0700 to 1000z and 2300 to 0200z. QSL to home call.

CHAGOS ISLAND, VQ9. Larry, VQ9LA has been active on 12 meters around 1200z, 40 meters around 1300 to 1500z, and then on 160 meters around 2300z. QSL via operator's instructions.

ST. HELENA, ZD7. Peter, ZD7FT has been active on 40 meters around 2200z, 15 meters around 2100z and 20 meters around 0700z. QSL direct to home call.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Kan, AB2RF will be QRV as 6Y5/AB2RF from January 2 to 4. Activity will be on the low bands using mostly digital modes. QSL to home call.

CROATIA, 9A. Members of the Amateur Radio Club Koprivnica will be QRV using special anniversary call 9A650C during all of 2006 to celebrate 650 years of the town of Koprivnica. QSL via 9A7K.

ZAMBIA, 9J. Brian, 9J2BO has been QRV on 80 meters just before 0400z. QSL via G3TEV.

NEPAL, 9N. Pop, 9N7JO has been QRV on 40 meters around 1300z. QSL via operator's instructions.

TONGA, A3. Paul, A35RK has been QRV on 12 meters between 2130 and 2300z. QSL via W7TSQ.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Sang, DS4NMJ will be QRV as DT8A from the King Sejong Station on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, from January 1 to December 31, 2006. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via operator's instructions.

BELARUS, EU. Georg, EU1AB has been QRV on 160 meters between 0150 to 0300z. QSL to home call.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Jules, FR1AN has been QRV on 10 meters around 1400z, 12 meters around 1600z and 15 meters around 1700z. QSL via N5FTR.

THAILAND, HS. Tony, E21IZC is QRV on 40 meters from 1200 to 1400z until December 31. He will then be QRV as E21IZC/8 from January 1 and 2 from the Chumporn Province in northern Thailand. Activity will also be on 40 meters between 1100 and 1700z. QSL via EA5KB.

## SARA Newsletter

There are so many things that could be done with a newsletter, yet not many are explored here. Sometimes there are a few pictures, if I remember to take a picture or if one of you professional/amateur photographers send me a file of pictures (and I do not lose it). Once in a great while I get a few lines to add from a member intimately involved with one project or another and even rarer are the real articles. You know, those that actually have two or more paragraphs. (Thanks Randy, K5SL)

**I need some help. I do not say that often. However, I need help.**

Ideas for recurring columns and someone to write for those columns. Photographs that support club events; current, near term, and long-term. Artwork, cartoons, quips, quotes are all items that could be included here if I were but talented in those areas. What I am good at is editing, formatting, and emailing. This is your newsletter its continued viability is strictly in your hands. Contact Glenn, K5TGP at [k5tgp@k5sar.com](mailto:k5tgp@k5sar.com).

# Shorts and Jabs

- There is a very nice summary of several types of basic transistor circuits, "An introduction to analog circuits part 1: transistors and more" by Reno Rossetti on the Planet Analog Web site: <http://www.planetanalog.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=163702498>.
- Visited the Heil Sound Web site lately? There is a useful page of topics of interest to all at <http://heilsound.com/amateur/harmonics.htm#DC>. This issue includes notes about setting your DSP properly, getting rid of RFI to your mike, and other things.
- I am in awe of the inventiveness of the amateur antenna erector. For a good time, browse through the archives of the TowerTalk reflector at <http://dayton.akorn.net/pipermail/towertalk>, then select "Thread" and search for "EZ". Oiling one's line, indeed! Supplemented by K0WA's maxim, "If you don't have any Common Sense - get some and use it. If you can't find any common sense, ask for help from somebody who has some common sense."
- If you run out of "Coax Seal" on your next antenna project, you could try "Duct Seal" that is found at places like Lowes and Home Depot. It's a soft pliable putty that doesn't harden. Self-vulcanizing tape is also available at hardware-type stores and has the added advantage of being a lot easier to remove than putty. The old stand-by is three carefully-wrapped layers of Scotch 33+ or 88+ tape. (Thanks, Rick KC8AON, Larry N8LP, and George K5TR)
- At the risk of invoking another Plastic Owl uproar, here is a great way to determine True North, even if you have no compass and are lost in the woods. All it takes is the sun... (Thanks, Russell W4NI)
  - 1 - Jab a double-pointed stick into the ground
  - 2 - Mark shadow of stick point on ground (with a pebble or twig)
  - 3 - Wait a while
  - 4 - Mark point shadow, again
  - 5 - Line between shadow marks is E-W
  - 6 - Construct perpendicular for N-S
  - 7 - For better accuracy use a longer stick and wait longer

Please NOTE that most of the words...exact words have been boldly plagiarized from ARRL email publications without the knowledge or permission of anyone. So, if anyone asks, you do not know who edited this newsletter.

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## Continued from Retrofit

### The Rest of the Story:

Well, just before press-time, as it were, I got a call from Randy. It seems that Sunday afternoon, K5SL/R stopped working again and he wanted someone else to confirm it. It did not work. We went back to Schumpert and found the PA out. One of the driver transistors was hot enough to sear flesh (Randy's finger proves it) and there was zero power to the antenna from the PA. We pulled the PA and are searching for schematics to see if it can be saved. Failing that, we are looking for another PA. K5SL/R will be down a little longer. I expect to hear the net on 145.11 this Wednesday.

Glenn, K5TGP