



SARA Newsletter

May 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

or

www.qsl.net/nw1arn/

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](#)

Signals from the Edge of Space

Hams in Germany and Portugal reportedly have received signals from the US Voyager 1 spacecraft <<http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/>> in March and April. On March 31, AMSAT-DL (Germany) radio amateurs at the Institute for Environmental and Future Research (IUZ) at Bochum Observatory used a 20-meter radio telescope dish to detect Voyager 1's 8.4 GHz signal.

Using Doppler shift and sky positioning, the German team received the signal from a distance of 8.82 billion miles (14.7 billion km)--nearly 100 times the distance from the sun to Earth. This is the first recorded reception of signals from Voyager 1 by radio amateurs.

Voyager 1 was launched in September 1977 to conduct close-up studies of Jupiter and Saturn, Saturn's rings and the larger moons of the two planets.

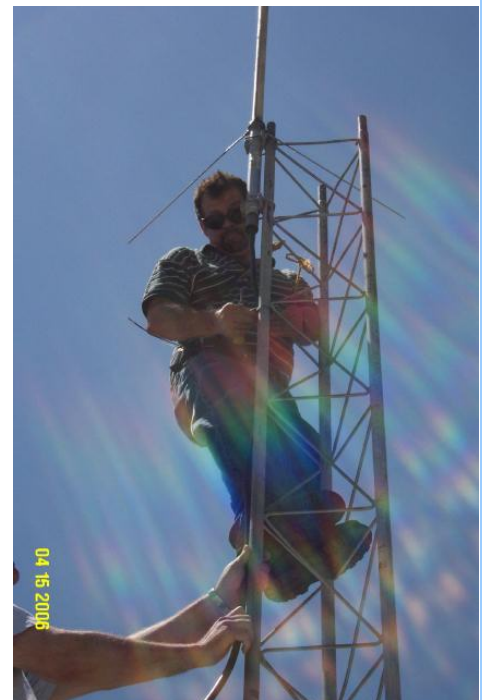
Designed to last only five years, the probe is expected to send back astronomical information to NASA and JPL until at least 2020. Voyager 1 will study ultraviolet sources among the stars, and its fields and particles instruments will continue to search for the boundary between the sun's influence and interstellar space.

An Eight-two Improvement

You may have noticed a bit of an improvement to the signals on the 146.820 repeater (K5SL). The antenna has been moved from a pole anchored to a tire and held down with bricks to a 20-foot tower on the east elevator room at Schumpert Hospital on St. Mary Place. Not only that, the repeater itself has also been moved from the filled-with-carbon-dust west elevator room to a small, well ventilated, clean room that was once used for television distribution in the hospital. In the photograph you can see Randy, K5SL, on the tower as we complete the installation with about 25 feet of hard line.

In addition to the new room and tower, Randy completely overhauled the antenna with several new coats of shellac, dielectric grease to seal the connectors, and a thorough cleaning of the interior element.

The Result: 360 degree clear field, clean operating environment, and rejuvenated antenna. Check it out from the front window of Burger King on Line Avenue just south of St Mary Place.



"QSL Limbo" for 50 Years

George Hitz, W1DA, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, can finally account for one of his QSL cards--one he sent in 1956. While a newly licensed teenager living in DeLand, Florida, Hitz, then KN4DPI, fired up his Johnson Viking Adventurer transmitter and made contact with Dave, KN6MSI, on 40 meters.

Like a good operator, Hitz sent off a QSL card, addressed only to "Amateur Radio--KN6NMI, Chief Op Dave, Address Unknown, Riverdale, Calif." This turned out to be David Leaven, later W16J, who became a Silent Key in 2003.

"I was 14, and like me, Dave was a new ham, and he wasn't in the call book," Hitz told ARRL. "I hoped there would be someone at the Riverdale post office that would know who Dave was, and it would get to him." But Hitz made one

mistake: he addressed the card to Riverdale instead of to Dave's actual QTH, Riverside. That simple error left the card sitting in QSL limbo from 1956 until now.

"In 1956, I was just a Novice operator with a primitive station and even more primitive operating skills," Hitz explained. "Back then, with my radio built from a kit and my BC-348 World War II Army Air Corps surplus receiver and a 60-foot long wire antenna that was 15 feet high, California, was like a whole other country. And I needed that California QSL!"

Hitz had put a return address on his card, but for reasons perhaps best known to the US Postal Service, it finally was returned to his former Florida address in early April. It turned up in the mailbox of Mack McCormick, a non-ham now living in Hitz's childhood home.

"The card apparently has been in the 'Twilight Zone' for 50 years," McCormick said. "It's not wrinkled or anything."

Check Out the DX

CYPRUS, 5B. George, 5B4AGC has been active on 17 and 15 meters around 1440z most days. QSL via G3LNS.

GUAM, KH2. Dave, N4ELM is QRV as KH2/N4ELM in his spare time until May 12. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and PSK. QSL direct to home call.

LITHUANIA, LY. Special event station LY15A is active during the month of May to celebrate the independence of Lithuania. QSL via LY2ZZ.

BULGARIA, LZ. Several members of the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs will be QRV with special event station LZ06KM from May 1 to 31 to commemorate both the brothers St. Cyril and St. Methodius, founders of the Cyrillic alphabet, and Bulgarian's Culture and Literature Day. QSL via LZ1PJ.

SUDAN, ST. ST0RM has been QRV on 17 meters around 1500 and 1900z and 20 meters around 0000z. QSL via T93Y.

DODECANESE, SV5. Mort, G2JL is QRV as SV5/G2JL from Lipsi, IOTA EU-001, until May 23 using only CW.

TURKEY, TA. Berkin, TA3J is QRV using special callsign YM125ATA until November 10 to mark the 125th birthday of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. QSL via TA3YJ.

RUSSIA, UA. Special event station RK50SAB will be QRV during the month of May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the radio club at the Ryazan Radioengineering Academy. QSL via RK3SWB.

UKRAINE, UR. Special event station EM20U is QRV to commemorate the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 20 years ago. Activity is on 40, 30 and 20 meters at various times. QSL via UT3UZ.

SYRIA, YK. Saad, N5FF plans to be QRV as YK1BA from May 1 to 18 during his stay in Damascus. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mainly RTTY, but also with some CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

TowerTalk

From: towertalk-bounces@contesting.com
[<mailto:towertalk-bounces@contesting.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2006 2:49 PM
To: towertalk@contesting.com
Subject: Re: [TowerTalk] Cost of installing a tower.

Numbers based mainly on my Trylon tower experience in 2001:

1. Concrete, delivered and emplaced: \$75/cuyd.
2. Rebar, appr. 200 lbs, plus tie wire: \$100
3. Framing lumber for concrete cap: \$20-\$60 (depends on slope of tower site)
4. Crane rental to erect tower (I stick-built mine, though): \$300-\$500
5. Chrome-moly mast, 2 inch OD, 1/4 inch walls: \$5-\$10/ft length plus shipping
6. Top mast bearing: \$50-\$75
7. Antennas: X x \$? (X = no. of antennas)
8. Coax cable and connectors: \$1/ft x X
9. Rotator and controller plus control cabling: (\$350-\$600)
10. Lightning arrestors: \$50 x X
11. Grounding system (rods + conductor + clamps + Cadwelds shots): \$400
12. Misc hardware, connectors, etc: \$100
13. Liquid refreshments/lunch for ground crew: \$25-\$50.

**Having a top-notch crop of aluminum and steel in the back yard:
Priceless!**

GL es 73 de

Gene Smar AD3F

P.S. Don't forget to consider a remote antenna switch, enclosure and shunt-feed capacitor(s) for loading the tower/antennas on 160/80M.

What's in your back-yard?