



SARA Newsletter

June 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](#)

The FCC on Morse Code

All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a Report and Order (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly.

“They should probably start learning code,” one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for a year. Even after the FCC goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely to pass before any new rules go into effect, the staff member pointed out.

When the FCC does act, no one’s expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it proposed last summer. Beyond that, the FCC turned away several other petitions, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

The NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 is on the FCC Web site

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf>. More

information on WT Docket 04-140 is on the ARRL Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/04/15/102/>>, and the NPRM is on the FCC Web site

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.pdf>

A Contest for Everyone

The sky is falling! Well, not really, Chicken Little, but the now-silent SuitSat-1—the Russian Orlan spacesuit cum Amateur Radio satellite—is likely to fall into Earth’s atmosphere and burn up in a few weeks. Launched February 3 from the International Space Station, SuitSat-1 was a project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Identifying as RS0RS and transmitting voice greetings and an SSTV picture, SuitSat-1 remained operational for more than two weeks, easily outlasting initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. The only rub was that its signal was far less robust than its sponsors had expected.

“The orbit life is dependent on the atmospheric drag that the satellite experiences,” ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, explained when SuitSat-1 was launched. An analysis done prior to its deployment predicted a 70 to 120-day orbital life for SuitSat-1, meaning the end should come sometime in early June on the outside.

The mission continues to capture imaginations around the world as well as attention in the popular press. To keep the momentum going a bit longer ARISS and AMSAT are sponsoring a “Chicken Little Contest,” <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/arriss/suitsatContest.php>> in which participants pick the date on which they believe SuitSat-1 will drop out of orbit.

The winner will be the individual who picks the date closest to SuitSat-1's actual re-entry. Enter by filling out the online entry form on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/contestEntry.php>>.

The SuitSat-1 "Chicken Little Contest" has three entry categories:

- Kindergarten through grade 8
- High School (grades 9-12)
- Adult.

Contest rules permit one entry per person. Certificates will go to winners of each group.

News in Brief

ARRL Louisiana Section

Section Manager: Mickey D. Cox, K5MC, k5mc@arrl.org

Henry WD4Q, Delta Division Director, is urging all LA hams to contact Senator David Vitter, a member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, to express our support of language addressing the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) interference issue. With an amendment requiring the FCC to study BPL interference now included in Section 502 of the House telecom bill (HR 5252), the ARRL is shifting its focus to the Senate. Full details, including a sample letter, are on the League web site. If you haven't already done so, please write Senator Vitter before June 8, the scheduled date for the Senate bill to be marked up in committee, and include a copy to the ARRL's government relations firm as explained on the web site.

The rules for the 2006 LA Section Field Day awards are in the process of being posted on the section web site as I'm writing this report. The rules that we will follow this year for scoring are similar to the FD rules used by ARRL Headquarters with one major exception: CW and digital contacts will count the same as phone contacts, one point per QSO. As in previous years, all groups competing for LA Section awards must be ARRL affiliated. Entries will be submitted to yours truly either via email or regular mail and must include the same documentation submitted to ARRL HQ. I want to thank the FD Awards Committee (K5GLS, N5NVP, and N5FJ) for developing the rules for this year's competition. Good luck to all FD groups!

A New Era for Field Day

Have you ever heard of a Blog. Yes, one of those things that you hear about sometimes on Good Morning America, or on MSN.com. It is a place for anyone to write almost anything about nearly any subject. Some are very explicit other more general. Steve Smith, KG5VK started a [Blog for SARA's Field Day](#) and it has some very good information. I have made a couple of entries on a subject very near to my heart...Networking Computers Wirelessly.

Some of you may know that I work for LSUHSC and that my primary task is keeping the network going, What you may not know is that I redesigned and implemented the wireless network using Part 15 rules before I learned that amateurs are the primary spectrum holders of nearly three quarters of the 2.4GHz band used for wireless networking under Part 15 and that when amateurs use the band, we are allowed more power, more antenna gain, and the same spread spectrum techniques used for Part 15. However, we are limited in that we cannot encrypt the transmission, but we can require a password, just like adding a tone to a closed repeater.

Below are a couple of entries into the Blog:

Sunday, April 02, 2006 **The New WireLess**

One thing missing from last year's Field Day is broadband Internet access. This year, we could pipe in the Internet and wireless (imagine that amateur radio operators thinking of using wireless) is the way to do it. As amateurs we have the primary rights in most of the 2.4GHz spectrum used for wireless networking and under Part 97, the gain of our antennas is not restricted as it is under Part 15 for normal wireless use.

There are two major obstacles to making access a reality. First, we must locate a broadband Internet source that also has a line-of-site view of the Field Day site, the Red River boat ramp on the Teague Parkway in Bossier. Second, the wireless access points, high-gain antennas, network switches, and cabling needed to build a wired/wireless local area network and a wireless link to the Internet.

We already have one access point, cables, and a network switch. We also have one DirectTV dish for one of the antennas. If anyone has an unused single MTU satellite dish (any brand will work), please send me an email ([n5sh at cox dot net](mailto:n5sh@cox.net)) or catch me on 146.82. I'll be happy to pick it up.

The concept is pretty simple.

- Connect an access point with a dish antenna to a network that has broadband Internet access and point the dish toward the Field Day site.
- Build a local area network (wired and/or wireless) at the site to connect all logging computers (Phone, CW, GOTA, and 6M).
- Connect a second access point with a dish antenna to the Field Day network and point that antenna toward the first antenna.

The reality is a little more difficult.

- The broadband connection must allow our insecure network access to the Internet – Barksdale AFB and the VA will probably say “No,” but CenturyTel Center might let us.
- The two dish antennas must have an unobstructed line-of-site path – trees along the bank will probably make using ShreveCity Shopping Center difficult, but the apartments or businesses on the Bossier side of the river along Shreveport-Barksdale Blvd may be a player.

Lets get together and really show our stuff. This isn't your father's Ham Radio, its here and now using the latest technology and innovation.

Tuesday, May 09, 2006

Johnson's Furniture comes to aid of SARA

JOHNSON'S FURNITURE ON WESTGATE AVE, BOSSIER CITY, HAS OFFERED TO ALLOW The Shreveport Amateur Radio Association ACCESS TO THE INTERNET VIA THEIR STORE CONNECTION.

PLEASE STOP BY THE STORE AND TELL MR. JOHNSON HOW GREATFUL WE ARE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE INTERNET DURING FIELD DAY 2006.

This will be an added asset to our in the field communications drill ! I know some will scoff that anything do do with the Internet is not Ham Radio However I will beg to differ and please keep an open mind while you read on.....

Last Year in I was one of the few from our local area that went into the field and assisted in the disaster areas of Katrina In fact I was invited to assist at U.S. Naval Air Station New Orleans with the U.S. Coast Guard it was an experience that I will never forget Three days after I was there they had access to high speed internet service from a package that was flown in by a contractor, that kit which was set-up by the civilian contractor included six VOIP hand held phones, was my job done - no not for another 24 hours.

My point is in a disaster we need to embrace what ever technology will work effectively to get the job done and save lives. Not shuffle of saying “Hey that ain't Ham radio,” maybe it's not totally wireless but how many know that we actually have frequencies allotted to us in the 802.11 band plan ! I applaud Glenn N5SH for making this happen and he has worked hard to up the capability at out Field Day site and we all should show our appreciation for this !

By the way if the Coast Guard wants volunteers again will you be healthy, and willing able and ready to go ? Once asked I was on the road to Alexandria Naval Air Station within one hour with a complete HF station, from there they scheduled a mission package just to get me to NAS New Orleans I was QRV within one hour of landing at the NAS New Orleans. The U.S. Coast Guard men and women were awesome host and a very impression can do team.

Steven Lott Smith
TSgt USAF Retired

All of this said, so I can update and motivate you to participate in Field Day. Field Day is a contest. Field Day is a party. Field Day is a place to gather and build friendships. Field Day is an opportunity to practice for an emergency. But mostly, Field Day is a time to show our friends and neighbors that amateur radio is not a hobby whose time has come and gone, but a hobby that is here and now. Demonstrating use of the latest technologies to make a better place in the world. One of the antennas, converted from DirectTV to SARAnet is pictured to the right. In this image you are looking directly into the antenna. The top of the dish is tilted forward at an angle of approximately 68° so the transmitted and received signal is parallel to the earth's surface. A great deal of research went into this antenna and I will be happy to share the details.

N5SH

