



SARA Newsletter

August 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](#)

SWAIN'S ISLAND IS NEWEST DXCC ENTITY

A recent addition to the DXCC rules has led to the designation of Swain's Island (KH8) as the 337th DXCC entity. A brief inaugural DXpedition operating under the call sign KH8SI was to get under way soon.

In June, the ARRL DXCC Desk announced the addition of a Paragraph (c) under Section II, DX List Criteria, 1.

The new language effectively reclassified American Samoa as a political entity for DXCC purposes. Subsequently, the DX Advisory Committee and the Awards Committee concurred with a request, accompanied by substantiating evidence, and added Swain's Island to the DXCC List as the first "separation entity" from American Samoa.

"The distance between American Samoa and Swain's Island has been determined to be in excess of 350 km" the DXCC Desk said. Contacts made with Swain's Island on or after 0001 UTC on July 22, 2006, will count for DXCC credit.

For more information, including the DXCC Reference Number for Swain's Island, contact the DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

MONTENEGRO INTERNATIONAL DX FESTIVAL UNDER WAY

Radio amateurs and equipment from all over Europe and from a few countries outside the continent converged this week on Montenegro, for the Montenegro International DX Festival. The event kicked off at noon on Thursday, July 20, with a salute to Montenegrin hams, the Amateur Radio Association of Montenegro and the country's telecoms authority and military.

The three-week Amateur Radio event is aimed at putting the tiny, new Balkan nation on the DX map in a big way. Seven stations identifying as 4O3T will be on the air from various locations.

Nearly four dozen operators from more than 10 countries are expected to serve as 4O3T operators during the DX Festival, which continues until August 13. An online searchable log will be available on the SRACG Web site <<http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/log-book-search.html>>.

The United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member on June 28, automatically making Montenegro the 336th current DXCC entity.

There are fewer than 100 native radio amateurs in Montenegro. The International Telecommunication Union has not yet assigned a distinctive call sign block to the new country, although current Montenegrin radio amateurs have been using their YU/YT/YZ/4O-prefix call signs.

Special Events and Contests

North American QSO Party--CW, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Aug 5 - 0600Z Aug 6. Frequencies: 160 - 10-meters.

Categories: SOAB and M2, 100 W power limit, operate a maximum of 10 hours (off times must be at least 30 min and M2 entries may operate the entire contest). Exchange: Name and S/P/C. Score: QSOs X States + Province + NA DXCC countries (count each once per band). For

information: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php> Logs due 14 days after the contest via Web entry form at <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogssubmit.php> to cwnaqp@ncjweb.com or Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, 4225 Farmdale Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604.

SARL HF DX Contest--SSB, sponsored by the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club from 1230Z -- 1630Z Aug 6 (CW is Aug 27). Frequencies: 80 -- 20 meters. Categories: SOAB, MS. Exchange: RS(T) + serial number. QSO

Points: SSB -- 1 pt, CW -- 2 pts. Total score: QSO points + ZS call areas and South African countries (see Web site). For more

information: <http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests> Logs due 14 days after the contest to zs4bs@netactive.co.za or PO Box 12104, Brandhof 9324, Republic of South Africa.

Ten-Ten International Summer Phone QSO Party -- sponsored by Ten-Ten International from 0001Z Aug 5 - 2359Z Aug 6, 10-meters only.

Exchange: call, name, state and 10-10 number (if available). QSO

Points: nonmembers--1 pt, members--2 pts. Total score: sum of QSO points. For more information: <http://www.ten-ten.org> Logs due Aug 21 to tentencontest@alltel.net or Steve Rasmussen N0WY, 312 N 6th Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048-1302.

European HF Championship--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Slovenian Contest Club from 1200Z - 2359Z Aug 5. EU to EU contacts only. Frequencies:

160-10 meters. Categories: SOAB only--CW, SSB, and Mixed Modes, HP and LP. Exchange: RS(T) and last two digits of first year licensed.

Score: QSOs x number of different years received, counted once per band. For more information: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhfc.html>

Logs due Aug 31 to euhfc@hamradio.si (Cabrillo format preferred) or Slovenia Contest Club, Saveljska 50, 1113 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

TARA "Grid Dip" Contest--PSK and RTTY, sponsored by Troy ARA from 0000Z -- 2400Z Aug 5.

Frequencies: 80-6 meters, work stations once per band, work Rovers again from new locators. Categories: SOAB only--QRP, LP (<20W or RTTY <100W), HP (100W max. or RTTY legal limit), Rover (50W max. or RTTY legal limit) operating from more than one Grid Locator, SWL. Exchange: Name and 4-digit grid locator. QSO

Points: 1 pt/QSO. Total score: QSO points x Grid Locators counted once per band. For more information:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html Scores due 2 Sep via online submission form at http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_score.html

National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend--all modes, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001Z Aug 5 - 2359Z Aug 6.

Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030; SSB -- 1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370. Exchange: Serial number or ARLHS member or lighthouse number, name, and S/P/C. For more information: <http://arlhs.com> Logs due 31 Aug to Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696.

ARRL UHF Contest, 1800Z Aug 5 -1800Z Aug 6. Frequencies: all amateur bands above 222 MHz. Categories: SO-LP, SO-HP, Rover, MO. Exchange:

Grid Square (signal report is optional). QSO Points: 222 and 432 MHz

- 3 pts, 902 and 1296 MHz - 6 pts, 12 pts on all higher bands. Score:

QSO Points x Grid Squares (total from all bands). Rovers add one additional multiplier for each grid square activated. For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/contests> Logs due Sep 5 by email to augustuhf@arrl.org or by mail to August UHF Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA.

Massive CubeSat Launch Fails

An attempt to launch 15 CubeSats from 11 universities and one private company failed July 26. Fourteen of the CubeSats, now lost, carried Amateur Radio transmit-only payloads.

The Dnepr-1LV rocket lifted off from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 1943 UTC on July 26. Space Launch Report cites payload users as reporting that the mission went awry sometime after first-stage separation. An Interfax report said an emergency shutdown of the rocket's main engine initiated 86 seconds after launch, shortly before the first stage would have completed its burn. Gazeta.kz reported the vehicle fell to Earth almost 190 km from the launch site.

Originally set for June 28, the launch had been postponed until July 26. The CubeSat project was a collaboration between California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and Stanford University's Space Systems Development Laboratory. All of the CubeSats were designed and built by students at various universities in the US and elsewhere in the world.

Thirteen of the satellites were to have downlinks in the Amateur Radio satellite allocation between 435 and 438 MHz, and one was to operate on 145.980 MHz. None of the spacecraft carried a transponder. Transmitter power outputs ranged from 10 mW to 2 W.

According to Satellite Launch Report, the original Dnepr launcher was replaced by a different one in June after a problem was detected in the original vehicle's digital flight control system. The Dnepr vehicle is a repurposed SS-18 "Satan" three-stage intercontinental ballistic missile.

The W5 "E" for 8th Air Force Story

Check it Out on the Web

Surfin': What on Google Earth!

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU Contributing Editor June 23, 2006

Don Agro, VE3VRW, wrote that [MacLoggerDX v4.2.6b7](#) supports *Google Earth*. After performing any call sign look-up, a menu selection or single keystroke (Shift+Cmd+E) displays an aerial view of the call sign's location in *Google Earth*.

John Trice, AI4KN, and Stan Young, WG4RAY, said that [Ham Radio Deluxe](#) from Simon Brown, HB9DRV, supports *Google Earth*. Select two or more contacts in your Ham Radio Deluxe log, press the *Google Earth* button, and track the signal path between your home and your contact's location.

Long time Surfin' reader, Whitey Doherty, W1VV, wrote, "For the last three years, Don, N1DT, and I have been members of the [Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society](#) and have activated 45 lights and lightships in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We use *Google Earth* to find spots to operate from near the lights that you would never find from any map or chart. With *Google Earth*, you can see details right down to a fence or dirt road, small spaces on the side of road just big enough for our truck."

Justin Kates, [KB3JUV](#), mentioned that [EchoLink](#), one of the most popular ham radio [VOIP](#) ("voice over IP," for short, or "voice over Internet Protocol," for long) programs, displays the location of *EchoLink* nodes in *Google Earth*.

By the way, I mentioned in last week's Surfin' how I found a [monolith](#) in place of the [Gateway Arch](#) when I *Google Earthed* St Louis. Well, Steve Katz, N8WL, and Jay Sissom, KA9OKT, both informed me that if I disabled (unchecked) the "3D Buildings" layers option in *Google Earth*, the monolith would disappear and the arch would appear in its place. I did and it did.

Finally, here is a *caveat emptor*, but since *Google Earth* is free, I guess it is more of a "don't look a gift horse in the mouth." Depending on where you look with *Google Earth*, the quality of the zoomed image varies. If I view my cousin's apartment in Los Angeles, I can tell if somebody is in her apartment's swimming pool. On the other hand, if I view the WA1LOU homestead in downtown Wolcott, I can sort of tell that there is something there that looks like a blurry brown blob surrounded by a sea of blurry green lumps. I hate to say it, but I don't think you can get a worse *Google Earth* zoomed image than the one of my house, but I still like the program a lot.