



SARA Newsletter

Extra

January Extra 2007

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 - K5KDO

146.820 - K5SL

440.900 - N5FJ

SARA

PO Box 37632

Shreveport, LA

71133-7632

2007 Club Officers

President – [Steve Smith, KG5VK](#)

Vice President – [Rick Westerfield, KH2DF](#)

Treasurer – [John Stewart, AA5KV](#)

Secretary – [Glenn Pettiet, N5SH](#)

Help!

I am anxious to get started with the new year and I have some ideas and plans. However....

I want to pause for a minute however and start by saying we should all applaud the current SARA Officers and Board of Directors which have been doing an awesome job

However as I begin to move to the helm of this organization I need some help from you, the members to come up with some Low Tech ideas and Topics

Recently a couple a folks approached me with basically these thoughts.....

The SARA club has become an HF, rather than REPEATER, club and could bring about a loss of members if not turned around.

Little is being done to PROMOTE HAM RADIO, unless it involves HF.

There should be more "low tech" get together to promote cohesion among the members and the public.

Most of you know that I am passionate about HF and DXing Recently I have seen evidence that many think I am only passionate about those things. I became interested in Ham Radio thru collecting SWL QSL cards and I still have those cards to this day! The bottom line is I love Ham Radio, not so much for what it is but what has brought me in the way of friendship and experiences that would have never been possible if not for having a Ham ticket.

Yes I have always been on HF; however I have also played with FSTV, RS-10 satellites communication, SSTV, Packet, RTTY and many others tools of the trade. I wonder how many know or recall who showed local Hams Packet cluster, but that is not what is important about this message and a plea for help.

What matters the most to me is the people around us sharing a like interest

My fondest Field Day memories are not from high scores, but from camaraderie sharing a QSO on 15meters years ago with a Blind person that was taking an interest in Ham Radio, Shot Gun excitement in the big RV at North Wood FD site, walking in the mud and watching Clint VK2ACM and Randy K5SL, watching the two legged scenery thru binoculars during more recent years

Sharing some pre-field day hours with a group of cub / boy scouts. Fact is I am shocked to hear that so many think of FD as an HF contest only environment, it could never be further from the truth fact is it is what YOU want it to be!

Think of it as the analogy of is the glass half full or half empty. Your club is much the same, what do YOU want the club to be if you offer input, critics are fine even welcome! If we want improvements we need to be ready to provide me and the rest of the Board of Directors with some ideas that sprout solutions and foster interests and growth where **you** want it.

This is a problem that needs more than a band-aid, simply changing all of our meetings to concentrate on vhf and non-traditional means of communication would be just as deadly as continuing on the course we are on. We need ideas, so we can develop dynamic plans that make meetings more three dimensional how about a Guest speaker, a member profile spotlight, and "**what else**"?

That "**what else**" is one of the major keys I am missing and that is exactly why I ask for your Help! By the way I consider SARA as no more an HF club than I do a Repeater club, but I of course may be biased because of the amount of time I personally spend on HF, so I am asking for help in ensuring we are a balanced organization.

Please give me some ideas on what YOU want try and be as specific as you can but speak your mind and tell me how you see it rosy or cloudy. **I want our club to mean so much more, to every single member!!!**

Input, feedback may be directed to me at lottphoto@gmail.com or via the SARA Blog which I would love to see more member participation on and is located at....<http://k5sar.blogspot.com>.

73,

Steve

KG5VK