



# SARA Newsletter

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

or

[www.qsl.net/nw1arn/](http://www.qsl.net/nw1arn/)

## SARA Repeaters:

145.050 - K5SAR

DX Packet Cluster

145.110 - N5FJ

146.700 - K5KDO

146.820 - K5SL

444.900 - 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](#)

## Field Day 2007 by K5SL

Well, FD 2007 has come and gone, but for all of us who went out, it was a good time. Good planning paid off, as did the great turnout during the whole weekend. It seems after the 3rd year, the Bossier Teague Parkway is once again proving itself to be a great site. Nice paved parking within 50' of the pavilion, and some tall trees with just the right distance to experiment with antenna configurations. Nice restrooms nearby, and the police even checked on us during the night.

A few changes were made since we had portable generators. The CW tent was moved further south of the pavilion, and our noise from lighting was non-existent. The 5KW units did a great job, without a big gas bill. I think we have found a good combo.

The air conditioning in the rented trailer provided a comfortable operating position. Thanks to the dedicated group of HF ops in our club who donated a few bucks to offset the cost. After two nights of rain, the air conditioning helped reduce the humidity. (It got cold in there at 1AM). I discovered another plus, the queen sized bed is a nice place to sleep on location. A few of us never went home, but could catch a few hours of sleep on site. I'll stay out there again next year.

The new configuration of the loop antenna just worked. Thanks to Don ND5P I was able to configure it for a max gain to the north and northeast. Shooting lines over the trees at 60 feet with the tennis ball launcher was much easier than four push up poles with three guys each. Much less work up and down.

The Yagi antenna did great also. CW made a good spread of QSOs on 80/40/20/15. I had a fun time in the wee hours of the morning on 40. Been a few years since I had a rate of 80/hr in FD but I did for almost 2 hours! The nice UPS supplied by KH2DF let us keep transmitting while the generators were down for refilling. We had no real PC/rig/or antenna issues at CW. We finished still making contacts on 15 with over 750 QSOs. I saw a few new ops really take to the N3FJP software. They will be going after it next year. (Marcel N5VU will be there). Two evenings of hard rain didn't stop us, just like it shouldn't in a hurricane or tornado aftermath.

We had lots of gear up in an hour and on the air. I was pleased to see so many take a job and run with it. From Retta's excellent food, to N5IOO cutting the grass...I saw over 20 people out there Friday, and most of Saturday. The TV and newspaper stories were great! Many friends saw it and commented on the great angle the media depicted for the event. We can go out and install good antenna's and have local and nation wide communications.

If you were not there for the great food (TKS KF5XV) you missed me in Retta's apron, holding the umbrella, flipping burgers in pouring down rain. A new meaning to Wat-er-Burger. It's one of those things if you weren't there you missed it. SARA FD this year was a Big success from what I saw, and I think we did things right...



CQ FD QRP ALT PWR CQ FD

# Contester's Rate Sheet

## ODDS 'n ENDS

If you're getting into RTTY contesting and wonder about strategy, Ed W0YK has made his Dayton 2007 presentation (<http://www.w0yk.com/pdf/Dayton%202007,%20v2.pdf>) available for you. Even though Ed isn't there with the explanation, you'll learn a bunch just from the slides. Lothar K5LEH points out, as well, that the Tigertronics Signalink USB interface may ease your first steps into digital contesting, as well.

Ramon XE1KK contributes an interesting URL for <http://hamigg.de> - a social bookmarking platform for ham radio and technical topics. On June 25th, the lead topic was pneumatically launching tennis balls, so this site seems to be on the right track! (Thanks, Ramon XE1KK)

The age-old mystery of how the 807 became the ham's nudge-and-a-wink meaning "cold beer" elicits this suggestion from Sam N5AF. "My Elmer, W5PDE, licensed in 1947 and a builder of home-made rigs, explained that the 807 was just a little harder to tame than other tubes and sometimes had to be neutralized. It was seldom seen as a crystal oscillator. Thus, being a little wilder than other tubes, it was associated with the aforementioned alcoholic beverage."

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Why listen to yet another recitation of the weather and a litany of equipment makes and models? How do I decode thee? Let me count the ways! Shakespeare's sonnets are available for the most literate code practice anywhere at <http://tinyurl.com/2hytst> from John AE5X.

URL of the Week - Tim K3HX wrote to share a nifty bearing-distance calculator (<http://tinyurl.com/3xhqza>) for those who are really serious about such things. The initial distance answer is in km but there is a function to show a Google map path as a line on a map with each terminal noted.

## OPERATING TIPS

If the band has turned to a mush of interference, splatter, and spurious signals, make sure your preamp and noise blanker are OFF. These circuits make the receiver highly susceptible to overload and distortion by strong signals. Further, reduce RF gain and add attenuation to clean up the band even more. Remember to maximize signal-to-noise ratio instead of absolute signal volume. If you can hear the stations you want to work, that's all the gain you need!

The Contester's Rate Sheet also has a world of information on upcoming contests for all portions of the spectrum. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet>.

## BS7H Ops and "our boys" @ Hamcom



Just after their great forum at Hamcom, I got to talk to these guys at length...Randy, K5SL.