



SARA Newsletter

December 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

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

2007 Club Officers

President – [Steve Smith, KG5VK](#)

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

Treasurer – [John Stewart, AA5KV](#)

Secretary – [Glenn Pettiet, N5SH](#)

SARA Happenings

- **Dues Increase** – \$20 per individual, \$25 per new member, and \$30 per family. Increase based on the deficit between expenses and income in 2007 and 2006 – **Approved by the membership.**



Officer and Board Elections

President	Rick Westerfield, KH2DF
Vice – President	Randy Fulco, K5SL
Treasurer	Mike Ketchins, KE5DLM
Secretary	Ray Bureau, AD5ZT

BOD

Floyd Hoskins, N5FH	Glenn Pettiet, N5SH
Matt Chapman, K5DAZ	John Dillinger, KE5MYQ
Marsh Stewart, KA5M	Carl McNair, KB5WMY
Bobby Matthews, KF5XV	Robert Fincher, K5REF

- **Christmas Membership Meeting** – Party at Chef Lee's, December 6th – auction – VX-150 door prize.

Be sure to pay your dues at or before the Christmas Party and be eligible to win a Yaesu VX-150 VHF handi-talkie.

Please bring donations of your excess equipment for the auction to benefit the club, and expect to have a great time as we welcome the new officers and board of directors.

Grow Your Club

By Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

One of the most frequently asked questions that we hear from ARRL affiliated clubs is "How can we increase membership in our club?" A foundation of active Amateur Radio operators is required in order to maintain a healthy Amateur Radio club. If you lack a sufficient pool of licensed hams in your area then create some. Clubs that conduct licensing classes where they make recruitment part of the lesson continually increase membership.

Providing a license course for those people in the community who are interested in learning about Amateur Radio demonstrates the club's commitment to helping people. Reinforcing Amateur Radio's tradition of helping each other let's the new hams know that they are not just getting a license to operate a radio but that they are also earning a ticket to become part of a worldwide society whose existence is built on mutual contact. Whether on the air or in the community Amateur Radio has always been a two-way function.

From the moment the license class begins new hams need to know that your club is there to help them as they begin their Amateur Radio journey. This relationship begins not in the classroom but at the time of registration or when that first contact is made whether in person or on the telephone or through the internet.

As the class progresses the new ham is made aware of the reciprocal bond between

hams and while the novice may not believe that he or she has something to offer at the moment, their attendance and a desire to belong is sufficient contribution. As long as the club maintains a friendly environment that encourages participation and supports activities the novice will soon become the Elmer to the next group of new hams and will eventually take on leadership positions in the club.

Be sure to invite the new licensees to your next club meeting. Using written invitations is a nice touch and sends a message that you really want them to attend. The focus of this meeting should be on your new hams and getting them into the mainstream. Several clubs have organized the meeting following a license class using the "Ham Radio 101" format where the entire evening's programming is to show the novices the basics of operating. Have refreshments on hand and be ready to talk about the fun activities such as Field Day or a community activity that your club is involved in. This is not the meeting where you want to discuss politics or topics that will embattle the membership. Keep it light and focused on the needs of the newcomers.

New hams are thirsty for information no matter how basic. When and where are the club meetings held? How do I get on the air? What does this or that term mean? Be prepared to answer the simplest questions and provide details when you do. The Mt. Baker club in Bellingham Washington has developed a great handout for new hams that helps answer some of these questions. With Mt. Baker's permission ARRL has made this booklet available to download and customize for your use. The modified version provides a place for your club to insert club and local information.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2005/03/06/1/MBARC-Info-Pack.pdf>

Use this brochure or develop one of your own but in any case be sure to give your new hams something informative to take home with them.

A closing thought when working with new hams, one person's favorite activity is not all that ham radio has to offer. Meeting programs and mentor sessions should stimulate new hams to explore the many options offered to the licensed radio amateur. Organizing and teaching an Amateur Radio license class where the students are encouraged to be a part of the fabric of ham radio and invited to participate in club activities is guaranteed to increase your club's membership with active hams.

Countdown to Field Day

Marcel N5VU – Greetings from the Field Day Chairman,

FD in about 7 months, but, who's counting,... Yes, I know that it is only December, but I'm already thinking about FD. Field Day was my very first contest, 1977 to be exact. Yep, I remember it very well, WB5VSS/N, 97 contacts with a Swan 350 and a vertical. Setting on a park bench (and in my car when it rained), Ahhh, the memories. Anyway, what I want to say is that we will have fun and do great in 08.

I want to dispel some myths about FD this month, "Accommodations and skill levels." First, it doesn't matter that we use air-conditioned trailers instead of tents. The idea is to be Portable, i.e., self sufficient. Ham radio operators are innovative creatures. We look for ways to make things easier, faster, and more efficient and of course, comfortable. If we were called to an emergency, we would probably be co-located in a shelter of some kind. However, if we have to go to a remote foreign jungle, then the tent would be best that we could hope for. FD is a disaster shakedown of our equipment and skills.

Item number two, "Skill Level." This really scares a lot of people. "What if I screw up a contact?" "What if I'm too slow?" "I'm so nervous!" No Problemo! Everybody has these fears on their first contest. Contesting isn't for everyone. It's kind of like eating Crawfish, you just don't know if you like 'em until you try 'em. FD is like one of those "Son of a gun, gonna have big fun down on the bayou parties." There is something for everyone. Making mistakes, man, where do I start? Every mistake that **you** make in a contest is a mistake that **I made at least 100 times before**. Speed comes with repetition. Just like riding a bicycle, wobbly at first and before long, "Look mom, no hands!" It's OK to be nervous, in fact, a little fear actually helps.

Other things I will talk about is making contacts, antennas, Murphy's Law, Mother Nature, the Club, cuisine and camping out. Enough for now, but expect much more during the next seven months.

73 Marcel

ARRL SSB Sweepstakes, 2007

For those who did not operate or come by Steve's shack (KG5VK) for SSB Sweepstakes you missed some great fun, food, and operating.

Steve as usual spent hours putting up new antennas and running hard-line, as well as setting up his station.

It is a learning experience to see 2 rigs and 2 amps which can share mic's, speakers, and antennas. Also the PC interfacing is something to see. How many stations have you seen w frequency column with calls for your un-worked stations? Just click the mouse on one of the call signs and the rig moves to that frequency! You just call the guy. No tuning back and forth. You can move across the band in seconds working people!

Steve has some great antennas, and is always trying to find a way to get the most out of each band for Sweepstakes. The N1MM contest software was a no brainer to learn. I watched him work it for one minute, and then took over in the operating chair. No learning to it, type and hit the space bar! I started working stations one after another. When you do have to call "CQ," the voice keyer saves your voice.

Another part of SS at Steve's QTH is the fellowship of guys who like to contest, and DX. I talked to Marsh (KA5M) and decided to try another way to key my Ten Tec amp. Marcel (K5VU), Steve and I talked about ways to get more people and QSOs for FD this year. (Going to be a good one I can tell). We are already talking ways to get good antennas up with less work.

I also would like to thank Steve's wife for letting us all invade her home for SS. She is a real trooper, and understands Steve passion for contesting.

I can sum up what operating at his station is like by quoting Marcel: "I go home to what I thought was a good station and now know it is a modest one"!

I hear the score this year will possible put the Sundown DX Group in the top ten in the nation-quite a showing for the ops who participated.

Randy (K5SL)

CW Hound

From a ham radio friend of mine:

During a recent trip my wife and I drove around the back woods of East Texas. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog for Sale." Well I needed a break so I stopped to see what the deal was.

I went into the backyard and see a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. "You talk?" I ask. "Yep," the Lab replies. Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?"

"Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a VUU screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?" "How did you know that," I ask? The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my Ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW.

The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and with my keen hearing I could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years."

Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Oklahoma QSO Party two years in a row.

Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party.

I said "let me see what I can do." I went back in and ask the owner what he wants for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Technician."

Sent to me by Randy (K5SL)

Upcoming LA Hamfests

MARA Hamfest in Minden on December 15, the SELARC Hamfest in Hammond on January 19, and the 2008 LA State Convention/AARA Hamfest in Rayne on March 21-22.