



# SARA Newsletter

February 2008

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

440.900 - N5FJ

SARA

PO Box 37632

Shreveport, LA

71133-7632

## Club Officers

President – [Rick Westerfield, KH2DF](#)

Vice President – [Randy Fulco, K5SL](#)

Treasurer – Mike Ketchens, KE5DLM

Secretary – [Ray Bureau, AD5ZT](#)

## Ground Stations Needed

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

(ARISS) operations? ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed. Locations all over the world will be considered, but the greatest need for stations is in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, Canada and Alaska.

The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered:

Third Party agreement with United States or waiver from their telecom agency; ability to speak and understand English; minimal horizon obstructions; 24/7 access and availability of station; operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times; phone patch; AZ/EL tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override; multi-element Yagi for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred); pre-amps and transmit output greater than 70 W. If you can specify your station's EIRP and receive sensitivity (thereby taking into account cable losses, pre-amps and antenna gain), it would be greatly appreciated.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required: Auto Doppler adjustment of frequencies; ability to speak and understand languages other than English; 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware; Packet; SSTV; Digital ATV; redundant power system, and high-speed Internet.

If you or your club would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an e-mail <[ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org](mailto:ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org)> to ARISS with details about your station and contact information. -- Information provided by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman.

## Shack of the Field Day Chairman

This month's topics are Murphy's Law and Mother Nature. **Murphy's Law:** *If anything can go wrong, it will and at the least opportune time in the least opportune location.* Murphy is to Field Day as the ARRL is to Amateur Radio. However, as Field Day ham operators, we welcome Mr. Murphy because the purpose of Field Day is to adapt and overcome (*Simper Fi*) communications outages that occur during a disaster. Of course, with Murphy, comes Mother. Mother Nature, as well as Murphy has been part of Field Day as long as there have been Field Days. I'm sorry to tell you this, but FD is not designed to be the great escape camp out where we play with our Ham radio hobby. The name itself speaks volumes, "Field" "Day." We operate for a "day" overcoming and adapting to where we are out in the "field."

We practice our radio skills on Field Day due mostly in part because of Mother Nature. There are many reasons Ham Radio Operators are called to arms. Mostly all disastrous reasons, but none-the-less we do get called.

Field Day is approached best with an open mind as to what can go wrong and how do we overcome it. I guarantee you that Murphy will show up. He always does. (*It's too bad that we can't an extra 100 points for his presence.*) There will be issues like

Da\*# it's hot, I wish it would rain! I wish it would stop raining! I thought *you* checked the oil in the generator! Where is the third element of our 3 element beam? The list goes on. But that's OK! It's "**Field Day!**"

Mother Nature always makes her showing too (*Another 100 points?*). Wind, heat, rain and distant thunderstorms causing static all the way up to 6 meters. What doesn't get blown down will get wet and what doesn't get wet will get over heated and quit.

Field Day is about our Club working together as a single team. We are only as strong as our weakest link, and so far I haven't seen a weak link. We all have something to give either mentally or physically. Whether its rain, sleet or snow, (*Sorry USPS.*) we will have a successful Field Day and we will absolutely do great in 08!

Next month the topic will be setting goals. 73, Marcel, N5VU

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## Bon Appétit sur Field Day

You may recall the Field Day Cookbook that appeared in the June 2007 issue of QST. Well, we're doing it again in 2008. In addition to the technical tips, readers greatly enjoyed the Field Day recipes. Send us your culinary concoction and you'll have a shot at QST stardom.

Keep in mind that it has to be something that can be prepared at a "normal" Field Day site (one without access to stainless steel ovens, etc). The shorter the recipe, the better; we'd like to fit several onto one page. If you have a digital photo of your masterpiece, send it along too. E-mail your recipe to Steve Ford, WB8IMY, QST Editor at [sford@arrl.org](mailto:sford@arrl.org) by no later than February 29.

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## Palestine DXpedition - DXCC credit

ARRL DXCC Desk Approves E4/OM2DX Operation: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2007 E4/OM2DX DXpedition to Palestine has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail <[dxcc@arrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrl.org)> to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

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## Sunspot Minimum the Fall?

Last year we began calculating and tracking a 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers. This was done to try to spot trends. A three month period seemed like it might give us some smoothing of the often volatile daily numbers, but much shorter than the official 12-month smoothed values used to calculate the solar minimum some time after it actually occurs.

Now that January is done, we can calculate the 3-month moving average centered on December, 2007. The sum of all the daily sunspot numbers from November 1 through January 31 is 749, and divided by 92 days, this gives a 3-month average of 8.1.

A three-month moving average may be too short to spot the actual bottom of Cycle 23, but with the steady decline from 2006 until October 2007, and a 3-month average rising from 3 to 6.9 then 8.1 since then, this suggests a cycle minimum during the Fall of last year.

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## First Contact Award

Do you want to recognize someone who just made their first two-way radio communications by Amateur radio? Perhaps you just made your first CW contact or first HF contact and want to have a certificate to remember that exciting time.

Whether you are presenting the award to someone or creating a landmark of your own Amateur Radio journey, use the on-line form to fill in the QSO information and the operator who is being presented with this certificate and ARRL will mail a beautiful First Contact Award.

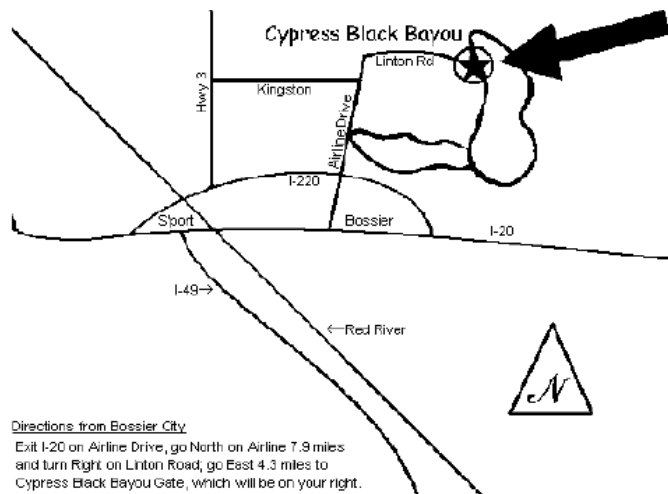
The award can be mailed directly to the recipient or it can be presented in person or at a club meeting.

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/certificate/1contact.html>

# Louisiana QSO Party

Don't forget that the LA QSO Party starts at 1500Z on February 9 and ends at 0300Z on February 10. You can be a casual participant by handing out a few contacts or you might be a serious competitor trying to make as many QSOs as possible during the 12-hour event. Regardless of your degree of participation, the main purpose of the LA QSO Party is to have fun! More details on the QSO Party are available from the Thibodaux ARC, the event's sponsor, at <http://www.w5yl.org/>

## Seventh Annual ARCOS (Amateur Radio Club of Shreveport) COOKOUT & SWAPMEET May 17, 2008 (10 AM – 3 PM) Cypress Black Bayou Recreation Park



**FREE FOOD! (\$3 Suggested Min. Donation)  
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Coffee & doughnuts available for early-bird arrivals  
ARCOS will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, desserts, drinks, and all the trimmings.  
Lunch Served: 12 PM – 1:30 PM

### SWAPMEET

(buy, sell, or trade ham gear, accessories, crafts, etc.)

### PRIZE DRAWING

1st PRIZE – ICOM IC-2200H 2-Meter Mobile Rig (D-STAR upgradeable)  
2nd PRIZE – ICOM IC-V82 2-Meter Handie-Talkie (D-STAR upgradeable)  
Other prizes drawn throughout the day.

Prize Tickets - \$1 each (do not need to be present to win for 1st & 2nd prizes)

Entrance Fee To Park - \$1/Person (tell them you're there for the "Ham Cookout")  
Talk-In – 146.670 (backup on 146.760)

Questions? Contact...Kelly (KD5SPO): 903-687-2899 ([kd5spo@arrl.net](mailto:kd5spo@arrl.net))

## Next SARA Meeting

February 7, 2008 at Chef Lee's. Get ready for the Scarborough Reef DXpetition DVD.