



SARA Newsletter

February 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](#)

[KG5VK](#)

Vice President - [Rick](#)

[Westerfield, KH2DF](#)

Treasurer - [John Stewart,](#)

[AA5KV](#)

Secretary - [Glenn Pettiet](#)

[N5SH](#)

Notice

Due to FCC implementation of No Code Docket (WT 05-235) the February VE Testing scheduled for February 17, 2007

has been re-scheduled for February 24, 2007.

The time and location has not changed from 9:00 a.m. at Christus Schumpert Hospital, 1 St. Mary's Place, Classroom j#1, Shreveport, LA.

John Mussey N5FJ

CVE W5YI

318-686-6616

SuitSat-2 Goes to College

Eleven electrical engineering students at The College of New Jersey had a hand in designing some of the software defined radio (SDR) hardware that will fly aboard SuitSat-2. The college seniors signed up last fall for "Software Defined Radio," taught by adjunct professors Bob McGwier, N4HY, and Frank Brickle, AB2KT -- both members of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) SuitSat-2 team.

The second-generation SuitSat will have a software designed Amateur Radio transponder (SDX) on board. SuitSat-2 is being viewed as a test bed for the hardware AMSAT hopes to launch on its Phase 3E Eagle satellite.

Early on, the students studied signal processing and communication theory as well as what Brickle calls "esoteric corners of computer science." Then, using Matlab -- a high-level technical computing language -- the students implemented modulators and demodulators for SSB, FM, BPSK and AFSK.

The SuitSat-2 team, under the leadership of Lou McFadin, W5DID, has been working on the design of a power converter for the solar panels, the internal housekeeping unit, the antenna mount, the transmitting and receiving hardware and how it will mount atop the suit's helmet. An ISS crew could launch SuitSat-2 during a spacewalk as early as next fall. SuitSat-2 could have an operational lifetime of six months or more. -- Rosalie White, K1STO/ARISS

Contest Corner, Feb 3-4

- North American Sprint - SSB
- MN QSO Party
- Ten-Ten Int'l Winter Phone QSO Party
- XE International RTTY Contest
- VT QSO Party
- YL-OM Contest - CW
- QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint
- FYBO (Freeze Your ...Off) QRP Field Day - CW/SSB

Special Event Station – W5B/52

Apr 27 (0000Z) – Apr 29, 2007 (2200Z), Shreveport, LA, Shreveport Amateur Radio Association commemorates 75 years of aviation at Barksdale AFB, 50 years of service by the B-52, and the 27 years Mighty Eighth Air Force has been headquartered at Barksdale AFB. Special Event Call Sign W5B/52--QSL information on QRZ--Bands: 80, 40, 20. Freqs: CW – 3550, 7050, 14050; Phone: – 3870, 7270, 14270; SSTV – 14230; Digital – 14070; plus or minus 5KC. See our club website WWW.K5SAR.COM and BLOG <http://k5sar-shreveport.blogspot.com/>.

Exploring Satellite Antennas With K5REF



K5REF is building some exciting antennas for use in portable satellite communications. Here are some photographs of his work.

These are Texas Potato Masher Antennas. The one on the left is 2M and the one on the right is 70CM. Both will be mounted on a horizontal boom with an elevation of 15°. The boom will be mounted on a mast with a light-weight rotor to follow the satellite across the sky. Maximum gain is pointed near the horizon to catch birds that do not fly overhead (most passes are not overhead).

This is the 2M version of the Egg Beater antenna. It would be configured the same as the Potato Masher with a 70CM mounted on a boom. However, many experimenters mount both antennas pointing straight up. These antennas are loop antennas thus have a more omni-directional pattern.



Here is a close up view of the feed point of the Egg Beater.



Finally, here is an Arrow VHF/UHF antenna. This one was copied by N5SH from the commercial version owned by K5REF. It features a three element 2M yagi and seven element 70CM yagi. It is handheld and easy to disassemble for transport.

Amateur News Bits

While installing a new Western Digital 500 GB external USB hard drive, Mark KJ7BS noticed that the ventilation openings on the drive enclosure looked like Morse code. Sure enough it was and here is the text of the Morse code. A repeating pattern of "PERSONAL DESIGN RELIABLE INNOVATIVE SIMPLE" You never know where Morse will turn up next!

Care to watch the world turn? Here's another attractive daytime/nighttime display program for keeping an eye on the Gray Line or just to look at - <http://www.die.net/earth/hemisphere.html> Those are live clouds, too! (Thanks, Matt WV1K)

TECHNICAL URL OF THE WEEK -- The MetEd Web site (http://meted.ucar.edu/topics_spacewx.php) is packed full of useful on-line training courses, some with quizzes and some without. On the home page it says registration will become mandatory in late Jan 2007, but the registration is painless and free. (Thanks, Steve N2IC)

DX CLUSTER

SINGAPORE, 9V. James, 9V1YC has been active on 40 meters CW around 2300z and 20 meters SSB around 0000z. QSL via N5ID.

TONGA, A3. Paul, A35RK has been QRV on 17 meters from 1900 and 2200z. He has also been active on 20 meters after 0300z and 30 meters between 0600 and 1715z. QSL via W7TSQ.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Jay, LY4Y is QRV as C56NN until January 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

MOROCCO, CN. Members of the UA2 Contest Club will be QRV as CN2A in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Multi/Single entry. There is also some activity planned before the contest with their own CN-calls. QSL CN2A and others direct via DK4VW.

MADEIRA ISLANDS, CT3. Operators CT3FN, DJ8VC and HB9CQL will be QRV as CT3FN in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via HB9CRV.

ANTARCTICA. Mirko, DG9BHQ is QRV from the Neumayer Base until February 2008.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Nodir, EY8MM will be active in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. QSL via K1BV.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Operators G3NKC, G4MJS and G4XUM will be QRV as MD4K in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Multi Op entry. Prior to the contest, they may be active as GD3NKC/p. QSL both calls via G3NKC.

SAUDI ARABIA, HZ. Ken, GW0RHC plans to be QRV as HZ1GW in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. QSL to home call.

HONDURAS, HR. Dan, HR2DMR plans to be active in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a low power entry.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Operators DL4SDW, DL8SCG and LX2A will be QRV as LX7I in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Multi Op entry. QSL via LX2A.

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2. Look for contest station PJ2T to be QRV in the CQ WW 160-Meter contest from Signal Point, Curacao. QSL via N9AG.

SUDAN, ST. Look for ST2A, ST2BF, and ST2R to be QRV as ST2A in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Multi/Single entry. ST2A and ST2BF plan to be active on the low bands during their weekends. QSL ST2A via T93Y, ST2BF via W3HNC and ST2R via S57DX.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30. Udo, DL9HCU is QRV as T30HC from Tarawa and has been active on 20 meters around 0500z. QSL to home call.

EAST KIRIBATI, T32. Mike, KM9D and Jan, KF4TUG are QRV as T32MO from Fanning Island, IOTA OC-084, until mid February. Activity is generally on all bands using CW and SSB. Mike plans to be active in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. QSL via OM2SA.

PALAU, T8. A group of Japanese YLs are QRV as T80J until January 29. Activity is on 20 and 14 meters. QSL via operators' instructions.

TURKEY, TA. Ozer, TA2RC plans to be QRV in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Single Op/Low Power entry. QSL via bureau.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Tino, VK3EGN will be QRV from Ocean Grove Beach in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Single-Op entry. QSL via bureau.

MONTSERAT, VP2M. Members of the Buddipole Users on Montserrat will be QRV from January 29 to February 6. Look for VP2MFF, VP2MHF, VP2MRD, VP2MVG, VP2MVO, VP2MST and VP2MTC to be active with two stations from Gingerbread Hill. Several stations will also be active from various points on the island. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL all calls via NE1RD.

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9. Larry, VQ9LA will be QRV in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as a Single-Op entry. QSL to home call.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Bruce, K0BJ is QRV as ZF2BJ and will be active in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. He is also active on the other bands before the contest. QSL to home call.

PARAGUAY, ZP. Dale, N3BNA is QRV as ZP6/N3BNA and ZP9/N3BNA until February 5. Activity is on the HF bands, mainly on 160 and 80 meters. QSL via KA2AEV.

Membership Meeting

Feb. 1, 2007, Bossier Library Heritage Center, 6:30 p.m.
Information on the Special Event Station and a presentation on
Logbook of the World.