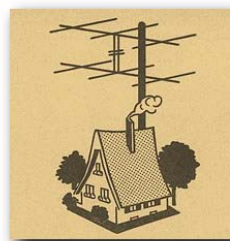


STAFFORD AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

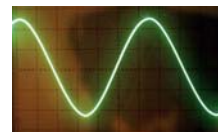
- Progress review
- Guidelines established
- Membership increasing
- Term limit
- Members have a voice
- Helping hands
- Ham Radio Emergency Response
- Election SOP
- Board members, Technical staff, and others help

# That's All, Folks!



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2 SARA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2007

## President's Letter



Dear SARA Membership,

With the next SARA Election Process right around the corner, and with this being my last year in office, I thought it might be a good time to review the progress that has been made over the last couple of years.

For SARA members that have been around for awhile, you no doubt remember how differently SARA was operated just a few short years ago. This organization used to be operated by its Board of Directors, basically in a vacuum; and the general membership had very



little to do with any decision-

Throughout my two terms as

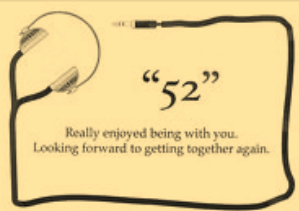
President, it has been my goal to ensure all SARA members have the ability to help control how SARA is operated. I believe this plays a major role in keeping a healthy and friendly atmosphere within our organization.

I have implemented these changes over the last two years, so I am happy to report this goal has been met! A couple

of examples: making processes. Also there was very little in the way of written guidelines and/or procedures to follow.

Our Association Bylaws now

require our membership to



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ISSUE:

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- New EOC Amateur Radio Station 4
- About SARA 4
- Cartoon 4

## Election Time!

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

vote on any Association expenditure over \$500. This ensures that the Board of Directors is fiscally responsible to the membership, and that all members will have, (should they choose), a hand in deciding the future of our Association. And most im-

portantly, that funds are expended in line with the wants and needs of the membership majority vote.

I also implemented a two-year (consecutive) term limit for all Board Member positions. I feel this ensures

SARA gets periodic fresh ideas brought forward, and that more members have a chance to fill the Board positions and become involved with the operation of the Association.



## Ensuring Members Have a Voice



Jerry, WA3CVB, determined to destroy the entire radio console.

For internal operations, a Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) Manual has been drawn up with guidelines to ensure all nomination/election processes are carried out in a fair and open manner. The SOP addresses several other general operations of the Association as well. Previously there were no such guidelines whatsoever. So excluding the above changes, what other accomplish-

ments have been made over the last two years?

First, and perhaps most importantly, our membership continues to increase, and we are seeing increased members attending the Saturday morning breakfast get-togethers. I have used the Saturday breakfast meetings to help keep our members informed with various activities within our Association.

And as many of your know, Trish (KI4RSK), our waitress (and now shift manager at Perkins), passed her Tech ticket! Great job Trish!

During one of our previous membership voting processes the majority of SARA members determined that SARA should purchase the necessary equipment to go "Digital" (D-STAR). We have many people to thank for these efforts. First of all, your dues! But beyond

*"This has definitely been a team effort that has paid off well for us all."*



## 2-Year Term Limit; D-Star

that, several members have provided additional funding to SARA to overcome additional funding shortfalls.

Also, SARA has obtained funds from the proceeds from the Dale City SK Estate Sale that SARA was involved with, earlier this year. Of course funds alone couldn't make the D-Star effort happen. Our techni-

cal team, headed up by Emmett Price (K3EP), has been responsible for ensuring our repeater systems not only expand, but preventive maintenance is performed so our systems continue to stay on-the-air. Since our digital efforts began SARA has been "put on the map" in the amateur digital world, and that system continues to grow. Our 2-meter digital

repeater is currently on-the-air, and the 70cm and 1.2ghz digital systems will be coming on-line soon. This will complete our "full-stack" of D-Star equipment. Many of our members have invested large sums of personal funds in digital gear (both for personal gear and additional donations to SARA). Those purchases

## Board, Tech. Staff, Others Help

and donations should be paying off in full soon. Our digital communications repeater has also been linked to the Internet to allow connectivity to the D-Star Gateway. This allows our members to link to other D-Star repeaters world-wide.

It's important for the general membership to realize that a lot of background efforts occur that keep our Association running smoothly: by the Board of Directors, the Technical Staff, and others who volunteer their free time. Keeping the membership up-to-date with

changes, maintaining the membership database, answering questions from the membership, keeping up Association finances and paying the bills, Estate Sales efforts, keeping the membership informed with Association activities via emails, repeater maintenance issues, maintaining

# Ham Radio Emergency Response!



WWW.ARRL.ORG

the SARA web page (many thanks to Tom Jenkins, AD5QA!), are functions that help our Organization continue and improve. My thanks go out

to the other Board Members and others who have expended an untold number of hours supporting our organization, as well as the technical staff which has continued to improve the operation of our repeater system. This has definitely been a team effort that has paid off well for us all.

Our hobby is a great past time, but as we all know, there is a primary reason why we have our licenses. Amateur Radio is

a communications backup in times of emergency.

Two of our members recently found themselves in such a position. Sig Gates, KG4UCM, and Camden Bullock, N2CLB, initiated the necessary emergency communications during a recent severe traffic accident emergency. Thanks to the efforts of these two individuals, emergency traffic was quickly forwarded to the proper authorities. Their quick actions reflect highly on Sig and Camden. **Great job!**

**“Sig Gates, KG4UCM, and Camden Bullock, N2CLB, initiated the necessary emergency communications...”**

## KI4OQA SK

Unfortunately there was some bad news this year. We lost one of our prized members, Nicholas “Nick” Hirsch, KI4OQA. As many of you may know, Nick was heavily involved with our D-Star repeater efforts. Nick was always there to lend a hand whenever it was needed and he went out of his way many times to support our organization. Our hearts go out to his family. Nick, you are definitely missed!



## Parting Words

It is my sincere hope that SARA continues to improve and that future board members continue to ensure the general membership maintains a strong voice, through voting, on all issues that steer our organization and repeater operations.

*Thank you for continuing to support SARA, and best wishes to the next Board of Directors!*

Jerry Knouff, WA3CVB

President, SARA

## SARA Repeaters

WW4VA (Analog)	D-Star	WS4VA (D-STAR)
145.270 MHz (-)	Icom	147.375 WS4VA C
147.375 MHz (+)	IC-91AD	447.275 WS4VA B
444.450 MHz (+)		1282.20 WS4VA A
145.550 MHz Packet		1298.40 WS4VA A
Echolink Node 52256		D-Star WS4VA G



Ed W4NEZ in earlier times?



75  
FROM



## STAFFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 6331

Falmouth, VA 22403

E-mail: [saraboardmembers@ww4va.org](mailto:saraboardmembers@ww4va.org)

*Proud to Serve!*

Membership in the Stafford Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (SARA) is open to all individuals interested in Amateur Radio.

We serve Stafford County, Virginia (estimated population of 125,000 per the July 2006 edition of the Free Lance-Star newspaper), the city of Fredericksburg, and the surrounding counties. Our beautiful and historic county is located about 30 air miles from Washington, D.C.

We meet every Saturday morning around 7 AM at the Perkins Restaurant off I-95 Exit 133 on Route 17 (at the first light). Everyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited and welcome to attend!

In Stafford County, the services of the ARES and RACES volunteers are combined into one Emergency Communications (EmComm) Team.

Our club consists of about 60 Amateur Radio Operators. We own and operate several repeaters in Stafford, Virginia (please see the chart on page 3). Our repeaters are on backup power and have a wide range of coverage including the counties of Stafford, Prince William, Spotsylvania, King George, and the City of Fredericksburg.



# New EOC Amateur Radio Station Plans



Emmett, K3EP has been hard at work making plans for the Amateur Radio Station to be located in the new Stafford County Public Safety Building.

EC/RO Bart, N3GQ and Trustee Emmett, K3EP toured the facility in August with the General Contractor and Stafford's Emergency Manager.

Last week, Emmett took several photos and came up with an installation plan. The plan (Reader's Digest version) includes:

- Installing lengths of hard-line for the HF and 2m/440 transceivers for voice, packet, and D-Star
- Installing 2m/440 and HF antennas on the roof

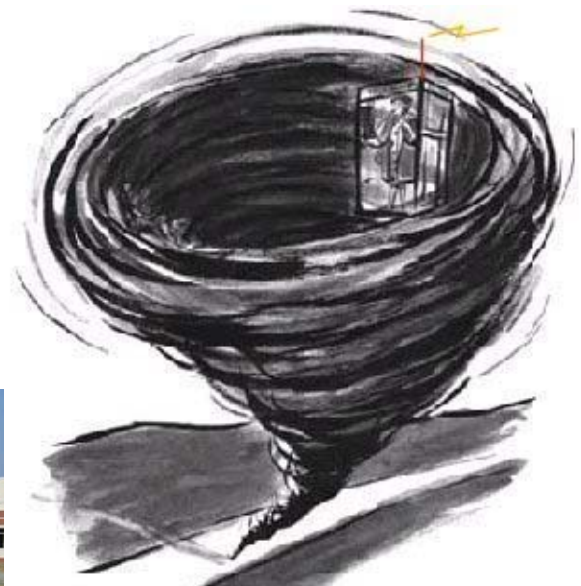
The GC wants the installation to occur before the end of October.

Proposed dates are:

- **22 Sep after breakfast: 0930:**  
Remove the hard-line and antennas from the old EOC.
- **6 Oct after breakfast: 0930:**  
Install the masts, antennas, and hard-line at the new EOC

*Please drop by to help if you can!*

*Photo below and plan above courtesy of Emmett Price, K3EP — Thanks, Emmett!*



Copyright expired; modified by Bart, N3GQ

**"This is my update Skywarn report. My shack appears to be airborne."**