

JEFFERSON REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE JEFFERSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W5GAD

May 2007

Due to the flooding of the clubhouse, the next meeting will be held at the Picadilly on Jefferson Hwy. Please see w5gad.org for the latest information.

General Meeting:
May 28

Board Meeting:
June 14

Open clubhouse: none until further notice

Tuesday Net: 9:00 P.M. on
145.37- (PL114.8),
Alternate: 147.24+/
444.000+ (PL114.8)

www.w5gad.org
e-mail: w5gad@arrl.net;
Phone: 504-831-1613

Send newsletter items to:
w5ctv@arrl.net
Deadline: 2nd Friday of
the month

EmComm Leaders form Group

A first for ham radio in the New Orleans area took place May 7. The leaders of the clubs and other organizations that have committed to providing communications to local government and other served agencies met as a group have formed the Metro New Orleans EmComm Committee. Representatives from the Jefferson ARC, Westside ARC, Coast Guard Flotilla 45, New Orleans OEP/CERT, SELA-American Red Cross, Ochsner Health System were present. The group will meet monthly to coordinate our efforts in providing emergency communications to the local community. A frequency list shown on page 4 was finalized at this inaugural meeting.

Field Day

This year's Field Day will take place at the Bonnabel Boat Launch with a motor home as base. This will be a multi club event with the DDXA, Westside ARC, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 45 and New Orleans CERT participating. Any other groups that would like to participate are welcome to contact Keith, W5KB or Albert, W5AFD who are cochairing this event for the JARC. Each club will have a representative on the Community Field Day committee.

Hurricane Katrina Special Event Station

There will be a Hurricane Katrina Special Event Station on the air August 25-26. The goal is to hold the event from the clubhouse. Rafael, KD4WZJ and Bob, WD5BJW will co chair. Now more than ever, we are depending on help from the membership in getting the clubhouse back in order to make this goal possible. A certificate will be available for those making contact with the station. Albert, W5AFD is working on getting a special event call for the weekend. Contact Rafael, lu3bai@bellsouth.net or 504-208-0858 if you are interested.

New Members

The following have applied for membership and will be voted on at the General Meeting. Also, the Board voted to extend honorary memberships through 2008 to Greg Sarrat, W4OZK and Matt Anderson, KD5KNZ for their efforts with the D-Star project.

Chuck Parr, KE5JUQ, Metairie, General

Will Waring, Jr., no call, Metairie, Associate Member

Johnny Bear, KE5NVZ, New Orleans, Technician

LSU Health Science Center/University Hospital Needs Operators

It was brought to our attention that University Hospital, which is run by LSU Medical School is in need of some ham volunteers to man the radios during emergencies. If you are interested in volunteering, here is the contact information. Station location: University Hospital 2021 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA. Contact: 1) Cathi Fontenot MD, Medical Director, Medical Center of Louisiana, 1541 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA. 70112, Phone 504.903.0379, Fax 504.903.2837, Email: c.fonte@lsuhsc.edu OR 2) Mitch Perlin at mperli@lsuhsc.edu.

Clubhouse Renovations 6/2

The next clubhouse workparty will be the first weekend in June starting at 8:00 A.M. We will continue with cleanup of the clubhouse and any other work that can be performed at the time. Contact Ray, WA5VWL concerning any of the clubhouse renovations.

Corrections

Mary Vernoy, WB5IOE - callsign was left out of the Flotilla 45 deployment article.

Jay Crutti, K5JCJ and Tom Hammack, W4WLF were left out of the D-Star installation participants list. [My apologies for these oversights, Editor]





Metro New Orleans EmComm Committee Communications Frequencies 5-7-2007

- The following frequencies have been chosen by the NO EmComm Coordinating Committee to be used during and after a disaster event

Band	Frequency	PL	Secondary Freq
UHF	444.200	114.8	444.975
VHF	146.86	114.8	145.37 & 146.94 (pl 114.8)
HF	7.255 +- 10	DAY	
HF	3.855 +-10	Night	

Homebrew Power Distribution Box

Pictured below is the power distribution box made with two types of Anderson Power Pole connectors. The nice thing about these connectors, they are genderless housings which means you don't have to have a pile of male/female connectors lying around. They also have a wiping action that cleans the contact surface during connection which allows for minimal contact resistance at high currents.

The power distribution box has one connector for the source, I used heavy leads with battery clips. The output is 4 smaller power pole connectors, that I have standardized on for all my radios. I also included a set of screw terminals for loose wire or banana connections. The box is metered for voltage and current, which is not necessary as the box will most probably be out of site. I would like to suggest that everyone adopt this method of connection, this way the power sources and loads would be compatible without having to cut and splice connectors.

-- Bob, WD5BJW

Other nets that may be monitored:

NWS: 14.325 Mhz USB

MMN: 14.300 Mhz USB

Salvation Army: 14.265 Mhz USB

LA Health & Welfare: 7.290 USB (day) / 3.935 LSB (night)

LA Traffic Net: 3.910 LSB

NOAA will be online on the 147.27 repeater in Slidell

JARC has also deployed a D-Star digital repeater for "facility to facility" communications. The frequency is 146.925 & 444.925

The participating groups are:

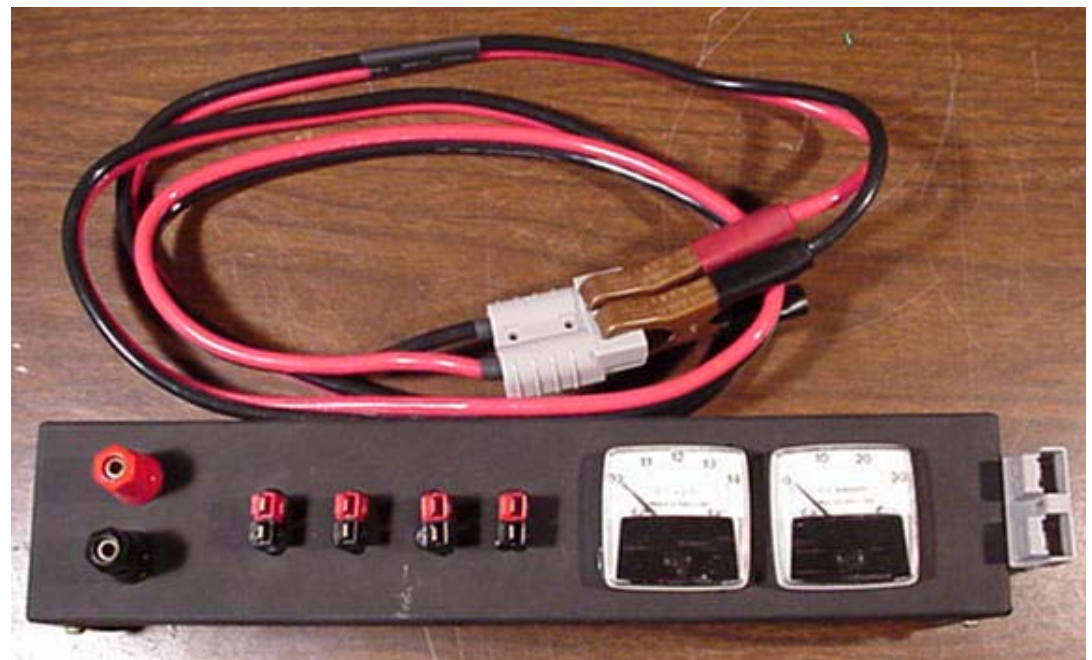
Jefferson Amateur Radio Club

Westside Amateur Radio Club

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 45

New Orleans OEP/CERT

SELA-ARC



Soldering irons

[ed: This is a multipart series about soldering. It is reprinted courtesy of EPE Magazine and it's author.]

This written guide will help beginners and novices to obtain effective results when soldering electronic components. If you have little or no experience of using a soldering iron, then EPE (Everyday Practical Electronics magazine) recommends that you practice your soldering technique on some fresh surplus components and clean stripboard (protoboard), before experimenting with a proper constructional project. This will help you to avoid the risk of disappointment when you start to assemble your first prototypes. If you've never soldered before, then read on!

Everyday Practical Electronics magazine contains the widest variety of interesting projects and information for beginners, trainees, hobbyists and professionals in electronics. This Basic Soldering Guide was condensed from our fully-illustrated series Build Your Own Projects, written by Alan Winstanley and published in Everyday Practical Electronics magazine, from November 1996 to March 1997. EPE is read in more than sixty countries: to go to our Subscriptions Page, please go to <http://www.epemag.wimborne.co.uk/subrates.html>. For EPE Back Issue information, please go to <http://www.epemag.wimborne.co.uk/shopdoor.html>.

The most fundamental skill needed to assemble any electronic project is that of soldering. It takes some practice to make the perfect joint, but, like riding a bicycle, once learned is never forgotten! The idea is simple: to join electrical parts together to form an electrical connection, using a molten mixture of lead and tin (solder*) with a soldering iron. A large range of soldering irons is available - which one is suitable for you depends on your budget and how serious your interest in electronics is.

[*Note: the use of lead in solder is now increasingly prohibited in many countries. "Lead free" solder is now statutory instead.]

Electronics catalogues often include a selection of well-known brands of soldering iron. Excellent British-made ones include the universally popular Antex, Adcola and Litesold makes. Other popular brands include those made by Weller and Ungar. A very basic mains electric soldering iron can cost from under \$8, but expect a reasonable model to be approximately \$ 16 - 20 - though it's possible to spend into three figures on a soldering iron "station" if you're really serious! Check some suppliers' catalogues for some typical

types. Certain factors you need to bear in mind include:-

Voltage: most irons run from the mains at 240V. However, low voltage types (e.g. 12V or 24V) generally form part of a "soldering station" and are designed to be used with a special controller made by the same manufacturer.

Wattage: Typically, they may have a power rating of between 15-25 watts or so, which is fine for most work. A higher wattage does not mean that the iron runs hotter - it simply means

that there is more power in reserve for coping with larger joints. This also depends partly on the design of the "bit" (the tip of the iron). Consider a higher wattage iron simply as being more "unstoppable" when it comes to heavier-duty work, because it won't cool down so quickly.

Temperature Control: the simplest and cheapest types don't have any form of temperature regulation. Simply plug them in and switch them on! Thermal regulation is

"designed in" (by physics, not electronics!): they may be described as "thermally balanced" so that they have some degree of temperature "matching" but their output will otherwise not be controlled. Unregulated irons form an ideal general purpose iron for most users, and they generally cope well with printed circuit board soldering and general interwiring. Most of these "miniature" types of iron will be of little use when attempting to solder large joints (e.g. very large terminals or very thick wires) because the component being soldered will "sink" heat away from the tip of the iron, cooling it down too much. (This is where a higher wattage comes in useful.)

A proper temperature-controlled iron will be quite a lot more expensive - retailing at say \$60 or more - and will have some form of built-in thermostatic control, to ensure that the temperature of the bit (the tip of the iron) is maintained at a fixed level (within limits). This is desirable during more frequent use, since it helps to ensure that the temperature does not "overshoot" in between times, and also guarantees that the output will be relatively stable. Some irons have a bimetallic strip thermostat built into the handle which gives an audible "click" in use: other types use all-electronic



Soldering Irons continued from page 3

controllers, and some may be adjustable using a screwdriver.

Yet more expensive still, soldering stations cost from \$115 upwards (the iron may be sold separately, so you can pick the type you prefer), and consist of a complete bench-top control unit into which a special low-voltage soldering iron is plugged. Some versions might have a built-in digital temperature readout, and will have a control knob to enable you to vary the setting. The temperature could be boosted for soldering larger joints, for example, or for using higher melting-point solders (e.g. silver solder). These are designed for the most discerning users, or for professional use. The best stations have irons which are well balanced, with comfort-grip handles which remain cool all day. A thermocouple will be built into the tip or shaft, which monitors temperature.



Anti-static protection: if you're interested in soldering a lot of static-sensitive parts (e.g. CMOS chips or MOSFET transistors), more advanced and expensive soldering iron stations use static-dissipative materials in their construction to ensure that static does not build up on the iron itself. You may see these listed as "ESD safe" (electrostatic discharge proof). The cheapest irons won't necessarily be ESD-safe but never the less will still probably perform perfectly well in most hobby applications, if you take the usual anti-static precautions when handling the components. The tip would need to be well earthed (grounded) in these circumstances.

Bits: it's useful to have a small selection of manufacturer's bits (soldering iron tips) available with different diameters or shapes, which can be changed depending on the type of work in hand. You'll probably find that you become accustomed to, and work best with, a particular shape of tip. Often, tips are iron-coated to preserve their life, or they may be bright-plated instead.

Spare parts: it's nice to know that spare parts may be available, so if the element blows, you don't need to replace the entire iron. This is especially so with expensive irons. Check through some of the larger mail-order catalogues.

You will occasionally see gas-powered soldering irons which use butane rather than the mains electrical supply to operate. They have a catalytic element which, once warmed up, continues to glow hot when gas passes over them. Service engineers use them for working on repairs where there may be no power available, or where a joint is tricky to reach with a normal iron, so they are really for occasional

"on the spot" use for quick repairs, rather than for main-stream construction or assembly work.

Another technique is the proprietary "Coldheat" battery powered soldering iron that we reviewed here. There are a number of reasons why this should only be used with extreme care (if at all) on electronic circuitboards.

A solder gun is a pistol-shaped iron, typically running at 100W or more, and is completely unsuitable for soldering modern electronic components: they're too hot, heavy and unwieldy for micro-electronics use. Plumbing, maybe..!

Soldering irons are best used along with a heat-resistant bench-type holder, so that the hot iron can be safely parked in between use.

Soldering stations already have this feature, otherwise a separate soldering iron stand is essential, preferably one with a holder for tip-cleaning sponges.

Next month: How to solder

Written by Alan Winstanley

alan@epemag.demon.co.uk.

Boy Scouts need Merit Badge Counselors

At a recent scouting Roundtable meeting for adult leaders on the westbank, I asked the troop leaders "How many boys have earned their radio merit badge?" Answer: very few. If our goal is to increase our numbers with involved young people, this is not a good sign. A prime pool of new amateur candidates is sitting out there in our Boy and Girl Scout Troops and Venturing Crews if we just give them some guidance and encouragement.

To foster this, I am looking for hams who would be interested in becoming a merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts. The Southeast Louisiana Council of the BSA is divided into six Districts: *Bayou* - Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes; *Cataouatche* - Westbank of Jefferson (except Grand Isle), Orleans and Plaquemine Parishes; *Chitimacha* - Metairie and East Jefferson Parish up to Kenner line; *Cypress* - East St. Tammany Parish including Slidell, Pearl River and Lacombe; *Tchoupitoulas* - Harahan, River Ridge, Kenner, St. John, and St. Charles Parishes and the westbank of St. James Parish; *Eastern Service Area* - eastbank of Orleans Parish and St. Bernard Parish.

I am trying to find a couple of hams for each district. Counselor's contact info is held on a secure website accessible to the troop leaders and they help guide the boys through the requirements for the radio merit badge. You set your level of involvement. The hope is to have a pool of counselors available for the troops to use as a resource and to hold occasional merit badge days with help from the local clubs.

-- Chris, W5CTV, Asst. Cubmaster Pack 395

June 2007

ARES/CG Aux Net 444.200 (PL114.8)
 WARC Net 146.94 (PL114.8)
 Delta DX Net 147.36 (PL67.0)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	30	31 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	1	2
3	4	5 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	6	7 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	8	9
10	11	12 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	13 7:00 p WARC General Meeting at Sherrilynn's Cafe	14 7:30 p JARC Board Meeting 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	15	16
17	18	19 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	20	21 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	22	23 Field Day
24 Field Day	25	26 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	27	28 7:30 p JARC General Meeting at Picadilly on Jeff. Hwy. 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	29	30

JEFFERSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB • APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP • PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name _____ Callsign _____ Areas of interest: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Occupation _____

License Class _____ Spouse's Name _____ E-mail address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Ever been issued a Notice of Apparent Liability? Yes ___ No ___

Membership Desired: Full (\$30) _____ Family (\$15) _____ Associate (\$30) _____ Student (\$15) _____

Family membership is full membership plus \$15 for each additional up to a maximum of \$60. Attach a separate application for each family member.

Signature _____ Date _____ Sponsor _____ Date _____

Please enclose dues and mail to: JARC, P.O. Box 73665, Metairie, LA 70033

JARC Board Of Directors 2007

President:	Keith	W5KB	737-0858	
Vice President:	Albert	W5AFD	465-0637	
Secretary:	Dave	KE5BMS	812-5482	
Treasurer:	Dick	W5RMX	888-2878	
At Large: 1 Year #1:	Johnny	N5AZA	889-0101	
	#2:	Chris	W5CTV	347-8293
	#3:	Rafael	KD4WZJ	471-6122
2 Year #1:	Bob	WD5BJW	885-7965	
	#2:	Ray	WA5VWL	888-3656
	#3:	Mike	W5MJD	464-5817

DX News

ITU okays Montenegro, Serbia call sign prefix agreement

Although it became a country -- and a DXCC entity -- in its own right last June, Montenegro has not had an Amateur Radio call sign block to call its own until this month. According to The Daily DX, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) did not want to give Montenegro an entirely new prefix, so it required the states of Montenegro and Serbia to agree upon one or two prefixes from the five (4N, 4O, YT, YU and YZ) assigned to the former Serbia-Montenegro. An agreement was reached May 11, and the ITU now lists 4O (that's "four Oscar") as Montenegro's prefix. This means Montenegro stations may use 4O0 through 4O9, while Serbia stations will continue to use YT and YU prefixes for all call districts, 0 through 9. The ITU has taken back the former 4N and YZ prefixes for future reassignment. The ITU reportedly wants the two nations to complete the transition to new call sign blocks as soon as possible. The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, recommends that DXers update their logging software carefully to reflect the changes.

4W, Timor Leste

Timor Leste, number 49 on the 100 most wanted DX countries list, will be on the air May 30 through June 4 with the call 4W6AAV. By 6K5YPW DS2BGV HL5FUA 6K2AVL from Dili (OC-148); 160-10m; CW SSB digital. http://dxpedition.co.kr/timor_2007/en_index.php.

The next JARC meeting will be held May 28 at the Picadilly Restaurant on Jefferson Hwy. near Ochsner. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. If you wish to eat first, we will gather in the meeting room for dinner starting at 7.

Ten questions to Christian Entsfellner, DL3MBG, BS7H DXpedition member 2007

DXNL: Do you really feel like entering a DXCC country at BS7H (with the stress on the word country)?

DL3MBG: More or less you are so busy with assembling everything that you do not lose any thoughts about this. If you see the reef with your own eyes you are impressed about what arises from the South China Sea.

DXNL: Did you encounter any problems upon your arrival?

DL3MBG: To prevent sea sickness from rough seas we had to choose a different route to the reef which set us back by half a day. Therefore we had to wait with assembling everything until the next morning.

DXNL: How did you build up the equipment?

DL3MBG: That was not easy. At first we had to look for rocks which remained above water even at high tide.

DXNL: How were the condx?

DL3MBG: We had the biggest problems working the east coast of the USA. At these times we had to ask Europe to QRX.

DXNL: What have you heard from the many bad guys?

DL3MBG: Nothing and we got no advice from the people working us.

DXNL: What was going on with RTTY?

DL3MBG: Originally we didn't plan to work in RTTY because we wanted to provide a new one to as many people as possible. But when the pile-ups became a little smaller the Chinese members changed their minds and showed up in RTTY.

DXNL: What was the distance between the four stations?

DL3MBG: The distance was about 200 and 300m between each rock. This caused some QRM on 20m where two stations were operating simultaneously all the time. The noise of the generators was interfering as well as the adjacency to the antenna. On one rock the water splashed over the notebook, radio and operator all the time.

DXNL: How do you feel at such a bold venture?

DL3MBG: First of all as an adventurer. But you can realize this only between the shifts when staying on the boat.

DXNL: Which bands and modes did you prefer?

DL3MBG: I was working mostly in SSB on 17m and 15m.

DXNL: Have you had any contact with your XYL Elli at home?

DL3MBG: Only once via satellite telephone. She had no cause for concern because she informed herself via the website every day.

DXNL: Christian, many thanks for the interview!