

# JEFFERSON REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE JEFFERSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W5GAD

**March 2009**

**The next meeting will be held at the JARC Clubhouse, Wally Pontiff Playground Please see [w5gad.org](http://w5gad.org) for the latest information.**

General Meeting:  
March 26

Board Meeting:  
April 9

**Open clubhouse:  
Every Thursday 7:00pm**

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

[www.w5gad.org](http://www.w5gad.org)  
e-mail: [w5gad@arrl.net](mailto:w5gad@arrl.net);  
Phone: 504-831-1613

Send newsletter items to:  
[w5ctv@arrl.net](mailto:w5ctv@arrl.net)  
Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of  
the month



## Open House Returns this Thursday!

With this month's General Membership Meeting, the traditional Open House nights at the Club will resume. For those of you who have joined the JARC since Katrina, this tradition allows for members and guests to come to the club house to socialize, operate, or just chill out. As Keith's YL calls it, it is the Cave. The renovated facility is a bit more comfortable, has the beginnings of a library and also has a radio installed so that you can tune the bands. More are coming so it will just get bigger and better!

Open house will begin around 19:00 and last until 21:00, as long as there are members around. If no one is around after 20:00, the Control Operator has the right to secure the station for the night. Remember, the phone is working in the building, so if you want to come by and are running late, call and let us know you are on the way. The number is 504-831-1613.

### Clipperton DXpedition presentation at General Meeting

The next JARC Meeting will be Thursday, March 26, at 7:30P.M. The clubhouse will be open around 6:30 for ragchews so come on by. There will be a presentation on the Clipperton Island DXpedition that was put on last year. If you have never seen what it takes to put someplace on the air that is rarely activated or in a remote part of the earth this is truly a no miss video. Come out and enjoy the show.

### New Members

The following have applied for membership and will be voted on at the March meeting.

Matthew Chapman, K5DAZ, Technician, Mandeville

Steven Mintz, KE5ZDH, Technician, Metairie

Jon Glenn, KE5ZDI, Technician, Metairie

Ed Jahncke, Jr., N5KGV, Extra, Covington

### General License Class comes to an end with VE Test this Saturday!

For the last 3 weeks, eight students have been coming to the club for the first General Class licensing Class. The education team of Chris W5CTV, Tom, AC5TM, Bob, K5IQ, Mike, WB5LLI and Keith, W5KB have been presenting the material and working with the students to help them understand what they need to know to continue progressing in their hobby. You can see pictures on page 2. Everything culminates with a VE Test Session on Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 AM at the clubhouse. Remember, you must bring a copy of your license that you can leave behind, a calculator that is not programmed, at least 2 # 2 pencils and the \$14.00 testing fee. All classes of licenses will be offered so come ready to get that ticket or upgrade.

### Delta DX Association Meetings held at JARC facility.

The DDXA has once again decided to meet at the Club. Their meetings are typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Things typically start with eyeball ragchews around 18:30 and the formal meeting begins at 19:00. Meetings are open and the membership of the DDXA is trying to develop ideas to get more involved with the JARC members. There is an abundance of HF experience in the DDXA and besides monthly presentations, there often are open discussions regarding operating techniques and practices.

There has been good representation of JARC and DDXA members at each others club meetings, so keep it up. This is something that has been needed for a long time in our amateur community.

## ARRL Restocks JARC Library

The ARRL has recently sent a care package to the JARC to replenish our library of League publications that were destroyed when the clubhouse was flooded by Hurricane Katrina. Included was full set of licensing manuals as well as several ARRL flagship publications. These include the ARRL Handbook, Antenna Book, Understanding Basic Electronics, Digital Handbook, an Azimuthal map and other publications.

These books will be available to all members to use at the clubhouse.

## Race Communications

The Crescent City Classic road race is looking for ham radio operators to assist with race communications. The race will be held Saturday, April 11. To volunteer, please contact Joe Glorioso, N5OZG at 504-288-7084.

## W5GAD Back on the Air

In the past week, furniture has been installed in the back of the clubhouse where the old operating position and workbench were. One of the club's new radios has been setup (Kenwood TS-570) and is connected to a G5RV antenna. A few test QSOs have been made. We need to do a little tweaking on the antenna. This is the first of the station and antenna installations. We have a new SteppIR antenna to put up as well as some antennas that have been down since just before Katrina. Stop by the clubhouse during open house and try out a radio.

## Presentations to Resume at Monthly Meetings

This month's general meeting will feature a video of the recent Clipperton Island DXpedition. Last month we had a wonderful presentation by Don, W5FKX about his recent trip to China where he guest operated as W5FKX/BY1RX.

We would like to have a presentation at every monthly meeting. We need your input in this process. What presentation topics would you like to see? Do you have a presentation that you would like to give at a meeting? Some of the ideas that have been brought up so far include digital modes, Antenna design, echolink, D-Star, Propagation, computer aided hamming, and boat anchors. Please let the board know what you would like to see.

## Clubhouse Beautification

Anyone that has been to the clubhouse since the levee was built around Wally Pontiff Playground knows that the concrete barriers and sheet piling in front of the clubhouse are pretty ugly. We would like to change that. The board would like to put in about 30 feet of garden in front to make it less of an eyesore and show visitors to the park that we



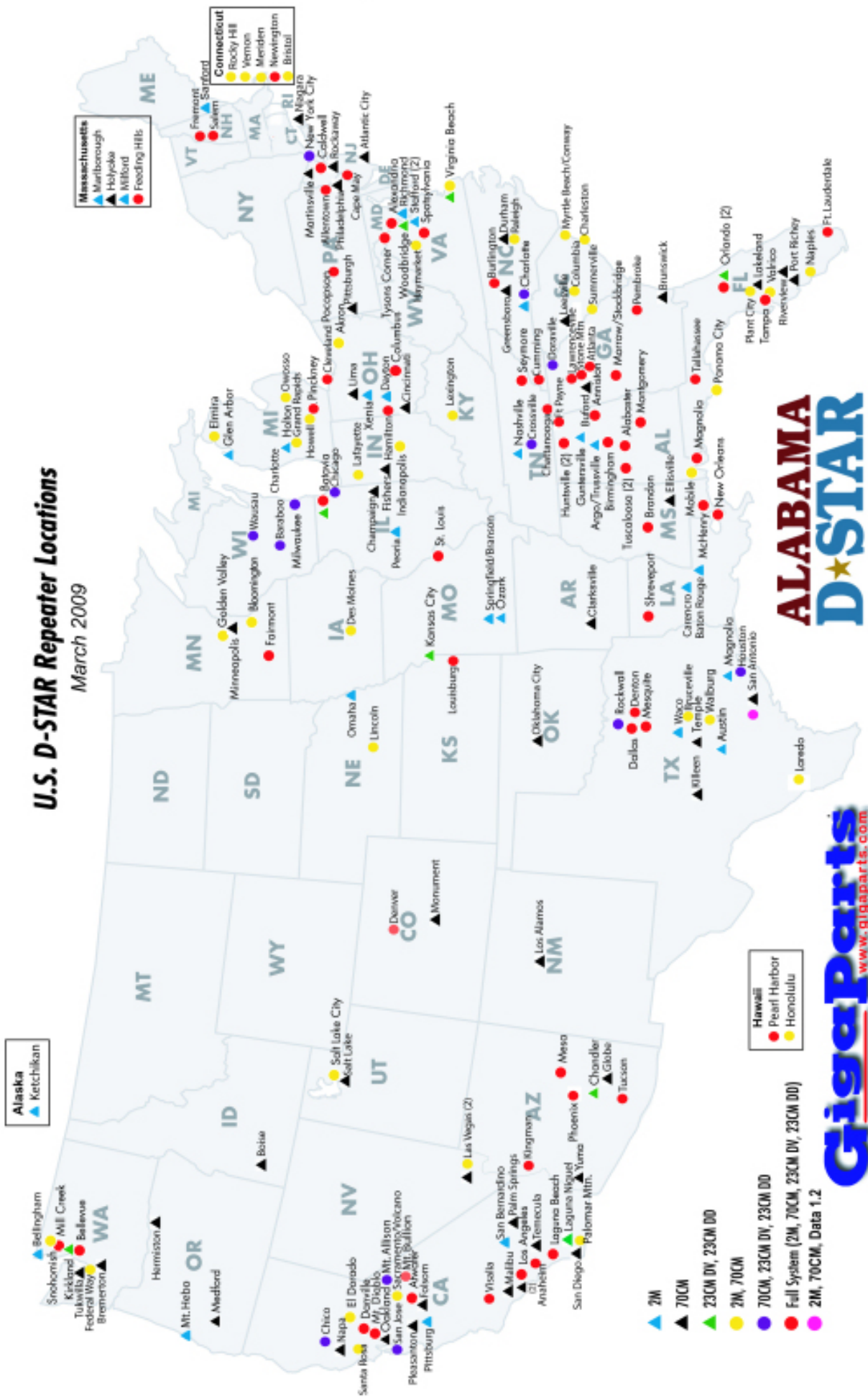
*Above: Bob, K5IQ teaches one of the recent General Class license lessons. Below: Some of the students listening to Bob's lesson. Notice on the top shelf of the bookshelf a few of the new books that were donated by the ARRL.*



care about the park and want to be good neighbors. We are looking for donations of plants and/or shrubs, mulch and anything else that would get this project moving. If you know of someone who might be willing to make a donation or you would like to help with this project, please get in touch with someone on the board.

# U.S. D-STAR Repeater Locations

March 2009



# ALABAMA D★STAR

# GigaParts

[www.gigaparts.com](http://www.gigaparts.com)

## FCC Clarifies What Constitutes an Amateur Radio Repeater

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), A repeater in the amateur service is “[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels.”

Mitchell sought clarification on the word “simultaneously,” asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands ham repeaters may operate, “some ham repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another ham station, the signal is not ‘simultaneously’ retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater.”

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as “[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations.”

## Addressing Change Coming to ARRL Magazines

A change in the postal regulations for flat mail processing takes effect March 29 that will require the addressing area on the front of any flat, bulk-processed mail (such as magazines) be positioned to new specifications. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, QST, QEX and NCJ magazines will all have the delivery address imprinted upside down, but positioned in the same area on the front covers.

This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify “that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations.” The Commission proposed to define a repeater as “[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels,” but ultimately replaced “instantaneously” with “simultaneously” because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one explained, “The word ‘simultaneously’ in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit.”

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater “must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word ‘simultaneously’ in the definition is used to modify ‘retransmit,’ we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that ‘simultaneously’ as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time.”

-- Courtesy ARRL

## Tom Leggett, WD5TL SK

Tom Leggett WD5TL formally N5KWB of West Monroe became a Silent Key March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 A.M.

Tom served as Assistant EC for Ouchita Parish, Louisiana Section Traffic Manager and net manager for the Louisiana Slow Net. Funeral arrangements are still pending. All traffic handlers in Louisiana will miss Tom. Keep him and his family in your Prayers.



April 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	1	2 7:00 p JARC Open House 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	3	4
5	6	7 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	8 7:00 p WARC General Meeting at Picadilly's on Lapalco	9 7:00 p JARC Open House 7:30 p JARC Board Meeting 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	10	11
12	13	14 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	15	16 7:00 p JARC Open House 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	17	18
19	20	21 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	22	23 7:00 p JARC Open House 7:30 p JARC General Meeting 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	24	25
26	27	28 9:00 p SELA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Net	29	30 7:00 p JARC Open House 8:00 p WARC Net 146.94	1	2

**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.

Do you wish to not disclose your contact information with other members of the club? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

## JARC Board Of Directors 2009

President:	Keith	W5KB	289-1504	
Vice President:	Dave	KE5BMS	812-5482	
Secretary:	Mary	WB5IOE	885-8667	
Treasurer:	Dick	W5RMX	888-2878	
At Large: 1 Year #1:	Rafael	W5BAI	208-0858	
	#2:	Don	WB5QAZ	455-4448
	#3:	Johnny	N5AZA	
2 Year #1:	Jim	KB5MFP		
	#2:	Josh	KD5PCR	261-8963
	#3:	Bob	AE5RN	393-1075

All phone numbers use the 504 area code.

## FCC Denies Petition to Increase Size of Amateur Radio Question Pools

In April 2008, Michael Mancuso, KI4NGN, of Raleigh, North Carolina, filed a petition with the FCC, seeking to increase the size of the question pools that make up the Amateur Radio licensing exams. Mancuso sought to increase the question pool from 10 times the number of questions on an exam to 50 times more questions. On March 19, 2009, the Commission notified Mancuso that it was denying his petition.

In his 2008 petition, Mancuso claimed that the current question pool is too easy to memorize and “that there has been a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators receiving their licenses over at least the last decade or more who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by the class of license that they have received. Most discussion about this topic, both on the air and on Internet forums, generally refers to these widespread observations as the ‘dumbing down’ of Amateur Radio. It has been widely assumed that the cause of this observed situation is based upon the subject material addressed by the license examinations, that the material requirements specified for the examinations does [sic] not meet some minimum level of knowledge expected by some or many in the Amateur Radio community.”

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that each applicant for a new or upgraded Ham Radio operator license “is required to pass a written exam in order to prove that he or she possesses the operational and technical qualifications required to perform properly the duties of an amateur service operator licensee, i.e., that he or she is qualified to be an amateur service licensee.”

The Commission summed up Mancuso’s petition, saying, “You argue that the current question pool size is no longer adequate, because online practice examinations enable examinees to memorize a question pool without fully comprehending the subject matter being tested. Consequently, you propose to increase the size of the question pools, in order to hinder memorization.”

The Commission concluded that Mancuso did not present

grounds for the Commission to amend its rules: “As noted above, the purpose of the examinations is not to demonstrate an applicant’s comprehension of certain material, but rather to determine whether he or she can properly operate an amateur station. Moreover, your contention that there has been ‘a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators...who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by their class of license’ is not supported by any data or facts.”

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that the Commission’s Rules only dictate the minimum number of questions for each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes. This, the Commission told Mancuso, “does not prevent the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) from increasing the number of questions in a question pool should it decide that this is appropriate. We conclude, therefore, that the petition presents no evidence of an existing problem or other reason for a rule change.”

## W1AW QSYs on 160 Meters

On Monday, March 9, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW [www.arrl.org/w1aw.html](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html), began using a new 160 meter frequency for its CW transmissions. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, there was “increasing activity” near the previous bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz. “In order to reduce the possibility of interference, W1AW has moved to 1802.5 kHz,” Carcia said.

## Burghardt to No Longer Sell Amateur Radio Equipment

On March 16, Jim Smith, W0MJY, owner of Burghardt Amateur Center in Watertown, South Dakota [www.burghardt-amateur.com/](http://www.burghardt-amateur.com/), announced that the company will no longer sell Amateur Radio transceivers and accessories. The company, now called Burghardt Radio Repair, has canceled all backorders. In an e-mail, Smith blamed the current economic conditions for the change that forced the company “to re-evaluate our goals and direction. We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Our technicians are very experienced and parts inventories are good. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to continuing our relationships through our servicing facility.” Jim Smith’s son, Mike Smith, KC0FTM, told the ARRL that even though the company has had to lay off employees in the past couple of months, “Burghardt will concentrate on service, just like we have been doing since 1973.” Burghardt was founded in 1937 by Stan Burghardt, W0IT (SK), as Burghardt Radio Supply. He sold the company to Smith in 1982, remaining active in the company until January 2002. Burghardt passed away in 2004 at the age of 93.

-- Courtesy ARRL