



San Antonio Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 1753
San Antonio, Texas 78296

BULLETIN

“Serving the Amateur Community for 37 Years.”

January 2005

Volume 37 Number 1

Next General Membership Meeting January 28, 2005 - 7:30PM

SARO NET WEDNESDAYS AT 8:30 P.M. ON 146.94- (179.9 tone)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Alfred Horn, KG5QW
SARO 2005 President

Once again, I am president for your Repeater Organization. **Curtis N5QPN** is Vice President, **Herm N5CNH** is Treasurer, and **Gil AA5XH** is Secretary. The other directors are **Gordon K5SUZ**, **Stan KA5IID**, and **Don W5DK**. It is good to see Don back on the board. **Shane NS5D** is the new Membership Chairman. I am encouraged to see someone so new to our organization and relatively new to our hobby becoming so actively involved. **Lee N5NTG** will continue as Chair for the Newsletter and Web Page. His professionalism and expertise is greatly appreciated. The Directors and Committee Chairmen are looking forward to serving you in 2005.

The Hot Topic is the Buzzard Roost Repeater 147.14. Knowing the right people in the right places can be the Wild Card often needed to resolve a situation favorably. I have a friend (also a ham) who previously worked for this tower management company. He is negotiating the contract on behalf of the Organization at this time. As of the penning of this article, I do not have the final outcome. However, his correspondence with the tower management company leads us to believe that our rent for the tower space will have no significant increase.

Speaking of the Buzzard Roost, when we announced that we were considering abandoning the repeater because of escalating costs, there was

a lot of discussion with many saying that they were motivated to help keep the machine on the air. Well, we all know that talk is cheap and few put out anything more than hot air. **I am most grateful and want everyone to know that the Comal County REACT has come through with a \$420 check for the 2005 rent on the tower.** See Page 2 of this newsletter for more details. Cooperation between our two organizations has been good in the past and this will only increase as we continue to work together. We do not always agree on all issues, but we can certainly work together for the good of Amateur Radio and both our organizations.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next membership meeting, January 28th. Don't forget that we will adjourn to a local restaurant after the meeting. It is a good time to visit after our business is done at the meeting.



2004 Election Results

It has been reported by the vote counters that the winners of this year's elections were **Alfred KG5QW**, **Stan KA5IID** and **Don W5DK** were the winners. We thank **Shane NS5D** for running and remind everyone that we elect directors each year in rotating positions. The list of 2005 officers is announced in the President's Column on page 1 of this issue.

Letter Sent To *REACT* By *SARO* Regarding Donation Made For The 2005 147.14 Repeater Rent.

January 13, 2005

Comal County *REACT*
P.O. Box 1487
Canyon Lake, TX 78133



Dear Comal County *REACT* Team:

On behalf of the San Antonio Repeater Organization, please accept our wholehearted thanks for your check to cover the 2005 tower rent for the 147.14 repeater. We have had serious concerns regarding the site for this repeater as the tower management company notified us of significantly escalating fees. We are, however, in the final stages of negotiating a new contract and will apprise you of the final outcome.

We appreciate your continued encouragement of your organization's members and other local users of this repeater to assist us with its costs by joining our organization. We welcome new and returning members from any area. We are happy that the repeater continues to serve in support of emergency communications and agree that it is a vital resource for the Comal, Kendall, Guadalupe and Bexar County area.

We also appreciate your offer of technical assistance in the upkeep of the repeater. We would like to continue these conversations as we find ways to cooperate within the amateur community.

Again, we gratefully accept your generous support.

Sincerely,

Signed by Alfred Horn KG5QW
President, San Antonio Repeater Organization

REMINDER

2005 *SARO* dues must be received by no later than February 28th, 2005 in order to be included in the roster, which will go out in mid-March.

Bring your dues and renewal form to the January 28th meeting in person and find out what is happening at the same time! A copy of the renewal / application form is on page 7.

If you have not received a renewal notice in the mail, please contact the membership chairman, Shane O'Neal NS5D at 210-473-4847 or email at membership@sarepeater.net.

Letter Sent To *SARO* By *REACT* Regarding Donation Made For The 2005 147.14 Repeater Rent.

November 30, 2004

San Antonio Repeater Organization
PO Box 1753
San Antonio, TX 78296



Dear Board of Directors and Members:

Comal County *REACT* would like to donate the 2005 rent payment for the *SARO* 147.14 repeater in Comal County. Enclosed is a check for \$420, which would cover the rent at the previous \$35/month rate. If the final contract rent price turns out to be the earlier quoted \$840 (with escalation clause), please advise us so we may provide an additional check for the 2005 rent. We have voted to continue this designated financial support beyond 2005, and would be happy to discuss that further at an appropriate time.

We hope that *SARO* will want to keep the 147.14 repeater as a *SARO* repeater, as opposed to some alternatives we have previously discussed. Should that not be the case, we would like the opportunity to work with you to transition it to local control within Comal County.

We continue to encourage *SARO* membership among our *REACT* members in Comal, Kendall, Guadalupe and Bexar Counties, as well as among other users of the repeater. (Currently nine *SARO* members are also *REACT* members.) We, along with Comal County *ARES* and Kendall County *ARES* (and others) appreciate the use of the 147.14 repeater for support of the National Weather Service and for emergency communications, nets and drills. We consider it a vital resource for our mission to provide emergency communications in its coverage area.

If we can be of assistance in the future to provide local control operators, assist with maintenance issues, or help in any other way, please let us know. We have technically adept licensed amateurs on our team who have experience managing repeaters, and who would be happy to assist if called upon by *SARO*.

Sincerely,

Signed by Patricia Knight AD5BR
President, Comal County *REACT*

Signed by Lee Besing N5NTG
Secretary/Treasurer, Comal County *REACT*

UPGRADE THAT OBSOLETE PC COMPUTER

by Clay Laster, W5ZPV

There are several paths to upgrading older PC computers:

- First purchase a PC, or
- Second upgrade your present computer, or
- Third assemble (or build) a new PC by purchasing a cabinet, mother board and all needed components such as the mother board, hard drive, modem, etc

This last approach requires an intensive study of your individual requirements and a good familiarity of the required. Components. There are comprehensive books on this approach and any attempt to build your PC should include a study of such books. Check the local book stores and you will find a variety of such books.

With some PCs, a simple upgrade such as installing a new high capacity hard drive and a larger RAM will provide a substantial increase in system performance. A more complex technique is to add a second hard drive which allows such features as instant backup of all of your data and program files. One word of caution - be sure your PC can handle the new high capacity hard drives such as 40 GB to 100 GB or more.

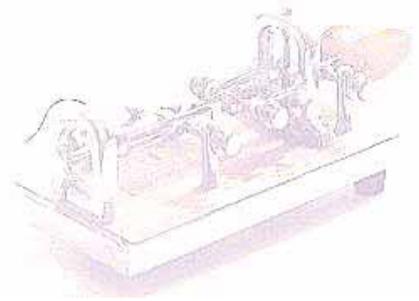
If your present RAM memory is 256MB or less, you should consider replacing the current RAM with 512 MB or higher. Such an upgrade should provide a minimum of 10 percent increase in operating speed. When purchasing a new RAM card, be sure it is compatible with your PC's mother board. If you are not sure which RAM card you need, take the old RAM card or the entire PC case (not the monitor) with you when you purchase the new one. The store sales person will be able to advise properly.

Other substantial improvements for the operation of your present PC include the following:

1. Replace older CD-ROM drive(s) with updated ones to permit recording ("burning") of selected data on CD disks. If you want to play or record data on DVD disks, this capability is now available for a slight increase in cost.
2. Add the new USB (Universal Serial Bus) 2.0 or "FireWire" card to provide for high speed transmission of data between the PC and peripheral devices such as printers, modems, hard drives, etc.
3. Add network cards for linking PCs together or connecting to broadband cable internet systems.
4. Replace the video card with a more advanced graphics card for improved display of video information.
5. Replace the PC's monitor with a larger modern monitor for improved display. The new solid state monitors provide excellent display and requires much less space on your desk or computer table.

References:

- a. "Your Ideal PC" by Eric Dahl, PC WORLD, September 2004
- b. PC COMPLETE, 2ed, Anamary Coleman, Compilation Editor, 2000, SYBEX Inc. Alameda, CA



Silent Key - KD5KO

Herbert M. Allison, Sr.(KD5KO) died on November 30, 2004, at the age of 91. Born in Statesville, North Carolina on August 8, 1913, he was a graduate of the University of Maryland with Bachelors and Masters degrees. He served as a pistol instructor and Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation until 1952, specializing in counterespionage.



After leaving the FBI, he worked for two years with Sears Roebuck, then joined J.C. Penney as a labor relations negotiator and District Labor Relations Manager for the Northeastern U.S. In 1973, he retired from J.C. Penney and moved with his wife Mary to San Antonio. Mary died in 1975. In 1977, he married Kay Crowell Allison (KA5RXN).

He was active in leadership positions in the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of San Antonio, Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, the San Antonio Radio Club, the San Antonio Repeater Organization, and the Southern Texas Archaeological Association.

He is survived by his wife Kay, sons Herbert, Jr. and his wife Simin of Scarsdale, N.Y., and George and his wife Annette of Westford, M.A. and grandsons John and Andrew Allison of New York City. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the First Unitarian-Universalist of San Antonio on Saturday, January 15, 2005.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the First U.-U. Sanctuary Fund or charity of your choice.

Big Bend 50 Run - The Wild, Wild, West

by Shane O'Neal NS5D

What do Coyotes, Javelinas, Distance Runners and Hams have in common? They were all in abundance for the inaugural running of the Big Bend 50 Ultra Run, held in Big Bend National Park in West Texas on January 16th, 2005.

As the runners prepared for their 50 mile foot race across the desert early on Sunday morning, volunteer radio operators from across Central, South and West Texas were busily performing last minute checks on their equipment. Hams from the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club <www.bigbendarc.com> had set up two portable two meter repeaters the day before the race, and linked them via a 70 centimeter full duplex radio link.



Although many had never met nor worked together before, the diverse group of hams came together as though they were long lost friends and provided critical communication support for the runners as they made their way down the arduous, unpaved River Road. Hams were stationed at water stops at six mile intervals along the course, and radioed information on the status of each runner to net control, ensuring that each one was accounted for at each leg of the race. Two “shadows” were positioned in vehicles with the race directors to link them to each of the water stops, the start and the finish line, and the race headquarters at Rio Grande Village. Another ham, who was also a paramedic, acted as Medical Director for the event and followed behind the

runners to sweep the course for any stragglers and maintain contact with the EMS ambulance should it be needed. One of the hams was also a volunteer Park Ranger and acted as a liaison to the Park Ranger dispatcher.

A few of the more experienced hams also acted as net control, ensuring the timely and efficient flow of information. Where there were gaps in repeater coverage, good operating procedures prevailed and hams along the route relayed information on simplex back to net control.

The biggest concern for Big Bend 50 organizers Carroll Voss and Whitney Lawrence of San Antonio, was the safety of the runners along the primitive desert trail. There is no cell phone coverage of any kind in the park, and hams were the only link to Park Rangers and medical assistance. “We absolutely could not have done this without the hams” said Voss, “they were the key to making this event a success.”

As the runners made their way to the finish line late in the afternoon, hams were on hand to relay their finish times to race headquarters in advance of the award ceremony that evening. Though exhausted, each of the runners were jubilant about finishing such a unique and challenging course, and many could be heard talking about returning next year to do it all over again.

SARO members who participated in this endeavor included Charlie KC5NKK (and wife), Lyle W6WF (and wife), Charlie WA3PAY, Terri KC5BJI, and Shane NS5D. Besides the hams from Big Bend ARC, other non-SARO hams from San Antonio, New Braunfels and Austin also participated. This was truly a joint effort by all parties involved from all over the state of Texas.

The official Big Bend 50 website can be found at <www.bigbend50.com>.



On the left is a map of the course showing start to finish, but it really doesn't give you a true picture of what the course was like up close and personal.

See pages 5-6 for some photos from this event taken by Shane NS5D and then look for more photos to be posted soon at <www.SAHams.org> web site as the various hams provide them to us for sharing.



1 The Big Bend ARC portable repeater as seen from the inside



2 Race Director Carroll Voss briefs ham volunteers on the layout of the course



3 Volunteer Park Ranger John Kamaras, KE5AAA, briefs hams on park rules and safety procedures



4 An Ultra runner nears the finish line as volunteers cheer her on

Maintenance

by Gordon Dial K5SUZ

Seasons Greetings! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Years.

Let's start off with the 6 meter machine. The new Mastr II repeater is coming together nicely and I hope to have it up by meeting time (January 28th).

The Roost (147.14) repeater appears to still be operating. We still need to replace the antenna and move the cabinet to another part of the building. The 146.82 repeater (22 receive package) is still moving forward. As promised I still anticipate setting it up at the 147.36 site.

The 146.78 repeater has been off for several months. I believe it needs its coax and/or its antenna replaced.

I noticed the clock on the 444.100 repeater is again losing time and I will reset it shortly.

Well, I guess that covers most of the topics for this writing.

Should any member notice a problem on any of the SARO repeaters, please give me a call on the air, or I am good in the roster or contact info. Hope to see you all at the club meeting on January 28th.



REACT Announces Merger In 2005

Bexar County *REACT* and Comal County *REACT* officially merged into a single region-wide Team covering four counties; Bexar, Comal, Kendall and Guadalupe. This action to merge was taken because of the large number of joint memberships between the two teams, the high number of joint activities, and a desire to reduce the duplication of meetings and training sessions.

Back in January 2004, both Teams elected basically the same set of officers, Pat AD5BR as president, Connie KD5UXU as vice president, Lee N5NTG as secretary/treasurer, Shane NS5D for Bexar County Operations Officer, and Brian NB5R for Comal County Operations Officer. As a result of this merger, the Team officers will remain basically the same for 2005, but the name of the new combined Team will be Hill Country *REACT*. They will be combining their monthly meeting date and location, but the final details have not yet been ironed out and released. See <www.HillCountryREACT.org> for info.

Hill Country *REACT* has been working actively with the County Emergency Management Agencies in Comal and Kendall, plus San Antonio Emergency Management, San Antonio VOAD, area law enforcement agencies, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army SATERN program. The Comal and Kendall ARES ECs are also *REACT* members.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM SAN ANTONIO REPEATER ORGANIZATION

P O Box 1753, San Antonio TX 78296-1753

Are you an ARRL member? No Yes Life

Call _____ Class _____ Exp Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Nickname (optional) _____

Please put your Call-Sign on your check
Annual DUES \$15.00 (if have ever been a SARO member)
First Time Applicant \$10.00 plus prorated Dues
(ie. \$25.00 for new applicant at start of year)

I volunteer for the following committees (NOTE: telephone number and e-mail address will be given to the committee chairperson)

- Engineering Maintenance Newsletter
 Public Service Membership Public Relations
 Web Site Other _____

- New Member (copy of license must be enclosed)
 Renewal (include copy of license if revised/renewed recently)
 Some info has changed, please review record

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

In accordance with Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts, the following applies: Failure to check the following blocks indicating that you **DO NOT WANT** the information published in the SARO Directory, constitutes agreement with its publication.

Check each box **ONLY** if you **DO NOT** want it published:
 Phone Address e-Mail

I understand communications of a business or commercial nature have no place on SARO repeaters. I will comply with the policies of SARO and will not engage in any activities that might bring discredit to the Organization.

Signature _____ Date _____



San Antonio Repeater Organization
 P. O. Box 1753
 San Antonio, Texas 78296-1753

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 SAN ANTONIO
 TEXAS
 PERMIT 390

The SARO Bulletin is published quarterly. Past issues are available from the SARO website. SARO General Membership meetings are held quarterly, at the Ruble Center, at 419 East Magnolia, the 4th Friday in January, April, July and October. Subscription and advertisements for personal equipment are free to SARO members. Our web site is www.SARRepeater.Net.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President:
 Alfred Horn KG5QW
 kg5qw@sarepeater.net
Vice President:
 Curtis Rabenaldt N5QPN
 n5qpn@sarepeater.net
Secretary:
 Gil Mathis AA5XH
 aa5xh@sarepeater.net
Treasurer:
 Herm Haertel N5CNH
 n5cnh@sarepeater.net
Directors:
 Gordon Dial K5SUZ
 k5suz@sarepeater.net
 Stan Stanukinos KA5IID
 ka5iid@sarepeater.net
 Don Kirtschner
 w5dk@sarepeater.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Engineering:
 Stan Stanukinos KA5IID
 ka5iid@sarepeater.net
Maintenance:
 Gordon Dial K5SUZ
 k5suz@sarepeater.net
Membership:
 Shane O'Neal NS5D
 ns5d@sarepeater.net
Newsletter / Web Site:
 Lee Besing N5NTG
 n5ntg@sarepeater.net
Public Service:
 Alfred Horn KG5QW
 kg5qw@sarepeater.net
Public Relations:
 John Weber WB5YQC
 wb5yqc@sarepeater.net
Historian:
 Gil Mathis AA5XH
 aa5xh@sarepeater.net

SARO REPEATERS
 All PLL tones 179.9Hz

6 Meter	53.13 -
2 Meter	145.01 d 146.78 - 146.82 -a 146.94 - 147.14 + 147.36 +a
220 MHz	223.50 d 224.38 -
440 MHz	444.100 +a 444.125 +

(+/-) offset direction Std. Split
 (a) autopatch
 (d) digipeater