



San Antonio Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 1753
San Antonio, Texas 78296

BULLETIN

“Serving the Amateur Community for 39 Years.”

January 2007

Volume 39 Number 1

Next General Membership Meeting January 26, 2007 - 7:30PM

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

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Scott Renwick, WB5ZJI, SARO 2007 President

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and found some ham radio presents under their Christmas tree. Friday January 26th is our first quarterly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Ruble Center 419 E Magnolia. Directions can be found on our website www.sarepeater.net, or check into the weekly Wednesday evening net on 146.94 at 8:30 p.m. There will be people on .94 and 444.1 on Friday night to help if you get lost. This will be a great time to get together again and as usual afterwards we will go for dinner and libations.

Your officers for the coming year are

- President Scott WB5ZJI
- Vice-President Chuck WB5FWI
- Treasurer Neil WA5FSR
- Secretary Dale KB5YSJ
- Director Royce KA5OHJ
- Director Doug KK5LA
- Director Mike K5UCQ

Remember that this is a volunteer organization and if you want to get involved all you have to do is volunteer. There will be several events this year such as the Texas Water Safari and MS-150 where your help will be greatly appreciated along with other committees that can use your help. Remember all you have to do to get involved is let someone know you want to help. See Page 8 of this newsletter for a more detailed listing of major public service opportunities.

Continued on page 8

Bye-Bye Morse Code?



On December 15, 2006, the FCC adopted a Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration (Order) that modifies the rules for the Amateur Radio Service by revising the examination require-

ments for obtaining a General Class or Amateur Extra Class amateur radio operator license and revising the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees. In addition, the Order resolves a petition filed by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) for partial reconsideration of an FCC Order on amateur service rules released on October 10, 2006.

The new rules are expected to be posted on January 24, 2007, and take effect 30 days later on February 23, 2007.

Continued on page 2

REMINDER - 2007 Dues

2007 SARO dues are now being accepted by mail or during membership meetings. There was no increase in dues for 2007. A copy of the renewal / application form is on page 8 of this newsletter. Current members will receive a renewal notice in the mail later this year, Got Membership Questions? Send an email membership@sarepeater.net for answers.

Bye-Bye Morse - Continued from page 1

Our sister club, SARC, has a regularly scheduled test session on Saturday, February 24th, at a new location to handle what may be a crowd of applicants trying to upgrade to General Class license. Check out their web site at www.W5SC.org for directions and details, or check out the list of VE sessions found at www.SanAntonioHams.org.

The current amateur service operator license structure contains three classes of amateur radio operator licenses: Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class. General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees are permitted to operate in Amateur bands below 30 MHz, while the introductory Technician Class licensees are only permitted to operate in bands above 30 MHz. Prior to this action, the FCC, in accordance with international radio regulations, required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses to pass a five words-per-minute Morse code examination.

This Order eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra licensees. This change reflects revisions to international radio regulations made at the International Telecommunication Union's 2003 World Radio Conference (WRC-03), which authorized each country to determine whether to require that individuals demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz. This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current amateur radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of amateur radio.

This Order also revises the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees by eliminating a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician Class and Technician Plus Class licensees. Technician Class licensees are authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz.

The Technician Plus Class license, which is an operator license class that existed prior the FCC's simplification of the amateur license structure in 1999 and was grandfathered after that time, authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz, as well as frequency segments in four HF bands (below 30 MHz) after the successful completion of a Morse code examination. With this elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained.

The removal of the Morse Code testing element doesn't mean the demise of Morse Code with Amateur Radio. Those who enjoy CW, will continue to use it, others will want to learn it "Just Because".

South Texas High Altitude Radio Project / Experiment

by John Teer, AK5Z (Harlingen, TX)

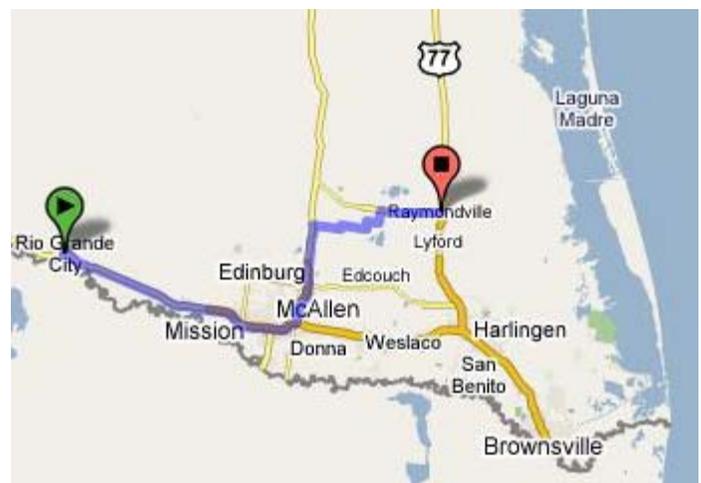


For those interested in following the progress or being a SPONSOR of a unique amateur radio experimental project in South Texas, plans are being made for the South Texas High Altitude Radio Project (STXHARP). The South Texas High Altitude Radio Project is a series of experiments using helium balloons to carry Amateur Radio equipment aloft and electronically track the flight of the balloon package from launch to recovery. The electronics package consists of an Amateur Television Transmitter (ATV) and an Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) transmitter and cameras.

Ham radio is a hobby rich in experimentation. Many advances in communication technology can trace their roots back to a ham radio operator who had an idea and ran with it. In that tradition, a group of hams in South Texas decided that they want to see for themselves what the Earth looks like from way, way up. Using ATV and APRS technology isn't new and neither is sending it aloft on a balloon or rocket. The reward is in the doing. This project combines many different things hams do for fun and what we learn can be used in an emergency when other communication methods are not available.

The experimenters hope to view live video images from the balloon camera and track the package via APRS as it makes its way across the South Texas Sky. They hope to recover the package at touchdown to view the pictures snapped along the way by the two digital still cameras on board.

Below is graphic showing the proposed Flight Path from Point A to Point B, but don't expect the balloon to follow the highways the way the map program did below.



More details can be found on-line at www.SanAntonioHams.org on the news page.

Bandera 100k Endurance Trail Run

By Lee Besing, N5NTG

One early drizzly, foggy Saturday morning, six ham radio operators, Barry Hiddema, WA5BLH, Sterling Scharmen, KE5KZE, Charles Manley III, W5BRC, Barbara Manley, KB5RLF, Charles Manley IV, KD5EXS, and Lee Besing, N5NTG, gathered out at Hill Country State Natural Area, just southwest of Bandera, Texas. The purpose of the gathering was to provide communications support for the Bandera 100k Endurance Trail Run. This event involved hundreds of runners on three courses, simultaneously. There was a 25k, 50k and 100k course. The date was the same weekend as the San Antonio Radio Club's swap-fest and the Big Bend 50k Ultra Run out at Big Bend National Park. Due to the conflict in dates, the challenge was higher to try and get enough hams to cover the four break points (NACHOS, CHAPAS, CROSS-ROADS, LAST CHANCE) plus the command post at the start/finish line. Barry, W5BLH, went out on Friday to set up a portable UHF repeater on 440mhz, borrowed from Shane, NS5D, that operated off a sealed lead-acid battery with a solar trickle charger (almost useless with the heavy cloud cover).

"This event was probably the closest many hams will ever come to operating under the conditions of emergency / disaster situations. (i.e. 24 hours plus, alternate power source, field antennas, self-sufficient food, drinks, shelter, etc.)."

For the Bandera 100k, the course wasn't on paved or even dirt roads. It was cross-country, over hill, over dale, around the mountain to grandma's house. It was running thru gullies, up steep hills that an ATV (all terrain vehicle) or horse couldn't navigate. It was ducking under tree branches, stepping over tree roots, following a trail marked with colored surveyor's tape during daylight, and 12 hour yellow glow-sticks at night, hanging on the tree branches like Christmas ornaments.



Photo taken of start/finish for the mass start. The command post was set up inside the blue building shown in the background.

The event started at 7:30am on Saturday, and was scheduled to continue until Sunrise on Sunday morning. It would prove to be a grueling endurance race for our radio equipment, discharging batteries, straining mobile rigs, pushing individual operator endurance as we struggled to stay awake all night until the last runner was accounted for. The fog lifted mid-morning and the rain stopped. The weather turned off nasty later in the day as the cold front approached. We experienced about a 15 degree temperature drop in about 10 minutes. The light rain resumed in waves through-out the afternoon and night and the temperature dropped from the low 50's down into the upper 30's, not quite freezing, but enough to warrant a warm coat for the operator, and worry about hypothermia for the runners. The portable repeater failed for some unknown reason shortly after the event started, forcing us to switch to simplex operations using 146.52 mhz.

Our primary communications during the event was for supply needs and requests for medical pickup of runners who were dropping out of the race. We had a couple of "missing" (i.e. unaccounted for) runners which were eventually located. A few runners departed the event site without passing thru the finish line, causing in one case, the activation of the Hill Country Trail Riders (horse patrol) to begin searching the trails after dark. The Trail Riders used FRS radios to communicate with the Ham at each Break Point. Barry reported one runner experiencing chest pains at his location (LAST CHANCE) who was cutting off the 100k course and returning on his own (with escort) to the Start/Finish line. I notified medical support and one of the medics hopped on an ATV to head up the trail to meet him. The runner returned on his own power and used medication from his car to treat the situation. Another runner passed out on the trail and was transported via ATV back to the Start/Finish where she was treated for hypothermia, dehydration and low blood sugar for several hours. Others were brought in with twisted or sprained ankles and knees, covered with mud.

We had to deal with the challenge of being short-handed, operator wise, at the very beginning, but the situation was further strained when two operators had to leave, one for about 3 hours, the other to handle a family emergency leaving us with 1 location uncovered for the 3 hours, the other for about an hour. Sterling, KE5KZE, had to attend an activity with his family for a few hours, but returned and stayed until the very end. Barry, W5BLH, had a family emergency and had to depart on very short notice. Two of the four locations were scheduled to be shut down at 8:30pm and 10:30pm. Charles, W5BRC, and Barbara, KB5RLF, were up at NACHOS which was scheduled for closing at 8:30pm, but there were two volunteers out on the trail from CHAPAS to NACHOS removing the glow-sticks from the trees that didn't arrive

Continued on page 7

San Antonio Radio Club's 2007 Swapfest

San Antonio Radio Club's 2007 Swapfest is now concluded. From all reports received, it was bigger, better and friendlier than ever. Despite the bad weather north of San Antonio, the freezing drizzle that went on all day with temperatures remaining in the forties to prevent actual freezing (but it felt like it was), tailgating area wasn't real popular in the rain, but inside the building was dry and warm! Some folks from up north had problems arriving due to a F1 class tornado touching down in San Marcos near IH-35 and roads being closed in Austin due to weather. Many of the regulars were also out working at Ham Events, the Big Bend 50 in Big Bend National Park and the Bandera 100k Trail Run out in Hill Country State Natural Area.

Continued on page 5

San Antonio Hams Support Marathon in Big Bend National Park

By Charles Land, KC5NKK

On January 15th the 3rd annual Big Bend 50K was held again this year. This race runs on the East side of Big Bend National Park, out of range of cellphones and barely accessible by very primitive roads.

While supporting a marathon may seem an every day event for many ham operators, the isolation of this location presents many unusual challenges. The nearest WalMart is in Ft. Stockton, about 150 miles from the race. The nearest town, if you could call it that, is Marathon, about 100 miles away. The nearest motel and restaurant is in The Basin, about 40 miles from the race finish line.



Continued on page 5

2006 December 30 - Stranded Air Travelers - Another Shelter Activation!

By Lee Besing, N5NTG

Just when we thought it was safe to lay down our emergency jump kits for the holidays, late on Friday night, December 29, 2006, the American Red Cross activated Ham Radio Operators in San Antonio to staff an emergency shelter for up to a few hundred stranded airline passengers. This was apparently caused by one or more airplanes being delayed in, or diverted to, SA due to severe storms at their original destination airports, such as heavy snow in Colorado, etc.. Because of the Alamo Bowl Game scheduled in town this weekend, all of the available hotel rooms were booked solid, causing the airlines to need help from the City of San Antonio, American Red Cross and the Ham Community.

Preparations were made to receive hundreds of stranded passengers, as the total number of affected passengers was unknown when the call first went out for help. One of the first hams (Shane, NS5D) rolled out around 11pm on Friday, December 29th, heading for a shelter location at a High School on the NE side of town. Terri KC5BJI has been coordinating volunteers by phone and on the 147.18 repeater (103.5 tone). Charlie KC5NKK activated the Bexar County ARES Emergency Phone / Pager Message Activation System.

Milton KE5CLV set up at the Red Cross EOC (see photo below), Barry, W5BLH, activated the city's EOC to



prepare radio kits for distribution if needed. David K5OLE was also sent to the Red Cross for deployment.

No major "middle of the night" deployment was expected due to the limited

number of airplanes in transit this time of night. Airplanes which are still on the ground elsewhere will not take off. As of 1am, it was expected that only the one shelter would be opened, McArthur High School, and that all passengers would be transported back at the airport by early Saturday morning. Hams were told when called or paged that they should listen to the net running on the 147.18 repeater and volunteer if they call for more volunteers due to situation changing.

Continued from page 4

VE Testing was held down at the Johnson Library near Medina Base Road and Loop 410, about 2 miles away from the Swapfest site. Twelve candidates tested, ten of them passed or upgraded. Some came from as far away as Houston or Corpus Christi.



Photo: Schuylar KE5VIP wins Early Bird prize, presented by J.C. N5RXS, 2007 Swapfest Chairman. Photo provided by David K5OLE

Door Prizes flowed like water...

- Grand Prize: Gary Harmon, who has owned every radio made since Marconi was a teenager was thrilled to win the IC-718
- Early Bird: Schuylar KE5VIP (photo above) was absolutely ecstatic to win the Alinco dual band walkie talkie.
- Major Door Prize: You would have thought Linda Robinson won a trip to Hawaii rather than a logging software package.
- Other Prizes: Winners not reported to SAHAMS webmaster.

This year the club mailed (via USPS bulk mail) about 5,000 flyers to area hams in Central and South Texas using ARRL's mailing list. They tried to eliminate duplicates (i.e. multiple hams at same address) in order to spread the news as far as possible.

The club's new web site also helped provide more up to the date information and registration forms. Naturally, the SAHAMS web site also tried to help as much as possible. We've heard that the SARC club has already made plans to improve upon the changes made this year, and are actively looking for a possible new venue to make it more convenient to attend, with room for seminars or other presentations to be made, with VE testing on-site.

Continued from page 4

One might ask, why would anyone want to go 400 or more miles from a nice warm home to brave the challenges of Winter in the Texas desert? If you have to ask, the answer may be largely irrelevant. As more and more marathons sprout up and try to attract runners, one of the selling points is the desirability and uniqueness of the location. Big Bend Park is indeed unique and attractive. And it is one of the few national parks that will permit holding a sporting event like a marathon within its borders.

So having laid the predicate that this is a unique event with unique challenges, what are they? Covering 6 aid stations, a start and finish, medical support and 2 race officials doesn't sound that hard. But remember that none of these locations have electricity available. And remember that some of these sites are accessible by 4 wheel drive vehicles only. And the only running water is provided by Mother Nature (we hope NOT). And conditions can change so quickly in the desert. And to top that off, volunteers had to arrive with supplies to allow them to be self sufficient for several days. All of our central Texas volunteers camped. And so much that you need to put on an event is not available locally, such as rental vans, tables chairs, food, water. . . The only rental portapoties in the area are 150 miles away and cost 2-3 times as much to rent as one would pay in San Antonio.

The event was to start at 7:30 am on Sunday. That plan had to change in the last few days of race planning. School buses that are normally used to transport athletes from the base camp in Rio Grande Village to the start line were not available. Relying on 15 passenger vans required having two starts - :30 for the 50k runners and 8:15 for the 25k runners (that was the plan, but the 25k runners actually started at 8:30).



Jim Fowler KD5KBU (center) brought the emergency communications cross connect trailer. This is quite a

Continued on page 6

BB50 Continued from page 5

sophisticated collection of state of the art hardware that allows different radios systems to talk to each other. Billy Baker W5ATO (left) ran net control from the BBARC RV. Billy Roberts W5NPR (right) assisted at Aid station #4.

Charles – KA3PAY & Terri Thomas KC5BJI worked the start line, and did double duty at Rio Grande Village



after the start line closed. Charles Land – KC5NKK worked Aid station #1. Charlie also did double duty – going to Aid Station #5 later in the morning. He was enter-

tained by the members of the Terlingua Youth Club who used their excessenergy climbing the mud hills.



Our two outstanding young people – Meghan Johnson KE5DTR and Melanie O’Neal KD5ZSL worked the finish line.



One of the Rest Stops being set up in the middle of no where.



Bob – KA1AAJ and Clair Ayer used their 4wd vehicle to get to Aid station #2 – one of the most inaccessible.

Shane O’Neal NS5D and Milton Johnson – KE5CLV were shadows for the race directors, Carroll Voss and Whitney Lawrence. Mitch London KD5HCV and Alan Russel KE5DTR camped over nite so that they would be a their Aid station 3 post on time. Mike Ward, NW5M, county Emergency Services Director, acted as medical liaison and assisted the Terlingua medics. Luckily, their day was very boring.

Barb Stone KM5VM brought her motorhome to the finish line to provide contact with the post race dinner the shuttle vans and other HQ activities.

The park limits the race to 200 runners because of the impact of larger numbers of people on the environment. This year we expected 130 runners. We had 35 50k runners and about 80 25k runners. In addition, there were about 40 volunteers. The Rio Grande Village campground was selected as the race headquarters site as it has group camping areas bathrooms, a small store, and a good road allowing access.

Providing radio coverage for a 50 race may sound simple, but insert some mountains that may tower 3000 feet or more above the desert floor where the race runs. Luckily, the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club has a motorhome that contains a VHF repeater operating on 145.33, and has a portable emergency repeater operating on 145.23 that can be transported to remote locations, and a UHF link that ties the two repeaters together. The BBARC set up these repeaters Friday afternoon and tested them. The emergency repeater operates form battery and solar power and can be placed anywhere that one can drive to – a limitation not to be taken lightly out there. Some parts of the race course are within range of the permanent 146.82 repeater located at the North side of the park on Christmas Mountain. /this repeater is linked to other

Continued on page 7

BB50 Continued from page 6

repeaters in Ft. Stockton, Alpine, Marathon and a hub on Elephant Mountain. These repeaters are maintained by the BBARC on a very limited budget and largely with the support of Doug Otoupal N5HYD who runs a radio shop in Ft. Davis.

The race started as planned, other than the 15 minute delay in the 25k runners. Since it was a drive of 45 minutes to 2 hours to the various aid stations, volunteers had to be on the road and on site at dark thirty. Watching first light and sunrise on the desert is a breathtaking experience. There were a lot of scattered clouds adding to the spectacular sunrise. There was a “turtle” vehicle for each runner group, and the breakpoints kept a list of runner numbers so that we could account for all runners. Aid stations offered water, Heed (a Gatoraid like athletic drink), packages of gel, and a few other snacks for the runners. The only injuries were a few runners that fell down on the rocky, sometimes slippery trails.

But Mother Nature dealt some serious challenges. Rain (yes – rain on the desert) clouds passed through various parts of the course all day, pelting the runners with light rain at times, and making a mess out of some of the roads. The desert was already wet from rains in the last few days, and all that it took was another quarter inch or so to turn the desert roads into rocky surfaces with a cost of slippery goo on them. The road from Rio Grande Village race HQ to the finish line was closed for several hours, as the rain made it impassible. One of the vans had gotten stuck in the mud in one low spot that was particularly challenging. The race adjusted by transporting runners from the Finish Line to the “stuck point”, having the runners walk a couple hundred feet around, and then onto vans that could get back to race HQ. Keeping runners warm and comfortable (in the breezy rain) while these issues were worked out was challenging. Kathy Johnson (Milton’s – KE5CLV xyl) and others had runners wait in volunteers cars to get them out of the weather. For awhile, radio operators and other volunteers on the course had to take a long way around (adding 2 hours to the return trip) to avoid the “stuck point” or just wait until the rains were over and the road became passable again. The UHF repeater link became unreliable during the rain – and it came up and ran just fine after the rain stopped.

25k runners run at a much faster pace than 50k runners. Even with a 1hour delay, some of the 25 k runners overtook some the last 50K runners. It made counting the participants at the last couple of aid stations more difficult, in spite. The plan to have separate number groups and colors had a problem – two runners changed their mind and ran with the other group.

But all runners were easily accounted for and returned to Rio Grande Village HQ, where they were served a grilled chicken dinner. Some of the group proceeded to

uncork the wine and partied until a windy cold front blew through about 2:00 am Sunday morning.

Getting home appeared to be challenging. Although it was 40 degrees (and REALLY windy) as we broke camp, it was 30 degrees and snowing at the park entrance at Persimmon Gap. We drove on wet roads all the way home in temperatures of 26 to 32 degrees. But we encountered no ice until part of our group slid around the ramp at 1604 and IH 10. A rain shower hit Kerrville just after we passed and turned the roads into ice. And as we stowed camp gear at home, we saw the growing list of road closures in San Antonio from the ice storm – Whew!!.

We had a great time and look forward to doing this again next year.

Bandara 100k - Continued from page 3

until nearly 10pm. The Manleys volunteered to stay at their post the extra hour and a half so that those 2 volunteers out in the cold dark woods would have someone waiting to greet them when they came off the trail. They then picked up Charles, KD5ESX, at 10:30pm from CHAPAS and brought him to the Command Post. Charles’s HT batteries had almost died shortly before his relief, causing him to operate on low power at scheduled times (every 10 minutes) to try and conserve battery power. I loaned him a spare HT and battery, loaded him up on an ATV to ride up to LAST CHANCE which had been covered by Barry W5BLH. That location was accessible only by ATV or 4x4 truck.

Due to the higher level of drop-outs caused by the weather and muddy trails, higher level of injuries than expected, we were able to close the CROSSROADS break point (scheduled for 3am closure) by 1:30am, and the LAST CHANCE break point (scheduled for 5am closure) was closed at 3:30am. We dispatched an ATV to retrieve Charles KD5EXS and began to dismantle the external antennas used at the Start/Finish line. By 4pm we were ready to head back home. About 6 runners were known to be still on the last lap, but all were accounted for and the race director thought it would be safe for us to depart.

At least one of the trail riders has since indicted his interest in gaining an Amateur Radio license to improve future communications for this and other events their group is involved with. This event will repeat for the 7th annual run on January 5, 2008, a date which does not presently conflict with any other known ham radio event, so it ought to be possible to have more help, more relief help, so that each operator didn’t have to stay on-site for over 20 hours. The event was a good test of our radio equipment and spare batteries, and we learned what worked, and what didn’t.

Presidents's Column - Continued from page 1

Also, keep in mind that this is the time to pay your dues. Hopefully everyone received their renewal in the mail, and if you want to save the 39 cents postage why don't you just come to the meeting and pay there. If for some reason you didn't receive the renewal you can still pay at the meeting or contact one of the officers above or Claude KD5YZX our new Membership Chairman. The quicker we receive everyone's dues the faster we can publish the Roster. Look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Maintenance Report

by Gordon K5SUZ

All Repeaters are functioning normally, no major changes have occurred since the report given at the last SARO meeting. If you find any problems with any SARO owned and operated repeaters, please do not hesitate to contact me or any SARO officer direct on the air or via email and phone (listed in the SARO directory). The repeaters are there for a purpose, and that is to be used. If our members don't use the repeaters, why else do we have them on the air? With the reported plan to increase elevation for Austin's .94 repeater, you may be hearing that repeater more often than usual. You can set your radio to TONE SQUELCH using the 179.9 tone and you won't be bothered any longer by the skip from the other repeater.

SOME MAJOR PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS IN 2007

- April 21-22 2007 - MS150 Houston - Austin Bike Tour - 2 day. About 200 hams needed both days.
- May 19-20 2007 - American Diabetes Bike Tour SA-Austin- 2 day - NEW EVENT FOR HAMS - This group had been using commercial radios for last 5 years, so they are adding ham radio support this year for first time. About 60 hams needed both days.
- June 9-10 2007 - Texas Water Safari - 262 miles from San Marcos to Seadrift at the Gulf Coast. Canoe teams race from start to finish, non-stop, with ham operators at each check point to verify their arrival and relay info to the next check point
- October 20-21 2007 - MS150 SA - Corpus Christi Bike Tour - 2 Day / overnight. About 60 hams needed both days.
- November 11 2007 San Antonio Marathon - 1 day. About 60 hams needed.
- December 09-23 2007 Austin Zilker Park Trail of Lights - 15 nights About 15 hams needed every night.

Check out the Calendar of Events found at www.SanAntonioHams.org web site.

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 _____

Texas Considers Outlawing Mobile Radio Operations? or Just Cell Phones?

by 73, Frank KRIZAN Garland, TX

I'd like to empower everyone on this list with some useful information about the Texas Legislature. Go to <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>. On this page, you'll note a search feature at the top center of the page. Try "wireless" (without the quotes) and you'll get the current list of House and Senate bills which pertain to limiting use of "wireless" devices used in motor vehicles and others pertaining to use of "wireless" in school zones. There's another bill pertaining to authorizing custodians to communicate with children via electronic means (this bill should probably be modified to address incidental communications via radio, both licensed and unlicensed).

Note: While the following bills are strictly in the proposed stage at this point, and their intention is focused on curtailing the use of wireless cell phones while driving a motor vehicle, the current wording could be interpreted as also prohibiting the use of Amateur Radio or CB Radio while driving a motor vehicle, dependin upon the attitude of the arresting officer. - Editor

*80(R) SB 154 - Introduced version - Bill Text
Caption: Relating to an offense of using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.*

Excerpt: BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Section 545.425, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows: Sec. 545.425. USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE; OFFENSE [BY CERTAIN MOTORISTS]. (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), an operator may not use a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle unless: (1) the vehicle is stopped; or (2) the wireless communication device is used with a hands-free device.

*80(R) HB 200 - Introduced version - Bill Text
Caption: Relating to an offense of using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle in a school crossing zone.*

Excerpt: relating to an offense of using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle in a school crossing zone. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Section 545.425, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows: Sec. 545.425. USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE BY CERTAIN MOTORISTS; OFFENSE. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that date.

From the Home page, you'll notice "My TLO" from which you can receive Bill Alerts and set up your own set of "Bill Lists" to make it easier for you to monitor what's going on. Search around the Home page and you'll find how to contact your own Representatives and Senators. Additionally, it's important to contact the bill's authors.

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*80(R) SB 220 - Introduced version - Bill Text
Caption: Relating to the use of electronic communication by a conservator of a child to facilitate communication with the child.*

Excerpt: relating to the use of electronic communication by a conservator of a child to facilitate communication with the child. (b) If a conservator of a child requests the court to order periods of electronic communication with the child under this section, the court may award the conservator reasonable periods of electronic communication with the child to supplement the conservator's periods of possession of the child. In determining whether to award electronic communication, the court shall ...

*80(R) HB 397 - Introduced version - Bill Text
Caption: Relating to an offense of using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle in a school crossing zone.*

Excerpt: relating to an offense of using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle in a school crossing zone. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Section 545.425, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows: Sec. 545.425. USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE BY CERTAIN MOTORISTS; OFFENSE. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that date.

When the bill is assigned to Committee, sending emails to all the committee members certainly helps. Emailing, writing, calling and visiting your legislators to inform them about amateur radio is very important. Asking them to exempt amateur radio from laws, such as the ones you'll see when you do the search for "wireless", will help educate them on the importance of amateur radio. There's nothing currently directly affecting amateur radio when searches are done for "amateur radio", "radio" or "towers". In the past, some bills have been proposed which would have affected Hams. If anyone does any searches for other keywords and comes up with bills pertaining to Hams, I hope you'll list them here.

For more details, visit www.SanAntonioHams.org and click on the NEWS page. To see Senator Jeff Wentworth's opinion on his proposed SB154, visit www.wentworth.senate.state.tx.us/pr06/c122806a.htm and then contact him with your comments.



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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.

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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