



San Antonio Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 1753
San Antonio, Texas 78296

BULLETIN

“Serving the Amateur Community for 36 Years.”

July 2004

Volume 36 Number 3

Next General Membership Meeting July 23, 2004 - 7:30PM

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

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Alfred Horn, KG5QW
SARO 2004 President

Is it ever going to stop Raining? (In August we may be singing a different song.) One begins to feel a little water logged after a while. Because of the rain, the Texas Water Safari has been rescheduled twice this year. Only once before in its 40 year history has the river levels made it necessary to postpone the event. What a nightmare this has been for those recruiting volunteers to staff the many checkpoints. A very big THANKS to Eric WB5ZJQ for putting the Hams together for the event, three times in one year!

Coming up on October 2nd and 3rd will be the Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike To The Beach. Curtis N5QPN, Lyle KB5BSU, and I KG5QW have ridden this event in the past on our bicycles. I am the only one still riding on two wheels. We won't talk about the 1200cc motor on my current two-wheeler. If you have not had the pleasure of taking part in this fun event, let me encourage you to give me a call and get signed up. The goal for this year is 3500 Cyclists. This is quite a change from years past when only 300 participated. Here is the link to the MS web site <http://biketotheseach.ms150.org>.

If you are in the cafeteria for dinner in Beeville, there is the chance to have a little Sax. Now, now, I said SAX. Yours truly is the entertainment for dinner. You will find me with a

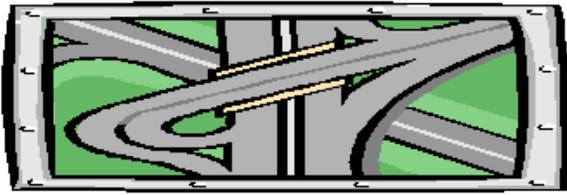
Soprano and Tenor playing some pop, easy listing, and my favorite swing. The big event will be a concert on stage outside. For those of you who like Rock and Roll, this concert is a must. I won't tell you the name of the group, you will just have to wait and see. Tony Ralf of the MS Society will most likely have his head shaved again (anything to raise money for the cause). Maybe we could talk Curtis N5QPN or Royce KA5OHJ to join in on the hair letting??



This bulletin will be our first on-line edition, not mailed to the general membership. After much discussion, it was determined that the Positives of doing it this way out-weighed the Negatives. For those not having an e-mail address, it will still be mailed. With this being internet-based, the editor has more freedom to be creative and not worried about font sizes and colors.

Remember that the July Meeting is on the 23rd. The meeting will be lead by your Vice President, Stanley KA5IID. I will be in North Carolina attending a motorcycle rally.

See Ya'll in October.



NEXT SARO MEETING July 23rd 2004 – 7:30PM

HOW TO GET THERE FROM HERE

...OR YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE

If you are planning to attend the SARO meeting and have not been to one before, or have been there, but keep forgetting how to find the Ruble Center where we meet, please read on. To help you find the Ruble Center there are two basic routes:

From IH-10 and Hildebrand travel east to McCullough and turn right (South) heading towards town. The second traffic light will be East Mulberry. The second left after E. Mulberry will be East Magnolia. Turn left on E. Magnolia and go 1 1/2 blocks. The Ruble Center will be on the left.

From IH-37 (McAllister Freeway) exit on E. Mulberry and travel west on E. Mulberry. You will come to Trinity Baptist Church (it's the big building on the right with a steeple, about 3 blocks from IH-37). At the end of the Church take the first left which is Carleton (please note the street sign is in the trees) and go 2 blocks South to E. Magnolia. The Ruble Center will be on the left.

For those needing further directions, or get totally lost, call on 146.94-, 147.36+ and 444.100+ and someone should be around who is able to help you out.

EchoLink Is Running On The SARO 146.94 Repeater

by Shane O'Neal AD5BR

SARO has introduced a new feature on the 146.94 repeater. Echolink has been in operation since May and has become a popular attraction, especially among many of the newer hams.

EchoLink software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology. The link radio, owned and operated by Shane O'Neal AD5PO, is a Yaesu FT-90R connected via a RIGblaster interface to a dedicated laptop with high speed cable modem access. The antenna is a three element beam pointed towards the repeater which allows for full quieting operation using just five watts.

According to the logs, contacts made on the .94 via Echolink include amateurs in Japan, Australia, Venezuela, Germany, Brazil, Thailand, South Africa, The UK, Italy, Austria, Morocco, Mexico, Korea and Switzerland as well as cities across the US. Some local hams have also used it to keep in touch with friends who are traveling or have moved out of the area. Visitors to San Antonio have used it to "phone home" by dialing up the node number of an Echolink station in their home area using the DTMF keypad on their radio.

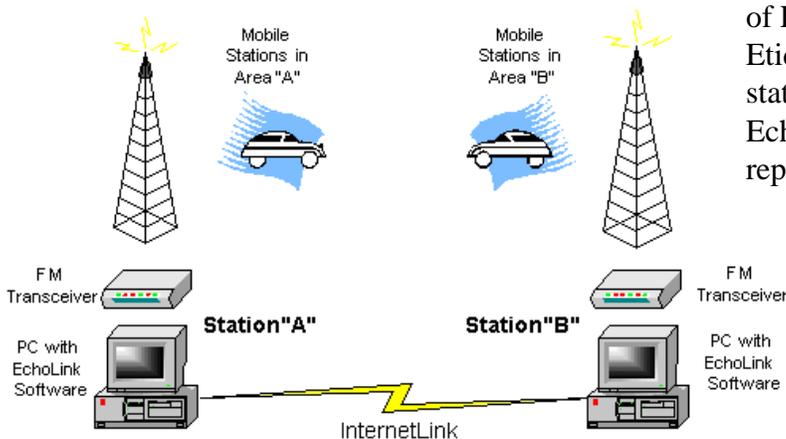
A typical QSO over Echolink works pretty much the same way as a local QSO on the repeater, except that allowances must be made for a slight delay (in the neighborhood of six seconds) when waiting for a response from the other station. All amateurs are welcomed and encouraged to respond to remote stations calling CQ over Echolink.

All SARO members and visitors to the San Antonio area are welcome to use the dial out feature of Echolink whenever the repeater is not in use. Etiquette is similar to that of a phone patch and stations should give their call sign and say "accessing Echolink" when initiating a connection from the repeater.

The code needed to disconnect an Echolink station is subject to change and can be obtained by contacting AD5PO at 210-473-4847, or sending email to shane@ad5po.com.

The FREE software for your computer is available by going to www.EchoLink.org to download it.

EchoLink Linking Example

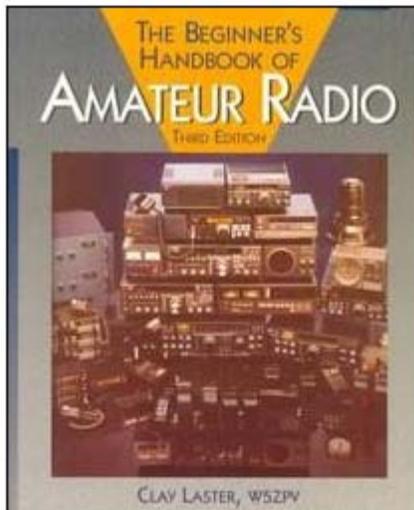


The Beginner's Handbook of Amateur Radio

by Clay Laster, W5ZPV

Back in the late 80's, with a revisions around 1993 and again in year 2000, our very own Clay Laster, W5ZPV wrote a book called "A Beginner's Guide to Amateur Radio". It was published and in fact, can be found in San Antonio's Public Library system to be checked out.

Scanning Ebay one night, I found a link to three different versions for sale. Version 2 published in 1988, Version 3 from 1993, and Version 4 published in year 2000. There was a photo of Version 2 that I found, but the listing expired before I could save the image onto my computer. I thought it would be a good article in the newsletter, so here it is.



His Version 3 book (revised 1993) was found with the following description:
395 Pages, Size: 9.3" x 7.5", Thickness: 0.8", Weight: 24.8 oz.

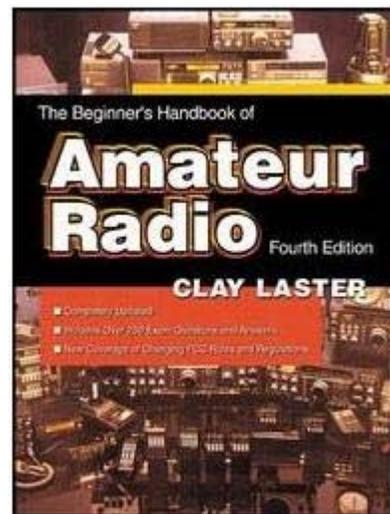
Publisher's Note: Here in one convenient, easy-to-read source is all the information you need to pass the FCC Novice and new 'No-code' technician amateur radio license exams the first time out! More than a helpful test preparation guide, this book tunes you in to all aspects of radio communications. Very nice condition.

And then there was version 4 published in 2000 which grew to a heavier, larger version ...
506 pages, Size: 9.0" x 7.3", Thickness: 1.5", Weight: 36 oz.

Publisher's Note: The essential A-to-Z Ham radio guide for radio hams, electronics hobbyists, and do-it-yourselfers—now completely updated to coincide with the new changes in the FCC novice exams. *Features a "mini-course" in basic electronics, emphasizing radio communications, so readers can begin "hamming"—as well as ideal, grade-boosting preparation for the FCC Novice or No-Code Technician Class license exams. Appendix is packed with 250 sample examination questions and answers.

Essential A-to-Z Ham Radio Guide: The revised edition of the most trusted guide in ham radio is here just in time to help you pass the new No-Code Technician Class exams! Used by thousands of ham operators to set up their first shortwave transmitters and to get their licenses, Clay Laster's *Beginner's Handbook of Amateur Radio, Fourth Edition* delivers all the guidance you need — from radio and electronics fundamentals needed to set up a transmitter to the newest equipment to revisions to the Federal Communications Commission rules and tests. If you want to communicate over the airwaves both locally and globally and listen in on conversations heard by very few, take this book home, and it will take you into the realm of communication, new friends, good times, and technical mastery beyond your dreams.

You get:
Understandable instruction in wave propagation, power supplies, and electronic circuits
Complete study guide for getting your Novice Operator or No-Code Technician Class licenses
Study hints for preparing for FCC exams
Shortwave operator's do's-and-don't's, practices and procedures
Appendix packed with 250 sample examination questions and answers.



Upcoming Events

- August 6 & 7, 2004 at the Red Lion Hotel at IH 35 & US 290, 6121 North IH 35. Dealer and swap area open Friday from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and will return at Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Sessions will run until 4 p.m. Saturday and the grand prize drawing will be at 4:30 p.m. For all the details check out: www.austinsummerfest.org
- August 6 2004 - The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$20.80 for the 10-year license term will go into effect August 6.
- October 2-3rd - MS 150 Bike to The Beach, radio operators needed to help man water stops, drive SAG vans, and other safety related issues. This event is a two day event and help is needed both days.
- Belton Ham-Expo will be October 2nd. Visit www.tarc.org for more info.

AMSAT-OSCAR Echo Amateur Radio Satellite

(Original info pulled from QRZ.COM web site)

The AMSAT-OSCAR Echo Amateur Radio satellite and several other payloads launched on schedule June 29 at 0630 UTC from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Ground controllers made their first contact with Echo at 1452 UTC and collected some telemetry to analyze before shutting down the 435.150 MHz digital downlink transmitter.

“This achievement is due to many individuals around the world, who have helped in the design, building, integration, testing and launching of this satellite,” said AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH.



Earth stations should not attempt to transmit on the satellite's uplink until checkout and commissioning are complete and AO-Echo has been made available for general use. AMSAT will release a bulletin when the satellite opens.

A telemetry decoding program, TLMEcho, is available for those who would like to view and report data from Echo. It may be downloaded at web.infoave.net/~mkmk518/echo.htm. Send CSV telemetry files to Mike Kingery, KE4AZN, ke4aznamsat.org.

AO-Echo's sun-synchronous orbit is some 800 km (nearly 500 miles) above Earth. Among other capabilities, the 10-inch-square microsat—equipped with a transmitter capable of up to 7 W output—will allow voice communication using handheld FM transceivers. Echo will feature V/U, L/S and HF/U operational configurations, with V/S, L/U and HF/S also possible. FM voice and various digital modes—including PSK31 on a 10-meter SSB uplink—also will be available.

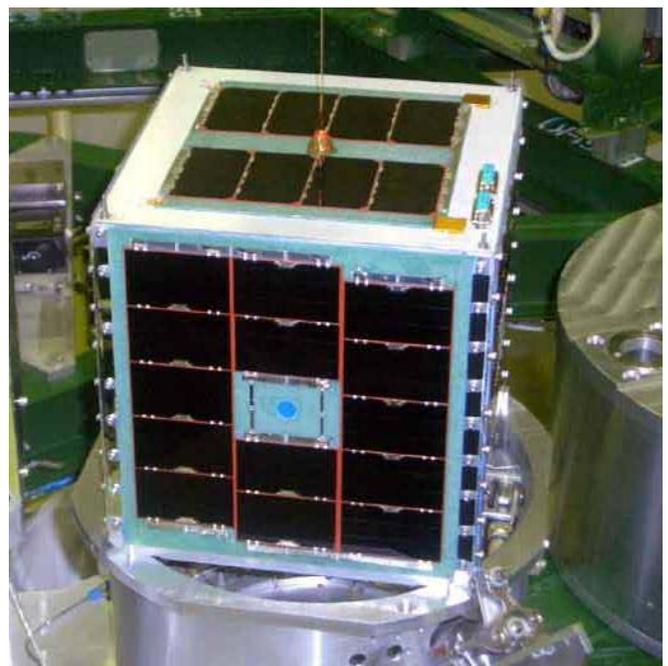
New Emergency Communications Group Seeks Volunteers in Comal County www.c-cars.org

Comal County Amateur Radio Service (C-CARS) is currently in the process of organizing amateur radio operators, within Comal County Texas, into an Emergency Service Communications Group, for the purpose of serving Comal County and surrounding counties as needed, during times of emergencies. C-CARS will function according to needs, as ARES, RACES, REACT, and SKYWARN.

C-CARS has requested permission to run a regular net on the SARO 147.14 repeater for training purposes, not traffic handling, on Wednesdays at 8pm local time.

To offer your support or to obtain more information, please contact the Comal County ARES Emergency Coordinator, Lyle Meek W6WF, on the air, or via one of the following methods... Phone: 830.609.3406, cell: 210.336.1585 or email <info@ccars.org>.

Visit the AMSAT AO-Echo Web page <www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo> for additional details.



Field Day 2004 A Big Success!

Even though SARO didn't host our own Field Day event, there were five area clubs / groups putting on an event for you to attend.

In the photo to the right, you see our very own Gordon, K5SUZ, on the ladder setting up a portable tower with a beam antenna. Can't keep Gordon away from equipment if it needs a bit of adjustment, can you? This photo was taken at the AARO FD event near the Medical Center area.

To learn more about what happened at this year's Field Day weekend, please visit the usual source of Ham information in this area, www.SanAntonioHams.org, to see photos from the other locations.



photo by Lee Besing

2004 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 _____



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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