



San Antonio Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 1753
San Antonio, Texas 78296

BULLETIN

“Serving the Amateur Community for 36 Years.”

October 2004

Volume 36 Number 4

Next General Membership Meeting October 22, 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

October is here and it seems that the Year just got started. As always, October brings elections for Board of Directors of the Repeater Organization. ALFRED KG5QW, Clay Laster W5ZPV and Stanley Stanunkinos KA5IID are the Director Positions which expire. Stanley and Alfred may run for the Board again, however, Clay has served two consecutive terms and must be off the Board for one year before serving again. On Friday night we will take nominations and I will appoint a chairman for the election committee. The Election is by Ballot which is mailed to the current membership. The results should be in around the middle of December with the new Board taking the helm on January 01, 2005.

Speaking of 2005, please keep in mind that as the new Board begins, they will be looking for volunteers to fill committee chairman positions. Are you good with data bases? A wiz at bookkeeping? Enjoy tinkering with old radios/repeaters? Have a knack for desktop publishing? Like to work or coordinate public service? They may be looking for YOU!

As many have already heard there is much talk of the 147.14 Machine (Buzzard Roost Repeater). The tower company is immediately doubling the rent with a 5% increase built in each year thereafter. We are seriously concerned about being able to continue to support the repeater at this ever-increasing cost. Rent for 2005 would be \$840.00 and by 2015 the cost would be \$1,368.27, assuming there are no further increases.



This price is for the tower space rental only, and we need to consider additional maintenance costs such as having a climber make a house call to the antenna or parts for the repeater itself. Although no final decisions have been made, several other groups have expressed an interest in taking over this repeater. The Board is looking at this carefully and is open to input.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming meeting. As usual, there will be a gathering after for food and libations.

MS150 Bike to the Beach 2004

by Shane O'Neal, NS5D



October 2nd and 3rd marked the 15th running of the annual **MS150 Bike to the Beach**, benefiting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. As they have done for the previous fourteen years, SARO members and their families and friends played a major role in making this year's bike tour a huge success. This year's tour raised \$1.3 million to help find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and improve the quality of life of those who suffer from MS.

More than 3000 riders began to assemble at the start line at Brooks City Base at 6am on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, Erik Smith (W5ETS) hopped on the industrial-sized highway broom (affectionately

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known as “Broom Hilda”) donated by Cooper Equipment and set off down US Highway 181 South to clear the route of obstacles. See photo above showing Erik driving Broomhilda.



At the same time, other hams left San Antonio to man the nine breakpoints along the first day’s 84 mile route. Still more hams converged on the parking lot of Burger King, across the street from the base, driving the twelve passenger “SAG” vans which are used to carry tired and injured riders and their bicycles to the breakpoints.

There were also hams at the start line, acting as “shadows” for the event directors, and a ham accompanied the supply truck and the ambulance supervisor.

Ordinarily a ham would be required to shadow the Safety Director on an event this size. But in this case, a ham *was* the Safety Director. As a cannon fired, the first group of riders bolted from the start line at 7am, lead by Safety Director Curtis Rabenaldt (N5QPN) riding in a Bexar County Sheriff’s vehicle. Curtis changed cars at almost every county line along the route due to the various jurisdictions.



See photo above with Curtis riding in a Nueces County Patrol Car (and not in the back seat you’ll notice).

As the rest of the riders left the start line, support motorcycles, led by Motorcycle Director Spencer Smith (K5SAS), made sure the riders stayed on the shoulder of the highway and reported riders needing assistance to the SAGs. Last, but far from least, Stanley Stanukinos (KA5IID) brought up the rear as “The Turtle”, assigned to follow the last rider on the course.

No sooner had the last rider left the start line when a strong downpour began. Most riders were undaunted however, and continued southward through the heavy rain. Only a few took advantage of the numerous SAGs to get them to the safety and dryness of the next breakpoint. Eventually the rain let up and it stayed dry for most of the remainder of the tour.

As the morning went on, Michael Lay (N5PTN) started up a directed net on the 147.340 repeater (kindly loaned to SARO by the ROOST club). Having a directed net meant that stations wishing to communicate with each other had to go through Net Control. Tactical callsigns, such as “Break Point 1” and “SAG 3” were used to



MS150 (Continued from page 2)

indicate the purpose of each station. This made things run more smoothly and cut down on the amount of “doubling” and unnecessary chatter.

The .34 repeater was used until the SAGs and motorcycles crossed Break Point 3 in Poth, when they switched to the 147.200 repeater in Kenedy. At this point, Herm Haertel (N5CNH), Shane O’Neal (NS5D) and Communications Director Gil (AA5XH) alternated as Net Control until Michael reached the overnight point at Coastal Bend College in Beeville. Then Shane and Michael took turns as Net Control for the remainder of the day. At one point, the 147.200 repeater went down, and there were a few nervous moments as Shane (see photo) went to reverse to ask all stations to switch to 147.300 in Beeville.



Within a few minutes the SAG vehicles had passed the word up and down the route on simplex, and shortly thereafter all stations had switched to the new frequency. One of the repeater control operators, Jesse Royall (KC5LOS), made sure everyone had the right tone and turned off the IRLP node to avoid interference with the net. Although he was not expecting us, Jesse and the .300 machine came through for the MS150 operators. Big thanks go to Jesse on behalf of SARO and the MS Society!

After the last riders made their way into Beeville that afternoon, a weary bunch of hams checked into their hotel rooms and made arrangements for dinner. When they arrived in the cafeteria,

what did their eyes and ears behold but our very own Alfred KG5QW playing the SAX. (See photo at right)



This photo shows Milton (KE5CLV) {yellow shirt facing left}, his wife and daughter {leaning on table} plus other unknown folks enjoying dinner in the cafeteria.



A large group of hams met up at Shorty’s restaurant in Beeville, where they were joined by Jesse (KC5LOS), while others cooked out by the pool at

the hotel. See photo above of group at Shorty’s.



Support crew helps distressed handicapped rider with flat tire while “Turtle” watches and blocks traffic on road.

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MS150 (Continued from page 3)

The following morning, on Sunday, everyone got up at 5:30am and by 7am were again headed south with the MS150 riders on the road to the finish line at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi. The 147.08 repeater in Sinton was used for the rest of the tour. Early on in the course, a major accident was called in to the net by SAG 4, driven by Milton Johnson (KE5CLV). As Milton left the vehicle to assist in securing the scene, his eleven year old daughter Meghan, although not yet a ham, expertly manned the radio during this emergency and gave status reports to Net Control. Meanwhile, Nancy Dial (WB5TCX) guided an AMR ambulance to the scene and the victim was rushed back to Beeville for treatment and later air lifted to Corpus Christi due to the nature of the injury. Net Control used the hams in the SAGS to locate the injured rider's team captain and have him transported to the hospital to provide additional information.

Numerous other incidents, such as a rider with a broken arm, and more minor items such as shortages of supplies and personnel at the breakpoints, and a BB-gun sniper along the route, made for a hectic second day of the tour. MS150 staff at the finish line kept in touch with Net Control via their commercial radios, and received instant updates as to the status of supply requests and the location of the last riders. This information helped the staff make critical decisions about logistics and helped them keep the families of several handicapped riders informed as to their welfare and progress.

Finally, late on Sunday afternoon, the last riders crossed the finish line to the cheers of volunteers and other riders. Behind them were the dedicated hams of SARO in SAG vehicles, SUVs, on motorcycles and in a Sheriff's car.

Though exhausted from a long weekend's work, the hams were in good spirits as they left the Aquarium, and most were talking about how they would do it better next year.



SAG 12 leaves riders at Break Point 8 at bicycle repair



Stan (KA5IID) rides in Turtle while Cynthia (x1) drives and Cynthia (x2) observes from back seat. One of those antennas was running APRS while the others ran 2 meters, 440 and who knows what other freqs? Everybody watched out for that strobe because it meant the end of the riders was near.

Photos in this issue; page 2 "Erik on Broomhilda" courtesy Diana Taylor KD5SXI. All other photos courtesy Lee Besing, N5NTG.

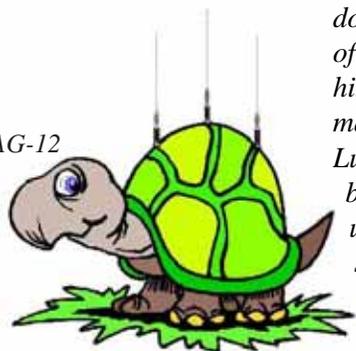


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MS150 (Continued from page 4)

On behalf of SARO president Alfred Horn (KG5QW), and MS Society Vice President Roy Rangel, SARO would like to thank the following 2004 MS150 radio operators:

Barbara Rabenaldt (N5RZH) *BP-1 both days*
Frances Draper (KB5TMI) *BP-2 both days*
Wendell Peters (AA5VN) *BP-3 day one*
Herm Haertel (N5CNH) *BP-4 day one & finish line day two*
Betty West (KC5VJR) *BP-4 day one & finish line day two*
Melissa Hall (KC5KIU) *BP-5 day one*
Chuck Kenworthy (WB5FWI) *Lunch both days*
Bill Randolph (KC5KGJ) *Lunch day one*
Dale Best (N5YER) & Terry Best *BP-6 day one*
Charlie Manley (W5BRC) *BP-7 day one*
Barbara Manley (KA5RLF) *BP-7 day one*
Dale Robinson (KB5YSJ) *BP-8 day one & BP-4 day two*
Linda Robinson (KC5QPQ) *BP-8 day one & BP-4 day two*
Michael Lay (N5PTN) *Net Control*
Gil Mathis (AA5XH) *Communications Director & Net Control*
Shane O'Neal (NS5D) *Route Director's shadow & Net Control*
Alfred Horn (KG5QW) *Motorcycle Director*
MaryAnn Horn (N5MYN) *MS Steering Committee Mbr*
Nancy Dial (WB5TCX) *Medical*
Josh Draper (KD5IGA) *Supply*
Bill Lamb (KE5AFL) *Tour Director's shadow*
Curtis Rabenaldt (N5QPN) *Safety Director*
Lyle Turner (KB5BSU) *Route Marker*
Spencer Smith (K5SAS) *Motorcycle Director*
Anita Smith (K5GRT) *Motorcycles*
Erik Smith (W5ETS) *Broomhilda*
Christina Smith (W5CLS) *Broomhilda Escort*
Gordon Dial (K5SUZ) *SAG-1*
Liliane Bell (KC5AQP) *SAG-1*
Royce Taylor (KA5OHJ) *SAG-2*
Diana Taylor (KD5SXI) *SAG-2*
Doug Brown (KK5LA) *SAG-3*
Terri Brown (KC5ANR) *SAG-3*
Milton Johnson (KE5CLV) & Meghan Johnson *SAG-4*
Eric Olson (WB5ZJQ) *SAG-5*
Lee Besing (N5NTG) *SAG-6*
Pat Knight (AD5BR) *SAG-6*
Don Turner (KD5HQI) *SAG-7*
Norm Fulkerson (AD5EF) *SAG-8*
Billy Sparks (N5TCT) *SAG-9*
Louis Turner (K5LT) *SAG-10*
Clayton Sparks (KC5ZWE) *SAG-11*
Kathy ?? (non-ham, from Houston) *SAG-12*
Don Bannon (AB5XI) *SAG-13*
Melissa Bannon (KD5NNO) *SAG-13*
Paul Morton (KG8XY) *SAG-14*
Don Kirchner (W5DK) *SAG-15*
Susan Edwards (KB5ICO) *SAG-16*
Randy Edwards *SAG-16*
Mike Hardwick (N5VCX) *SAG-17*
Stanley Stanukinos (KA5IID)
& Cynthia(x2) Turtle



KA5IID



SAGS park under bridge after race was finished.



Some of the SAG drivers marked their vans with white shoe polish on windows with their SAG number, call signs, or words of encouragement, in addition to all the "official" signs that were provided to identify them as SAG vehicles for the MS150. Above was SAG 6 driven by Lee N5NTG and Pat AD5BR. Amber lights came in real handy for these normally very slow moving vehicles. There was even talk about encouraging a MS150 Decoration Contest for next year. The large numbers made it easier to identify which SAT was wick, considering they mostly all looked the same.

Chuck Kenworthy (WB5FWI) doesn't let much of anything slow him down. Chuck manned the Lunch Reststop both days as usual. Photo shows him talking on his radio at the finish line.



Membership Report

by Betty West, KC5VJR

As of the end of September, we are sitting at 213 members registered. Here are the latest updates to the roster as of October 1, 2004.

W5BRC

“CHARLIE” CHARLES R. MANLEY
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KB5GXN

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W9HWP

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KJ5PS

DON KIRCHNER
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WB9STU

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Maintenance Report

by Gordon Dial K5SUZ



First let me apologize for not maintenance article last quarter. I promise to do better!

Let's start off with the 147.14 machine, more commonly known as "The Buzzard's Roost".

Thanks to Dave Hammer (W3DH), the sensitivity problem appears to have been improved. It appears that when the top 400 feet were removed from the tower and our antenna was moved from 880 feet to 580 feet, one of the four dipoles were damaged.

Dave was able to repair the dipole as well as check the coax connector, which had been the problem in the past. Also, the tower company requested we move the repeater from the portable building in which it had been housed into the main building. We have also been offered better coax, since several have been abandoned.

The six meter system (the 53.13/52.13) is down at the present, but I hope to have it back up shortly. It is a Mastr Pro and has three tubes in the transmitter. I have a Mastr II cabinet and power supply and will attempt to integrate a mobile into this cabinet so this repeater can be all solid state.

Roger (WA5ONR) has checked out the 22 tower package (22 receiver, link receiver and transmitter) and I hope to have the 22/82 repeater back up shortly. I also need to re-tube the 82 transmitter, even though we have a Mastr II system in the works.

Roger is still negotiating placing the alternate, no-tone 34 site back on the air. If you will remember, the antenna and coax were destroyed by lightning.

The 146.78 machine has developed a de-sense problem and I am still working on that.

Well, that covers most of the topics. Again, should any member experience a problem with any of the SARO equipment, please give me, Stanley (KA5IID) or Roger (WA5ONR) a call. We are all good in the SARO directory.

Nominations to SARO Board

Please come to the meeting prepared to nominate to fill 3 positions on the SARO Board. Any SARO member in good standing may be nominated. Permission from the nominee in writing must be obtained if nominee is not present at that time. Nominations will be made only at the October meeting, ballots will be mailed in November, with new officers in January. See President's article for more info on who's terms are expiring, etc..

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 _____

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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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Treasurer:
 Herm Haertel N5CNH
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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