

Socorro Amateur Radio Association

"If it happens, it's news to us"

SARA News

www.socorroara.org

June 2006

MEETINGS

The May Meeting

... was called to order by Vice-President Glenn Mauger at 7:37 pm with eleven members in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

The Treasurer's Report

... was given by Glenn Mauger: The bank account shows \$4000.35; there is one check outstanding in the amount of \$140. Treasury report was accepted.

Abstract of Minutes

- The Mock Disaster in Magdalena went well, particularly with regard to communications from the scene relayed to Socorro General Hospital.
- We are ready to obtain and install the weather radio receiver for the police dispatch center.
- The County's acquisition of the old BLM building will provide room for an Emergency Operations Center as well as a place for the ARES trailer.
- SARA support of the Cerrillos del Coyote bike race was well received by the promoters of the event.
- This year SARA will again field to stations for the annual ARRL Field Day – one at Datil Well campground (W5AQA) and another at Clarke Field in Socorro (KC5ORO). The ARES trailer will be featured at Clarke Field and at a meeting of the County Commission before Field Day.
- SARA officers were empowered to finalize the Hamfest date when the Fire Academy availability and ARES matters become clear.

· A slate of officers was presented and elected unanimously. Vern Leavitt is our new President, Glenn Mauger is Vice President, Bill Brundage is Treasurer, and Eric (Bear) Albrecht is Secretary. Terms of office will be until the next election at the May 2007 meeting.

· Kalman Oravec reported that at the recent VE testing session eight new Technician licenses were earned and one ham upgraded from General to Extra. One of the new Technicians is Prescott Grey, KE5IHY, who is already a member.

The complete minutes are available online from www.socorroara.org/.

The June Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1930 hrs on June 14th in the SEC house on 5th St. just north of Manzaneras.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'm sitting here in front of my computer with writers block. That's pretty easy for me to do, seeing as I'm new to this sort of thing. Not knowing what sort of things that I should be writing to the members, I'll just ramble for awhile. See if you can hang with me.

First let me say that I am honored that you all have chosen me to lead you for the next year, or did I get roped into it 'cuz no one else would do it? I'm also humbled by all of the accomplishments of so many of you members.

Next, let's talk of the things that we have done in the past couple of years since I have been with SARA. We've done the BIGGIE, the hamfest every year. That's a lot of work but it's worth it because it is one of the best that's done in the state. We do field day, and provide communications for The Fat

Tire bicycle race, and the Chili Harvest Triathlon. We also maintain a couple of repeaters up on the mountain, that are available for all the hams in the area, or anyone just passing through. We do the ARES check in once a week, and have several members that are active with the LEPC. We have members that are working on the emergency communications trailer for the county, donating a lot of their precious time. These are things that are good for the club and community, and need to be continued. We noticed that as we look around at the faces at the meetings, there is a bit of a reduction in numbers. This is something that could use some improvement, so I am requesting all members to put their thinking caps on and come to the meeting with some fresh ideas as to what things we can do to get the attendance up. Your opinions are important to the success of the club, so I'm looking forward to your input.

Vern KD5UHB, over & out for now

SARA NEWS

Return of *SARA NEWS* ---

For many years (and long before I became a ham) *SARA News* was a central part of each month for hams in Socorro - reminding us of monthly meetings, reporting on association activities, alerting the membership to upcoming events and issues, letting us know when our memberships expired and generally creating a sense of community. When I joined SARA, Monte Bateman was the editor and after he moved up to the presidency of SARA, I took a turn as editor. Since then Doug Staley, Jim Oty and Bear Albrecht have been among those to serve as editors. During those times *SARA News* was an important thread in the fabric of SARA. For far too long *SARA News* has not appeared. Hopefully this issue marks the return of *SARA News* for a long time to come.

All new editions of *SARA News* will be available online. Although they are not yet well organized some past issues are currently available online from the SARA web pages. I plan to add to past issues so that we have as complete a record of *SARA News* as we can assemble. To begin with, each member will receive a paper copy of the newsletter. After we've done this for a bit, members will be given the option to forego the paper copy and to receive

emailed digital versions of *SARA News*. Editions will be timed to appear in the week prior to the monthly meeting. As time progresses, I hope to include a list of topics for each meeting and if possible an agenda for the business portion of meetings. I hope that you will look forward to the arrival of each edition.

Which brings me to the last point to be made. This is your newsletter. Please contribute to it. If you have announcements, suggestions, gripes or whatever, let me know about them. You can email me (kb5yiw@arrl.net) or snail mail to the return address listed on the last page where the address label would go.

(D. Johnson - Ed.)

***Membership Status* ---**

This edition is going to current members and recent past members for whom we have addresses. Before I go further, let me point out that our membership records are in some disarray, but we're trying to fix that. If you will examine the address label, you will note what we have been led to believe is your membership status. The entry "Exp.: mm/dd/yy is what the database records as your membership expiration date. If you have renewed and the date on the label indicates that you have not, let me know (kb5yiw@arrl.net) when you renewed (as best you can approximate such things) and for how long. We will enter that information in the membership listings. If you have let your membership lapse, please consider renewing your membership and contribution to amateur radio in Socorro County. If you are not a member, consider becoming a member. SARA members have interests that pretty much span the breadth of interests in amateur radio, but we are particularly involved maintaining the SARA repeater (146.68 - , 100 Hz tone), and with community and emergency service.

***Nets* ---**

Weekly ARES net at 8:00 pm local on
Wednesdays on the SARA Repeater [146.68(-)]

***Gatherings, gatherings* ---**

June 14, 2006 — SARA monthly meeting - location TBA. SARA meetings are held, beginning at 7:30

pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except December). Currently we are back in the SEC house on 5th St. just north of Manzaneras.

Everyone is invited to coffee every Saturday ~8:00 to 9:30 am at McDonalds on Saturday mornings.

Upcoming events ---

June 24-25, 2006 — ARRL Field Day. SARA will field two stations: at Datil Wells and at Socorro's Clark Field.

Amateur Radio Digest

From the ARRL

Riley Hollingsworth to Amateur Radio Community: "LIGHTEN UP!"

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth advised those attending the FCC forum at Dayton Hamvention 2006 to try kindness instead of confrontation when problems arise on the bands. Hollingsworth spoke May 20 to a nearly full house at Hara Arena, and for the most part he praised the behavior of the majority of Amateur Radio operators, especially those who volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last year. But, he noted, radio amateurs still could be more courteous and less inclined to fly off the handle at some perceived on-the-air offense. ... (see: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/06/0526/>).

FCC Won't Say Publicly When It Will Act On Morse Code Issue

All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a Report and Order (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly. Before tackling the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up another important Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, the so-called "omnibus" or "phone band expansion" proceeding. Responding to an

ARRL inquiry, FCC personnel would not go on the record and declined even to hazard a ballpark guess on when the FCC might act on either Amateur Radio proceeding. ... (see: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/06/0519/>)

House Committee Okays Telecoms Bill with BPL-Interference Study Amendment

ZCZC AG07 QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 7 ARLB007 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT April 28, 2006

House Committee Okays Telecoms Bill with BPL-Interference Study Amendment The US House Energy and Commerce Committee's version of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006 includes an amendment requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The panel voted April 26 to send the much-talked-about "telecoms rewrite" bill to the full House for its consideration. "Outstanding news!" was the reaction of ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. ... (see: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/2006-arlb007.html>)

Vanity call sign fee poised to drop slightly later this year

ZCZC AG05 QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 5 ARLB005 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT March 27, 2006

Vanity call sign fee poised to drop slightly later this year The FCC wants to reduce the Fiscal Year 2006 regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The current vanity fee is \$21.90. The Commission proposed the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006," in MD Docket 06-68, released March 27. If ordered as proposed, the new vanity fee would become effective in August or September. The FCC is obligated to collect nearly \$289 million in regulatory fees during FY 2006 to fund its operations. ... (see: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/2006-arlb005.html>)



Jon Spargo (KC5NTW) at the radio in the ARES trailer at the Magdalena Disaster Drill. Photo by Paula Riley.

Join SARA

If you are a member seeking to renew or a ham new to the Socorro area, joining SARA is easy and inexpensive. Download a membership application

SARA News
1307 Lopezville Rd.
Socorro, NM 87801

(from www.socorroara.org/SARAform.html) and send it with a check for \$10 (\$15 for family memberships) to: Socorro Amateur Radio Association, 722 N. California St., Socorro, NM 87801 or drop by the Socorro Radio Shack and say that you would like to join.

Submissions to SARA Newsletter

Contributions related to amateur radio will be considered for inclusion in *SARA News*. Text should be of general interest to readers, and on the order of 200 to 300 words. Each month ads to buy, sell or trade may be included. The usual caveat applies, items must be ham related. Material will be included on a space available, first come, first served basis; and pretty much at the discretion of the editor. To be assured of consideration for the next newsletter, material must be received by the 25th day of the month. I would prefer to have submissions in the form of an ascii file or as text in an email message. Send email to kb5yiw@arrl.net or snail mail to SARA News, 1307 Lopezville Rd., Socorro, NM 87801. (D. Johnson - Ed.)