

Socorro Amateur Radio Association

"All the news that fits, we print"

SARA News

www.socorroara.org

September 2006

MEETINGS

The August Meeting

... was called to order by President Vern Leavitt at 7:30 PM in the clubhouse.

The Treasurer's Report

Bill Brundage reported that as of the 4th of July there was \$3955.35 in the bank account; On August 9, the balance was \$3776.14. Of that, \$280.08 belongs to TARA, so the club's balance is \$3496.06

Abstract of the Minutes

- Incorporation: The 501(c)(3) application has been completed, and is ready to file. Three o complete the task checks will be written to the State of New Mexico, Rick Penner and the IRS totaling \$577.20. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay these and be done with it.
- Jon Spargo announced that we have received a 3kW generator for the ARES trailer, thanks to a gift of \$1500 from Rosie Tripp and \$100 from the Rotary Club.
- The repeater is up and running in the trailer. The HF has yet to be installed .
- Jon Spargo would like to have a small weather station included.
- Records indicate expenses of \$3200 and deposits of \$2300 for last year's hamfest. Dave Finley and Bill Brundage are looking into getting Lodger's Tax money from the city.
- Chile Harvest Triathlon (Bill Brundage) - There are enough operators volunteered. Radio operators are to meet at 7 AM at the corner of El Camino Real and Francisco de Avondo.
- David Beres (guest of Jon Spargo), is interested in getting his students at Alamo into ham radio. The Superintendent (Alfonso Garcia) is ham. Johnson will obtain a copy of

the Technician textbook for Beres. A motion was passed pursue this.

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

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

The September Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1930 hrs on September 13th in the SEC house on 5th St. just north of Manzaneras.

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

Guess what folks? It's time for a load of whiz dumb from the pres again.

For those of you that attended the last meeting, you will remember that Jon brought a guest from Alamo. A teacher by the name of David Beres. He wishes to teach his students about the ham radio world. After a bit of discussion with him we decided that it could be a good thing for SARA to get involved and help him with the lesson planning. This is another good thing that SARA is doing, and Jon will keep us informed as to what and when we are to get involved.

SARA Repeater

The Socorro Amateur Radio Association supports a VHF repeater located on Socorro Peak immediately west of Socorro. The repeater and autopatch are "open" and the autopatch is accessed/terminated using "*/#". Local emergency service can be reached by keying "911."

146.68 (-)

100 or 123 Hz required

123 Hz on output

- See You At The Meeting -

- Have you used the SARA repeater today? -

For the August meeting George Van Winkle was to give his campaign speech, however he failed to show. No reason was ever given. For the September meeting our guest speaker will be Bill Winn, chairman of Langmuir Laboratory. I know that a lot of you will be interested in what he has to say about the lightning research he and his group are doing, so please show up and have some questions in mind that he will surely want to answer.

In case some of you are complaining about all the water that we have been getting lately, it is only slightly more than a month ago that you were complaining about how hot and dry it was. How's that for some whiz dumb?

When we were installing the weather radio at the 911 center, it was noticed that the city had replaced their old tower with a larger one, and left the old one laying in the parking lot. Upon discussion with the mayor, he said if we would submit a letter requesting the tower be donated to us, he would see to it that the city would be happy to donate it to us. With the recent depletion of our treasury for the 501C3 project, the acquisition of said tower and placement of same on the auction block at the hamfest, we could replenish the treasury somewhat. Do we have a volunteer to write such a letter?

That's it for now, over and out.

Vern Leavitt KD5UHB

SARA NEWS

LINDA and AL RADER - We are deeply saddened by news of the passing of Linda Rader - wife of longtime SARA member Al Rader (WA5POL) - on Sunday evening the 20th of August. Graveside services were held at Sunset Memorial Park in

Officers

President: Vern Leavitt - KD5UHB
Vice President: Glenn Mauger - WB5OAF
Secretary: Eric Albrecht - W5VZB
Treasurer: Bill Brundage - NM5WB
Past President: Ed Wood - KD5MFS
SARA News Editor: Dave Johnson - KB5YIW

Albuquerque on August 24th. Keep Al in your thoughts and prayers too. He is scheduled for spinal surgery on Aug 31st. Although we don't see Al much at the monthly meetings, he is a stalwart of the Datil Well Field Day "Knothole Gang."



Newly purchased generator for the communications trailer.

SOCORRO CHILI HARVEST TRIATHLON - On the morning of Saturday 12 August, five SARA members provided radio communications for the annual Socorro Chile Harvest Sprint Triathlon. Sprint means a 400 meter swim, then a 20 kilometer bike course followed by a 5 kilometer run, which is shorter than a standard triathlon. Tom Frawley KA0YYP maned the first (north) bike turn around and Dave Johnson KB5YIW monitored (and handed out a few water bottles) at the second (south) bike turn around. Vern Leavitt KD5UHB monitored and directed run traffic at the turn from El Camino Real to/from Newberry, and Clarence Seagraves AA5RH monitored the run turn around at the west end of Newberry. Bill Brundage NM5WB ran both the net and around the transition area at the city pool as well as communicating info to/from the race director. This was one of our annual public service events that shows the community and athletes from around the state, and beyond, what hams can do. All five hams concluded the triathlon with a warm fuzzy feeling for a job well done in addition to a neat staff tee shirt, a triathlon hat and a little sunburn. (Bill Brundage/NM5WB)

- Encourage a friend to join SARA -

REPEATER REPORT - Last month this space reported that the autopatch was not operational. Even before most of you read of that in the August newsletter, it was operational again. The SARA repeater resides in a building on Socorro Peak that is owned by New Mexico Tech and administered by Tech's Information Services Department (ISD). The phone line used for the autopatch is provided gratis by ISD. Bob Tacker who heads up ISD has been very generous to SARA over the years, in part because we are a public service organization providing backup for the community. When the phone line takes a lightning strike, ISD crews are the ones who do the work. When their plates are full, repairs can take a while. More typically the repairs are accomplished within a day or so - the case last month. Updates about the status of the repeater are available at www.socorroara.org.

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

Gatherings, gatherings --- SARA monthly meeting - 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 ---

- September 2, 2006 — Alamogordo Hamfest; Otero County Fairgrounds. Talk-in using 146.800 MHz.
- September 23, 2006 — Deming Amateur Radio Annual Tailgate. Contact Charlie Brown, N9RU, 713 West Spruce, #161, Deming, NM 88030, for details.
- October 28, 2006 — SARA/TARA Hamfest, New Mexico Fire Academy, Socorro, NM.

From the Editor ---

The saying goes, "time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana." This marks the fourth edition of *SARA News* since I assumed responsibility for the enterprise. In the first of these editions (June 2006), I suggested that after we'd had a chance to

work out some pressing matters, you would be offered the option of receiving your *SARA News* electronically. I won't insist that there are **no** other pressing matters, but at this time I am prepared to offer digital distribution. Each *SARA News* is already online (click on the "About SARA" link at <http://www.socorroara.org/>), but I am prepared to attach newsletters to emails sent directly to the email address where you would like to have it sent. There are several reasons why this might appeal to folks. If you are concerned about the demise of the world's forests and the onset of global warming this is a way to "save a tree." I suspect that this may not be your most compelling reason for doing so. I can find almost everything on my computer in a few seconds. I can spend a day pawing through the pile of papers on my desk and never find the utility bill that is due tomorrow. One certain benefit is that you will be "in the know" a couple days before those who rely on the U.S.P.S.

If you are interested in digital (pdf) versions of *SARA News* send me an email addressed to kb5yiw@arrl.net. Pdf stands for "Portable Document Format." The most common software used to access pdf files is Adobe Acrobat. Acrobat Reader is a free download and if you would like to have the latest version, visit the web page at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

I would appreciate responses to each of the following - particularly if you want to adjust the way you receive *SARA News*:

1. Would you like to receive SARA News as a pdf attachment? (yes/no)
2. Would you like to continue receiving mailed copies? (yes/no)
3. (if the email you send will not originate from the address where you would like to receive SARA News) What email address(es) would you like *SARA News* sent to?

The only responses to the questions above that I would hope to not receive is "no" and "no" (you don't want either) unless you plan to view it online. You certainly may elect to receive both. (Dave Johnson/KB5YIW)



Glenn Mauger (WB5OAF and leader of Mauger's Marauders) proudly displays the sign given him to recognize his hard work on the communications trailer.

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

(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 News*

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.)

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