

Socorro Amateur Radio Association

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

SARA News

www.socorroara.org

March 2008

MEETINGS

The February Meeting

Abstract of the Minutes:

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm by President Vern Leavitt. Sixteen members were in attendance.

Speaker: Mike Bilbo from the Socorro Bureau of Land Management Office presented a talk on the "Leave No Trace" philosophy.

Announcements:

- Condolences were extended to Glenn Mauger (WB5OAF) on the passing of his brother.
- The 2008 Tour of Socorro, sponsored by the Socorro Striders and Riders is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday April 19th and 20th. SARA has been asked to again provide communications for the event.

Treasurer's Report: As of January 31, 2005 the balance in the SARA account is \$4,904.87 of which \$320.08 represents the TARA balance.

ARES/LEPC: The current focus of the LEPC is on hazardous materials.

Old Business:

- A 70 cm link receiver has been obtained for repeater control. Installation is not scheduled.
- Hamfest Report - A final tally of earnings and expenses from the 2007 SARA/TARA Hamfest indicated net income of \$1,077.

New Business:

- Glenn Mauger has recommended that Paul Chock (WA5IHL) be awarded an Honorary

SARA Membership for his many contributions to the association. Moved, seconded and passed.

- A recommendation from Jay Miller (WA5WHN) to incorporate TelPac into the Socorro-area was communicated to those present. Discussion followed.
- The 2008 Field Day was discussed briefly. Tentatively plans are to again have one station in Socorro and another at Datil Well.
- Vern Leavitt announced that association elections were scheduled for the May meeting and asked that members consider serving as an officer of the association.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm local.

The March Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel St. Stan Bren (AC5TW) will be the guest speaker. If you have entered Socorro via I-25 southbound at Exit 150 and never noticed the towers on the right, you are to be congratulated for your focus on defensive driving. Of course is also says something about how deeply you are into amateur radio. Well, those belong to AC5TW.

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? -

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

How about that? Another month has gone by and you get to read another collection of the Presidents ramblings. Well don't despair, there's good news on the horizon. Bill Brundage and Al Brawn had both been asking that I



secure the speaking services of Stan Bren AC5TW. My feeble attempts over several months to contact him were unsuccessful, however when Stan walked into the radio shack, Al cornered him, and pressured him into being our speaker for the March 12th meeting. From what I understand, Stan is quite knowledgeable in WWII radios and their history as he has historically restored a few of some very important Navy varieties. You won't want to miss this meeting, so mark it down on your calendar and if you have anything else marked there already, scratch it off and make the meeting your priority.

As some of you know my significant other, Paula, has gone on a trip back to California for a few weeks, and left me here to fend for myself. However she will be back for the March meeting. This brings up some issues that we sometimes don't think about until conditions around us change to the point that brings them to the front of our consciousness. Our SARA organization is made up of a wide range of personalities. Each and every one of these personalities contributes to what makes SARA what it is. I know that I've not been associated with SARA as long as some of you,

Officers

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

but during the time I have been a member, I grown to appreciate each and every one of you even though I may not have mentioned my gratitude for you in the meetings or in my column. As with any organization, a core group of people are the ones that do most of the work. For a group to remain vibrant it is necessary for that core group to change off from time to time. With this thought in mind I ask those of you that aren't now or haven't in the past been part of that core group, to step forward and volunteer your services. As was stated in the last Presidents Column, elections are coming up in May. Be one of those persons that steps forward. It's only for a year or two, and as a person that has been there, I can say the club really does appreciate your volunteerism.

Ok, for some more good news, we have another guest speaker lined up for the April meeting. Her name is Gina Dello Russo, and she is an ecologist at the Bosque Del Apache wild life refuge. Recently she was a guest speaker at the Back Country Horsemen Association meeting. Her knowledge and the programs that have been applied at the refuge to provide health for the Rio Grande make for a very interesting program, so this is another meeting that you won't want to miss.

See yu'all at the meeting!!

Vern Leavitt KD5UHB

EVENTS

- **Scottsdale ARC & ARCA Spring Hamfest**, March 8, 2008, Scottsdale Community College, 9000 East Chaparral Road, Scottsdale, AZ; Talk-In: 147.18 (no tone); Contact: Edwin Nickerson (WU7S), 902 North 73rd Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85257-4302; Phone: 480-949-5162, Fax: 480-292-8789; Email: hamfest2008@aol.com
- **SARA Monthly Meeting**, March 12, 2008 in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel St.
- **Save Our Bosque Task Force Clean-up** scheduled for April 25th. Meet on Otero Rd. south
- **NM Section ARES & RACES HF Net**, March 16, 2008 & April 6, 2008, 18:00 hrs local (1:00 UTC) in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel St.

- Encourage a friend to join SARA -

Nets ---

- Weekly ARES net at 20:00 hours local on Wednesdays on the SARA Repeater [146.68(-) w/ 100 Hz tone].
- NM Section ARES & RACES HF net — First and third Sundays of each month. The net provides a forum to discuss Amateur Radio support of all types of emergency communications including MARS, SAR, CAP, public service events. The net begins at 18:30 hours local (1:00 zulu).

Gatherings, gatherings ---

- SARA monthly meeting - SARA meetings are held, beginning at 19:30 hrs on the second Wednesday of each month (except December) in the Socorro County Emergency Operations Center, 198 Neel Ave.
- Everyone is invited to coffee every Saturday ~8:00 to 9:30 hrs at McDonalds.

SARA NEWS

Uncle Sam Wants You! - We have an election coming up. I'm not talking about Hillary, Barack or John. I'm talking about the election of SARA officers at the May Annual Meeting. This is that fascinating time when the current officers frantically twist arms and those who have never served as officers or have not served in recent memory girdle themselves with excuses for why they are simply too busy or too important or too whatever to do so now. Several years ago I served as SARA Vice President under then President Monte Bateman (W5RXZ). Monte was a whippersnapper at the time, but he carried wisdom well beyond his years. One of several things that Monte told me then was that organizations like SARA 'eat their young'. What he meant was that too often organizations have members who expect to have everything done for them, but expect to do little or nothing in return – except perhaps to pay their dues. Sure, they will show up at the hamfest to help with set up and

perhaps even take down. They'll help with a community service project or two, but the prospect of serving as one of the association's officers is utterly out of the question. Of course, Monte was not talking about SARA or SARA members.

So, when the call comes – as it will, don't say no reflexively. Because of other commitments you may have to say no, but as you do, dedicate yourself to serving next time you are asked. You owe this to the association. (D. Johnson -ed.)

Mountain Property; Clear, Cool Air, Blue Skies by Day and Starry Skies by Night – Nothing Down, Low Payments: Imagine that it is mid-summer. Socorro is sweltering with daytime temperatures at or above 100° F. The Socorro Amateur Radio Association has again elected to hold its Socorro Field Day event on some God forsaken, sun baked, and inhospitable piece of real estate smack dab in the middle of where you are for too much of the summer. Last year someone conned you into the 2:00 am to 6:00 am shift. You were working 40 meters at 2:30 am and it was still 90° F. You were dying. What's more – 40 meters was dying too.

How does a pleasant two day retreat at higher elevations and cool air, in a wooded parkland sound to you? Pretty good – right? This too can be yours. Join the W5AQA “Knot-Hole-Gang” for ARRL Field Day at the historic Datil Well Campground June 28–29, 2008. Enjoy a hearty evening meal at the fabled Eagle Guest Ranch. Roll out your bed roll like the cowboys of old who camped there during the Springerville to Magdalena “Hoof Highway” days. Sleep under the stars. Or bring your RV, trailer, camper or tent. This is the ‘real’ field day! Interested? For more information contact KB5YIW at kb5yiw@arrlnet. (D. Johnson -ed.)

THE FEBRUARY “GROANER”

After an antenna-raising party, Phil says to Tom, “Hey, we're all done. Why are you still on the roof?”

Tom, “Well, Joe said that after we got his antenna up, the drinks would be on the house.”

Join/Renew Your SARA Membership

Are you a member? When does your membership expire? If you are reading this from a newsletter sent to you via U.S. Mail, take a look at the mailing label. Your membership expiration date is listed on the bottom line of the label. Newsletters will continue to be sent for a month or so after expiration just in case you haven't had a chance to check your expiration date. If you do not receive your newsletter by mail you might check the membership list on the SARA web page. The address is <http://socorroara.org/members.html>.

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 \$15 (\$20 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 and photographs related to SARA and 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 digital form with text 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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