

Socorro Amateur Radio Association

"All the news that fits, we print"

SARA News

www.socorroara.org

March 2010

MEETINGS

Minutes of the February Meeting

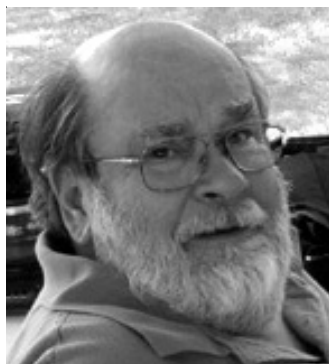
See <http://www.socorroara.org/sara/minutes/1002minutes.html>.

The March Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7:30 pm local, in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel Ave.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Once more I subject you to my unruly flow of consciousness.



Last month I was complaining about Old Man Winter, but I note now that we have daffodils & tulips nearly in bloom. There's an old New England saying "it snows twice on the tulips". I'm wondering if that is going to happen this year.

Regardless, Spring is just around the corner, and like many of you, I welcome it.

Our scheduled repair work party for Confluence got canceled again, this time because of scheduling issues with other agencies. Hang in there, it will get done. Speaking of Confluence, did you notice that the reward was posted in a recent edition of the Defensor Chieftain? Thank Doug Boykin for being proactive.

Last month I mentioned that there were a lot of opportunities to take ownership of various facets of the club. Letting no grass grow under his feet, Mike Finn, KB5REN, is stepping up and offering to help with many aspects of our interactions with

the EOC. Good going, Mike, and a heartfelt "Thank you!". You other folks: you are still on the hook ... there's lots of opportunity to step up & take charge.

One other item of interest regarding the EOC is appended to this newsletter. It has become apparent to your Board of Directors that SARA's ability to fulfill its responsibilities, as outlined in our Professional Services Agreement with Socorro County, would be enhanced if SARA were to clearly delineate an interface with the County. To that end we propose that a standing committee be formed to carry out various emergency communications functions, and suggest a change to the bylaws to establish such a committee. While this committee won't really effect much of a change in how we do things, it will effect a change insofar as how the County perceives its interface with us, so we think it is a reasonable thing to propose to you, the membership.

The ISC-100 training course was well attended last weekend (February 20th), but only two hams showed up. That means the rest of you are really gung-ho and are doing everything on line, right? Remember ICS-200 is being offered on March 13th. See Crystal in Fred Hollis' office for applications.

Alfonso Garcia, WA5SWV, Superintendent of the Alamo Navajo Community School is looking for old WWII-style military radios to establish a

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? -

permanent exhibit in honor of the Navajo Code Talkers. Any donation of such equipment would be much appreciated.

The 2-meter rig purchased for the charter school is in, and Jon will shortly be looking for volunteers for an antenna installation party. Stay tuned.

Note that according to the bylaws we must elect a three-member officer nominating committee at the coming meeting on March 10th. The nominating committee will report back at our April meeting.

Be well until the next meeting.

73, Prescott.

EVENTS

Tour of Socorro - Organization of communications for the 2010 Tour of Socorro Bicycle Omnium (to be held on the weekend of April 17-18, 2010) will commence during the month of March. As in recent years, the Omnium consists of two events: the South Baldy Hill Climb (to be held on Saturday this year) and the Cerrillos del Coyote race held Sunday on the 15 km circuit to the east of Socorro. *Please save the date!*

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,

Officers

President: Prescott Grey - W1PCG
Vice President: James Boswell - KA5SIW
Secretary: David Johnson - KB5YIW
Treasurer: Jim Lommen - KC7QY
Past President: Vern Leavitt - KC5UHB

public service events. Meet at the Socorro County EOC at 17:00 hours MST (00:00 UTC).

Gatherings, gatherings —

- SARA monthly meeting - SARA meetings are held, beginning at 19:30 hours 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.

TARA NEWS

Hello SARA members! This is Seth Price, N3MRA of the Tech Amateur Radio Association (TARA).

Activity - February was an active month for the TARA club. We participated in the NM QSO Party on 2/7, and then participated in the School Club Roundup over the next week 2/8-2/12. Needless to say, or little station was quite busy that week! As for our totals, we managed to get 123 QSOs in 32 states in the NM QSO Party, and 127 QSOs in 35 states in the School Club Roundup, and our placement in these events is pending.

Looking around the TARA shack, and thinking about all of the QSOs from this month, I realized that TARA does not have a Worked All States (WAS) award. During our major contest week, we were able to get 44 states, only missing UT, WY, AK, MD, ME, and SC. Based on this, I think we are really close to WAS, and I'll have to check the logbook and see what we are missing.

One more note: Thanks to Brad Smith, TARA made a few BPSK-31 QSOs in the NM QSO Party. I had never played around on PSK, but it is a really neat mode, one that will accompany me on future road trips. We ended up making 7 or so BPSK-31 QSOs during the School Club Roundup.

Schedule

- 3/1/10, 7:30pm - TARA Work Meeting, in the TARA Shack
- 3/6-7, TBD - ARRL International DX Contest

- Encourage a friend to join SARA -

- 3/8/10, 7:30pm - TARA Work Meeting, in the TARA Shack
- 3/15/10, 7:30pm - TARA Work Meeting, in the TARA Shack
- 3/22/10, 7:30pm - No work meeting (Chamber Music series)
- 3/29/10, 7:30pm - TARA Work Meeting, in the TARA Shack

Contact - To be added to the TARA listserv, please send me an email at sprice@nmt.edu I'll be sure to add you to the list!

SARA News

New Mexico "Shoe Phone" Bill - Last month several alerts were sent to hams across the state relating to legislation introduced in this year's session aimed at controlling cellphone use while driving. For hams, NM House Bill -10 represented a problem because the original bill threw a broad net that would have caught hams operating mobile. As some proof that legislators respect the contributions of amateur radio operators, the bill was amended in its first House committee hearings to accommodate amateurs. The legislature faced some real challenges this year and while the revised bill made it out of the House, it died in the Senate Judiciary Committee with the close of the session. We can be certain that this bill or one like it will be resurrected in coming years. Keep your eyes peeled and give a shout when you see it. It is likely that hams will have to make their case all over again.

From the ARRL

ARRL Board Decides EmComm Issues - The Board of Directors of the ARRL concentrated much of its deliberations on major emergency communications issues when it met in Hartford, Connecticut last month.

The Board approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American Red Cross (ARC). The ARC has agreed to permit ARES® volunteers to meet its requirement for a criminal background check by obtaining such a

check, at their own expense, through a law enforcement entity rather than through the ARC process. ARRL members will be given information to permit them to make a fully informed decision with regard to volunteering with ARC.

The Board also instructed the ARRL staff to seek a change in Section 97.113(a)(3) of the FCC rules to permit amateurs, on behalf of an employer, to participate in emergency preparedness and disaster drills that include Amateur operations. There is an extensive discussion of this action on page nine of the March issue of *QST* (ARRL ARES E-Letter, 2/24/10).

Amateur Radio Newslines

Radio Law: Study Says Mobile Cellphone Bans Work Best In Urban Areas - A new investigation aimed at analyzing the impact of hand-held cell phone legislation on driving safety concludes that usage ban laws are having more of an impact in densely populated urban areas with a higher number of licensed drivers than in rural areas where there are fewer licensed drivers. The study, conducted by Sheldon Jacobson, a professor of computer science and the director of the simulation and optimization laboratory in Illinois, analyzed the relationship between pre- and post-law automobile accident rates using public data from 62 counties in New York. He and his team found that after banning hand-held cell phone use while driving, 46 counties in New York experienced lower fatal accident rates. 10 of these did so at a statistically significant level, while all 62 counties experienced lower personal injury accident rates. Jacobson and his team of researchers also discovered that the personal injury accident rate decrease was more substantive in counties such as Bronx and Queens New York. These are also boroughs in New York City proper where there was a high density of licensed drivers rather than in sparsely populated areas of upstate New York. Jacobson and co-researchers published their results in an article titled "Evaluating the Impact of Legislation Prohibiting Hand-Held Cell Phone Use While Driving," which will appear in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* (Amateur Radio Newslines, 2/26/10).

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.)