

SOCORRO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SARA NEWS

WWW.SOCORROARA.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2018



MEETINGS

The minutes for meetings are at
www.socorroara.org/sara/minutes.

The agenda for meetings is located at:

www.socorroara.org/sara/agenda/agenda.pdf

The September meeting will be at the County Emergency Management Conference Room at 198 Neel Avenue on Sept. 12, 2018.

SARA REPEATER

SARA supports a VHF repeater located on Socorro Peak immediately west of Socorro. The repeater is "open". The autopatch is currently inoperative.

146.68 (-)

100 or 123 Hz required

123 Hz on output

SARA also supports a UHF D-STAR module 'B' operating at 444.500 MHz + 5.000
Registration instructions are at
www.socorroara.org/sara/repeaters/D_STAR_Gateway.pdf

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Skyler Fennell, KD0WHB
Vice President: Brad Smith KD5JNI
Secretary: Ray Calkins, N0RBT
Treasurer: Bill Heller, KG5NGN
Past President: James Boswell KA5SIW
ARES DEC /Director: Al Braun AC5BX
Newsletter Editor: Anneliese Bowman AD6UY
Suggestions or submissions: ad6uy@powerc.net

COMING EVENTS

New Mexico State Convention (Socorro Hamfest)

Location: Socorro, NM

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Socorro ARA, Tech ARA, & City of Socorro

Website: <http://socorroara.org/hamfest.html>

**WATCH? WARNING? WHAT THESE MEAN
IN A WEATHER FORECAST**
ANNE BOWMAN, AD6UY

I emailed the Albuquerque National Weather Service Webmaster to help me understand what watches, warnings and advisories are. Here is what she told me:

“A watch means that conditions are favorable for the associated weather in and around the watch area. For example, if a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch is issued, that would mean that severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are possible in and close to the watch area. It doesn't mean that they will happen, just that they are possible. You should keep a close eye on the weather and have a plan in case they do happen.

“A warning is issued when the associated weather is happening or is imminent. For example, a severe thunderstorm warning is issued when a severe thunderstorm has been indicated by radar or is reported by a trained spotter. A severe thunderstorm is defined by winds of 58 mph or higher and/or hail that is at least 1-inch in diameter. So when a warning is issued, that means that said weather is happening or is imminent, and you should be taking the proper protective measures to stay safe.

“An advisory is kind of an in between of a watch and a warning. Advisories are generally issued when weather conditions are serious, but don't meet our requirements for a warning. For example, a significant weather advisory might be issued for a storm that is strong, but doesn't meet our requirements of 58 mph winds and 1-inch hail for a severe thunderstorm warning. Still, when an advisory is issued, you should exercise caution as weather conditions could still be dangerous.”

I hope this helps anyone else who has wondered about what these mean. And my thanks to the people who run the Albuquerque office.

<https://www.weather.gov/abq/>

CHILE HARVEST TRIATHLON
DAVE FINLEY, N1IRZ

Thank you all for your support of this weekend's Triathlons. We had another highly successful event, with excellent participation in both the Youth and the Adult races. I received thanks from many of the participants, and I presume some of you did, too. As has always been the case in the 23 years of Socorro's triathlon, our amateur radio support is greatly appreciated by both the participants and the organizers.

Stacy Timmons, this year's race director, was performing that role for the first time. At the end of the race, she told me, “I don't know how anyone could do this job without you guys.” The USA Triathlon official working this race told her at the end that “you guys did a great job.” He was very enthusiastic about how well-run the Socorro event was, and that is high praise from someone who has officiated countless triathlons over many years. I consider the situational awareness that we provide to the race director to be a valuable part of keeping things on track during the race.

Our volunteer service for this highly-visible community event definitely shows the value of amateur radio to our friends and neighbors as well as to the larger audience of participants from around New Mexico and surrounding states.

Thanks again for a job well done!

**HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER
EXAMINER**
ANNE BOWMAN, AD6UY

Who are these people who show up and give the exams necessary to get a ham license? They are us. It's easy to become a Volunteer Examiner (VE). In the past the FCC gave the exams at their offices and at their convenience. Now exams are given by clubs whose members have passed the VE exam. At least 3 VEs are necessary for a test session. A few more can help make the session run more smoothly.

Who can be a VE and what can they do? From the

manual “Each written question set administered to an examinee must be prepared by a VE holding an Amateur Extra Class operator license, except that an Advanced class VE can administer the Technician and General class license exam, and a General class VE can administer the Technician class exam.”

SARA's VEs are under the general umbrella of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC); ARRL provides the test materials and they transmit completed tests to the FCC so licenses can be issued.

To be a VE you must download or order the VE Manual. It's available free as .pdf download from this page:

<http://www.arrl.org/ve-manual>

It is the 2014 edition and is about 6.6 MB. Read it carefully; the ARRL recommends paying close attention to Chapter 2.

You will find the VE application and open-book test on that same page. Fill out the forms and follow their directions for mailing, faxing or emailing them to the ARRL VEC. It takes about 4 weeks to get your badge.

Please consider becoming a VE. We always can use a few more at our test sessions. Here's a link to more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve>

Like many things there are joys and sorrows in doing the VE job. It can be really tough to tell a person that they did not pass. We try to encourage the candidate to keep studying and come back next time.

It's amazingly wonderful to see a candidate go from no license to Extra in one test session. Several of us were blown away at that feat.

Eventually you see almost everything. At a session in California a candidate had no record of his previous license so he wore his car license plate (with call sign) around his neck. Our team leader was able to find some records online and the gentleman was allowed to test.

At another test session in California we had a candidate fail rather spectacularly. Another VE asked him if he was dyslexic and he was. At the next

session we were able to have enough VEs to accommodate his need for an oral exam. He passed.