



# San Antonio Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 1753  
San Antonio, Texas 78296

## *BULLETIN*

*“Serving the Amateur Community for 36 Years.”*

April 2004

Volume 36 Number 2

**Next General Membership Meeting April 30, 2004 - 7:30PM**

**SARO NET WEDNESDAYS AT 8:30 P.M. ON 146.94- (179.9 tone)**

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Alfred Horn, KG5QW  
SARO 2004 President

Here it is already April. WOW!! It seems the older one gets the faster time seems to pass (I heard that somewhere before). Does this mean that the older one

gets the more enjoyable life becomes, or is it just busier with activities?

The Repeaters seem to be quieter than in years past. One could speculate as to why this has happened, and there would be many reasons from the internet to cell phones. Let me encourage you to get on the air. I seem to find myself in the listening mode most of the time also. If we are all listening, then no one is talking. Let me encourage you to just get on the air and introduce yourself to someone that you do not know. Soon you may find that you have some common bonds. That's half the fun. Just jump in there and Talk it up! You know, if we don't use the frequency spectrum we have been allotted, the FCC can decide to take it away. I look forward to meeting you on the air!

Did you know that our club has eight voice and one digipeater that we sponsor and maintain? It will take lots of you out there talking to keep them busy!

I hope to see Each of You at the April meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be a week later than usual so that we do not conflict with Fiesta. If there are suggestions for speakers for upcoming meetings let me know and we will do our best to get them scheduled. As usual after the meeting we will be going somewhere for libations and fellowship (Not on My Tab).

### Public Service - Alfred KG5QW

Fiesta is upon us with its many different avenues to spend your time and money. There will be a few hams down at the Oyster Bake working with the medical crew. On June 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> is the Texas Water Safari, a canoe race from San Marcos to Seadrift. We will cover communications from San Marcos to Palmetto State Park. The Multiple Sclerosis Walk will be on September 11<sup>th</sup> starting from La Villita going through downtown. Our Big Event for the year is the Multiple Sclerosis Bike to the Beach on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year we are estimating 3500 bicyclists to pedal their way from the old flight Line at Brooks Base, spending the night in Beeville, then to finish in Corpus Christi at the Texas State Aquarium. If you have not taken part in any of these events, let me encourage you to get involved. These events are great ways to make new friends and give back to the community and S.A.R.O. with your talents.

## SARO Web Site - Lee N5NTG

Visit the club web site at "**SAR repeater.Net**" to find out what is happening, without having to wait for this newsletter to arrive. You can download the club's membership application on-line in Adobe PDF format. You can see pictures of almost all of the Board members so you can match up faces with names and call signs you hear on the air.

Another rapidly growing Amateur Radio related website is **SanAntonioHams.Org** which has our club and eleven other clubs / groups listed with many of their membership applications (like SARO's) plus info about local ham activities, Amateur testing sessions, Amateur classes, volunteer opportunities and much more.



**NEXT SARO MEETING**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 - 7:30PM**

### **HOW TO GET THERE FROM HERE** **...OR YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE**

If you are planning to attend the SARO meeting and have not been to one before, or have been there, but keep forgetting how to find the Ruble Center where we meet, please read on. To help you find the Ruble Center there are two basic routes:

**From IH-10 and Hildebrand** travel east to McCullough and turn right (South) heading towards town. The second traffic light will be East Mulberry. The second left after E. Mulberry will be East Magnolia. Turn left on E. Magnolia and go 1 1/2 blocks. The Ruble Center will be on the left.

**From IH-37 (McAllister Freeway)** exit on E. Mulberry and travel west on E. Mulberry. You will come to Trinity Baptist Church (it's the big building on the right with a steeple, about 3 blocks from IH-37). At the end of the Church take the first left which is Carleton (please note the street sign is in the trees) and go 2 blocks South to E. Magnolia. The Ruble Center will be on the left.

For those needing further directions, or get totally lost, call on 146.94-, 147.36+ and 444.100+ and someone should be around who is able to help you out.

## Daylight Savings Time

The time has changed over to DST, so if you have not changed the batteries in your smoke detectors, this is the traditional time to do that. Once replaced, it has been suggested the (perfectly good) batteries be used in less life-critical household roles. Usually these batteries are the square 9 volt alkaline batteries, frequently used in other appliances. Speaking of which, when was the last time you checked that backup battery for your alarm clock? Or your battery operated clock on the wall.



To put this story back on a more ham radio related perspective, perhaps now is the time to check those outdoor antennas, coax cables or guy wires for any signs of corrosion or other problems, before they become real problems. With the higher winds experienced during the Spring weather, you want your antennas ready to operate if an emergency arises.



*(photo by Alan KD5ZEX)*

### **New Arrival... CQ, CQ, CQ de QRM**

Kyle Alan, born to KD5ZEX(Alan) and Ginni on March 14, 2004. He weighed in at 4 lbs. 2.2 oz or 1880 grams if you do the metric thing. He was 6 weeks premature. After a 16 day stay in the hospital, he came home on March 29. In the meantime he has enjoyed "Club 52" (a group of hams that operate on 146.52), checking in to the CTTN on the 147.14 repeater, the rainfall net on the 146.94, and last but not least, he enjoys sandbagging the code practice on the 147.38. It has been suggested that when Kyle learns to say "da da" that he is really just practicing his CW, not learning to talk as some non-hams might tend to think.



The month of March was National Severe Weather Awareness Month here in the USA, and consequently AARO sponsored the annual Skywarn Training Class out at UTHSC the first Saturday in March. About 70 persons participated in this day-long training session to become certified as weather spotters.

SARO plays a very important role in the Skywarn Activation process. Do you know what role we play? Yup, it's the **SARO 146.94 repeater** used for all official activations, and it is the SARO club call of WA5UNH used by all net control operators when running the Skywarn Net.

When this net is activated during severe weather, one of the repeater trustees will normally activate the "beep" that will then transmit about every minute or so. This "beep" will tell you that the repeater is being used for Skywarn. Naturally, the Net Control (NC) operator using WA5UNH ought to give you a big clue as well when they announce that the net is running and ask for reports of severe weather.

It is very important that you listen carefully to the net control and don't "check in" unless the net control

operator asks for check-ins.

**If they are asking for strong / damaging winds, heavy rain, hail larger than a penny, or severe flooding, don't key up and tell the NC that you have no rain in your area but your pizza is getting cold. Don't tie up the net to report second or third hand reports from TV Stations, etc.**

When reports are received, the NC will then relay those reports to the National Weather Service either by using the **SARO 147.14 repeater** to talk direct to them in New Braunfels, or via land-line.

Here in San Antonio, we don't ask our Skywarn Weather Spotters to jump in their cars and run out to the nearest high viewpoint to watch for a tornado bearing down upon them in the night. Play it safe and make sure you are in a safe location before getting on the radio to make your report.

Remember, when severe weather threatens our area, turn your 2 meter radio ON to 146.94 and listen in for further instructions. Do not check-in to provide unrequested information unless it is an emergency situation.

The SARO repeater 146.94 is also used every day at 8pm for the collection of rainfall data (if any) to be forwarded to the National Weather Service via email. It is permissible to check into this net as "check in only" if you do not have any rain fall data to report.

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## Maintenance - Gordon K5SUZ

First let me apologize for the lack of a maintenance article for the past two quarters. There was not much to report at the time.

Roger, WA5ONR tells me he has checked out the 82 tower package (22 receiver and 450 link) and it looks good. At the present there is no permanent site for this package but we plan to put it at the 147.36 site until the voting system is completed.

The six meter repeater transmitter has been running in the tune position for several months and I will attempt to have it back up shortly. There only a few who use six meters. I am also looking to replace the GE Mastr Pro system with a state of the art all solid state GE Mastr II repeater.

The 220 machine (224.38-) is up and running but we need a few more operators on the band. At one time there were five machines on the band and at least 30 operators. In my opinion the 220 band has the best properties of 2 meters and 450.

I still have not found anyone to climb the tower at the Buzzard Roost (147.14) site but hopefully this happen before the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Maybe the receive signal will improve!

Roger, WA5ONR tells me the packet repeater (145.01) has been checked and is ready to be placed back in service. The 220 port (223.50) is still up.

As a final note I will have the clocks on 146.82, 147.36 and 444.100 updated shortly.

In closing, if any member notes a problem with any of the SARO repeaters, please call me, Stan, KA5IID, Carl, W5HFG or Roger, WA5ONR. We are all good in the roster. You can also send me an email message <gasp> to [k5suz@sarepeater.net](mailto:k5suz@sarepeater.net).

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are free for any member to post a non-commercial request, buy/sell/trade, per club policy. Send your classified ad request for the next issue by July 1st to [n5ntg@sarepeater.net](mailto:n5ntg@sarepeater.net)

### WANTED

Scanner Crystals wanted for old model of Radio Shack Scanner. Contact Shane AD5PO via email at [shane@ad5po.com](mailto:shane@ad5po.com) or catch him on the air following the SARO net on Wednesdays (or elsewhere, he gets around a bit). No further info provided as to what model scanner is involved.



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NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SAN ANTONIO  
TEXAS  
PERMIT 390

The SARO Bulletin is published quarterly. Past issues are available from the SARO website. SARO General Membership meetings are held quarterly, at the Ruble Center, at 419 East Magnolia, the 4th Friday in January, April, July and October. Subscription and advertisements for personal equipment are free to SARO members. Our web site is [www.SAR repeater.Net](http://www.SAR repeater.Net).

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### SARO REPEATERS

All PLL tones 179.9Hz

##### 6 Meter

53.13 -

##### 2 Meter

145.01 d  
146.78 -  
146.82 -a  
146.94 -  
147.14 +  
147.36 +a

##### 220 MHz

223.50 d  
224.38 -

##### 440 MHz

444.100 +a  
444.125 +

(+/-) offset direction Std. Split  
(a) autopatch  
(d) digipeater