



San Antonio Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 1753
San Antonio, Texas 78296

BULLETIN

“Serving the Amateur Community for 38 Years.”

October 2006

Volume 38 Number 2

Next General Membership Meeting October 27, 2006 - 7:30PM

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

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Don Kirchner, W5DK
SARO 2006 President

The MS150 From the Front Seat of a Van

I started volunteering for the MS150 about ten or twelve years ago, I forget when” was the quote I found myself bragging to passengers this past weekend as I carried them downstream to the next rest stop or so. Driving a SAG wagon is a fun and easy chore compared to some of the other spots that the hams staff for this event, at least I had air conditioning. Driving safely and skillfully parking a huge van amongst the riders is a challenge like tiptoeing through a china shop without a checkbook. It used to be easier when we had six or seven hundred riders, now with 3000 plus, the riders are like fire ants, they're everywhere. As I was headed down course with a van load of riders, I see this fellow below riding along with one leg. I just had to take a picture. There are many handicapped riders in the tour, its very inspiring. This guy blended right in with the flow.



Through the years I've met allot of different type folks that either needed a short lift, a flat fixed or were done for the day among other things. This past weekend I picked many riders including a 7th grade math teacher from Seguin, a father and his 12 year old son riding a tandem, and a dog. The dog was a new one for me. Dogs can be a problem for riders by either chasing them or just following them and getting lost, so I am careful to notice any loose dogs. On Sunday I happened to see two dogs way off the road tailing it through a large field near Sinton. No problem I thought.

Well 30 minutes later I'm looping around and I see some riders off the side of the road. Same old story, stop and pick them up right? Nope. When I pull up, they are holding a dog to prevent it from getting run over by a car. Its one of the two dogs I had seen. The other one had already been hit hard and was lost. So I decide to take the dog and get the riders back on the road. Did you know that animal control in Sinton doesn't take animals on Sunday? Me neither. There where no homes near where we found the dog, and no place to deliver it on Sunday, for a few minutes I thought it was going to be another mouth to feed. The county folks in Sinton gave into my pleas and came

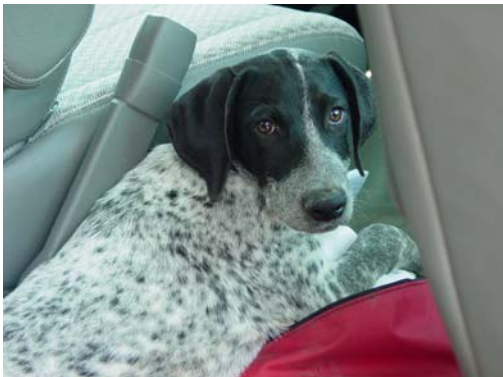
Continued on page 2

REMINDER - 2007 Dues

2007 SARO dues are now being accepted by mail or during membership meetings. There is no increase in dues for 2007. A copy of the renewal / application form is on page 3 of this newsletter. Current members will receive a renewal notice in the mail later this year, Got Membership Questions? Send an email membership@sarepeater.net for answers.

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through, and I got him in the hands of an animal control officer so he should make it back home. Naturally he climbed on top of my overnight bag and shared his cologne with my clothes.



I'll end this short article the way I ended the tour this year, at the finish line helping a lady rider. She had a flat on the bridge just short of the finish line. As I nervously loaded her bike and got her off the bridge as cars went by at 70 m.p.h. she says "I'm not getting a ride in all the way, I can't believe I rode the whole way and now I can't ride to the finish." I could tell she is about to start crying even before I told her it is going to be *real* hard to get a tire repaired this close to the finish line.

Over the years I have learned there are no bike repair vans around the finish line. I always end up telling folks they did a good job, even if they have to walk across the finish line. So as I take the exit towards the finish line thinking she's going to start crying, I get an idea. I see some riders already done and loading stuff into a car. One is a Ride Marshal. Ride Marshals volunteer to police the ride and assist riders while they ride themselves. I ask him if he has a tube for a road bike. He doesn't have a tube but offers to repair her tube. I unload her bike and tell them "I'll be right back."

Two blocks away I can see the flow of riders headed for the finish. I pull up the two blocks to a stop sign and see a few riders standing next to the flow of riders. There's another Ride Marshal still on the course and helping someone out. He freely gives me a tube and I get back to the lady and the first Marshal before he has her old tube out. As I helped him change her tube she says something about how disappointed she was going to be if she didn't get to finish. I mentioned that I could tell she was about to cry when I picked her up, and she confirmed she was about to get emotional. A few minutes later I watched her pedal off to the finish line.

The MS150 is not just about raising money for MS, each individual rider has personal goals that may be met, the many volunteers get satisfaction from their contributions, and the communities along the way get to witness a good thing happening for a change. I encourage you to join in next year and volunteer. It's a fun event.



The Real MS 150 Experience

By Meghann Johnson, KE5KDR

KE5KDR at her radio op position in SAG 5 where she operated two UHF channels on a TM-D700, VHF on a ICOM IC-2100H and 6 meters on an ICOM IC-T61A/E. She also found time to operate two IPODs and a cell phone. KE5KDR is a member of the SARO and AARO radio clubs. (Photo courtesy of Lee - N5NTG)

"My father and I have volunteered for the MS 150 Bike To The Beach for the past four years, but this year was different. See my Dad (KE5CLV) is usually the HAM radio operator, since he's the one with the license, but this year was going to be different. I did my studying and when I was ready I walked into a church, took a test and walked out a HAM!," Meghann said.

"In my previous three years of being a SAG (Support And Gear), it was fun but I was on the outside looking into the world of radio. This year was very different and fun because I was included in the radio community. Being in the van without communicating on the radio can be boring. Transmitting on the radio, talking to Net Control and responding to where we are needed is 20 times better than just loading bikes in the back! I now know that I wasn't getting the full experience until I got my license."

A Note From a Proud Dad

By Milton Johnson, KE5CLV

Obviously I'm very proud of Meghann and the way she operated the radio for SAG 5. The MS 150 is a family event with my wife Kathy riding in the event while Meghann and I operate a SAG wagon. Meghann will be supporting the SA Marathon for second year and has the goals of working the Big Bend 50 and Water Safari events as a radio operator.



MS150 Bike to the Beach

by Lee N5NTG

This year we saw more than 60 ham radio operators show up to volunteer for this event. 25 SAG vans were on the road, as compared with only 15 last year. Hams were with the MS150 officials, such as two of the Tour Directors, 3 of the Medical Directors, 9 Break Points on Saturday (plus start/lunch/finish), 4 Break Points on Sunday (plus start/lunch/finish), Point Man, Route Marker, 2 Safety Directors, Broomhilda (sweeping the course each morning) and the famous Turtle (last vehicle bringing up the rear after the last rider. There were 6 hams out of the 41 motorcycle riders sweeping the course. Other hams were volunteering in non-communication positions, such as Mary Ann N5MYN who was a MS150 official overseeing the operations at Beeville.

This year we had hams from Austin and Houston drive in to help us with the SAG vans, although two of the Houston Hams got drafted at the last minute to be shadows for two of the three medical teams.

The planning for this event was improved by the use of a Yahoo Groups page to distribute maps, assignments and other documents. Milton KE5CLV spearheaded this effort to modernize the planning stage. Alfred KG5QW was the lead contact for all the ham operators, while Gordon K5SUZ coordinated those who were to be SAG drivers.

I've included the latest version of the Ham assignment sheet, rather than reproducing the list of operators in this article. Instead, I'll conclude this article with a series of photos taken during the event. Hundreds of more photos may be viewed on-line at www.sanantoniohams.org web site.



Foggy Morning, Break Point 2 the scene of SAG vans getting ready to hit the road. 25 SAGS all driven by Ham Operators.



Nobody got mixed up on which van was their van, because we put big numbers on them to easily identify them.



Royce KA5OHJ drives Broomhilda the full length of the course to clean the loose gravel and debris from the road shoulder.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM SAN ANTONIO REPEATER ORGANIZATION

P O Box 1753, San Antonio TX 78296-1753

Are you an ARRL member? ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Life

Call _____ Class _____ Exp Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Nickname (optional) _____

Please put your Call-Sign on your check

Annual DUES \$15.00 (if have ever been a SARO member)

First Time Applicant \$10.00 plus prorated Dues

(ie. \$25.00 for new applicant at start of year)

I volunteer for the following committees (NOTE: telephone number and e-mail address will be given to the committee chairperson)

- ☐ Engineering ☐ Maintenance ☐ Newsletter
☐ Public Service ☐ Membership ☐ Public Relations
☐ Web Site ☐ Other _____

- ☐ New Member (copy of license must be enclosed)
☐ Renewal (include copy of license if revised/renewed recently)
☐ Some info has changed, please review record

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

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Check each box **ONLY** if you **DO NOT** want it published:

- ☐ Phone ☐ Address ☐ e-Mail

I understand communications of a business or commercial nature have no place on SARO repeaters. I will comply with the policies of SARO and will not engage in any activities that might bring discredit to the Organization.

Signature _____

Date _____



Charlie KC5NKK decorates his SAG Van #14



Danny WA5KRP decorates his SAG Van #21



(left) Terry K5ADF operates at BP4 in Poth from his truck using antenna on a push-up pole. This was a tough spot on the edge of radio reception for the SA and Kennedy repeater range.



(Above) Shane NS5D operates Net Control from Beeville. Net Control monitored multi-radio frequencies and APRS units. The other Net Control was Austin Ham Michael N5PTN. Shane and Michael set up in Beeville on Saturday, then relocated to Corpus Christi on Sunday.



Below, SAG 7 driven by Lee N5NTG has a full load.





(Left) Robert K5RPB rides shadow for Janet Croce MS150 Director known as Tour1.

(Right) Hams wait for the riders to catch up and clear the Break Points.



(Left) SAG Vans waiting for riders to pass their point on Sunday AM.

(Below) Riders stop to repair their bikes.



(Left) SAG drivers gather behind SAG10 for a briefing prior to hitting the road. All drivers wore the golden yellow shirts, while the officials wore lighter yellow or green shirts, depending on their assignments.

SAG drivers had to listed and operate on 2 different frequencies simultaneous, VHF and UHF. SAG to SAG and SAG to Break Point was on UHF, while Net Control was on VHF. 3 different repeaters were used to cover the course.

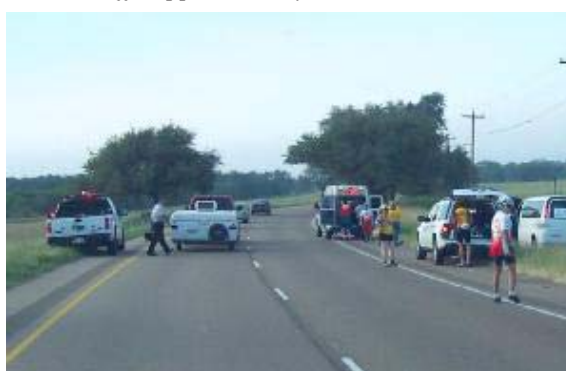


SAG vans and Safety Officer car on side of the road waiting for riders. (Below) Curtis N5QPN with Constable who was "Safety1" on the radio.



(Above) Riders on the road to Corpus Christi, following Hwy 181 from Beeville starting point on Sunday morning.

(Below) Accidents do happen. We hope they don't, but they always do. Put thousands of riders on the same road at the same time, and stuff happens. This year there was a small incident just south of



Beeville on Sunday morning where 4 riders were transported for treatment. All were released and transported down the course to match up with their bikes so they could finish in Corpus Christi.



More MS150 Photos

(Left) SAG driver Chris KC5GUL (from Austin) waits for treatment of a rider involved in a small incident. Some the riders were also EMT's and they frequently rendered minor first aid when ever small mishaps occurred and they were available. This helped stretch the medical resources on the tour, the multiple ambulances from AMR, the three roving medical directors with first aid supplies, the medical teams at each of the Break Points, etc.

There were also Bike Repair facilities at each of the Break Points. Local Bike Shops from San Antonio and other areas manned each Break Point. Minor repairs were free to those riders who had tags on their bikes showing that a Bike Shop had pre-inspected the bicycle prior to the ride. Major repairs, such as new tubes, tires or spokes were performed for a small fee to cover costs of materials.



(Above) Meghann KE5KDR and Milton KE5CLV stand in line for dinner in Beeville on Saturday night.



(Above) Sag #5 driven by Milton KE5CLV and Meghann KE5KDR approach Break Point # in Skidmore, TX, to drop off riders. Looks like its a bit crowded already.



(Left) Royce KA5OHJ drives a very dusty and noisy street sweeper. Royce's tactical call was "Broomhilda" on the radio, not that he could hear the radio over the noise of this critter when it was running.



(Above) Wendall AA5VN at Break Point 7 on Saturday poses with some of the other volunteers..



(Above) Lee N5NTG operates SAG7 while Eric WB5ZJQ listens to Lee's radio. Some of the SAGs and the Turtle ran APRS trackers to aid in better coordination.



More MS150 Photos

Charlie KD5EXS and Charlie W5BRC operate BP8 on Saturday, and BP4 on Sunday. Some locations depend upon antennas. Some use battery power from their car or truck, some use generator, others have local AC power available. A few that are close to repeater range can simply use HT's to operate. While BP to SAG communications was primarily on UHF simplex, there were times when the BP Ham needed to talk direct with Net Control to requires supplies or medical support.



Chuck WB5FWI operates from Lunch Point on Saturday at Falls City High School.

(Below) SAG vans were decorated for the event, and some go really all out. SAG #19 and #7 are shown below.



(Above) Houston Ham Darrell KC5JAR is presented the "wounded cow" award from a fellow Houstonian. Not sure the exact point, but Darrell explained it was a long standing tradition for the Houston MS150 ride to pass it along to a new recipient on each ride. (Below) Houston Ham Jeff Walters KE5FGA multi-tasks on the radio and cell phone at the same time.



(Left) Tour Director Janet Croce poses with the last rider, a 92-year old man on a recumbent bicycle, along with some of the students and volunteers at Break Point 4 on Sunday.



More MS150 Photos

*Break Point 4
welcomes 92-year
old rider, the last
rider in this year's
event.*

*(Right) Sick
Puppies Medical
Patrol was one of
the many medical
teams roving on
the route both
days*



*(Below) SAG Vans and Turtle start the Conga Line
towards the finish line under the bridge.*



*(Below) Here comes the Finish Line. 9 out of the 25
SAG Vans participated. It was led by the end riders,
police cars, ambulances, SAG vans, and then the
Route Marker truck and the Turtle Truck. This is an
annual tradition of the MS150.*



*(Above) MS150 Tour Director #3 Tony Ralph greets the last riders and the
Conga Line as it passes his position right before the Finish Line. (Below)
Robert K5RPB rests after the tour by talking with Austin Ham Scott KI5DR and his cousin
Rich (no call - from Chicago) who rode their bicycles in the MS150 this year.*



*(Left) Photo taken in hotel
room where Net Control was
operated. Shane NS5D, Gil
AA5XH and Robert K5BPR.*

**Hundreds of more
photos can be
viewed on-line at
www.SAHams.org**



2006 MS150 HAM Assignments

SATURDAY BREAK POINTS

Arrival Times	Tactical Call Sign	Name	FCC Call Sign	Break Point Location
6:30	BP-1	Barbara	N5RZH	River of Life Church
7:15	BP-2	Pat	AD5BR	Park and Ride 1604 & 181
7:45	BP-3	Frances	KB5TMI	Floresville HEB
8:15	BP-4	Terry	K5ADF	Poth
8:45	LUNCH	Chuck/Gil	WB5FWI/AA5XH	Falls City High School
9:15	BP-5	Lothar	KE5JXS	Karnes City DOT
9:50	BP-6	Floyd	KE5HBF	Kenedy Outlaws Saloon
10:15	BP-7	Wendell	AA5VN	Karnes County 2Mile S of FM2509
10:40	BP-8	Charlie/Charlie	W5BRC/KD5EXS	Teleta Ball Field
10:50	BP-9	Dale/Linda	KB5YSJ/KC5QPQ	Bus 181 at the Y
11:00	Finish Beeville	Net Control		

SUNDAY BREAK POINTS

Arrival Times	Tactical Call Sign	Name	FCC Call Sign	Break Point Location
7:30	BP-1	Barbara	N5RZH	Skidmore Elementary
8:00	BP-2	Frances/Melissa	KB5TMI/KC5KIU	Co Rd 536 Outside Sinton
8:30	Lunch	Chuck/Gil	WB5FWI/AA5XH	Sinton School
9:00	BP-3	Dale/Linda	KB5YSJ/KC5QPQ	Taft Argo Distribution
9:45	BP-4	Charlie/Charlie	W5BRC/KD5EXS	Portland High School
10:15	Finish Corpus	Wendell	AA5VN	

MOBILE POSITIONS & SHADOWS - SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Mobile Positions need to be in Place by 6:30 on Saturday and Sunday

Official	Tactical Call Sign	Name	FCC Call Sign	Miscellaneous
	Net Control	Michael/Shane	N5PTN/NS5D	
	AMR	Nancy Dial	WB5TCX	
Dr VanCleve	Medical Director	Louise Martin	WB5LCT	
Medic - Dave Stevens	Med 1	David	W5DST	
Medic - Mike Smith	Med 2	Susan	KB5ICO	
Medic - Jeff Pearson	Med 3	Chuck	N5GCQ	
	Supply	Josh	KD5IGA	
	Safety1	Curtis	N5QPN	
	Safety2	Rick	N5HJP	
Janet	Tour 1	Robert	K5RPB	
Dourg Suggitt	Tour 2	Dwayne	KB5YTA	
Tony Ralph	Tour 3	None	None	
	Route Marker	Lyle	KB5BSU	
	Point Man	Alfred	KG5QW	
	Motorcycle1	Ray	KE5KHN	

Motorcycle 1 Ray KE5KHN
Motorcycle 2 Tom KE5ZU
Motorcycle 3 Claude KD5YZX
Motorcycle 4 Dexter KB5JTJ
Motorcycle 5 Glen KE5AOV
Motorcycle 6 Ed NE5N

SAGS - TURTLE - BROOM

(Tour starts at 7:30 AM both days.)

Tactical Call	Name	FCC Call Sign	Tactical Call	Name	FCC Call Sign
SAG-1	Gordon/Liliane	K5SUZ / KC5AQP	SAG-14	Charlie/Dan	KC5NKK
SAG-2	Don	W5DK	SAG-15	Frank/Son	KE5IJS
SAG-3	Royce	KA5OHJ	SAG-16	Dale	N5YER
SAG-4	Doug/Terri	KK5LA	SAG-17	Darrell/Anita (Houston)	KC5JAR
SAG-5	Milton/Meghann	KE5CLV / KE5KDR	SAG-18	Keith Haertel	KD5UYH
SAG-6	Eric/Sharon	WB5ZJQ / KB5KZD	SAG-19	Jeff Walter (Houston)	KE5FGA
SAG-7	Lee	N5NTG	SAG-20	Carl Griffen	KA5KQZ
SAG-8	Don T.	KD5HQI	SAG-21	Danny	WA5KRP
SAG-9	Diana	KD5SXI	SAG-22	Chris Turk	KC5GUL
SAG-10	Louis	K5LT	SAG-23	Neil	WA5FSR
SAG-11	Scott (Saturday) Curtis (Sunday)	WB5ZJI KE5HDL	SAG-24	Byron	W8SYD
SAG-12	Barry	W5BLH	SAG-25	Michael	KD5OZM
SAG-13	Don/Zach	AB5XI / KD5SJH			
Turtle	Stanley	KA5IID	Broom	Joseph	K5THR

TOTALS: 58 Positions / 61 Amateur Radio Operators



San Antonio Repeater Organization
P. O. Box 1753
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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.SARepeater.Net.

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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