



Alamodome Photos by WA3PAY

And the Four is Final

But it started for us last September when we began attending monthly meetings with the San Antonio Local Organizing Committee (SALOC) and liaisons of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Three entities comprise SALOC: UTSA (NCAA Division I member host institution), City of San Antonio, and San Antonio Sports Foundation.

There were some down-to-the-wire, knuckle-biter games as the last four teams (U Conn, Duke, Georgia Tech and Oklahoma State) emerged to the playoffs, converged on San Antonio and played their hearts out. Who knows, maybe some of those extremely talented young men we saw will be back in town playing for the SPURS someday.

In more ways than one, the 2004 NCAA Men's Final Four is now part of history. On Monday, 5 April, the men's team from U Conn won here in San Antonio, and the next evening U Conn's women's team won in New Orleans. This year – for the first time ever – the same school brought home trophies for both the men's and women's basketball teams.



Sea of Orange
Oklahoma State's Pep Rally, Located Just Off
the Command Center Entrance



Jan N5YPK and John Carrola

Just as each of the basketball teams had to get ready and work their game plans, to accommodate our visitors so did 1,200 San Antonio Volunteers. It took months to develop and execute the master plan (including providing backup arrangements for the *What Ifs*, etc. ... "What if it rains during the River Rally, Dome Dribble or while four separate pep rallies are underway?").

As the last week of March began, we hoped all of our preparations, recruiting and scheduling would be good enough. Things were running

smoothly and extremely quiet. We had to wonder if this was a lull before the storm or if our years of experience were about to pay off.

The bottom never did fall out. We knew how to do it right, as you will see from our After Action Report ...

Our objective in Communications was to “estimate communications needs for the event, provide communication services to all San Antonio Local Organizing Committee (SALOC) personnel, distribute all communications equipment, test and maintain accountability of all issued equipment, provide information operator services, record incident reports, provide freshly charged batteries on request, and maintain channel integrity by monitoring radio channels for non-related, too lengthy conversations.

“Synopsis and Recommendations

“Emphasis was placed on recruitment of volunteers who are “veterans” of the local 1998 Men’s Final Four and 2002 Women’s Final Four events and who had worked in that Communication Center. Most volunteers were recruited from

local San Antonio Amateur Radio clubs, made up of prominent, community-oriented ham radio operators. This provided excellent teamwork, continuity of effort and institutional knowledge to the communications effort.

“Thirty-nine Communications Volunteers put in 535 man-hours in inventorying and logging the disbursement and return of equipment at the Command Center and at Hoop City.

“Equipment inventory remains essential at all stages of equipment disbursement and retrieval. A simplified equipment accountability paper log form was used; line items were made for each equipment transaction, making it easier to log “actions” and record problems with equipment as they were discovered. Each log entry was then incorporated into an Excel

spreadsheet maintained for ease of equipment tracking and quick lookup. More than 800 entries were made at the Communications Center alone (these numbers do not reflect transactions made within Transportation nor at Hoop City) from 27 March through 5 April. On 6 April, Transportation returned their equipment directly to the San Antonio Sports Foundation.

“The Communications Center was in a visible yet secure portion of the Command Center. This was import to maintaining daily accountability. There was adequate table space for several gang chargers and a laptop computer.

“Command Center accessibility and parking lot proximity made it easy for our volunteers to arrive on time for their shifts. It was also convenient for volunteers



Transportation Gurus Clarence Johnson and Cris Young. Note: Each line entry is a pending scheduled pick-up/drop off



Mary Anne N5MYN, Brad KD5YTQ, Teri KC5BJ, Gil AA5XH

scheduled to work at Hoop City to first stop by the Command Center for any last minute updates.



Christa Scannell, Dome Dribble Coordinator, Hard at Work

“There was an adequate number of radio channels programmed, minimizing competition for air-time. Feedback from users regarding the extra Transportation channels that were employed (i.e., Media Shuttle, Volunteer Shuttle, Airport, etc.) will be useful.

“Recommend continued use of the laminated communications card with lanyard.

“Recommend continued use of a dedicated emergency radio channel setup for only key personnel.

“The Communications Center functioned effectively. We were able to meet our objectives and enjoyed doing it, though we should recommend procurement of a few bobbers and several feet of fishing line for 2008 and 2010.”

You can plan for a lot of things, but there was one mishap that was a first for us ... our Key Volunteer for Media was attending the River Rally when the clip came off the radio attached to her waist. With the bands playing and all

the excitement, she never knew it popped off until a Ranger tapped her on the shoulder and pointed down. Into the water! The next morning she was assigned a new radio ... with fishing line and bobber attached.

Our THANKS go out to our 39 Communications Volunteers who maintained operational communications throughout the entire event and allowed SALOC, Transportation, Airport Welcome, Hotel Welcome, and Hoop City (to name but a few) to do their parts. **CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!** ... Kevin Bailey, Brenda Bermudez, Lee N5NTG, Rodney Brown, John Carrola, Jackie Cicero, Brett Codd, James Cristofolletti, George Demick KE6NTY, David Espinosa KD5NNH, Chris Garcia, Sean Guillroy, Herm Haertel N5CNH, Brad Henson KD5YTQ, Mary Anne Horn N5MYN, Don Kirchner NK5F, Pat Knight AD5BR, Senia Lamas, Ray Lopez WB5RAY, Benny Martinez NU5P, Pat Martinez KD5UXR, Gil Mathis AA5XH, Michael McAllister, April McWha, Connie McWha KD5UXU, Niki Nichols, James Parido, Don Perese AC5XK, Christi Pettitt N5NQM, Bill Reichert WE5ET, Clayton Sparks KC5ZWE, Jan Sternecker N5YPK, Lee Taylor K5KLT, Charles Thomas WA3PAY, Teri Thomas KC5BJI, Stan Waghalter KD5ZSY, Andrew Watson KD5NNN, Betty West KC5VJR, and Ann Winsett.



Mary and Her New Radio



Kneeling - Sean Guillroy; Seated (Lto R) - Benny NU5P, Pat KD5UXR, Jim Parido; Standing - Charles WA3PAY, Andrew KD5NNN, Teri KC5BJI, Officer David Torres with the SAPD helicopter unit

A **Special Thanks** goes to a few deserved folks who went above and beyond the requested minimum two shifts and pulled 3, 4, or even more shifts, including two initial inventories: John Carrola, Brett Codd, David Espinosa, Herm Haertel, Brad Henson, Mary Anne Horn, Gil Mathis, Bill Reichert, Clayton Sparks, and Stan Waghalter. In this group also belongs Billy Sparks **N5TCT**, who Transportation wouldn't share with us - hihi. Your dedication to the task at hand is commendable!

Charles, WA3PAY and Teri, KC5BJI
Key Volunteers, Communications

p.s. We saw a former club member who now works for KABB-TV, John Chapman (**KC5MIB**). He said to say, "Hello to everybody," and we'd see more of him if work didn't get in the way.



Norma, Janet, Ann, Pam



Nancy Christensen,
SASF Administrative Assistant



View of Sunset Station, Command Center & Alamodome
down Hoefgen Street at Commerce Street