



The Repeater

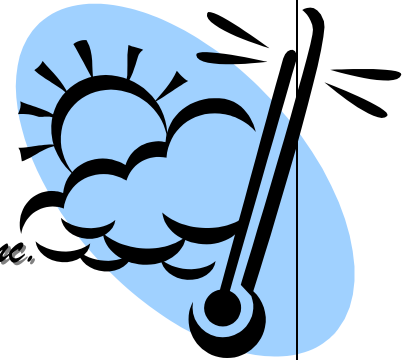
August 2011

Sponsored by AA5RO

Alamo Area Radio Organization, Inc.

Benny Martinez, NU5P, Trustee

P.O. Box 380032, San Antonio, TX 78268



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Andrew's Code (Andrew Watson, President)

Arrangements have been made for **Eric Schmidt**, (KA5WMY) Zones 2 & 3 Frequency Coordinating Committee member on the Texas VHF-FM Society, to come to San Antonio August 1 to speak to us and hold a question and answer session regarding the pending plan changes to the VHF band.



A double sized room for this meeting at the American Red Cross building in San Antonio, has been reserved.

Everyone who is concerned about

losing VHF simplex frequencies should plan to attend this meeting and voice your concerns.

The meeting will be held at the American Red Cross Office in San Antonio located at 3642 E. Houston Street from 7PM to 9PM.

There will be a quick introduction of area club leaders, ARRL reps, an explanation of the rules of courtesy, and then Eric will have the floor for the remainder of the evening.

SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS. A LARGE TURN OUT IS NEEDED TO GET OUR VOICES HEARD!

For those of you who may not be familiar with the VHF-FM society, it was formed on August 8, 1965 in Austin, Texas.

In the beginning, the Society was designed to provide communications between the various groups in Texas doing repeater work. It was to also provide a network of parts and equipment for use in repeaters and associated activities.

In the early 1970's the Society took on the job of coordinating and setting standards for construction of repeaters and the band planning of frequencies for repeater usage in Texas.

Society staff and coordinators are researching and planning the future spectrum management of voice, digital and video frequencies in Texas.

Currently, Texas has over 1600 repeaters from 10 meters to 1.2

GHz coordinated. Texas has more repeaters than several other states and coordinating bodies combined.

On another note, our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 10th. at Mamacita's Restaurant on I-10 near Callaghan Road.

Dinner starts around 6:15pm, the meeting starts at 7pm.

We always have interesting presentations and a lot of good fellowship.

Come join us AND **Get on the Air...**

73's

Andrew
K5NNN

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Critique on AARO's Field Day 2011

During the July 13th meeting, a discussion was held on the 2011 Field Day at Raymond Russell Park which took place in June.

One of the items mentioned was that the operating stations were too close to each other.

Most of the comments were positive including the format and time of the event. Cutting off at midnight seemed to be agreeable to most members.

As a result of the class conducted by **Walt DuBose**, the membership suggested that AARO sponsor additional tech classes during the year.

This idea was taken under advisement.

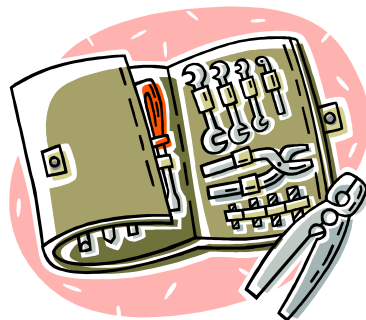
Next year's Field Day will be June 30th. Stay tuned for information on this one.



David Finell (N7LRY) is pictured above with a frequency synthesizer he built.

He also builds other electronic "goodies" which he brought to the meeting to display.

If you have a hobby that you think would interest the membership, why not "show and tell" at one of our meetings?



Here Comes Hurricane Season

Hurricane season has started picking up in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

At press time, Hurricane Don was forming and indications are that South Texas will get some moisture from the storm.

The EOC is taking a wait and see attitude. "Right now, the city of San Antonio is just in situational awareness. Just kind of monitoring everything and seeing where we stand," said District Fire Chief **Lawrence Treviño**, emergency management coordinator for the city of San Antonio.

Ham radio operators are expected to keep an eye (and ear) on the storm.

_KSAT contributed to this story

The website "members only" password changed June 4th. Every member counts in our organization. Please renew your membership to get the new password.

The AARO Membership Roster is updated every month on the website. Please check your information and let Stan know of any changes.

**BELTON
HAMFEST
October 1, 2011.**
[http://
www.beltonhamexpo
.org/](http://www.beltonhamexpo.org/)
for information.

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Getting Ready for the Next Big Solar Storm

Officials have gathered at the National Press Club in Washington DC to ask themselves a simple question: *What if a below-average solar cycle, where the sun unleashes one of the most powerful storms in centuries, happens again?*

The last one occurred in 1859. The blast peppered Earth with the most energetic protons in half-a-millennium, induced electrical currents that set telegraph offices on fire, and sparked Northern Lights over Cuba and Hawaii.

"A similar storm today might knock us for a loop," says **Lika Guhathakurta**, a solar physicist at NASA headquarters. "Modern society depends on high-tech systems such as smart power grids, GPS, and satellite communications--all of which are vulnerable to solar storms."

As 2011 unfolds, the sun is once again on the eve of a below-average solar cycle—at least that's what forecasters are saying. The "Carrington event" of

1859 (named after astronomer **Richard Carrington**, who witnessed the instigating flare) reminds us that strong storms can occur even when the underlying cycle is nominally weak.

In 1859 the worst-case scenario was a day or two without telegraph messages and a lot of puzzled sky watchers on tropical islands.

In 2011, the situation would be more serious. An avalanche of blackouts carried across continents by long-distance power lines could last for weeks to months as engineers struggle to repair damaged transformers.

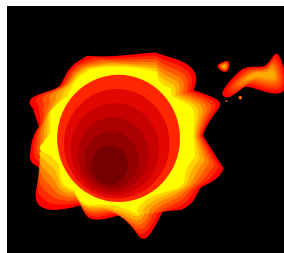
Planes and ships couldn't trust GPS units for navigation. Banking and financial networks might go offline, disrupting commerce in a way unique to the Information Age.

According to a 2008 report from the National Academy of Sciences, a century-class solar storm could have the economic impact of 20 hurricane Katrinas.

"We can now track the progress of solar storms in 3 dimensions

as the storms bear down on Earth," says **Michael Hesse**, chief of the GSFC Space Weather Lab and a speaker at the forum. "This sets the stage for actionable space weather alerts that could preserve power grids and other high-tech assets during extreme periods of solar activity."

More information about the meeting, including a complete program of speakers, may be found at the SWEF 2011 home page: http://www.nswp.gov/swef/swef_2011.html.



Got stuff you want to get rid of? Donate it to AARO for door prizes and help raise money for the group.

Around the Band

The AARO Annual Holiday Christmas Party will be held Wednesday, December 14th at Grady's Barbeque on Bandera Road.

Advance tickets are \$12 each. They will be \$14 at the door. (We would like to know how many are coming before the night of the event).

One free raffle ticket will be given with each paid meal. Additional tickets will be on sale during the party.

The event will start around 6:00PM.

The ARRL Newline program can be heard on the AARO repeater every Tuesday night starting at 8:30.

Thanks to **Lars Hansen** for using his expertise in bringing the program to us.

Talk Net
146.420 Simplex
Tuesday nights
7:00 o'clock

Check out the "Rainfall Net" every night at 8 o'clock on 146.940. Tone 179.9

Calendar of Events

- August 10 - AARO Meeting at Mamacita's Restaurant. 8030 I-10 West near Callaghan. Dinner at 6:30PM, Meeting starts at 7PM.
- Austin Hamfest August 5 & 6th. Austin Airport Marriott South - 4415 S. IH 35.



August Birthdays



William "Bill" Heberling WD5EDR
Jodie Hebner KE5PSG
Pat Martinez KD5UXR
Mike K. Davis W6GAR

Ray Ware W5MLW
Tex Kennedy N5TX
"Dottie" Thompson W7PBR

Join Us on 147.380+ and 443.875+ (both PL tone 162.2) for *Newsline* and the *InfoNet* - Monday Evenings at 8:30 p.m., followed by a *SLOW "Learn CW" Net* *Saturday Night Code & NightOwl Net* - starting at 10:00 p.m.
Also check out the club's web site - <http://aa5ro.org>

AARO
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Atlanmo Area Radio Organization, Inc.

