



# The Repeater

December 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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## 2011 Christmas/Holiday Party Time

Calling all hams, partners and friends: AARO will again host their Holiday Party to celebrate the holiday season on Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 PM at Grady's BBQ on Bandera Road.

This is the normal meeting night for A A R O (second Wednesday). Menu is BBQ beef and chicken plates with the usual accompaniments.

Drinks provided will be iced tea and water. Beer is available from the restaurant on a cash basis.

Besides good food, good friends and much merriment will be a drawing for a select group of ham related door prizes.

According to custom there will be award

certificates passed out for the deserving and undeserving. (You know, who's been naughty and nice?)

We are looking for a few individuals to bring something for dessert. One XYL has volunteered to bring some baked goodies but we need more.

If anyone wants to donate ham related items for the door prizes in addition to what we already have, we would be receptive to accepting it. Please send an email to [K5ADF@AOL.COM](mailto:K5ADF@AOL.COM) before the party telling me what you are bringing so we can accommodate everyone.

Cost for the party is \$12 per person before the event and \$15 per person at the door. No exceptions to the rule please. You can mail your

checks to the AARO Treasurer, PO Box 380032, San Antonio TX 78268.

See you at the AARO Annual Holiday Party

*de K5ADF*



## Memberships Accepted

January 1st is the beginning of our fiscal year. That means we're looking for membership dues now.

Our membership roll has increased lately of which the board is grateful. We're a volunteer group who believes in not only the objectives of ham radio, but also giving back to our community.

Your dues help keep our repeaters on the air for your use. They also help keep the ARRL Newsline program coming to you on Tuesday nights.

Various education programs held throughout the year are funded with your dues.

You can download a membership application at our website: [www.aa5ro.org](http://www.aa5ro.org). Click on the "membership" button.

Dues are \$15 a year for individuals, or \$25 for a family.

Oh yeah, you get this newsletter on our website or by mail if you request it.

Thanks for your continued support.

## Skywarn Recognition Day

The 13th Annual S K Y W A R N Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 3, 2011.

SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe.

According to SRD Coordinator **David Floyd**, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS offices, working as teams to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

Locally, **Paul Yura**, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Austin/San Antonio NWS office says amateur radio operators should contact him about this event.

Contact Paul at 830-629-0130 for more information.

## BPL Rules Get A Review

The FCC's latest order to revise rules for access broadband over power line (BPL) systems is set to become effective Dec. 21.

The commission's second BPL Report and Order has been published in the Federal Register. However, Petitions for Reconsideration concerning BPL are also due Dec. 21.

ARRL may ask for a reconsideration. "While BPL has failed in the marketplace as a medium for delivering broadband connectivity to consumers, the technology is perceived to have some 'smart grid' applications," states ARRL.

"Now is the time to fix the rules, principally by mandatory notching, so that any new entrants will be competing on a level playing field with the existing BPL firms that have recognized the need for notching of the amateur bands."

As RW has reported,

the FCC had proposed a measurement standard modification for determining whether a BPL system is in compliance with the maximum allowable levels of radiated emissions.

The ARRL argued there should be mandatory notching of the amateur bands to a level 35 dB below the general emission limit to reduce the likelihood of harmful interference to amateur stations.

In the Second R&O, the commission decided not to adopt mandatory notching. Instead, the agency increased the requirement for BPL systems to be able to notch frequency bands to at least 25 dB, an increase of 5 dB from the prior requirement of 20 dB.

The ARRL called the increase in notch depth a step in the right direction but said that doesn't go far enough to prevent interference.

You can submit articles of ham community interest to: [KD5ZSY@satx.rr.com](mailto:KD5ZSY@satx.rr.com). Articles need to be delivered by the 15th of each month.

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## 2011 Rock N' Roll Marathon

Once again, the AARO Radio Club assisted with the San Antonio Rock & Roll Marathon on November 13, 2011.

Volunteers were at every mile marker, and a few other odd ball locations along the route assisting with starting the clocks and keeping race officials informed of the any problems on the course.

There was one fatality this year in the race. It's the first time in the four year history of the San Antonio event (since it changed names, and sponsors). No cause of death was announced.

Coordinator this year was **LEE BESING N5NTG**. Thanks to all of the hams who participated in this year's event.

The A A R O organization is supposed to get a "thank you" gift from the race organizers for our help.



## Ham Radio Operators Increasing in Numbers

The newest trend in American communication isn't another smartphone from Apple or Google, but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Ham radio first took the nation by storm nearly a hundred years ago. Last month, the FCC logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years. Compare that with 2005 when only 662,600 people hammed it up and you'll see why the American Radio Relay League -- the authority on all things ham -- is calling it a "golden age."

"Over the last five years we've had 20-25,000 new hams a year," **Allen Pitts**, a spokesman for the group, told FoxNews.com.

With more people joining the hobby, local ham radio businesses are

growing as well. Amateur Electronics Supply in Las Vegas sells everything to do with ham radios, from transceivers, amplifiers and antennas to handhelds.

Looking to ham it up a bit with some friends? Try a fox hunt -- the radio equivalent of ham-to-ham combat. In a fox hunt, local amateur radio clubs search for a transmitter (called the fox) using their homemade antennas.

*By Michelle Macaluso, Fox News*

Speaking of Fox Hunts, another one is planned for December 3 at 10AM.

Contact **Andrew, K5NNN**, for more information. It will be held at McAlister Park.



## Around the Band

Amateur Radio Fiesta 2012 - Schertz Civic Center - January 14, 2012, 8am - 2pm.

Admission price this year is \$8 advance, \$10 at the door. Free admission for children under age 12.

Dealer Tables: \$10-  
\$14  
Flea Market Tables: \$10  
Tailgate Spaces: \$5  
Extra Prize Tickets: \$1 each or 12 for \$10.

Major and grand prizes totaling \$800 plus many door prizes.

For additional information see our webpage: <http://w5sc.org/>, or call the 2012 Amateur Radio Fiesta Chairman, **Lewis Archer, W0YVY**, phone (210) 415-5733.



**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

- December 14th - 2011 Christmas/Holiday Party at Grady's on Bandera in Leon Valley. Meet, greet, fellowship at 6PM. Dinner served at 7PM.

### December Birthdays



William "Bill" Reichert WE5ET

Arthur Leal KI5OP

Walter DuBose K5YFW

Danny McCarty WA5KRP

Suzanne "Suzie" Otter Associate

Kris Keener KF5JZK

James Haley KF5HVK

Ken Lemanski KF4MYA

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>

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