



The ^{Online} Repeater

February 2012

Sponsored by AA5RO

Alamo Area Radio Organization, Inc.

Benny Martinez, NU5P, Trustee

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



2012 Board of Directors

Terry Platt, K5ADF, 695-9570 (President)

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Chuck Kenworthy, WB5FWI, 342-7066

Lee Besing N5NTG, 771-7075

Andrew Watson, KD5NNN, 340-6154

Smoke Signals from the TiPi _Terry Platt

As we start yet another new year in AARO's history, we have a new slate of officers. As you can see from the masthead, I have accepted the challenge of leading our club this year.

Following in Andrew's footsteps is going to be a challenge.

The board met earlier this month and we have the usual activities planned such as field day, holiday party, etc, as well as some new activities. More details will be forthcoming. Anyone who has an idea for an activity or program is encouraged to let me or a board member know either in person or by email. We are certainly open and welcome all ideas.

I assume that many of you made it to the Radio Fiesta and hopefully

stopped by our table to say hi. We would love to hear about the treasures that you found there at our February meeting. Anyone who upgraded their ticket at the event, we would like to recognize your accomplishment at the meeting so don't be bashful. I was not able to attend as I was out at Big Bend National Park along with 17 other hams providing communications for the Big Bend Ultra Run (<http://www.bigbend50.com>).

While I missed the camaraderie of the hamfest, the Big Bend event was a lot of fun as well as work. I was at aid station 3, the last aid station on the 25K run where we had 119 runners come through with no mishaps and one pick up.

The weather was beautiful with clear blue skies and warm temperatures. Big Bend NP located 450 miles west of San Antonio is indeed out in the sticks where cell phones have very limited access, broadcast radio and TV stations exist only on satellite, and FRS/GMRS radios do not have enough power. For those who have never been to Big Bend NP, I would recommend a visit.

At our first meeting of the year, we had an excellent guest speaker, **Lothar Harris**, K5LEH, who presented amateur TV (ATV) both UHF and HF for our enjoyment. Lothar had brought a UHF setup and passed around the camera so that our

members could see each other on the TV at the front of the room. He also did a demonstration of slow scan TV used on HF. His handouts will be available on the website. I hope those in attendance enjoyed the meeting. (See pg. 3).

The next board meeting will be on February 1 at the Sea Island Shrimp House located on the west bound access road of IH10 just beyond Wurzbach. All interested members are always welcome to attend.

I hope to see all of you at the next general meeting on Wednesday, February 8 at Mamacita's.

73's
Terry K5ADF

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Demonstrate Ham Radio

We have a request from the North Side Children's Center to make a ham presentation similar to the one that AARO presented to them in March 2006.

They are reading a story about Mr. Crumb's new hobby –guess what it is! They want us to bring some VHF/UHF equipment, show them how it works, let them make some contacts and in general present Amateur Radio.

We need two or three volunteers who would like to talk to some elementary students.

The presentation will be Friday, March 23, at 8:30 AM for about 45 minutes. If you would like to volunteer for the presentation or be on your radio for a QSO with the students, please let me know. **Terry K5ADF.**



Big Bend Marathon Report

Hey all! I just recently got back from my big adventure in Big Bend National Park, helping out with the Big Bend 50K Marathon, assisting with providing amateur radio support for the event. The race itself was on January 15, but most of us were there on Friday. Let me tell you_ it was cold that first night!

Upon my 1500L Friday arrival, I had my campsite up, along with a couple of HF dipoles, and a VHF/UHF jpole antenna by about 1700L. It's a long drive, and within about 70 miles of Big Bend, there is virtually NO cell phone coverage! The area is some of the most beautiful scenery you could want!

That first night was cold, the temp dropped to about 20 degrees, and I was definitely frosty when I awoke the next morning! After cooking breakfast, I went to the main event management area and met **Charles Land N5NN**, who gave out duty assignments. I was assigned the first aid station located about 5 miles from the starting point of the 25k/50k route. And then I was to go mobile after the last runner past my location.

The local radio club, BBARC, had done an excellent job of putting up repeaters for the event, and in most locations, we were even able to use HT's. My Saturday assignment was an initial 12 mile drive from the Rio Grande Village RV park that we were staying at. After finding my location, I decided to drive the route.

That was a challenge! I started driving the race course for the 25k race at 1030, and that took me a full 4 hours! The going was slow, sometimes we could only go about 7-8 mph at the fastest because of the terrain, surrounded on all sides by the Davis mountain range.

Saturday night was cold, but not quite as bad as the night before! On Race Day, we all went out and took our positions, 18 hams plus the two folks who acted as NCS (Net Control Station), for the event. The race started at 0730, we were at our positions by about 0630, made our comm checks, and the race started on time. The entire race was over by about 1630, and thru it all, we only had three contestants who needed assistance. One of our hams was also a paramedic.

This was a very fun adventure, and I cant wait to do it again next year!

_Thanks Steve, KE5WYV



Radio Repeater News

by Benny Martinez-Trustee

Have you heard the AARO repeater lately? Have you noticed any difference or improvement?

Just before Christmas one Saturday the repeater went off the air. **Charles Thomas** and myself went to the site to see what was wrong.

Let's see if you can guess what was wrong. What is the one item that fails on computer networks? Most people have these on their home computers. Give up?

The UPS. Uninterruptable power supply. Our system is on the hospital emergency power system but we have a UPS in line to keep up and maintain constant power during the time we lose commercial power and the backup generator kicks in.

I removed the UPS and need to purchase a replacement which will be installed shortly.

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

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Slow Scan TV Explained_notes from Lothar Harris

Licensed hams (General and Extra class have more frequencies to choose from) have access to SLOW SCAN TV technology.

•Transmits one picture at a time in about a minute

•Another sound Card application / Uses the same interface as PSK or RTTY

•Software is free

•Comes in an Analog or Digital flavor

•MMSSTV – Analog

•EASYPAL - Digital

•Can be used on any band (HF,VHF,UHF) that allows image (check the band plan)

•Narrow band modes (MP73N) can be used on data allocations (30M)

•Can be used in FM or SSB

•There are a number of different modes of transmission, but the most common ones are Martin M1 (popular in Europe) and Scottie S1 (used mostly in the USA, Canada and Japan).

•There is a compromise between image quality and time. At one extreme we have low resolution (120 line) black and white images which take only 8 seconds. At the other

end we have software providing high resolution with 16 million colors at 640 x 480 resolution which take up to 7 minutes. Most images these days are full color 320 x 240 resolution.

•The average time taken to send a HF SSTV picture varies although 1 to 2 minutes could be considered average using Scottie S1 for example.

•Modern software will make the selection for you automatically.

S S T V uses analogue frequency modulation, in which every different value of brightness in the image gets a different audio frequency.

Color is achieved by sending the brightness of each color component (usually red, green and blue) separately. This signal can be fed into a SSB transmitter, which in part modulates the carrier wave.

There are a number of different modes of transmission, but the most common ones are Martin M1 (popular in Europe) and Scottie S1

(used mostly in the USA).[5] Using one of these, an image transfer takes 114 (M1) or 110 (S1) seconds. Some black and white modes take only 8 seconds to transfer an image.

Links to Amateur Television

<http://www.hamtv.com/>

<http://atn-tv.org/>

<http://atv-tv.org/>

http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Operating_Modes/Amateur_Television/.



Lothar Harris



Radio Repeater News

While at the site, **Joe Jankowski** donated a VHF amplifier. Our repeater was putting out 20 watts. With the amplifier, we're putting out about 70 watts. This should help out with our signal in some of the marginal areas. Please let me know if you have noticed any improvement of the repeater.

Here are some of the changes and upgrades made to the repeater in the last few years:

*Configure repeater and controller properly to prevent transmitter from being keyed and no audio when wrong or no tone is received.

*Replaced the dual band antenna with a dipole antenna for each band.

*Had VHF duplexer re-tuned.

*Added a 2 meg bandpass filter to the VHF receiver.

*Added a receive preamplifier.

*Replace RG8 cables interconnecting the repeater to the duplexer with high efficiency shielded cable.

*Added power amplifier to VHF system.

Benny _ NU5P



Alamo Area Radio Organization, Inc.

Membership/Renewal Form

January 1 – December 31

New _____
Renewal _____

Annual Membership:
\$15 Individual _____
\$25 Family _____
(Half Price after July 1 each year)

Name: _____ Call Sign(s): _____
 License Class: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Birth Month: _____
 Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's Call Sign: _____ Birth Month: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____
 Occupation: _____ Retired: Y / N Interests: _____
 What is your E-mail address? _____

By signing this application, I agree to strictly adhere to the rules of Amateur Radio, both legal and in spirit and intent, to abide by the by-laws of this organization, and to adhere to proper repeater protocol.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Do you want your address, phone number &/or e-mail address listed in the **club roster**?
Yes ___ **No** ___ **Exclude:** _____

Do you want your monthly newsletter via the **US Postal Service** _____
OR download it from the **club's web site** (with an e-mail notice when it is posted) _____

Are you an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) member? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

Where did you hear about us? On the Air ___ From a Friend ___ Newsletter ___
 K-Comm ___ Web page ___ Other _____

Please submit a copy of:

- 1) **your license(s) if new application or changes in license**
- 2) **your check made payable to AARO**
- 3) **and this application to** **Membership Chair**
AARO, Inc.
P.O. Box 380032
San Antonio, TX 78268

Calendar of Events

- ✓ February 8, 2012 - Meeting at Mamacita's on I-10 @ Callaghan. Dinner 6:15; Meet 7 PM.
- ✓ February 14 - Valentine's Day
- ✓ February 20 - President's Day

February Birthdays



Stanley Waghalter KD5ZSY

Michael Brown AE5WT

Jill Buck KE5IFU

Ralph Ward KB5UAA

Lee Besing N5NTG

Bob Rodriguez KA5AUW

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

Guest Speaker at February Meeting Announced

Thomas O Brien, Jr. (AB5XZ) will be our guest speaker at the February 8th meeting. He has a slide presentation for us that promises to be both educational and entertaining. Make plans to be there.

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://www.aa5ro.org>

Additional News Items Just Added

- ✓ Severe Weather Conference March 2 & 3rd at the Witte Museum.
- ✓ Congratulations to Roger (KE5YTD) on winning one of the grand prizes at the January Radio Fiesta event.
- ✓ Belton Ham Fest is April 14th, 2012.
- ✓ Houston to Austin MS 150 is April 21-22, 2012.

This is the new online only edition of the Repeater. There will be more material with this edition than with the print version.
Your comments are welcome. Send them to me:
KD5ZSY@satx.rr.com.