



The Repeater

January 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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Linda Robinson, KC5QPQ, 902-6973 (Secretary)

Chuck Kenworthy, WB5FWI, 342-7066

Chris Williams, KC5PYG, 834-1144

Andrew Watson, KD5NNN, 340-6154

2011 Christmas/Holiday Party A Success

Over 50 people enjoyed the fellowship at the annual AARO Christmas/Holiday Party held in December.

There were plenty of prize winners which were bought and or donated by club members for the event.

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's party. Plans are already in the works for the 2012 gathering.

Teri, KC5BJI, reminded us that AARO has been holding the annual party at Grady's since 1992.

A few pictures were taken at the event and are to the right of this column.

Our next regular meeting will be held January 11 at Mamacita's on I-10 near Callaghan.

Dinner at 6:15PM,

Meeting starts at 7PM.

Welcome new board members for 2012.

Lee Besing, **Linda Robinson**, **Chris Williams**, and returning board member, **Chuck Kenworthy**.

Serving another year are **Andrew Watson**, **Terry Platt**, and **Stanley Waghalter**.



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. 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.

AARO Newsletters open to everyone

AARO Board Members voted to open the electronic version of the Repeater to the world wide web.

Previously, only dues paying members could access the newsletters through the member's only section.

If you want a snail mail version of the newsletter, you have to be a dues paying member of the organization and request the publication.

Information regarding membership is available on the website: www.aa5ro.org.

Within the "members only" section, which will require a password, you'll find the membership roster and a copy of the AARO bylaws.

The password will be changing March 1. Be looking in your mailbox for that information.



ARES open to all hams

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications service when disaster strikes.

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES.

Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES.

Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

Locally, Bexar County ARES is in the process of planning

their 2012 programs and nets. We are committing to do our best to have a program at each monthly meeting during the year.

The ARES Training Net is on 147.180 pl 103.5 is held the last Tuesday of each month from 8:30 - 9 PM.

Check the net to get membership information. Membership in the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) is not a requirement for membership in ARES at the local level.



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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ARRL Launches New DIY Campaign

The ARRL Public Relations Department has released the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) suite of interrelated promotional materials aimed at exposing the growing Do It Yourself/Maker community to Amateur Radio opportunities.

The DIY movement is nothing new to Amateur Radio. For more than a century, hams have been working in basements and attics, taking things apart and putting them back together in new ways, just for the fun of it.

Meanwhile, there has been a growing population of DIY hobbyists who do not know about the opportunities of Amateur Radio.

“Maker Faires” have popped up in several areas of the country, from New York to Los Angeles, and according to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager **Allen Pitts**, W1AGP, look suspiciously like ham radio conventions.

“The DIY crowd is as diverse as hams,” Pitts explained. “Many are into computer programming, using new computer chips and

open-source electronics prototyping platforms, such as Arduino that are based on flexible, easy-to-use hardware and software.

To reach this growing group, the ARRL Public Relations Department has created an entirely new set of campaign materials for ARRL Public Information Officers, groups and individual hams to use in reaching out to the D I Y / M a k e r community.

“The DIY crowd is as diverse as hams,” Pitts explained. “Many are into computer programming, using new computer chips and open-source electronics prototyping platforms, such as Arduino that are based on flexible, easy-to-use hardware and software.

They are artists, designers, hobbyists and anyone interested in creating interactive objects and applications. DIYers work with everything from wood and clothing, to energy and chemistry projects, with many interested

in robotics.”

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and **Dave Bell**, W6AQ, were recruited to create the new video. Recruiting volunteers throughout 2011, the duo shot more than 65 hours of high-definition video, and then edited it to a mere 8 minutes.

Titled *The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio*, it shows ham-makers projects from around the country. You can watch it on the ARRL website or on YouTube.

The video is also available on DVD discs, along with the printed handout from the ARRL.

ARRL members can get a free ‘Ask Why I DIY with Ham Radio’ button at the ARRL table at larger hamfests and conventions while supplies last.



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

- ✓ January 11, 2012 - Meeting at Mamacita's on I-10 @ Callaghan. Dinner 6:15; Meet 7 PM.
- ✓ January 14, Radio Fiesta @ Schertz Civic Center; 8AM
- ✓ January 21, VEC testing @ Red Cross. 3642 E. Houston. 9AM.

January Birthdays



Rodney L Brown

AA5RB

Andrew Watson

K5NNN

Byron Armstrong

W8SYD

Johnny Wallace

K5POP

Clay Laster

W5ZPV

Charles Thomas

WA3PAY

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>

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