



# Squelch Tales

A Bi-Monthly Publication By The San Diego Repeater Association, Inc.

July/August 2010

## SANDRA Celebrates Incorporation

On June 5, 2010 SANDRA held its Celebration of Incorporation at Giovanni's Restaurant on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. The Celebration was a SANDRA membership meeting and was attended by 33 members and guests including old timers and new members.

Sandra began life as the San Diego Amateur FM Radio Relay Association (SDAFMRRRA) in 1968. The organization grew to over 100 members and changed its name to something that people could remember and pronounce, the San Diego Repeater Association or SANDRA. SANDRA was subsequently incorporated in 1975, 35 years ago. Happy Birthday SANDRA!



Right to left: SANDRA's Treasurer Ken Decker WA6OSB, behind Ken and out of the frame is President Jason Lansky NF6E. From left to right is Ken's daughter, Member-at-Large Chuck Wood WD6APP, Chuck's wife, and Vice President Stogie Panger KC6JCW. Standing in the rear is Member-at-Large John Austin.



Member-at-Large Bayard Rehkoph K6GAO and wife.



Membership Chair Bob Boehme W2IRI (standing) surveys the crowd for potential new members. President Jason Lansky NF6E (left) hides from the camera.



And a good time was had by all!

SANDRA has been instrumental in the development of the effective and efficient repeater systems that we enjoy in Southern California.

## 2010 Membership Survey Results

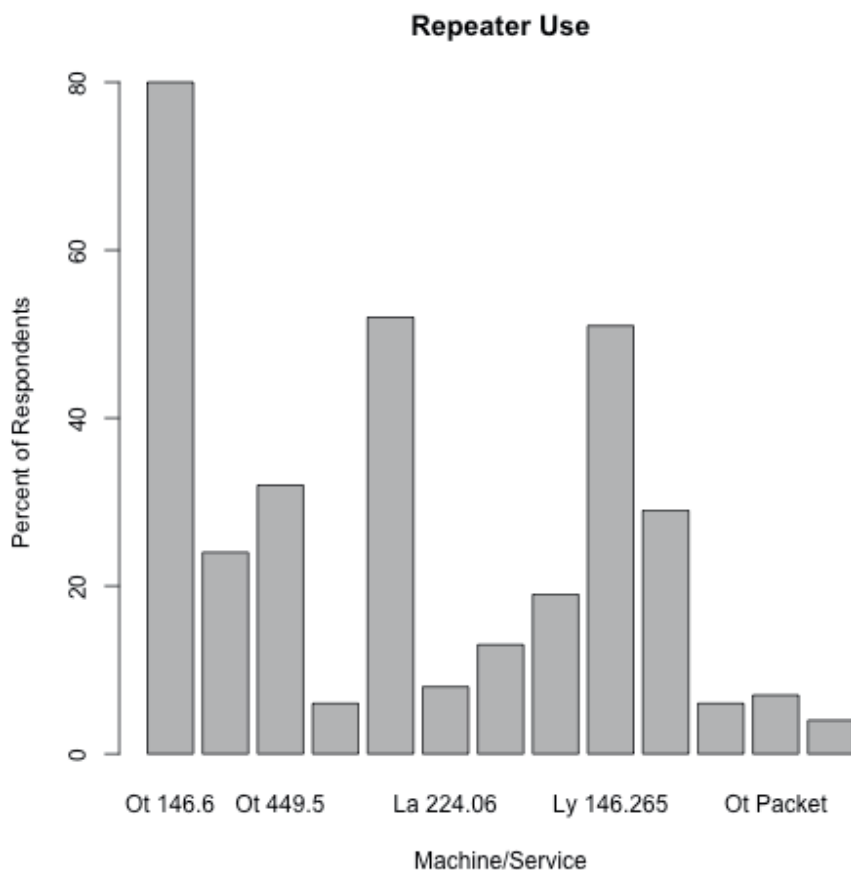
SANDRA's April 2010 communication to the membership included a short survey aimed at capturing the perceptions of present and past members on the club's repeater service and on the club's membership communications. A third part of the survey solicited suggestions from the membership on communications and club performance. Results for the first two portions, the club's repeaters and club

representing a 35.5% response rate. The response rate was exceptional high for a survey of this type and is itself an indication of the interest of the membership. The survey was anonymous, therefore, it is unknown which surveys were returned by current paid-up members and which were returned by former members. Not all questions were completely answered by respondents, therefore, results are tabulated in

terms of the total responses received for any question or part of a question, not the total number of surveys received.

Results were first analyzed for individual questions and then related to responses for other questions in the group to obtain a better overall picture of the responders perceptions. The questions below are paraphrased and not included in their entirety. The first group of questions pertain to the respondents use of SANDRA provided repeaters.

**1. Which SANDRA repeaters do you use?** Of the 97 responses, 12 (12.3%) had no repeaters indicated, which was interpreted as the respondent not using any of the SANDRA provided repeaters. It is uncertain if the responses were from members or former members. The bulk of the responses (69%) indicated use of



Order of repeaters left to right, Otay 146.640, 224.200, 449.500, 1282.300, Mt. Laguna 147.150, 224.060, 449.200, Hi-Pass 145.280, Lyon's 146.265, Sharp 147.885, San Diego 442.320 Otay node or Laguna APRS, and Don't Use.

communications are reported here. The last portion, suggestions from the membership will be reported in a subsequent article to give SANDRA officers time to fully review and consider the suggestions.

The survey consisted of twelve multiple choice questions that concentrated on the memberships use of SANDRA repeaters and SANDRA's communication to the members. Two hundred and seventy-three (273) questionnaires were mailed to members of record and approximately 100 former members that had not renewed during the past two years. At this writing, 97 responses were received

more than one repeater and two responses (2%) indicated use of all repeater services including Otay Packet. The accompanying bar chart shows the percentage of responses for each repeater. The 2 meter repeaters, except for Hi-Pass, received the highest usage followed by the 440 machines and the Otay 220. More responses were received for the Otay machines than the Laguna machines which may reflect coverage differences for some users. However, it appears that most of the respondents use the 2 meter machines, regardless of location, significantly more than the higher frequency repeaters ( $p < 0.001$ ).

## 2010 Membership Survey Results (continued)

**2. How many hours a week do you use SANDRA repeaters?** Only three of the 98 responders declined to answer the question. However, 12% of the 95 responses to the question indicated they do not use any of the SANDRA repeaters, which overlapped, except for one case, the 12% response which had no repeaters indicated in the first question. Most responses (53 or 56%) indicated a usage of less than 1 hour per week. Only one response indicated usage of more than 20 hours per week and one response indicated usage of 10 to 20 hours per week. Responses from 25 surveys (26%) indicated usage of 1 to 5 hours a week and five responses (5%) indicated usage of 5 to 10 hours per week.

**3. Is the amount of time you use SANDRA repeaters the primary reason you renewed your membership?**

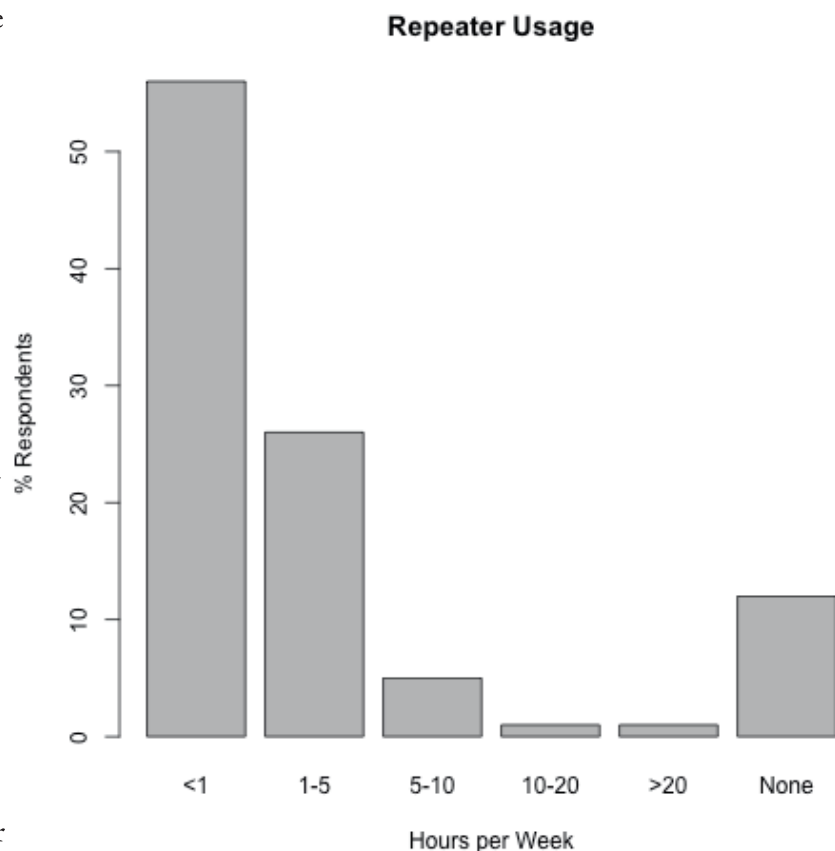
Six people elected not to answer the question. Of the 92 responses, only 37 (41%) indicated their renewal was related to repeater use. The larger number of responses, 54 (59%) indicated that repeater use was not a motivating factor for their renewal. Of the 37 responders that indicated that repeater use was a factor in their renewal decision, 16 (43%) used the repeaters for one hour or less a week, 15 (41%) used the repeater from 1-5 hours a week and 3 (8%) for 5 to 10 hours per week. Both responders that indicated repeater use of 10 hours or more indicated that their repeater use was the reason for their continued membership.

**4. What is your expected "up time" for SANDRA repeaters?**

Twenty-one (22%) survey responders declined to answer the question, which was the largest single group. Of the 76 responses to the question, 17 (22%) expected a 95% up time, 17% expected 90% up time, 17% expected 98% up time, 17% expected 99% up time, 3% expected 99.5% uptime, 3% expected 99.8% up time and 16 (21%) expected 99.9% uptime. There are 10,080 minutes in a week, 99.9% up time corresponds to 10 minutes down time during the week,

90% uptime corresponds to 16.8 hours down time in a week. Respondents that expected up times of 99.9% indicated repeater usage of less than 5 hours per week, with three respondents not using the repeaters at all. Respondents that indicated more than 5 hours usage per week expected up times between 95% and 98%.

Communication: The primary objective of the survey



was to determine how well SANDRA is communicating with the membership and what improvements can be made in the communication and the delivery of communication.

**1. Do you have internet access?** Five of the 98 survey responders did not answer this question. Only five respondents, of the 93 answering the question, indicated that they did not have an internet connection.

**2. Have you visited the club website? How often?** Seven percent (7%) of survey responders declined to answer the question. Of the 91 responding to the question, 16% had not visited the web site and did not know of its existence, 40% of responders knew the website existed but had not visited. Thirty-seven



## 2010 Membership Survey Results (continued)

percent (37%) visited the site a few times a month, 4% visited once per week and 2% visited more than once per week

**3. Do you subscribe to the SANDRA club Yahoo Group email list?** Again, 7% of survey responders declined to answer this question. Of the 91 responses, 27% indicated use of the Yahoo Group, 26% indicated they had not joined the Yahoo SANDRA Group but planned to join, and 46% indicated they had no plans to join the group. The group can be a valuable source of club information and is one potential way of distributing Snqelch Tales.

**4. How satisfied are you with communications from SANDRA about club business, repeater status and activities?** Eleven percent (11%) of survey responders declined to answer the question. Of the the 87 responses to the question, 24% were Very Satisfied, 42% were Satisfied, 33% were Neutral, and 1% (1 response) was Dissatisfied and 1% (one responder) was Very Dissatisfied. The Very Dissatisfied responder checked three boxes, Neutral, Dissatisfied and Very Dissatisfied but was scored as Very Dissatisfied. The Dissatisfied responder visited the SANDRA website Several Times a Month was not a member of the Yahoo SANDRA group but planned to join. The Very Dissatisfied responder did not visit the SANDRA website, but knew of its existence and has no plans to join the Yahoo SANDRA Group. The Dissatisfied responder thought that Snqelch Tales was Very Important, but the Very Dissatisfied responder was Neutral on Snqelch Tales.

**5. How important is Snqelch Tales as a club newsletter?** Ten percent of survey responders declined to evaluate Snqelch Tales. Of the 88 total responses, 38% rated Snqelch Tales as Very Important, 41% rated Snqelch Tales as Important, 18% rated

Snqelch Tales as Neutral and 3% as Not Important. Of the three responders that rated Snqelch Tales as Not Important, none visited the SANDRA website but two had plans to do so, one was a member of the Yahoo SANDRA Group the remaining two were not Yahoo Sandra Group members and had no plans to join.

**6. How Satisfied would you be if Snqelch Tales was delivered via email as a .pdf file?** Ten survey responders (10%) declined to answer the question, of these 9 were the same responders that declined evaluate the importance of Snqelch Tales. Twenty-six responders (30%) would be very satisfied with email delivery, 28% would be Satisfied, 24% are Neutral, nine responders (10%) would be Dissatisfied with seven responders (8%) being Very Dissatisfied. Of the responders that would be Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied, four did not have internet access, two have visited the SANDRA website but 9 planned to visit the website, there were no Yahoo SANDRA Group members, but seven planned to join.

**7. Rate the priority for potential Snqelch Tales content.** Twenty-three percent of responders (23%) declined to answer the question. The average priority for each of the categories presented in the question was very close to 3. However, not all of the content suggestions received the same number of overall responses, possibly indicating that some responders didn't feel particular content important enough to rate. For this reason, the content was ranked by sum of priority votes. The highest total was 251 for articles on Site Profiles, second was 234 for Meeting Minutes, followed by 205 for Officer and Director Profiles and last 195 for Member Profiles. Twenty responders made suggestions for Snqelch Tales content which will be discussed in the next article along with other responder suggestions.

### SANDRA Repeaters

Callsign	Location	Input	Output	Callsign	Location	Input	Output
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	146.040	146.640	WB6WLV	Mt. Laguna	444.200	449.200
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	222.600	224.200	K6GAO	Hi-Pass	144.680	145.280
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	444.500	449.500	W6SS	Lyon's Peak	146.865	146.265
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	1270.300	1282.300	K6AIL	Sharp Hospital	147.285	147.885
WB6WLV	Mt. Laguna	147.750	147.150	WB6WLV	San Diego	442.320	447.320
WB6WLV	Mt. Laguna	222.460	224.060				

All SANDRA repeaters use PL 107.2



## Meeting Minutes

The recent membership survey indicated a strong interest in receiving minutes of SANDRA meeting. Squelch Tales will include a Meeting Minutes section in every issue. This issue includes minutes from the

February 4, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting, March 4, 2010 Membership Meeting and the June 5, 2010 Membership "Celebration of Incorporation" meeting at Giovanni's Restaurant.



## SANDRA Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Thursday Feb. 4, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Jason Lansky, NF6E.

December minutes were read. Stogie KC6JCW made motion **#020410-1** to approve. Chuck WD6APP seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for Jan. 2010 submitted online by Ken, WA6OSB **#020410-2** was approved.

Herb KF6ROX has volunteered to be the Squelch Tales Editor. Herb asked about the expectations of Squelch Tales. A good discussion followed between the board members and Herb. There will [be] 4 publications a year. The first mailing will be March 29, 2010.

A survey addressing club issues will be sent to our membership.

Chuck WD6APP made motion **#020410-3** to approve Committee Appointments by President NF6E. Bob W2IRI seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

SANDARC Representatives are to ask the Council if they would like a Convention Flyer in our Squelch Tales. Ken WA6OSB made the motion **#020419-4** for the representatives to then ask for \$100.00 to offset the cost to SANDRA. Bayard K6GAO seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Barbie made motion **#020410-5** to issue Herb KF6ROX a check for \$200.00 for Squelch Tales supplies. Stogie KC6JCW seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion ensued on the insurance for club equipment. Ken WA6OSB will report back to the board in April on his findings.

Barbie WA6URS made motion **#020410-06** to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Stogie KC6JCW seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbie Flinn – WA6URS  
SANDRA – Secretary

## Meeting Minutes

SANDRA Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7pm by SANDRA President Jason, NF6E.

Attendees: Board Members Present:

President – Jason - NF6E	Membership Chairman - Bob - W2IRI
Secretary – Barbie - WA6URS	2 Year MAL - Bayard – K6GAO
Treasurer - Ken - WA6OSB	3 Year MAL - Chuck – WD6APP

Members & Visitors:

Ed – WA6YVX	Martin – N4MDM	Herb – KF6ROX
Mike – K6WD	Carl – KJ6BSO	Alan – WA0AVS
Steve – AD6VI	Scott – KJ6CVC	Bill – N9QO
Arthur – W3ALL	Bob – KG6EJW	Rod – N6JND

There was no business from the floor.

Steve Early, AD6VI, ARRL SDG Section Manager was the evening speaker. His topic was the antenna ordinance the city of San Diego is proposing:

The City of San Diego is proposing an amendment to the city's Land Development Code (LDC) that could limit the height of amateur radio antenna structures to 35% over the building height. Steve Early recommended that local hams contact their City Council persons, City Planning Commission representatives, radio manufacturers and commercial interests (HRO). If this ordinance passes they will also be affected. Local volunteer groups who rely on amateur radio for assistance such as Red Cross, Cert, Salvation Army, hospitals, universities should also be encouraged to contact the city with their views of this ordinance. There is an impasse of reasonable accommodations to only amateur towers. The DX Club has taken a lead on this issue by hiring legal council to speak on behalf of amateur radio interests.

Steve stated all local hams need to ban together. There is further information on the SANDRA website – [www.wb6wlv.com](http://www.wb6wlv.com) in the “public notice” section. ARRL is providing support. Local high tech companies have an interest in a ham friendly community.

The SANDRA Board wants to thank Carl, KJ6BSO who has volunteered to help support our new *Squelch Tales* editor with graphics and desktop publishing assistance. A survey will be included in the forthcoming *Squelch Tales* for our members to fill out and return to the board. This will help the board with future club endeavors. A draft of the survey was shared at the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbie Flinn – WA6URS  
SANDRA Secretary

## Meeting Minutes

### SANDRA General Membership Meeting

June 5, 2010

Mr. G's Pizza Party

We had a total of 33 people attend our Incorporation Celebration pizza party. There were 23 members and 10 visitors. It was a buy your own food and SANDRA bought the drinks. There were 3 pizzas donated to the group.

Congratulations to Art Leveille, W3ALL, who was the raffle winner of the KG-UVDIP radio.

Jason, NF6E, recognized many of the past Board Members and those on the Incorporation Board.

Many old friendships were revived. Lots of laughter and reminiscing could be heard by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbie Flinn – WA<sup>^</sup>URS

Secretary



### Why Do Hams Have “Nets”?

Sunday night net, traffic net, maritime net, doughnut net. Why do we participate in nets? Is it for a social get-together? To get on the radio once a week and practice saying our call signs? Well, yes; for these reasons and more.

The original purpose for nets was to practice our communications skills in directed communications and to prepare for emergency communications. A “directed net” is one which we wait to be called before transmitting. This practice instills some of the radio discipline necessary during disaster communications.

On a “directed net” the net control operator calls stations on a roll call. As the stations respond, they either pass whatever traffic they have or simply check in with no traffic. Most “directed nets” allow for those not on the roll call to check in at some point before, during or after the roll call.

SANDRA sponsors “directed nets” on Sunday nights on the Otoy repeaters and on Wednesday nights on the Laguna repeaters. We encourage hams to check in to any of our nets. Membership is not required, but we do encourage any users of

SANDRA repeaters to support our club by joining. Any member interested in being a net control operator can contact any board member or email us at [wb6wlv@wb6wlv.com](mailto:wb6wlv@wb6wlv.com).

If you are interested in learning more about emergency communications, the ARRL has information on Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), National Traffic System (NTS), Emergency Communications training courses and more at: <http://www.arrl.org/public-service>.

These short articles are to assist many of our new HAMS with understanding some of the practices of our hobby. The information is not all-inclusive, but should one wish to learn more, reference is provided.

If you have a topic you would like explained, email us at the above email address and we can research it for you and possibly offer an explanation.

John Austin

K6RLV