



Squelch Tales

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

November/December 2010



Four years ago when I was first approached to run for the office of SANDRA president, I humbly accepted the nomination and ran unopposed. The past four years has seen the SANDRA board reelected under similar circumstances

with uncontested ballots being the norm. And although the SANDRA board has transitioned from year to year this way for quite some time, it hasn't always been so easy.

Across the four decade history of SANDRA's existence can be found a collection of calm years intermixed with many years of heated debate and turmoil. SANDRA has seen its share of contested elections, board resignations, on-the-air antics and discontent. Looking back on those times I can understand why it happened, and there is a part of me that is

From SANDRA Presidents, Past and Future

actually glad it did happen. These uncomfortable experiences were learning experiences that helped SANDRA reach an unparalleled level of strength, confidence and comfort in its purpose and mission.

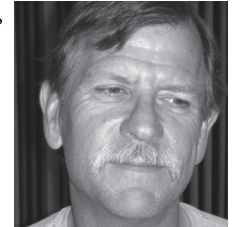
As 2010 draws to a close, so does my final term as your club president. Work commitments and other obligations make it impossible for me to run for a fifth term. But that's OK, because your incoming president John Austin, K6RLV will bring with him an unwavering commitment to excellence in everything he does. SANDRA is very lucky to have a man like John ready to serve, and SANDRA will continue to prosper as long as it stays true to its core mission and does not try to become everything to everyone. If it tries to become everything to everyone, it will succeed in becoming nothing to no one.

This holiday season as you think back on the year that was, think forward to the year that is to be as well. Give equal consideration to what you have learned from the past year's blessings as well as the past year's misfortunes. Apply those lessons to the way you navigate through 2011 and beyond.

May this holiday season be a season filled with blessings, and the lessons to beget even more.

Jason Lansky, NF6E

President, SANDRA, Inc.



First, I would like to thank Jason, NF6E, our past president for his service, leadership and guidance. I intend to call on him frequently for his continued counsel. Also the current (and past board) are a very supportive body and I am sure we will continue working well together.

I hope to continue to improve SANDRA's network of repeaters. We just finished a project for Lyons Peak (146.265) that should reduce or eliminate the extended down times for any problems on this hill. While SANDRA has a repeater on Lyons, our access to the site is very restricted, so this can make for long wait times for access to the hill. Hopefully this project will keep the repeater on the air.

Also, along the same lines, SANDRA's Otay site now has battery back-up for the 146.64 repeater and we

should soon be expanding that to our other club repeaters. SANDRA recently purchased a new antenna for the Laguna 147.15 repeater. As soon as weather permits, we will get this installed.

Members of the board have been attempting to negotiate with officials from Miramar in an attempt to mitigate the interference to the input of the 449.500 repeater. We have not been successful and are looking for alternatives. One suggestion is to switch the frequencies between the Laguna and Otay UHF repeaters. We are studying this seriously.

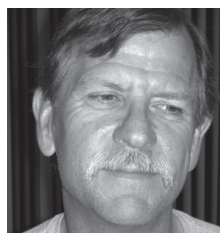
These are some of the projects the SANDRA board is working on for you. We welcome any ideas or input from the members as to what you would like the club leadership to do. I welcome our members to attend any of SANDRA's board or membership meetings. Any ideas can be given to us personally or by email. Email links to board members are on the SANDRA web site at: <http://www.wb6wlv.com/>

I would like to close with an invitation to our members. We are all busy with our daily lives and obligations. Your board is no exception. We choose to commit a part of our time and energy to benefit Ham Radio in San Diego by being active participants in SANDRA. I invite our members to make a similar commitment. Become an active club member. Participate in some activity to give back to our hobby so we can all enjoy it even more.

John Austin, K6RLV

Meet Your 2011 SANDRA Officers

The proposed slate of 2011 SANDRA Officers were unanimously elected at the SANDRA November 4, 2010 Membership Meeting. The slate was unopposed as no other SANDRA member volunteered their own or others service for the officer positions. The 2011 Officers will be installed at SANDRA's December 9, 2010 membership meeting and holiday party. Following are brief profiles of the incoming officers:



President – K6RLV, John Austin, was first licensed in 1970 as WN6RLV followed by an upgrade to General in 1971 and Advanced in 1981. John obtained his early technical experience building HF gear with his father for use on the air. In 1972 he became interested in VHF and UHF FM communications using modified commercial equipment. At this time VHF and UHF was a Ham Radio Frontier and equipment was built from scratch or modified from commercial equipment. While John remained active on HF, VHF and UHF he also became interested in building and deploying repeaters. In the late 1980's he was involved with a group building 1.2 GHz repeaters (another Ham Radio frontier) and deploying them on mountaintops in Southern California. The group approached SANDRA to co-locating one of its repeaters. This interaction caused John to re-join SANDRA and to participate in the building and maintenance of the SANDRA repeater sites, a job which he continues to perform today.

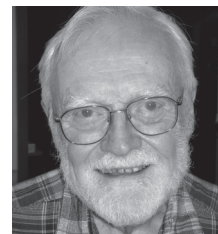
Vice President – KG6JCW, Stogie Panger, was first licensed in 2001 with a strong general interest in VHF UHF communications. Stogie joined SANDRA that same year, volunteering for the work parties at repeater sites as well as other jobs that SANDRA required. This will be Stogie's second year as Vice President.



Secretary – WA6URS, Barbie Flinn, was first introduced to Amateur Radio by Ed Flinn WA6YVX in 1966. Barbie received her Amateur Radio License and call in February 1973 and both she and Ed joined

SANDRA that same year. Barbie has been active in SANDRA ever since, holding the position of Secretary for several years, including 1975 when SANDRA Incorporated. Barbie served as President in 1983 and is continuing as Secretary.

Treasurer – WA6OSB, Ken Decker, developed his interest in Ham Radio while growing up in New Jersey where his best friend's father was a Ham. Ken was occasionally able to visit Radio Row on weekends while on trips to NYC with his father. At that time he was an avid SWL'er and BCB DX'er. He started Amateur Radio classes which were interrupted by a stint in the Navy. He exited the Navy in San Diego and moved into a house in Spring Valley with his new wife. The house was owned by a Ham who eventually became his employer. Ken and his wife both became Hams in 1960. In 1962 Ken arranged the purchase of 20 surplus West Coast Electronics FM mobile radios from the Yellow Cab Company, which he and a group of local operators modified for Amateur use. Ken was net control for the San Diego VHF Club from 1963 to 1971. In April 1966, Ken and other members of the San Diego VHF Club became founding member of San Diego Amateur FM Radio Relay Association (SDAFMRRA) and in May 1966 Ken became its first Vice Chairman. The SDAFMRRRA officially changed its name to The San Diego Repeater Association (SANDRA) in December 1972. Ken has been licensed as a Ham for 50 years next month.



Membership Chairman – W2IRI Bob Boehme was first licensed as W2IRI as a teenager while growing up in New Jersey. He left the Navy in San Diego in 1971, giving up his W2IRI call for W6RHV. Bob became involved with other San Diego Hams experimenting with VHF and UHF, and building rigs out of surplus commercial radios. He joined SANDRA 25 years ago and has served as Technical Chairman, Membership Chairman and President for a number of years. Bob built and installed the 1.2 GHz repeater on Otay in 1986. The repeater first went on the air at the ARRL Convention at the Town and Country Convention Center and then was

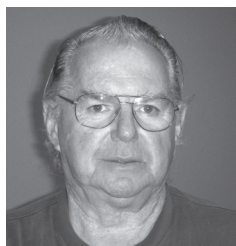


taken up to Otay for installation. Bob is involved with VHF, UHF and HF as well as construction projects and has been licensed for 53 year.



Meeting Chairman – N6VVV, Ben Concepcion, has been a long time SANDRA member and supporter. Ben was unavailable to Squelch Tales at the time of this writing but his bio will be updated in a future issue.

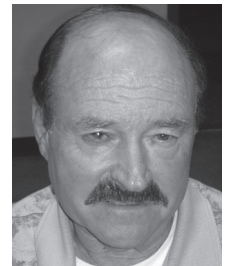
Three Year Member-At-Large – N6JOJ, Tom Myrick, was first licensed in 1983 with an interest in FM VHF and UHF. Tom joined SANDRA that same year, volunteering his services to assist with any and all jobs. Tom served as SANDRA Vice President for 8 years and is trustee of the SANDRA Special Event Call Sign, W6GIC.



Two Year Member-At-Large – WD6APP, Chuck Wood, was involved with radio and electronics while growing up in San Diego, but was dissuaded from becoming a Ham by the Morse Code requirement. While using a Bearcat scanner in 1977 he discovered Hams talking through the repeaters on Mt. Otay, which activity spurred him

to attack the code and take and pass the Technician exam at the F.C.C. Office, then on 8th Avenue in San Diego. Chuck joined SANDRA, the owner and operator of the Otay repeaters, and has stayed active in the organization ever since. Even though Chuck has upgraded his license three times since that first test at the F.C.C. Office, he has retained his original call sign and interest in VHF and UHF repeaters.

One Year Member-At-Large – K6GAO, Bayard Rehkopf, first became interested in VHF in 1953, using high power (1 KW) and a 56 element yagi to work stations around the western US, Canada and Hawaii. Bayard worked another San Diego station via a repeater on a Hawaiian mountain top, a rare enough event to become San Diego legend. In this time frame much of the equipment was converted commercial equipment, including everything from surplus taxi cab radios to Gonset Communicators.



Bayard was a member of the San Diego VHF Club and one of the founding members of the SDAFMRRRA and in May 1966 became its first Secretary/Treasurer. In December 1972 the SDAFMRRRA officially changed its name to SANDRA. During his membership in SANDRA, Bayard held the post of Treasurer for 9 years, president from 1988 to 1993 and is currently in the position of Three Year Member-At-Large.

Profile: Laguna Mountain Repeater Site

In keeping with what the membership has indicated as their interest, Squelch Tales profiles SANDRA's second largest repeater site, located on Laguna Mountain at Stephenson Peak. Sandra maintains repeaters at this site with outputs on 147.150, 224.060 and 449.200 MHz. The Laguna site is located 6,200 feet above mean sea level, giving it a commanding view of San Diego and Imperial Counties. SANDRA repeaters are co-located in a commercial radio facility with emergency power and security. The height and commanding view of the Laguna site is both a strength and a weakness, the commanding view of San Diego and Imperial counties provides exceptional coverage but it also exposes the site to severe weather moving through the area. At 6,200 feet, Laguna is above the freezing level during winter storms and combined with the

exposed position causes it to suffer multiple snow and ice storms each year. The weather exposure means that the antennas need constant maintenance during the winter to replace bent and broken elements. The good news is that with the constant maintenance, the antennas are in good working shape most of the time, not suffering from slow corrosion and deterioration that inhabits many antenna systems. While the site looks down onto San Diego and Imperial Counties, the radiation pattern of an antenna at this height can be well above the surface of the low lying areas where most Amateurs live. For this reason, the transmitting antennas on Laguna currently have up to a 7 degree down tilt to provide more energy at the surface. Also for this reason, the transmitting antennas are located lower on the

SANDRA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2010

Vice President Stogie Panger, KG6JCW called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Motion to accept the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 07-01-10 and the General Membership Meeting of 09-02-10 was made by John K6RLV. Bob, W2IRI seconded it. Motion #100710-1 passed.

Treasurer Ken Decker, WA6OSB presented the Treasurer's Report. We have a total balance of \$17,731.36. John, K6RLV made the motion #100710-2 to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Bob, W2IRI seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Technical Committee Chairman John, K6RLV requested the board consider purchasing a new antenna for Mt. Laguna 2 meter repeater 147.750mhz. Motion 100710-3 was made by Bob, W2IRI not to exceed \$1000.00 for a new Super Station Master. Bayard K6GAO seconded the motion. After some discussion motion #100710-3 was passed.

Mt. Otay had a new battery installed to use for emergency power.

Chuck, WD6APP, is the nominations committee chairman. He presented the slate of officers for 2011.

President	John Austin	K6RLV
Vice-President	Stogie Panger	KG6JCW
Secretary	Barbie Flinn	WA6URS
Treasurer	Ken Decker	WA6OSB
Member-at-Large 1 Year	Bayard Rehkoph	K6GAO
Member-at-Large 2 Year	Chuck Wood	WD6APP
Member-at-Large 3 Year	Tom Myrick	N6JOJ
Membership	Bob Boehme	W2IRI
Meeting	Ben Concepcion	N6VVY

The elections will be Nov. 4, 2010 @ 7pm. The net control operators will make an announcement on the nets about the election to remind our membership.

SANDRA's Christmas Party will be Thursday Dec. 9, 2010 in Rooms 401 & 402. Bob W2IRI made a motion to spend \$500.00. John, K6RLV seconded the motion. Motion #100710-4 passed.

WD6APP gave special thanks to Herb, KF6ROX our Squelch Tales editor for all his effort on our newsletter. We all appreciate his work.

SANDARC representative Chuck, WD6APP stated that all went well with the ARRL convention held in San Diego in Sept. 2010. Chuck will give a more detailed report next month.

Motion #100710-5 to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm was made by Bob, W2IRI and seconded by John K6RLV. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbie Flinn, WA6URS

SANDRA Secretary

SANDRA Annual Membership & Election Meeting Minutes

Nov. 4, 2010

President Jason Lansky, NF6E called to order the Annual Membership & Election Meeting to order at 7pm.

Chuck, WD6APP, chairman of the election committee, made motion, 11410-01, to suspend balloting policy for this election. There were no contested positions on this ballot. Bob, W2IRI, 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The following were elected to the SANDRA Board of Directors for Jan. 2011 – Dec. 2011:

President - John Austin - K6RLV

Vice President - Stogie Panger - KG6JCW

Secretary - Barbie Flinn - WA6URS

Treasurer - Ken Decker - WA6OSB

Membership Chairman - Bob Boehme - W2IRI

Meeting Chairman - Ben Concepcion - N6VVY

3 year Member-at-Large - Tom Myrick – N6JOJ

2 year Member-at-Large - Chuck Wood

1 year Member-at-Large - Bayard Rehkopf

(3 year Membership-at-Large & 2 year Membership-at-Large do not run for election.)

Chuck Wood, WD6APP, made motion, 11410-2, to amend the policy procedure manual to delete the requirement to have a ballot election if we have an uncontested election. W2IRI 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bayard, K6GAO, stated he had the lease for our Hi-Pass site to be signed by the President.

W2IRI made motion 11410-3 to adjourn the annual meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbie Flinn, WA6URS

SANDRA Secretary

Laguna Mountain Repeater (from page 3)

tower than the receiving antennas. The antennas are mounted on a large commercial tower at about the 35 foot level.

The current location is the second home for SANDRA's Laguna repeaters, during the winter of 1974-1975 they were originally installed in a



building on an adjoining Air Force reservation, now used by the FAA as a RADAR facility. The agreement with the Air Force arranged by Wayne Bamford, W6PDA, and Mac McGee, WA6QKO, allowed SANDRA to locate the repeaters on the site and to mount antennas on any of a number of telephone poles adjacent to the repeater building. The site was an Air Force RADAR facility that was increasingly managed remotely with little to no permanent on site staff. Consequently, the physical facilities underwent significant deterioration and eventually the telephone poles being used to mount antennas started to deteriorate and collapse. The first repeater at the Air Force base was a Motorola J53MPY1100 connected to a J-pole mounted on the tallest of the telephone poles. The original frequency pair was 146.76/146.16 and engendered significant interference from other users of the band. The interference was resolved by switching to the current two meter Frequency pair. The 224.06 repeater was added in 1978 using a custom built repeater by CW Electronic and finally the 449 machine in was added in 1979.

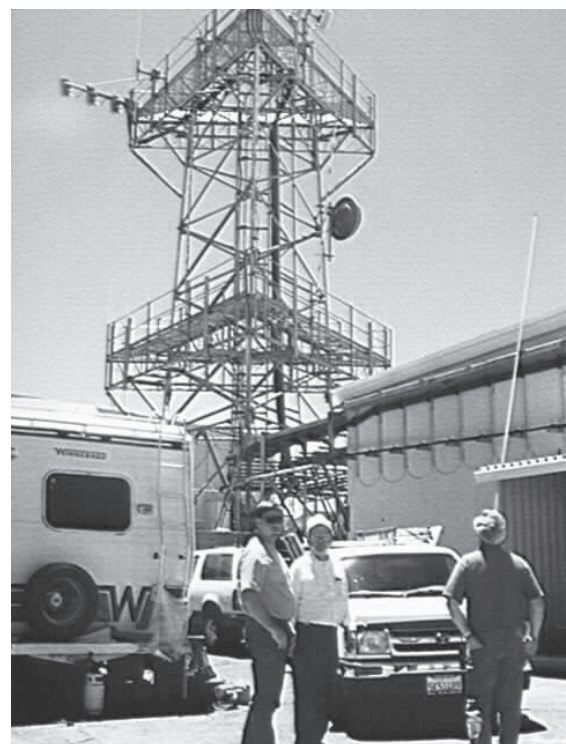
Eventually the RADAR site was transferred to the FAA and the land and buildings transferred to the Forestry Service for management. SANDRA petitioned the Forestry Service for a permit to

continue operating repeaters at the site but the petition has never been acted upon. SANDRA made contact with the adjacent commercial site and was given permission to use this site for its repeaters.

The new site was attractive because it had a backup generator, better security and the grounds are maintained by the operating company. The arrangement with the commercial facility was made possible in part because of SANDRA's reputation for well constructed and well run facilities. Not all amateur organizations have this reputation.

Current equipment includes a Motorola MSR 2000 on 147.150, a modified GE Mastr Exec II on 224.060 and a modified Motorola Mitrek radio on 449.500. The antennas are Station Masters with 7 degree down tilt.

It is important to realize that all SANDRA repeater facilities are constructed and maintained by SANDRA volunteers, members that donate their time to provide these facilities to the Amateur community. As can be seen from the SANDRA Officer Profiles presented in this issue, that the current active volunteers have been at it for a long time. There is need for additional Amateurs to volunteer and help the future survival of SANDRA.





Squelch Tales

SANDRA, Incorporated
San Diego Repeater Association
P.O. Box 81103
San Diego, CA 92138

SANDRA NETS

Sunday 8:00 P.M. Mt. Otay Repeater
Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Mt. Laguna Repeater

GUIDELINES SUMMARY

SANDRA, Inc. operates their repeaters for service in the San Diego area. The policy of the organization is that the repeaters are available for all licensed amateur radio operators to use so long as applicable rules and regulations are observed, whether members of SANDRA or not.

SQUELCH TALES

SQUELCH TALES is published bi-monthly by the San Diego Repeater Association (SANDRA, Inc.), a corporation dedicated to the promotion of amateur radio. Distribution is free to members.

Newsletter exchanges are desired and solicited. The right to edit material with regard to format, suitability and style is reserved. Ads are \$50 per full

page, \$27 per half page and \$15 per quarter page. Business cards are \$8. Artwork is due by the first week of the month to the P.O. box. Liability for errors in copy is limited to the printing of a correction in the subsequent issue. Permission is hereby granted to reprint items from SQUELCH TALES in other amateur radio newsletters, provided credit is given to SQUELCH TALES. Opinions or editorials are not necessarily the position of the Board or the organization of SANDRA, Inc.

SANDRA MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETING

The SANDRA membership meets the first Thursday in the Months of March, June, September and December. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are located at the San Diego County Education Center, 6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego. Board meetings take place immediately following each membership meeting and additional Board meetings take place in January, February, May, July, October and November. All SANDRA members are encouraged to attend.

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