

have air in them. The 2009 Ham of the Year award goes to Bill Baker, W5ATO.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Outgoing President, Rob Kinucan, thanked the club for a great year, noting that so many people did so many things to make all of the club's events and activities go smoothly. He also thanked his wife Kristy for all of her patience, not just for the past year, but all the years they've been together. Rob also thanked Bob Ward and True Value for all of their contributions to the club and its activities. He also thanked the other officers, Lora Hawkins, Angie Otoupal and Bill Baker.

Rob then offered special thanks to individuals who had provided him with special and personal help and support; Bill Roberts, Bob Ayer, Bob Ward and Dave Cockrum. He specifically thanked Bill Roberts for chairing the ad-hoc repeater committee, Bill Baker for the newsletter, and Doug Otoupal for maintaining the web site.

He then recounted some of the events over the past year. He noted that Mas-O-Menos was a success. Bill Baker filled in as net control for Bob Ward while Rob filled in as Race Director Shadow. Sky-warn training in March, the annual Banquet, Hammer Fest in April, Field Day in June, July 4th hamburger booth, Big Bend 2-meter Net had its first anniversary in July, Big Bend Balloon Bash and the Marfa Blackwell School 10k Run in September, 32nd anniversary of the Big Ben Emergency Net on September 18, Cycle Fest in September, Santa Clause net on December 16th with 73 contacts, 35th anniversary of the Big Bend Amateur Radio club and the awards for the five Charter Members.

Rob concluded by expressing his appreciation to the club and the individuals who make up the membership for a fun, smooth and rewarding experience in 2009.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Incoming President, Terry Allison, expressed his gratitude for everyone's attendance. Then he asked the question, "What is HAM radio all about? What's the club for, why are we here, and what should we be doing as a club? He noted the FCC rules stated 'created a trained pool of operators, advance the technology, provide emergency communications', and others. He noted that our club does these things. Then he asked how many got their HAM license through the BBARC? Quite a number of hands were raised. Terry stated that the teaching and license testing we do is one of our more critical missions, but the training, teaching and putting it all into practice is just as important. And this will be one of the goals for this year and more of the meeting programs will be geared for more hands on activities.

Terry also said we need to accept Ray's offer, get some public announcements out and try to license more HAMs this year. He spoke of the excitement of calling CQ and communicating through the airwaves, without the benefit of servers and routers and network switches. Finding modes and activities that will be exciting to the younger, technology generation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Terry Allison, K5TDA

Greetings to all:



If you were at the BBARC banquet in January, or at the February meeting, you heard me speak about my goals for the year. A short summary of my banquet speech is somewhere in this newsletter. If you were at either of those gatherings you also know that Ray Hendrix of KVLV and KALP fame has made the BBARC an offer and challenge we cannot refuse. He has offered the club airtime on his stations for the purpose of recruiting new hams and club members. I also want to use it to retain and re-invigorate existing licensees.

To accomplish these things the BBARC must have something to offer the local community. It can be social, technical, educational, or whatever, but the club must interest both hams and non-hams alike. I know that some of the long-term members are getting pretty burned out, doing the same jobs for year after year. Other members are quite happy doing their particular thing and really do not want any help with it. Neither position is particularly good for the club in the long term.

Ham Radio is a tremendously wide ranging hobby. I don't know of anyone who has actually done everything there is to do in Ham Radio. You can be very technical, or you can know just enough to pass a license exam. You can love to talk on the radio, or you can immerse yourself in teaching and never actually get on the air. Maybe you only do contests. Or Field Day. But, if it gets boring there is an awful lot more to Ham Radio than any of us normally do.

My goal for the year is to expand our horizons. Bring new things to the program portion of meetings. Have some interesting special activities outside of meetings. Work some new modes at Field Day so we can learn about them. I would like to hear from each of you about things you are curious about. I would also like to hear from those who are getting overloaded with club duties. We will need enthusiastic folks to make some of the spots for the radio stations. I will try to get things going that you tell me will be interesting to you.

I will try to announce the upcoming meeting program in advance. Hopefully it will entice you to come to the meeting! To start, we will be talking about traffic handling in March. But, not just how to fill a message form, even though that is important and will be covered... But we will explore some scenarios and see how any of us may be called on to handle emergency (or routine) traffic and what different ways we might do it.

See you at the March meeting!

Terry
K5TDA

FROM THE EDITOR

Bill Baker, W5ATO

Newsletter By E-Mail

There have been a few upgrades to the editor's office over the past few months. I have installed a brand new computer, Windows 7, Word 2007, and an Internet connection at home.

