

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

April 2003

March Meeting Minutes

By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order by President John Marshall/KC5FMX at 1943. Introductions were made with 15 members and 3 visitors in attendance. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed in the March issue of *The Kilo-What* and the Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Officer's Reports

Paul/N7SDQ, Activities Manager, announced there will be 200+ Boy Scouts at Goodfellow Air Force Base on May 3. The Scout leaders would like our club to set up a station so their Scouts can see what it takes to set up a station and to participate in making some contacts. The activities are sponsored by the Goodfellow AFB. Christmas in April is right around the corner. Paul will update us on the Monday Night Net. ARRL Field Day is the last full weekend in June. It has been discussed that it will be held at the city's Emergency Operations Center at the Police Station. Paul has been appointed communications liaison between the Red Cross Disaster Action Team and the amateur radio community.

David/KA5VTG, Emergency Coordinator, is going to check on the coordination of our EC and the Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL West Texas Section and the ARRL. He will report this information during the April Meeting.

Joe/KC5ILD, Grounds Chairman, and Ken/KD5NXV refinished the clubhouse front and rear doors. They sanded, stained, and polyurethaned the front door and sanded, primed, and painted the back door. I timed it so that I was able to help re-hang the doors. This was the day before the meeting. The morning of the meeting, Joe and Ken went to the clubhouse and re-screened the back storm door. Great job and a lot of hard work. Thanks Joe and Ken.

New Business

Glenn/AA5PK volunteered to build a plaque to honor as many Ham of The Year recipients as we can possibly locate. Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC has some of the clubs older records. I contacted Hughbert, and he will be in touch in a few days.

Good of the Order

Split-the-pot was worth \$12 to the club this month. The winner was Tom/KD5NXW.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2030. The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be April 10 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

FCC Plans to Hike Vanity Fee

From The ARRL Letter, March 28, 2003

The FCC has proposed increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew, or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released March 26. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5.

"We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its NPRM. That's up by 800 from FY2002. The agency expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

If all goes as it has in the past, the FCC will adopt a Report and Order on the FY2003 fee schedule this summer, and the new fee will become effective sometime in early September.

The FCC NPRM also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$14.50 regulatory fee per call sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2003 fee schedule becomes effective. The FCC has said in the past that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes a regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Enter "03-83" in the "Proceeding" field. The FCC said it expected to have the docket available by March 28 for the posting of electronic comments.

Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov and include the words "get form <your e-mail address>" in the message body. The ECFS will reply with a sample form and directions on filing comments.

A copy of the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making is available on the FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-64A1.doc.

License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK
Volunteer Examiner

ARRL VEC

A license testing session was held at the clubhouse on March 30. Administering volunteer examiners were Rob/N5OIU, Don/AB5BG, John/KC5FMX, and Glenn/AA5PK.

Two candidates were administered three examination elements with the following results: one upgrade to General Class and one new Technician.

The next license testing session will be held at 1 PM on Sunday, May 25, at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NCVEC Form 605 and \$12 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than May 19.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club's Web site <http://www.qsl.net/saarc>.

Note: A new Technician Class question pool will be used for Technician examinations beginning July 1, 2003. The SAARC-sponsored May 25 test session will be the last chance locally to use the old study materials/question pool. Be sure to study the newest examination material if you decide to test after June 30, 2003.

Information/forms can be obtained by contacting Rob/N5OIU at 942-7599 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.

Paul Harvey Ains Kudos for Ham Radio's Emergency Role

From The ARRL Letter, March 21, 2003

Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey this week offered some kind words for Amateur Radio. The mention was the second item on "page four" of his March 19 Paul Harvey Noon News and Comment program.

"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies—amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes," Harvey said. "After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."

The commentary's enigmatic and mysterious final sentence—typical of Harvey's habit of leaving his listeners hanging—apparently refers to the fact that many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) teams have ramped up their alert status as hostilities get under way in the Middle East.

ARRL Surveying High-speed Digital Network Interest

From The ARRL Letter, March 21, 2003

The ARRL High Speed Multimedia (HSMM) Working Group is surveying the amateur community to gauge interest in IEEE 802.11b "Hinternet" activity. The HSMM Working Group encourages spread-spectrum communication modes including such protocols as IEEE 802.11b operating on Amateur Radio frequencies under FCC Part 97 rules. It's adopted Hinternet (a contraction of "ham" and "Internet") as a way to describe the technology. The HSMM Working Group's survey is on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/hsmm>.

"The primary goal of the survey is to encourage amateurs to get on the air and start playing with this cheap digital microwave gear," says HSMM Working Group Chair John Champa, K8OCL k8ocl@arrl.net. Hinternet Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs) typically use direct-sequence spread spectrum between 2412 and 2437 MHz and are capable of simultaneously carrying audio, video and data signals. Hinternet aficionados adapt commercial 802.11b interfaces designed for Part 15 operation to amateur use.

The HSMM Web survey is brief and permits an opportunity for open-ended input. It asks if respondents have a IEEE 802.11 or "other high-speed digital station" running under Part 97. If so, amateurs are asked to register their stations. It also asks respondents to explain how they might use a high-speed digital system or network if they were to set one up.

Champa urged Hinternet-minded amateurs to also report what they've learned and any new applications to the ARRL IEEE 802.11b reflector operated by Texas A&M University <http://listserv.tamu.edu/archives/arrl-80211b.html> (and linked from the "HSMM Resources" menu under "Contacts").

Asked if the Hinternet is catching on within Amateur Radio, Champa simply points to the more than 15,000 hits to the HSMM Working Group's Web site. The Hinternet also is the focus of the article "High Speed Multimedia Radio" by Kris Mraz, N5KM, in the April 2003 issue of QST.

Hinternet proponent Mark Williams, AB8LN, of Milford, Michigan, says he envisions growth of amateur 802.11b operation to cover all large metropolitan areas in the US, not just the few miles some contend is the outer limit for such point-to-point connections. "This is just too easy," he says. "With some of the Amateur Radio pioneering that we are famous for, we should be able to push this technology to its limits—50, 75 and 100-mile links at 2.4 GHz." He said wireless networks dedicated to Amateur Radio stretching across states and linking hams everywhere with high-speed voice and video are possible. "File-sharing and e-mail, network gaming and pop-up chat are just the tip of a titanic iceberg," he predicted.

Applications abound for public service work too. Amateurs recently involved in the Texas search for debris from the shuttle Columbia used a 802.11b high-speed system on ham radio to link the net control station in Nacagdoches with the Internet.

More information is available on the ARRL High Speed Digital Networks and Multimedia Web page <http://www.arrl.org/hsmm/>.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in April: P4—Aruba, TU—Ivory Coast, J2—Djibouti, OY—Faroe Islands, C56—The Gambia, 3D2—Fiji, ZF2—Cayman, 3A—Monaco, V6—Micronesia, 5Z4—Kenya, PY0—St. Peter and Paul, GU—Guernsey, XY—Myanmar, VK9X—Christmas Island, YK—Syria, SO5—Western Sahara, OH0—Åland, 6W—Senegal, IS0—Sardinia, JW—Svålbard, 9H—Malta, C9—Mozambique, 9N—Nepal, FO—Marquesas, and ZK1—South Cook. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week March 16-23, were 228 countries active. Countries available: 3A, 3B8, 3C, 3D2, 3V, 3W, 3X, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4U11, 4X, 5A, 5B, 5H, 5N, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8Q, 8R, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M2, 9M6, 9N, 9Q, 9U, 9V, 9Y, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C3, CE, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, D4, DL, DU, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EL, ER, ES, ET, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FJ, FK, FM, FO, FP, FR, FW, FY, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, H3, H4, HA, HB, HC, HH, HI, HK, HL, HP, HR, HS, HZ, I, IS, J3, J5, J6, J7, J8, JA, JD/o, JT, JW, JY, K, KG4, KH0, KH2, KH3, KH6, KH8, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OD, OE, OH, OH0, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2, PJ7, PY, PZ, S2, S5, S7, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV/a, SV5, SV9, T30, T31, T32, T7, T8, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, TJ, TK, TR, TT, TU, TY, TZ, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V5, V6, V7, V8, VE, VK, VK9N, VP2V, VP5, VP6, VP8, VP8/h, VQ9, VR, VU, XE, XT, XU, XW, YB, YJ, YK, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZC4, ZF, ZK1/s, ZL, ZP, and ZS.

Island of the Month

Abu Ail- J20/A (now a deleted county) AS-035

Long a disputed area at the end of the Red Sea, (14.05N/42.49E), these islands have remained mainly in the hands of local warlords for centuries. The Ottoman Empire claimed them in the 1400-1600 time frame, using them to control shipping into the Red Sea and up to the Arabian peninsula and into the Egyptian end of the sea and into the Gulf of Aden and eventually the Indian Ocean. In the 1990s Yemen, Ethiopia, and Eritrea all claimed them and landed, strafed, or irritated the lighthouse keepers. In 1980, perhaps the last DXpedition was undertaken to the group, variously know as the Hannish Group, the Jazirat Jabal Zugar group, or the Abu Ail Group. To get to and from the Suez Canal, the shipping in the Red Sea has to pass to the east or west of this group. Although not occupied at present, they could pose a threat at anytime to international shipping, depending upon who had landed and occupied them.



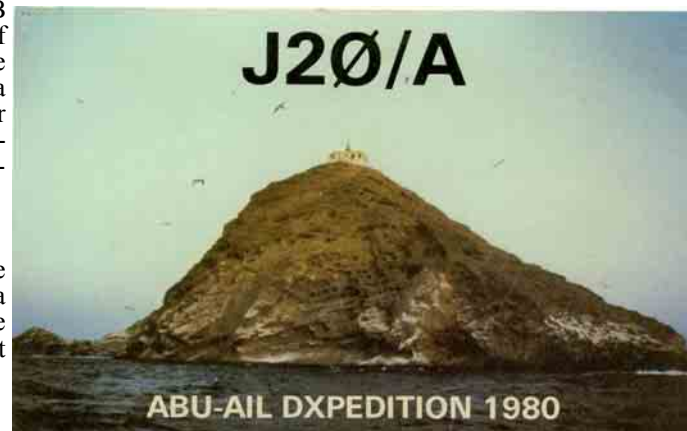
American military has the entire Red Sea under a very watchful eye while U.S. troops and equipment traverse the area from off the Turkish shore to the port in southern Iraq. The islands are part of a long dormant volcano, and the maps of the inactive and active volcanoes shows a string of these along the eastern shoreline of the Red Sea. The 1980 DXpedition tells of the stable on the island that housed the one donkey that hauled supplies from the landing area up the 100 meters to the lighthouse at the top. They described the lighthouse as a “fort” built by the Turks in the 1700s. The original name for the fort was Abu Ali, but misspelling over the years changed it to Abu Ail. As a country, until Yemen became one (from North and South Yemen), the islands were claimed on and off by Ethiopia (they strafed it in 1990 thinking there were Eritrean forces there and only succeeded in killing the poor donkey, thus ending inhabitation by a lighthouse keeper). The DXpedition sailed from Djibouti taking 20 hours to traverse the short distance. The island of Abu Ali is difficult to land on, as it has no shoreline, or docking area, and, as with any good Dxpediton, the radios, fuel, generators, and antennas were all hand-carried to the fort at the top. (Note: in 1980, the lightest radios weighed just about 50 pounds and the smallest generators were over 100 pounds, making this a hard journey. But if there was a donkey there, and they just forgot to mention that it was he/she that carried the supplies up to the top, it would be less of a tale. HI!) They were able to operate for 100 hours, and are now one of the last to visit the island, and quite likely the last group to issue a new country from there.

In the 1990s, the DXCC desk deleted the island from the countries list as it did not fit criteria for a separate country. It still is listed as an island for IOTA DXpeditions, but with the unsettled political situations in all of the Middle East, it remains a rarely activated site. It is mentioned in one of the CB sites as a possible site for a DXpedition, and there was talk of “Freebanders” from the Middle East or Europe going there and activating it for their awards. Although essentially in a high sea-faring traffic area, I also found Web sites that offer dive packages (live aboards) to the islands, and tout the relatively untouched coral and shoal areas around this set of islands at the south end of the Red Sea.

QSL OF THE MONTH J20/A-Abu Ail

As a young DXer, I was lucky enough to hear and work the last DXpedition. The “fort” actually looks more like a camper trailer. But, if it was built of brick and mortar by the Turks, it would probably have the cannon ports to shoot at ships that did not stop and pay their “toll.”

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Mar 10	KA5VTG	18	9 min
Mar 17	KA5VTG	18	8 min
Mar 24	KA5VTG	13	9 min
Mar 31	KA5VTG	13	11 min

This net meets every Monday night at 8 p.m. on the club's 146.34/.94 repeater. All amateurs licensed to operate on that frequency are invited to participate.

Concho Valley Open FM Repeaters

2 Meter		70 centimeter	
145.27-	San Angelo PL 88.5	441.750+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.64-	Sterling City PL 88.5	442.250+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.72-	Eldorado PL 100.0	444.225+	Robert Lee PL 162.2
146.88-	San Angelo	444.350+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5 when needed		
147.06+	San Angelo	6 Meter Crossband	
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30/53.63	San Angelo PL 88.5



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2003 SAARC Officers:

President - John Marshall/KC5FMX
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ
Grounds Custodian - Joe Kent/KC5ILD

SAARC Monthly Meetings: 2nd Thursday,
1930, clubhouse, 5513 Stewart Lane

Annual Dues: \$20, Sr. & Jr. \$10

The Kilo-What: Edited by Glenn/AA5PK at
949-4775 or email aa5pk@qsl.net

Article submission deadline: Ten days
prior to monthly club meeting.



**NEXT MEETING:
THURSDAY, APR 13, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**