

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

April 2004

Notification of Intent to Change

SECTION I - This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of SAARC members present at a regular or called meeting, provided all members have been notified by mail of the intent to amend this Constitution and Bylaws at said meeting.

A vote to change these Constitution and By-Laws articles will be conducted at the April 8, 2004, meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. **All full members are hereby notified** of the intent to change the Constitution and By-Laws of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated.

Proposed changes to the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, Constitution and By-Laws:

Article VI, SECTION I - The SAARC, by two-thirds majority vote of members present at a regular or called meeting, provided all members have been notified by mail of the intent, may levy upon the general membership such dues or assessments deemed necessary for the organization within its objectives set forth in the Preamble thereof.

Charlie/WB5T proposes to add a provision to allow for life-time memberships. Members age 65 and older would pay a suggested \$200. Dues for members younger than 65 would be pro-rated on a yet-to-be-determined graduated scale. Further, Charlie proposes to offer memberships whereby a member pays dues for 4 years, but gets the fifth year at no cost.

Article IV, GENERAL - No salaries or other compensation shall be paid to any officer of the SAARC.

Paul/N7SDQ proposes to compensate the club president during his/her term of office by waiving his/her dues.

SAARC Finds a New Home on the 'Net

By Glenn Miller/A45PK, SAARC Webmaster et al

Thanks to John/KD5ZZH, on March 25, the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club found a new home in cyberspace. Look for it at <http://www.w5qx.org>. John graciously provided server space and registered the SAARC as the owner of its new domain.

Our old homestead at qsl.net will remain for a while, but eventually it will become a redirect page to the new site. I will keep both sites updated for the present.

The sites are virtually identical, but you will probably notice that John's server is a bit faster than the bogged down qsl.net server.

Enjoy the new location and thank John when you see or hear him.

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 Joe Kent/KC5ILD at 1930 on March 11, 2004.

Introductions were made with 16 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed in *The Kilo-What* and the treasurer's report was approved as read.

Officers' Reports

Paul/N7SDQ, Activities Manager. There were several persons from the San Angelo area who assisted with Mas-o-Menos. Everyone had a lot of fun. Norm Williams/WA5SVS cooked an excellent meal. Check the pictures on the club's Web site. Christmas in April will be April 3. We have been asked to assist at the warehouse. HamCom is June 18-19 in Arlington, Texas. It's not a computer show or a junk show as many have been lead to believe. This is one of the major shows in the country. Bill/WB5ZAM will have a program on HamCom next month. He is doing some leg work and should be getting some T-Shirts to hand out at that time. ARRL Field Day 2004 will be June 26-27. The location this year will be at the end of Spillway Road off

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Meeting Minutes Cont'd

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of Knickerbocker Road.

Ron/KD5WJX, Grounds Chairman. Getting rid of weeds. Picking up rocks and nails around the area.

Old Business

The club purchased a new dual-band radio for \$369. The radio will be used at the National Weather Service. Insurance should cover \$300. There is a \$50 manufacture's rebate. That should leave the club owing only \$19 for the radio. Charlie/WB5T donated \$20 to the club to cover the club's cost of the radio.

David/N5RBW gave information on the generator donated to us by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. It runs at 1800 rpm and generates 7.5 kW continuous, 8.8 kW intermittent. It is designed for continuous duty and is reasonably quiet. It was last run 6-8 years ago. David may be able to work on the unit for us.

"The Queen" generator has been with the club since 1927 that we know of. The age of the Queen is not known for sure. The model No. is 1A21, so it goes back a ways. The Kohler Company was started somewhere around 1873. Their records do not go back far enough for our unit. There was a motion to sell the Queen for the best offer. The motion was seconded and approved. Would like to try to contact Kohler to see if they would like to have it as an antique.

New Business

David/N5RBW will load all of our unwanted items in the garage and take them to the Midland Hamfest. With any luck, he will return without anything.

The following changes to the SAARC Constitution and By-Laws were offered:

Charlie/WB5T moved to allow for life memberships for those over age 65. The rate should be \$200.

Charlie also moved to offer lifetime memberships at a graduated scale for any member who would request it. It would be pro-rated by age. This was seconded and approved.

Charlie also moved to offer a five year membership for the price of four years of membership. This was seconded and approved.

Paul/N7SDQ moved that dues for the club president be waived during their term. This was seconded and approved.

All motions pertaining to changes to the Constitution and By-Laws require notification of the entire club membership. Voting to change the .

Good of the Order

Hector Guerrero/KC5BRB of the National Weather Service spoke to the club in reference to the Special Event Station we held at the NWS during SKYWARN Recognition Day, December 6-7, 2003. There were several who assisted and numerous contacts were made in several categories. He presented the club with certificates. He also mentioned all the work we do at the NWS and all the help from our spotters. He presented a framed plaque in appreciation for all we do.

Split-the-Pot was worth \$17 for the winner, John/KD5ZZH, and the club. John donated his share back to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2050.

License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

The next license test session will be held on Sunday, April 18, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of **NCVEC Form 605** and \$12 check or money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") for this test session is required not later than April 12.

Notice: Test sessions are now held quarterly, on the third Sunday of the month at 1 PM. The schedule for the remainder of 2004 is April 18, July 18, October 17. As before, pre-registration is required not later than 7 days prior to the testing date. Also, the *question pool for the General class examination will change on July 1, 2004*. Ensure you study the correct preparation material if you test after June 30, 2004.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club's Web site <http://www.w5qx.org>.

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

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in April 2004: HBØ, JW, 5H3, V7, T33, V31, TJ, FM, V63, 9N, 8Q7, V2, KH2, 7Q7, OX, and 3B8. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of March 14-21, there were 237 countries active.

Island of the Month

Rodrigues Island - 3B9C: The "Cinderella of the Mascarenes," Rodrigues is located 560 kilometers east north-east of Mauritius. It is situated at latitude 19°43'S/63°21'E. The maximum distance between Pointe Coton (east) to Pointe



Mapou (west) is 18 km and the distance between Jantac (north) to Pointe Poursuite (south) is approximately 8 km. Of volcanic origin, the island, with its surface area of 108 km², has a hilly landscape. It is entirely surrounded by coral reefs. The white sand beaches, the little turquoise blue creeks, and the small islands all around seem to spring from the "Robinson" story. The island was apparently uninhabited when it was sighted by the Portuguese in 1507. It was first colonized by the French, who used slaves to cultivate sugar plantations. The British

received the island from the French at the end of the Napoleonic Wars (1800-15) and French settlers were evacuated, leaving their slaves behind. Most of the Rodriguesians are descended from those slaves; there are also a few Chinese and Indo-Mauritian immigrants.

On December 1, 1997, the population of Rodrigues was estimated to be 35,200 of which 95% are Catholic. Up until 1968, when Mauritius obtained its independence, Rodrigues was a dependence of Mauritius. Since 1968, Rodrigues has formed part of the Mauritian territory. The only port that can be used all year round is Port Mathurin in the north of the island. The airport is located at Pointe Corail in the south west. The inhabitants have maintained a traditional way of life where fishing and land cultivation on a small scale are a lot more apparent. The island's economy is based mainly on subsistence agriculture and fishing. There is a small export of salted fish, animals, and crops (especially onions and chilies), and the outflow of laborers to the island of Mauritius is fairly large. The pace of life is much slower than in Mauritius and time is not of the essence! The landscape is made up of lush gorges and deep valleys, home to common and lesser noddies as well as rare species of indigenous plants. The climate is fairly constant—summer: November to April, from 29 to 34 C and winter: May to October, from 15 to 29 C. The average temperature of the sea is of 27.5 C in summer and 23 C in winter. On a map of the island, distances may seem to be at a stone's throw, but it is mountainous with varied landscape, the expanse of the lagoon speckled with desert islets reveal a whole new world waiting to be discovered.



However tiny the island may be, Rodrigues has a lot to offer to her visitors. The island has a particular charm; mainly from the simple and harmonious lifestyle of the inhabitants and their concern about their natural environment. Rodrigues is also home to several varieties of tropical flora and fauna (no golf course). Lovers of nature will find an ideal and preserved environment, a paradise of peace, tranquility, solitude, and anti-stress. The island is perfect for honeymoon couples as well as for relaxing family holidays. Around Cascade Pigeons river in the verdant interior, you can see the critically endangered Rodrigues warbler; Rodrigues fody and the Rodrigues fruit bat. And, as a member of a DXpedition, you have all the excitement of activating a rare country and somewhere to vacation after the expedition. Numerous hotels offer diving packages, and the opportunity to escape to the Indian Ocean. They speak a French Creole and English, have no traffic lights, have the "best diving in the world," and the highest point is Mont Lemon at 393 meters.

QSL of the Month

3B9C - Rodrigues Island 2004

If you were lucky enough to work them, their card comes from FSDXA, POB 73, Church Stretton SW66WF UK. They were active on all bands and workable in San Angelo with barefoot rig and tuned 40-10 ground plane.

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Mar 8	KA5VTG	24	7 min
Mar 15	KA5VTG	18	8 min
Mar 22	KA5VTG	18	7 min
Mar 29	KA5VTG	18	6 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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April Meeting Program

Bill Richards/WB5ZAM, avid DXer and *The Kilo-What* contributing DX Column author, will give a presentation on DXing and talk about Ham-Com.

Don't miss it!



P.O. Box 4002
San Angelo, TX 76902-4002

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at www.w5qx.org

2004 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ

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, APRIL 8, 7:30 PM
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE