

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

April 2006

Meeting Minutes

By Gary Chaffin/N5GRC, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order by President Glenn Miller/AA5PK on March 9 at 1930.

Introductions were made with 18 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The minutes for the February meeting were approved as printed in the March issue of *The Kilo-What*, and Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Old Business

April 15 has been tentatively set for the clubhouse cleanup. We will meet at 0900 at the clubhouse and lunch will be provided (grilled hamburgers, etc..)

Don/N5SVK briefed the results of the Terlingua bike races which he attended February 18. He said there were approximately 400-450 participants and a good time was had by all. The meal at the Rock House was super!

Stan Meador briefed on the upcoming X Bar Shoot Out bike races and asked for our participation on May 21. He said they have moved the race from September to May in order to increase participation. There will be 25-, 50-, and 75-kilometer courses and racing should begin and finish early on Sunday. There will be six (6) checkpoints in addition to the start/finish where need to support with communications gear. Stan said he would like to recognize our contributions (past and present) and asked for suggestions as to how they might show their appreciation. He mentioned allowing use of their facilities for a private SAARC get together as an option. A show of hands was requested to gauge participation from club members in the X Bar Shoot Out. The following members said they would participate: Glenn/AA5PK, John/KC5FMX, Gary/N5GRC, Joe/KC5ILD, Don/N5SVK, Hughbert/KC5NPC, David/KB9VTD, Adam/KE5FHA, David/KB5FNK (Possibly).

The Technician license class is scheduled for the 1st and 2nd Saturdays (6th and 13th) in May with testing to be held following the last class, on April 14. Glenn/AA5PK asked David Behrend/KB5FNK to try and firm up a location in San Angelo before the next meeting to allow sufficient time for Hughbert/KC5NPC to advertise. Lloyd/KØGEN asked whether it might be better to test on Saturday the 13th instead of Sunday the 14th. Glenn/AA5PK said he would put the question to the class participants and find out their preferences.

New Business

The club welcomed John Eddleman/WD5GMX as our newest member.

The test date for April has been changed to the 23rd. Registration must be received not later than the preceding Monday (17th).

The new Technician class test pool will be effective in July of this year.

SAARC Field Day 2006 is scheduled for the fourth weekend in June (24/25) and Glenn/AA5PK asked for volunteers for a planning committee. David/KB5FNK tentatively agreed to chair the committee. There are no other volunteers at this time.

Hughbert/KC5NPC was able to get the SAARC meeting information included in the San Angelo Family Magazine. The spot lists the club and meeting times. Thanks to Hughbert for getting the word out!

Good of the Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$7 to the winner, Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC, and the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2008.

Following a brief intermission, Glenn/AA5PK and John/KC5FMX presented an informative talk on antenna theory to the membership. They will install a 40/80 meter dipole antenna donated by Paul/N7SDQ sometime prior to the next meeting. Glenn/AA5PK will demonstrate the PSK-31 digital operating mode at the April meeting.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be April 13 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

ARRL  **VEC**

Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, April 23, 2006 at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of **NCVEC Form 605** and **\$14** check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than April 17.

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 be obtained by contacting Don/AB5BG at 651-5441 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.

President's Message

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK

We've gotten a lot accomplished since the last club meeting:

We've arranged for the Technician license class to be held in the San Angelo Health Foundation's meeting rooms (River View Rooms I and II) at the San Angelo Visitor's Center (after registering with them as an eligible organization) and the class dates were confirmed for May 6 and 13. The classes will run from 0900 until 1600. The meeting room is very nice with a projection screen, seating for 30+, and will be a great place to present our class. And, probably best of all, use of the room is at no cost. We'll have access to the room all day on both Saturdays. Get the word out to anyone interesting in getting their ticket. Information on the class is at www.w5qx.org/license_class.html.

I've put the finishing touches on the PowerPoint presentations we'll be using to present the license class and I've passed them on to Ralph/KA5ULE, the co-instructor for the class. As much as I'd like to take credit for the nice PowerPoint slides, we owe a big thanks to Alan Sewell/N5NA from Midland ARC who did all the real work. I've assembled a few PPT presentations myself, and I can attest to the time involved in making a class presentation such as the one he had done and offered to anyone who wants to modify and use. I'll give a preview at the April club meeting after the PSK demonstration. At this writing, we have eight students signed up for the class.

Along the line of the PSK demo, on March 26, John/KC5FMX, Gary/N5GRC and I raised the trap dipole that Paul/N7SDQ donated to the club into an inverted vee hanging off the tower. Other than finding it difficult to locate good places to tie off the ends, the installation went pretty well in spite of the 40 mph wind gusts. An SWR check shows it works great on both 40 and 75 meters, and it will be used for the PSK demonstration in April. We may have to come up with a more permanent location to tie off the ends of the antenna.

Having agreed to participate in Awareness Day event at Sunset Mall on April 22, I ordered some ARRL material to provide as give-aways at our display table. In addition to the display kit offered by the ARRL, I also procured 100 very nice, color "Hello..." flyers. "Hello..." is the ARRL's latest public relation campaign commemorating 100 years of voice radio broadcasting. More information on the campaign may be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/03/15/1/?nc=1>

I had a long telephone conversation with Marcus Barnes/W5CN a few weeks ago. Marcus is a former member of the SAARC and is in contact with several other former members who are interested in attending the next SAARC anniversary party. He made a few suggestions to increase turnout for our next anniversary party, currently scheduled for October, and I will be bringing those suggestions up at the April meeting.

Lastly, on March 24, about a dozen of us gathered at Paul/N7SDQ's QTH for a semi-surprise send-off party. Paul left San Angelo for Valdosta, GA, to join his WF, Pat/KD4TMM, and daughter. Pat had found work at Moody AFB, and Paul remained behind to get their house ready to sell. We ate some pizza, drank a few brews, and presented Paul with an SAARC plaque for his dedicated service to the club. Paul's new, temporary e-mail address is pwittenborn@gmail.com if you wish to keep in touch. Paul claims he might come back for a trip to Terlingua in the coming years.

I hope everyone can make it to the April 13 meeting for the PSK demo. Let's hope the bands cooperate and we can find several stations to QSO with.

Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

Severe Weather Statement Freqs

San Angelo

855.4625

856.4625

857.4625

858.4625

859.4625

860.4625

859.9375

155.520 ASU low-band P.D.

Tom Green County SO FD 154.190 DISP

154.130, 154.160

155.700 Dispatch

156.090 Ch 2

154.950 Car-to-Car 154.115 patch to 800

MHz

155.370 Intercity

156.210 Ch 11

NWS

162.550

Tornado Forecasting

SPC look for the development of temperature and wind flow patterns in the atmosphere which can cause enough moisture instability lift and wind shear for tornadic thunderstorms.

Tornado watch covers 25,000 square miles, about half the size of Iowa.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM

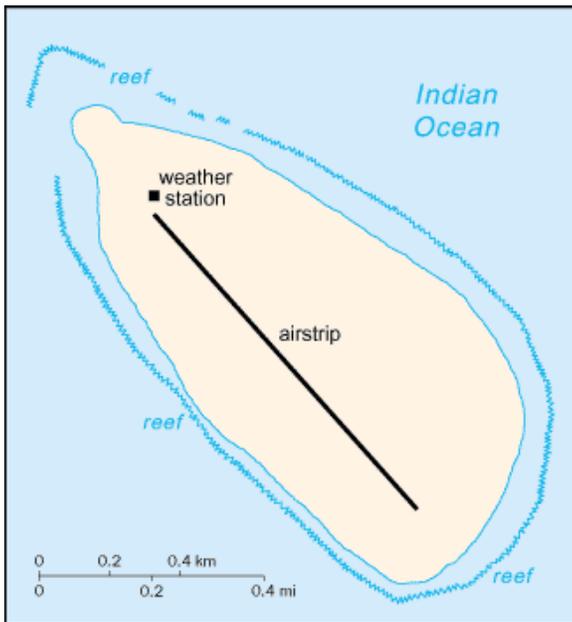


By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in April: According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of March 19-26, there were 222 countries active. DX in April: J6/WB5ZAM, FS, 9Q, JD1, TK, **VU4 on the 18th**, YVØ-Aves, PYØ-Fernando de Naronha, FM, 8P, V31, TK, and J7.

Island of the Month

FR/T- Tromelin: Located east of Mozambique in the Indian Ocean, with the highest ground just 40 feet above sea level, it lies at 15°52'S/54°25'E. Rising so little above the tides, the island is a nature preserve as well as a remote weather station for the French Indian Ocean weather services. There is a central, sand-covered runway used by the French to repair their equipment, for scientists working with the turtles and sea birds, and the rare amateur DXpedition. This is your classic surf, sand, sea birds and sea turtle island with low-growing vegetation, a constant wind, and little rain. The waters beyond the reef drop sharply to 4000 feet in depth, so not much comes to the islands, except wayward sailors and the occasional



lost boat. The island is pear-shaped by the photos from the 1998 DXpedition, and the weather is tolerable (except during cyclones.)

Lying 220 miles from Mozambique, getting to the island is extremely difficult. Claimed by France and Madagascar, it is not exactly your tourist island. But, if you were careful navigating the reef and were wandering in the area and got past the pirates in the Mozambique Channel, you would find an island that has been passed by time. There are rumors of the ghosts of slaves from shipwrecked slave ships that died waiting for rescue, haunting the island. And the absolute silence and the 73- to 83-degree temperatures every day would become tedious, one would think. The last group in was led by FR5ZU in 2000 and he has been unable to return as all of his radio aerials were destroyed in a cyclone in 2002. It seems that every

2 or 3 years someone from Reunion tries to go to the island, but has problems that cancel the DXpedition. Aerial view of the island is courtesy of F5UJK.

QSL of the Month

Radio Scouts Sweden – 7SØSRS

Why don't our scouts look like these. Guess all the snow produces these hardy kids.

See you on the bands chasing DX (or maybe in the "Sunny Caribbean".) 73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

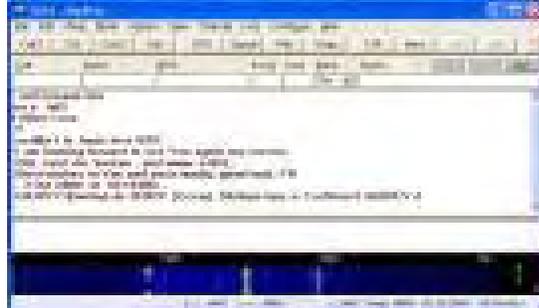
Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Mar 6	AA5PK	15	8 min
Mar 13	KA5VTG	11	6 min
Mar 20	KA5VTG	17	10 min
Mar 27	AA5PK	15	11 min
Apr 3	KA5VTG	13	7 min

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

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

April's Program



Demonstration of PSK digital mode.

Don't miss it!

Name This Piece of Equipment



Keith/K5LSM correctly identified the Atlas 400-X in the March newsletter.



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

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

2006 SAARC Officers:

President - Glenn Miller/AA5PK
Vice President - John Marshall/KC5FMX
Secretary/Treasurer - Gary Chaffin/N5GRC
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - //Vacant??
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mechlenburg/KC5WXJ

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**