

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

*April 2007*

## *Meeting Minutes*

*By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX, Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by David Behrend/KB5FNK, on March 8, 2007 at 1934.

Introductions were made with 14 members and 1 visitor in attendance.

The minutes for February, 2007 were read and approved by the members. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Representatives from "Rebuilding Together" explained the new format they will use on the homes picked for repair this April 28, 2007. They will need eight communication crews to help the volunteers. There will be a pre-work tour March 27, 2007. There will be a post work tour May 7, 2007. Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC will coordinate between Rebuilding Together and those members that offered to help.

### **Old Business**

SKYWARN Training. The Saturday session had 105 in attendance. The Tuesday evening session had 65.

Joe Kent/KC5ILD suggested trying for a grant for a trailer with a tower already mounted.

David Behrend/KB5FNK, Region 44 RACES Director.

There were six people that tested at the VE test session on Sunday. There are three new Technicians, two Generals and one Amateur Extra.

### **New Business**

Charlie Royall/WB5T would like a plaque to remember all past members who have passed away. He would like everyone to try to think of those you can remember, then ask other amateurs of others they may know. Charlie said he would pay for the plaque and everything that would be needed.

Bob/KD5PIX had the opportunity to speak to the Manager of the Texas Road House to ask about a room for the Eatin' Meetin'. Thursday is a good day for them—we would not be rushed to leave at any given time. The members moved and seconded the motion to have the Texas Road House for our next Eatin' Meetin'. You can pick your own steak and the prices are reasonable.

Time to start thinking about Field Day. Everyone is in favor of having the same location we had at the spillway.

### **Good of the Order**

Split-the-Pot was good for \$14 to the winner, Kent Frazier/K5KNT, and the club.

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

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Club, Inc., will be April 12, 2007 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

## *License Testing News*

*Glenn Miller/AA5PK, VE Team Liaison*

**ARRL**  **VEC**

A license test session was held on March 4 at the clubhouse. Administering Volunteer Examiners were Glenn/AA5PK, Chuck/N5JED and Charlie/WB5T.

Five candidates were administered seven examination elements with the following results: three new Generals and two new Amateur Extras.

The next test session is scheduled for Sunday, July 15, 2007, at 1300 at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (NCVEC Form 605 and \$14 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC" mailed to the club PO box) is required not later than July 9.

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

Information/forms can be obtained by contacting Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775 or [aa5pk@hotmail.com](mailto:aa5pk@hotmail.com).

**Misconceptions Abound Regarding Tech HF Privileges**

*From The ARRL Letter, March 23, 2007*

Some Technician licensees who gained new privileges February 23 remain unaware or uninformed as to what they may and may not do on the HF bands, says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. In addition to all Amateur Radio operating privileges above 50 MHz, Technicians who never passed a Morse code test now have CW privileges on certain segments of 80, 40 and 15 meters plus CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on certain segments of 10 meters. And that's it. "Know your privileges <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>," Henderson advises all Amateur Radio licensees. He says some Technicians apparently believe their new HF phone privileges go far beyond what they really have.

"Technicians have no phone privileges on any HF band other than 10 meters, period!" Henderson emphasizes. "That's the bottom line. If you want to operate phone on the other HF bands, you'll have to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra class."

A lot of Technician licensees appear to have done just that, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A <http://ah0a.org/FCC/Licenses.html>. So far in March, the number of General class licensees is up by more than 2700 over the February figure to 134,173, after hitting a 5-year low of just under 131,000 in January. The number of Technicians dropped by 4655 in the same period to 318,838. Speroni notes, however, that his mid-month figures tend to underestimate actual totals.

Most Technician license holders face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges on HF, but they no longer have to pass a Morse code examination. Technicians also may use their new HF privileges without having to apply for them first. No other license class automatically acquired additional privileges February 23. The "omnibus" rule changes effective last December 15 did not give Technician licensees without Morse code credit any additional privileges either.

Henderson further warns new Techs not to extrapolate additional phone privileges by misconstruing the FCC Part 97 rules to mean something they don't.

"Calls I've been getting lately indicate that some misinformed individuals believe Technicians may operate 'digital voice' on 80, 40 and 15, where they have only CW privileges," he says. "Not true. Digital voice is really digitized voice, and it's not permitted in non-phone band segments."

Henderson reiterates that Technicians do not have FM voice privileges on 10 meters—or on any other HF band, for that matter. The HF privileges all Technicians now have are equivalent to those that Novice licensees enjoy, Henderson notes. "This also means the 200 W maximum power limit still applies, regardless of where you operate in the HF bands," he says. Technicians may operate at up to the legal limit on VHF and UHF, however.

On 10 meters, Technician and Novice licensees have CW, RTTY and data privileges from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and CW and SSB privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz. "We're sorry that the sunspots aren't favoring 10 meters at this point in the sunspot cycle, but they will in a few years," Henderson allowed.

In addition, Technicians and Novices have CW—and only CW—privileges on from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz on 40 meters and 21.025 to 21.200 MHz on 15 meters.

Henderson believes at least some of the confusion may have originated with a few brand-new or inexperienced Technician licensees who heard that the FCC deleted the Morse code requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license, but paid little attention to the fine print.

"And we all know the devil's in the details," Henderson says. "Remember, the FCC requires you to know where you may and may not operate and with what modes. Stick to the privileges your license allows or risk hearing from the FCC."

**U.S. Amateur Radio Bands**

Download an easily readable, color chart of the U.S. amateur radio bands from the ARRL Web site:

[http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands\\_color.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_color.pdf)

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM



*By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM*

**DXpeditions in April:** CT3, TZ, J68WI (WB5ZAM/J6), V6, N8S (Swain's), 3DA, YK, JT, ZK, 5W, BS7, and 6V. According to the DX-Sheets, there were 230 countries active the first part of March.

### Islands of the Month

**Kiribati—T30, 31, 32.** Officially the Republic of Kiribati is an island nation located in the central tropical Pacific Ocean, at 1°25'N/173°00'E. It is dispersed over 1,351 square miles (3,500 km<sup>2</sup>) close to the equator. Kiribati was formally divided into districts until its independence. The country is now divided into three island groups which have no administrative function, including a group that unites the Line and the Phoenix islands (ministry at London, Christmas). Each inhabited island has its own council (3 councils on Tarawa: Betio, South-Tarawa, North-Tarawa; 2 councils on Tabiteuea). The original districts were to be: Banaba, Central Gilberts, Line Islands, Northern Gilberts, Southern Gilberts, and Tarawa Atoll. The island groups include: Gilbert Islands (T30), Phoenix Islands (T31), Line Islands (T32), and Banaba (T32).



Four of the former districts (including Tarawa) lie in the Gilbert Islands, where most of the country's population lives. Only three of the Line Islands are inhabited. The Phoenix Islands are uninhabited except for Kanton, and have no representation. Banaba itself is sparsely inhabited now. There is also a non-elected representative of the Banabans on Rabi Island in the nation of Fiji. Each of the 21 inhabited islands has a local council that takes care of the daily affairs. Tarawa Atoll has three councils: Betio Town Council, Te Inainano Urban Council (for the rest of South Tarawa) and Eutan Tarawa Council (for North Tarawa). Kiribati consists of about 32 atolls and one island (Banaba), with at least three in each hemisphere. Twenty one of thirty three are inhabited.

Kiribati has few natural resources. Commercially viable phosphate deposits were exhausted at the time of independence. Copra and fish now represent the bulk of production and exports. Tourism provides more than one-fifth of GDP. Christianity is the major religion in the country although mixed with many practices of the indigenous beliefs. Kiribati is one of the clearest examples of overpopulation since there is simply not sufficient water supply, arable land, solid waste disposal capacity or sanitation facilities capability on a number of the islands.

The Gilbert Islands were granted self-rule by the UK in 1971 and complete independence in 1979 under the new name of Kiribati. The US relinquished all claims to the sparsely inhabited Phoenix and Line Island groups in a 1979 treaty of friendship with Kiribati. Typhoons can occur any time of the year with the highest incidence in November to March. Some of the atolls are sensitive to high tides. Major environmental concerns are primarily noted on Tarawa where the practice of lagoon latrines and open pit dumping pollute the south end of the island.

There are three paved airports in the islands, 16 unpaved and 42 Internet hosts. The islands have no regular military forces, and the police force carries out law enforcement functions and paramilitary duties. Australia is the prime provider for any defense in the islands. The Kiribati people settled what would become known as the Gilbert Islands between 1000 and 1300 AD. Subsequent invasions by Fijians and Tongans introduced Melanesian and Polynesian elements to the Micronesian culture, but extensive intermarriage has produced a population reasonably homogeneous in appearance and traditions. European contact began in the 16th century. Whalers, slave traders, and merchant vessels arrived in great numbers in the 1800s, fomenting local tribal conflicts and introducing often-fatal European diseases. In an effort to restore a measure of order, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands (the Ellice Islands are now known as Tuvalu) consented to becoming British protectorates in 1892. Banaba (Ocean Island) was annexed in 1900 after the discovery of phosphate-rich guano deposits, and the entire collection was made a British colony in 1916. The Line and Phoenix Islands were incorporated piecemeal over the next 20 years. Japan seized some of the islands during World War II. In November 1943, U.S. forces assaulted heavily fortified Japanese positions on Tarawa Atoll in the Gilberts, resulting in some of the bloodiest fighting of the Pacific campaign. The battle was a turning point in the Central Pacific. Britain began expanding self-government in the islands during the 1960s. In 1975 the Ellice Islands separated from the colony and in 1978 became the independent country of Tuvalu. The Gilberts obtained internal self-government in 1977, and formally became an independent nation on July 12, 1979, under the name of Kiribati. Amateur radio is provided mostly by visiting hams.

Lots of information on the Web about the islands: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country\\_profiles/1168527.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1168527.stm);  
<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/kr.html>;  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiribati>

### QSL OF THE MONTH

**T98U-Bosnia-Herzegovina:** Robert has a really neat card. And he is one of the new countries that might also become another entity if the two parts split.

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



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Mar 5	KB5FNK	16	10 min
Mar 12	AA5PK	15	12 min
Mar 19	KB5FNK	20	8 min
Mar 26	===	No Net	===
Apr 2	===	No Net	===

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
or PL 100.0 for local transmit		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		
147.06+	San Angelo	6 Meter Crossband	
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30/53.63	San Angelo PL 88.5



## Opportunity to Excel

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK  
The Kilo-What editor/publisher

After nearly 15 years of editing and publishing the club's newsletter, the June '07 issue will be my last.

It's been fun, but after 175+ issues, it's time for someone else to take over. There certainly has to be someone up to the task and, if he or she wishes to begin earlier than the July issue, I'll certainly step down then.

I'll be happy to assist in any way whoever comes forward to take the job.

Contact me for details.



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Get all the latest club news on the World  
Wide Web at [www.w5qx.org](http://www.w5qx.org)

### 2007 SAARC Officers:

President - David Behrend/KB5FNK  
Vice President - Kent Frazier/K5KNT  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - David Buck/KB9VTD  
Activities Manager - Chad Goodman/KD5SMK  
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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING:  
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 7:30 P.M.  
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**