

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

August 2004

## *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 on July 8, 2004, at 1930 hours.

Introductions were made with 15 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

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

### **Officers' Reports**

Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Activities Manager. ARRL Field Day 2004: We scored just over 5600 points. Paul is sending in supporting documentation to the ARRL. In September we will support the X-Bar Shoot Out bicycle races in Eldorado. They usually require 7 or 8 amateurs to help with this event. Also in September is the Sidewinder Challenge held at the San Angelo State Park. They have no set number, but, because this is an all-day event, usually between 7 and 12 amateurs will be needed. Paul asks that we have suggestions for a location for our December Eatin' Meetin' by next meeting. The earlier we make reservations, the better.

### **Old Business**

Joe Kent/KC5ILD has been in contact with Angelo Water Co. regarding the damaged Porta-Potty they delivered to us for Field Day. They said they will have to scrap the unit and will reimburse us \$25. Joe asked all to try to sell two associate memberships. It would bring in a great deal of money for the club.

The need for new coax (500 feet) for Field Day was brought up. We need to price coax and reels for storing the coax after Field Day.

### **New Business**

Glenn Miller/AA5PK has donated a 3½ ton central air conditioning unit to the club. We need to check on the cost of installation. Glenn suggested Duncan Mechanical, and Joe/KC5ILD will check with them and have more information at the next meeting.

Bob Heiser/W7IKT said there is a new version of the logging program we use during Field Day. Bob has downloaded the new release and will update the FD computers. It is still a DOS-based program.

The executive committee has recommended a senior club member for lifetime membership. The SAARC By-Laws require a two-thirds vote of the members for approval. All members present were in favor. Joe Kent/KC5ILD and Bob Freeman/KD5PIX will contact the remaining membership for their vote.

### **Good of The Order**

Split-the-Pot was worth \$11 to the winner, John Marshall/KC5FMX, and to the club. John donated his winnings to the club. Thank you, John.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2026.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be August 12, 2004 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

## *10-10 International*

*By Ralph Stout/KA5ULE, Head of Concho Valley Chapter of 10-10 International, Inc*

Hello to everyone out there. As some of you may know, we have a local 10 meter chapter called the Concho Valley Chapter. We've been affiliated with **10-10 International** Net, Inc. since 1998. I've kept the chapter affiliated by filing quarterly reports saying we are inactive. After talking with Hubert/KC5NPC, it was decided to start up the net again. I know we're on the downhill part of Cycle 23, but you never know who may be listening. Sometimes when the band seems dead, it isn't.

We meet every Monday night at 9:00 pm local on 28.360. It's an informal meeting, just check in and stay to visit with other hams on frequency. It's easy to be Net Control, just sit on frequency and see who checks in. If you don't hear anyone, just ID. It's that simple!

Also, if you have a mobile radio, I suggest you use the same frequency and occasionally check on 28.345 where other 10-10 members meet.

## License Testing News

**ARRL**  **VEC**

*By Glenn Miller/AASPK, Volunteer Examiner*

Two license testing sessions were held in July (the second to accommodate the Shannon communicators).. Ten candidates were tested with the following results: One upgrade to General and six new Technicians.

The next regular license testing session will be held on Sunday, September 19, 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 September 13.

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

## AMSAT "Echo" Satellite Opens for FM Voice Trial Run

*From The ARRL Letter, July 30, 2004*



AMSAT-NA's new "Echo" satellite (AO-51) has been turned on for general use in FM repeat mode for a trial period of about three weeks. During that time, command stations on Earth will monitor AO-51's power budget and adjust the UHF Transmitter B (TX B) power as needed for good battery management. They'll also be watching the AMSAT Bulletin Board e-mail reflector, [amsat-bb@amsat.org](mailto:amsat-bb@amsat.org), for reports of how Echo is working.

"We are most interested in hearing about how well Echo hears you and how well you hear it," said the Echo Command Team—Jim White, WD0E, and Mike Kingery, KE4AZN—in an AMSAT bulletin. White and Kingery note that this is a trial period of the FM voice repeater. The digital portion of Echo is not yet open for use.

AMSAT Vice President for User Services Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says reports of successful QSOs on Echo's first day of operation came from all over the world, including the US, Brazil, New Zealand and Germany.

A Russian Dnepr LV rocket carried AO-51 and several other payloads into orbit June 29 from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The 10-inch-square microsat, circling some 800 km above Earth in a sun-synchronous orbit, will permit voice communication using handheld transceivers.

The digital transponder and the store-and-forward BBS, are not yet open for general use.

Initially, the AO-51 downlink transmitter was running at about 0.5 W. At that power level, AMSAT says, Earth stations will need a small directional antenna to hear it. If onboard power permits, ground controllers will slowly increase the transmitter's output during the trial period.

The Echo FM voice uplink frequency is 145.920 MHz, and the downlink is 435.300 MHz. The downlink transmitter will come on when it hears an uplink signal with a 67 Hz CTCSS (PL) tone for about 1 second, and it will stay on for 10 seconds after that signal goes away. "This operation is just like a terrestrial FM repeater with a 1 second 'kerchunk' filter and a 10 second hang time," AMSAT noted. Transmitter A (TX A), now sending telemetry, generally will continue to operate on 435.150 MHz.

AMSAT points out that Echo, which launched June 29, is still "wobbling a great deal," so the downlink polarization sense will vary.

The Echo Command Team says it expects Echo will be heavily used during the first few days of the trial period. "It is good amateur practice and common courtesy to let everyone have a chance," they said. "Echo will hear you as well as or better than any previous amateur FM repeater satellite."

With hundreds of stations trying out AO-51, ground controllers say they expect the transmitter will be on continuously when the spacecraft is over populated areas.

The Echo satellite project is still some \$8000 short of the \$110,000 that was needed to launch the spacecraft. AMSAT guaranteed the full fare by borrowing from its dedicated funds, which now must be repaid. AMSAT—a 501(c)(3) organization—welcomes additional donations to bridge the funding gap. Visit the [AMSAT AO-Echo Web page](#) for additional details.—AMSAT News Service

# CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

**DXpeditions in August:** YVØ-Aves from 7/28 thru 8/8, last expedition! Also: OY—Faroe, KH2—Guam, YJ—Vanuatu, KG4DX—Gitmo, S79—Seychelles and HBØ—Leichtenstein.

According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of Saturday, 17th/July, through Saturday, 24th/July there were 204 countries active. Countries available: 3A, 3B8, 3D2, 3DA, 3V, 3W, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4U1I, 4X, 5B, 5H, 5N, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M2, 9M6, 9V, 9Y, A3, A4, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C3, CE, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, D2, DL, DU, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EP, ER, ES, ET, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FJ, FK, FM, FO, FR, FY, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, H3, H4, HA, HB, HC, HH, HI, HK, HKØ/a, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I, IS, J8, JA, JD/o, JT, JW, JY, K, KH0, KH6, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OHØ, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2, PY, PZ, S2, S5, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV5, SV9, T5, T7, T8, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, TJ, TK, TR, TT, TU, TY, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V4, V5, V7, V8, VE, VK, VK9N, VP2M, VP5, VP9, VR, VU, XE, XT, XU, XW, XX9, YA, YB, YI, YK, YL, YN, YO, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZC4, ZD8, ZK1/s, ZL, ZP, ZS.

## Island of the Month

**Iceland-TF.** Team handball, shaggy short ponies, bathing in the sea (albeit very hot water), a Mammalian Phallus Mu-



seum, home of the original Espresso Cafes and vegetables grown in geothermally heated hothouses. All of these await the traveler to Iceland. Located at 65°N/18°W, in the Arctic region, the island is ruled by the thermal vents and volcanoes. In 1875, the Askja volcano erupted and drove 20% of the population from the island. Settled by Celtic (Scots and Irish) and Norwegians immigrants during the 9th and 10th centuries A.D., Iceland boasts the oldest functioning legislative assembly, established in 930. With a life expectancy of 80, even the harsh arctic conditions seem to help this population of the descendants of the Norse and Celts. The primary religion is Evangelical Lutheran, and the languages spoken are English, Nordic languages, and German. Of the total population, 99.9% can read and write, and the island population was estimated at 294,000 in 2004. The weather is considered temperate, moderated by the North Atlantic current with mild and windy winters and damp cool summers. The



land is mostly plateau interspersed with mountain peaks and ice fields. The highest point is on the Vatnajökull glacier, Hvannandanshnukur at 2119 meters. Environmentally, earthquakes and volcanic activity combined with inadequate wastewater treatment make for an interesting habitat. Surprisingly, with a surface area of 103,000 sq. km., there are 100 airports. Imports are from the US, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden and Great Britain.

The exchange rate was 76.71 kronur==\$1US. They have extensive phone and communication systems and 20 ISPs and 68,000 internet hosts. Industries include fish processing (and they have disputes with the other Arctic countries as to who fishes where), aluminum smelting, ferrosilicon production, geothermal power production as well as tourism. The economy is basically capitalistic with an extensive welfare system, low unemployment, and remarkably even distribution of income. The government has, to-date, refused to enter the European Union, preferring to remain an independent entity, and this is primarily due to their fear of losing control over their fishing resources. The islands are notable as a whale watching, ecotourism spot, and more and more tourists are going there to enjoy the rare climate and be close at hand with the whales.

While amateurs are active from there, the island still is a highly desired catch on most bands. For the ecotourist, or just someone wanting to escape to the cooler climates, the country offers a little of everything. But take your radio and let the rest of the world get a chance to work you from the Arctic regions. There are American Armed Forces there that provide assistance to the Arctic region in the name of the Icelandic Defense Force, headquartered in Keflavik. Look for more information at <http://www.icelandtouristboard.com/places.html>

## QSL of the Month

**TF3EE**—Erling Gudnason: Wow, look at that antenna. Looks like a home brew with all the bands on a short boom with a loading coil.

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



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jul 5	KA5VTG	14	8 min
Jul 12	KA5VTG	13	7 min
Jul 19	KA5VTG	19	12 min
Jul 26	KA5VTG	14	9 min
Aug 2	KA5VTG	18	7 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

## Associate Members



**Texas PC and Networking**  
Serving all of West Texas

John Ricketts  
*Owner*

Two Hour Response - 24/7 Support  
Directly to Your Home or Business  
Networks - Repair - Virus/Worm Removal  
Phone: (325) 658-7594  
Cell: (325) 212-7295  
john@txpc.net  
http://www.txpc.net

### S&D Embroidery

HUB Certified



We Do It Your Way  
Caps, Shirts, Company Logos  
Special Events, Sports  
Individuals, No Minimums  
Call For Pricing Information

Sandra & Danny Hurst    Toll Free: 866-422-8477  
2421 College Hills Blvd.    Web: sdembrodery.com  
San Angelo, TX 76904    Phone: 325-223-8477  
Located Across from    Cell#: 325-374-8101  
Park 2400    Email: stitches47@sdembroidery.com





### American RV & Supply

SALES AND SERVICE

Aljo  
Layton  
Out of Town  
1-800-377-5284

Phone (325) 653-1978  
4100 South Bryant  
4110 Ben Fieldin Road  
SAN ANGELO, TX 76903  
americanrv@wtxco.com  
website: americanrvandsupply.com

Cameo  
Fax  
(325) 658-7159

TREVA BOYD    NOMAD



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

Get all the latest club news on the World  
Wide Web at [www.w5qx.org](http://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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**THURSDAY, AUG 12, 7:30 PM**  
**MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**