

# The eKilo - What

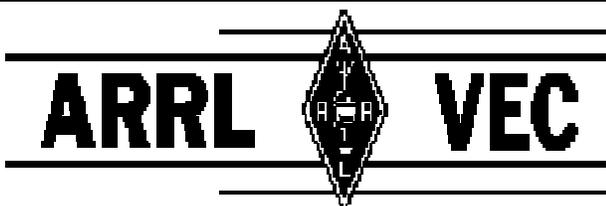
Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

August 2005

## Meeting Minutes

No minutes available.

## License Testing News



By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, October 16, 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 October 10.

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.

## FCC Proposes Dropping Morse Code Requirement

From The ARRL Letter, July 22, 2005

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the provision in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Dropping the Morse code requirement or any other changes to Part 97 would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM&O consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community. Several petitioners simply asked the FCC to drop the Morse requirement, but some—including the ARRL—also proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again—this time on what the FCC calls "our tentative conclusions" in its NPRM&O.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the code altogether, although the League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner also expressed dismay that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM&O and comment

(Continued on page 2)

## Morse Code

(Continued from page 1)

further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM&O, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able to upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said it already addressed some other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140.

The NPRM&O is on the FCC Web site [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf). A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM&O in WT 05-235 will begin once the no-

## NCVEC Takes no Action in Response to FCC Rule Making Proposals

Meeting July 22 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) <http://www.ncvec.org/> offered no public reaction to the FCC's recent Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235. The NCVEC also took no action at the gathering on whether to file formal comments with the FCC in the proceeding. The FCC NPRM&O endorsed eliminating the Morse code requirement for all amateur license classes—something the NCVEC sought in a 2003 Petition for Rule Making—but it turned away a 2004 NCVEC proposal to create a new "Communicator" entry-level license class with expanded HF privileges and upgrade all Novices to that level. Acting on a motion focusing on whether the Conference should get involved in rule makings, the NCVEC voted to dissolve its Rules Committee—the panel that had prepared the Conference's rule making petitions. Outgoing Rules Committee Chairman Fred Maia, W5YI, later encouraged individual VECs to review the FCC document and comment to the Commission on their own.

"After we voted to dissolve our Rules Committee, I sensed that the group was not interested in pursuing this matter any time soon," NCVEC Chairman Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, told ARRL this week. "Unless I receive a clear indication from the VECs that they want the Conference to offer a response, I won't proceed further."

The NCVEC voted 10-2 to abolish its Rules Committee "until it decides on a clear need and purpose for such a committee," Fuszard explained. "We had neither the time then—nor, I felt, the inclination—to discuss the matter further."

ARRL VEC Assistant Manager Perry Green, WY1O, says some disappointment with the FCC's failure to endorse the NCVEC's proposal to establish a new entry-level license was apparent among the 12 VECs attending the Gettysburg meeting. The NCVEC's 2004 petition also asked the FCC to upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced holders to Extra, but the FCC rejected that idea too. Some members expressed pleasure, however, that the FCC is poised to eliminate the Morse code requirement.

In other matters, Green reports that as a result of the recently released FCC proposal, the NCVEC Question Pool Committee (QPC)—the body that formulates Amateur Radio examination questions—is considering surveying individual VECs to review the Technician class question pool out of its usual sequence. The most recent Technician question pool went into effect in 2003, and it normally would not undergo another review until 2007. The NCVEC held up implementing a new Amateur Extra class question pool this year in anticipation of FCC action on various regulatory issues and possible further restructuring.

The NCVEC elected Green and Larry Pollock, NB5X, of the W5YI VEC to join QPC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC, of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club VEC. Others attending from ARRL Headquarters were Interim ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, KB1KJC, and ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ.

Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau reviewed the July 19 NPRM&O with the NCVEC delegates and answered questions. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth also addressed the gathering and reminded the VECs to remain vigilant in spotting apparent problems that crop up during examination sessions and reporting them to the FCC for handling.

The NCVEC also elected officers for 2005-2006. They are Chairman Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, who chaired the 2005 NCVEC gathering; Vice Chairman: Larry Pollock, NB5X, of the W5YI VEC, who succeeds Wiley; Secretary: Steve Sternitzke, NS5I, of the W5YI VEC, and Treasurer: Ray Adams, W4CPA, of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society VEC.

# CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

**DXpeditions in August:** SU8IOTA, 7Q7, J79, FW, SV9, S79, C91, OJØ, FOØ, TK, CYØ, 3D3/R, ZK1, HK, OX, FP, A9, 5D, EX, PYØF, OX, 5X, 3DA, TG, TY, V25, ISØ, VK9C, FK, V4 and 7Q7. According to AR-Cluster, 202 countries were active July 22-29. 3CØ – Annoban has been approved for operation starting ASAP around the first of August.

## Island of the Month

**Montserrat—VP2M.** Noted neither for its export of the “mountain chickens” nor for its booming economy, Montserrat is noted for being one of the few islands in current history that almost became extinct. (The “Mountain Chicken” is a very large frog that is quite edible, they say.) The island is only 12 by 7 miles square, but in 1995 1/3 to 1/2 became uninhabitable by man and beast with the largest mountain, a semi-active volcano growing a lave dome that pushed up into the clouds then burst, covering the island with volcanic ash so thick that nothing lives in that area. The capital of Portsmouth was destroyed as was the only airport. Over 5000 of the 9400 residents fled the island and are now trying to figure out where to go. Many have returned to adjacent islands, many went to the home country—Great Britain—and a large number came to the US. US Immigration is now telling those visitors that came to the US to escape the volcano that their visas have expired. With limited services on the island, no jobs and no grand economic incentives, the island residents have an average income of about \$4000 a year. Tourism is starting to be pushed with the island essentially relocating to the northwest away from the volcanoes (there are 7 active volcanoes on the island). And then along came Hurricane Hugo. And the islanders are a bit stressed. They import about \$1.7M in goods and services and export \$700,000. Basic services are available, and there are even 17 ISPs on the island. The currency is tagged to the US dollar, using the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (2.7:1, since 1976). Access to the island at present is through Antigua and Puerto Rico with either the Inter-Island Ferry used or helicopter service. There

is an airport being built in the northwest that will help getting in and out, and Great Britain is pushing other partners into helping get a tourist business started on the island. At present, most of the exports are based around rum, hot peppers, textiles, live plants, cattle and plastic sacks. They are also doing some work with electronic instruments of some form. The new capital is St. John’s and is based at the Brades Estate in the Carr Bay/Little Bay area. Import partners are the US, UK, Japan, Canada and Trinidad Tobago. The island is a self-governing part of the United Kingdom represented by a Governor appointed by England and a local Chief Minister elected by the populace. The judicial system is based on the British system, but is also Caribbean-based with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court based in St. Lucia.



Montserrat is essentially in the middle of the Caribbean chain in the eastern Caribbean at 16°45’N/62°12’W. It was named by old Christopher Columbus in 1493 and became a part of the British Colonies in 1632. The highest point used to be the Soufriere (French for Volcano, go figure) Hill. The current high ground is in the same part of the island at 400 meters. There is a lot of eco-tourism being pushed on the island and, as more of the funds from the partners are put into the island, hotels and other activities will expand. Diving and forest tours abound as well as deep sea fishing. For more information, go to <http://www.visitmontserrat.com/> or <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3687700.stm>

Montserrat is essentially in the middle of the Caribbean chain in the eastern Caribbean at 16°45’N/62°12’W. It was named by old Christopher Columbus in 1493 and became a part of the British Colonies in 1632. The highest point used to be the Soufriere (French for Volcano, go figure) Hill. The current high ground is in the same part of the island at 400 meters. There is a lot of eco-tourism being pushed on the island and, as more of the funds from the partners are put into the island, hotels and other activities will expand. Diving and forest tours abound as well as deep sea fishing. For more information, go to <http://www.visitmontserrat.com/> or <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3687700.stm>

### QSL OF THE MONTH C91GP

Gianfausto Pizzi is one of several Italian hams who regularly goes to Mozambique to operate. Look for him on all bands. See you on the bands chasing DX. 73.

## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jul 11	AA5PK	8	4 min
Jul 18	KD5SMK	17	7 min
Jul 25	----	no net held	----
Aug 1	----	no net held	----

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



MEMBER  
PROFESSIONAL SALES GUILD

**BILLY W. ROE**  
SALES MANAGER

**IVEY MOTOR COMPANY**  
BOX 509  
ROBERT LEE, TX 76945  
(800) 728-4839  
**(325) 453-4561**  
**(325) 453-2735 FAX**  
iveyinc@wtss.net



### Name This Piece of Equipment



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)

#### 2005 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD  
Vice President - Lloyd Glasscock/KØGEN  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ  
Activities Manager - Don Gallion/KD5NAI  
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mechenburg/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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**THURSDAY, AUG 11, 7:30 P.M.**  
**MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**