

The eKilo-What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

August 2006

Meeting Minutes

By John Marshall/KC5FMX, VP

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Glenn Miller/AA5PK, on July 13, 2006 at 1930.

Introductions were made with nine members and two guests 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.

Old Business

Another 2-day Technician license class will be conducted in September, probably on the last two Saturdays. Once the San Angelo Health Foundation meeting room is confirmed, advertising will go out to try to fill all the seats in the class. From past experience, we can comfortably accommodate 26 students. The class materials will be updated by then to include the changes made in the July 2006 Technician license question pool.

A brief recap of ARRL Field Day 2006 was given. More than anything, we operated to have fun, get in some operating time and run the generator.

Plans are still on track for the October anniversary party.

We anticipate the Amistad Hispanic Heritage Run at Goodfellow AFB will be rescheduled for September and the club will again be asked to provide communications support.

New Business

As a fundraising venture, Gary/N5GRC has hooked the club up with a company that recycles ink jet printer cartridges. This is a painless way to put money in the club's treasury and get rid of those empty ink cartridges. Flyers were passed out at the meeting. The company supplies postage-paid mailers to send the cartridges and the club gets \$.50 to \$4 per returned cartridge. They can only recycle cartridges with heads built in, which includes most types except for Epson. Everyone should keep a mailer beside their ink jet printer. Mailers will be available from Gary as soon as he gets them in. More info will be posted on the club's Web site.

Good of the Order

Bob/W7IKT reported that he has a good stock of Power Poles and the crimper if anyone is needing to install PowerPoles on their equipment. He's available most any time on .94 if you need his assistance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1948.

Following a brief intermission, John/KC5FMX presented a talk on his direction finding antenna project and then we went outside to run some practical tests which confirmed the modified design will indeed work well for fox hunting.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club will be August 10 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL  **VEC**

A test session was held on July 16 at the clubhouse. One candidate was administered one examination element with the following result: upgrade to Amateur Extra Class.

The next regularly scheduled test session will be Sunday, October 22 at 1300 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 16.

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*

Good news on the next 2-day Technician license class. We've reserved the San Angelo Health Foundation's meeting room in the San Angelo Visitors' Center for September 9th and 16th. So, our next class is a go and I've already sent releases to the usual outlets. Ralph/KA5ULE and I will be instructing, as before. The bad news is we were unable to get the SAHF room for the last two Saturdays, as we had hoped, and Ralph will be unavailable for the September 16 class. Please pass the word. I've already signed up two for the class and more information is on the club's Web site. We'll be holding a special license testing session on September 16, following the second class session. Anyone wishing to test at this session needs to contact Don/AB5BG. Remember that the Technician class question pool changed on July 1, so if someone is going to take the class or just test after studying on their own, the need to ensure they're studying the current license material.

I was hoping to line up Ron Perry/N5ZIX for this month's program, but he'll be in Austin attending an emergency management conference next week. He has penciled in our September meeting on his calendar, however, the city will be in the midst of a simulated exercise on that date, so he may be tied up. Ron, for those who don't know, replaced Burton Barry as the Director of Emergency Management for Tom Green County and the City of San Angelo. He's a licensed amateur (and former club president), so he wants to make sure there's a good connection between the club and his organization.

Some medical news making the rounds: Tommy Schafer/N5WJN is home now after a stay in ICU at Shannon. His prognosis is not good, and he's asked for some help in taking down his tower and antennas so he can start sorting out what he wants to sell.

Also, Rob Mowrer/N5OIU is home from the hospital after surgery which he had on July 25.

And I had arthroscopic surgery on my knee on July 26 to repair a torn meniscus—in at 7:15 AM, out by noon! I'm still limping around as of this writing and waiting for the swelling to go down so I can get my pre-surgery range of motion back.

And, as mentioned in the meeting minutes, the club is collecting used ink jet printer cartridges as a fund raiser. If you have an ink jet printer, don't throw that empty cartridge away. Bring it to a club meeting. Gary/N5GRC will have post-paid mailers to use to send the cartridges to the recycler. The club will earn from \$.50 to \$4 per cartridge, depending on the brand and model. It's about as painless a way you can find to support the club's treasury.

Here's hoping for some badly needed rain and for seeing you at the August 10 club meeting.

145.27 Repeater News*By Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ, W5QX SWLS Trustee*

The Southwest Links System (SWLS) is again alive with activity. Recently it was discovered that the W5QX 145.270 San Angelo repeater was not transmitting or receiving statewide link traffic. After a brief troubleshooting, it was discovered that the phone lines that link the repeater to the statewide link system were down. Together with Verizon and Link System Administrator Walter Stiles, WB5FNZ, of San Antonio, we were able to establish normal operation on Friday evening, July 28th.

The local Southwest link System repeater is located approximately 3 miles southwest of San Angelo at approximately 800' AGL.

The SWLS traffic requires an 88.5 Hz tone to access. If you use a 100.0 Hz tone, you will be able to communicate in a local mode only.

The 145.27- repeater has been in service since 1998 and has been a part of the SWLS since 2000. The SWLS on the web at <http://www.southwest.lynx.4t.com/index.html>. It is linked to many Texas cities, including Austin. There used to be a weekly net at 1200 Sundays, but I am not certain if it is still at this same time. Please monitor and use the system as much as possible. It's what we probably will be using in the event of a statewide emergency as it is linked to FEMA in Austin.

For further information regarding the SWLS contact me or any of the other system trustees at the addresses located on the SWLS homepage.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in August: New DXCC countries and DXpeditions: KH8-Swain's Island, 4O3-Montenegro. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of July 16-23, there were 199 countries active. For August, look for VP5, 3XY, FG, VP9, TK, FP, 3D2(R), SV5, 4W, C9, 3B2, 3D2, V4, XX, JW, OY, TF, GJ, FH, HI, and 5W.

Island of the Month

KH8—Swain's Island: Cloaked in politics, this island has been privately owned by the Jennings family for over 100 years. Swain's Island lies 663 nautical miles south of the equator, 100 miles south of Fakaofu, 170 miles north and a little east of Apia, Samoa, 200 miles north and a little west of Pago Pago, and 310 miles west of Pukapuka (Danger Islands). The island is thought to have been originally settled by Polynesian explorers, and it wasn't until 1841 that the island was found by one of the Portuguese explorers. In 1856 an American with a Samoan wife established himself as owner of the island and began to plant and grow coconuts for export to Tokelau. Since then, the island has been claimed by Pacific powers and by European powers. But it has ended up as part of the US Territory governed as American Samoa. In the early 1990s, the Tokelauan government threatened to 'declare war on the US' and launch a canoe invasion of the island, but nothing happened. Visiting the island requires the permission of the Jennings family, favors from the Marine and Wildlife Resources Officer in Fagatogo, and negotiations with charter boat companies. The call for coconut meat (copra) has diminished and the island has no source of revenue, relying on the US Government in Samoa to provide replenishment supplies and other help.



Culturally and geographically, it belongs to the Tokelau Islands (at 11°05'S/171°05'W), but politically it is part of the US Pacific territories. The island is a donut-shaped rise in the ocean, consisting solely of sand and coral. The central lagoon is odd for most islands as it is mostly fresh water, and is not a communicating lagoon that exchanges water with the surrounding ocean. It averages 48 feet in depth. At one time the population consisted of over 130 people, mostly workers from Pago Pago, and Tokelau. In 2005, the population was noted to be seven or eight people, with only one of the original Jennings family being cared for by a small staff. At that time, Cyclone Percy was rampaging through the middle and northern Pacific, (cyclone=a hurricane in southern hemisphere). It pushed large waves over the island and, after it had passed, the Coast Guard noted that six of nine buildings had been destroyed. The inhabitants were not injured, but were in dire straits for food and fresh water as well as gasoline for their generator. Kan had already been planning a DXpedition before the hurricane, and, after it passed, his DXpedition took along relief supplies for the folks on the island. (And operated a short duration DXpedition from the island.) At that time, it was still part of the American Samoa Territory. During the past month, there have been changes to the DXCC rules and the island now joins Montenegro as a new DXCC country. Accommodations for tourists are non-existent, as it is a privately owned island. Medical care is also non-existent. The island's link to other islands in the territory solely lies with their HF radio. In 2004, a medical team from a NOAA survey ship assisted in moving a patient with appendicitis to Tokelau. The lagoon is too small for a float plane and the surf too rough for easy access from the sea.



Surprisingly there is an abundance of information on the Web about the island.

As of 27 July, Kan, JA1BK, and a small group are on board ship, attempting to get to the island to be the first DXpedition from the new DXCC entity. He has apparently been trying for a long time to get the ARRL to adjust distance separation of islands to allow this island to become a new DXCC country, and has finally been able to do that. To find out more about the island (and I was not able to find many photos of the island) go to these sites: <http://www.doi.gov/oia/Islandpages/swainsis.htm> http://www.janeresture.com/tokelau_islands/swains.htm http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swains_Island <http://www.iiijnet.or.jp/JA1BK/KH8SI/index.html>

QSL OF THE MONTH

YJØIR—Tony from Sydney shows us what beaches look like in far off places (Vanuatu). More can be found on Vanuatu in Islands Magazine on the Web or by going to Google.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jul 10	KA5VTG	13	5 min
Jul 17	KA5VTG	14	8 Min
Jul 24	KA5VTG	16	8 min
Jul 31	KA5VTG	11	9 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



Remember to join or renew your membership with the American Radio Relay League through the club secretary. The club gets a commission on each membership.

Name This Piece of Equipment



Keith/K5LSM correctly identified the Hammarlund



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 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

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



**NEXT MEETING:
THURSDAY, AUG 10, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**