

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

December 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 at 1932 on November 11, 2004.

Introductions were made with 11 members and 1 visitor in attendance.

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

Officer Report

Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Activities Manager. There is a need for amateurs to man check points on a 50-mile run near Marathon, Texas. This will be held in early February 2005. There are no facilities and many locations require a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Further information may be obtained from the Big Bend ARC.

David Wolfe/KA5VTG, Emergency Coordinator. David received a letter asking us to assist with the city's Christmas Lights celebration. He will call to find out what dates are available, then let us know on the Monday night net.

SKYWARN Recognition Day will be Saturday, December 4, at the National Weather Service. Set up will be Friday evening, December 3.

Old Business

There is still no word on what the city is going to do with our water. Hope to hear from them soon.

Should you be considering someone for the Ham of the Year Award, you will have to send your nomination to the secretary by November 26. He will forward them to the committee.

The Spreader Award has been dusted off and will be presented at the Eatin' Meetin'.

Jack Roberts/KB5TMY, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented his list of nominees and opened nominations from the floor. The nominees for office are as follows:

President: Joe Kent/KC5ILD

Vice-President: Bill Murphy/WA6CMJ

Secretary: Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

Activities Manager: Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ

Emergency Coordinator: David Wolfe/KA5VTG

Bryan Robason/KD5WGM

Grounds Chairman: Ronnie Mechlenburg/KD5WXJ

New Business

Joe Kent/KD5IILD suggested we purchase new banquet style tables. He said we could rent out the old tables and chairs for garage sales and such. Joe brought up the need for new QSL cards and business cards with club logo and repeater information. Chad/KD5SMK said he would try to get the cards and business cards done where he works.

Good of the Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$4.50 to the club and to the winner, Jack Roberts/KB5TMY. Jack donated his share to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2033.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be December 9 at the Ole Gin Steakhouse in Wall at 1830.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2005

From The ARRL Letter, November 19, 2004

The sixth annual ARRL-National Weather Service SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) <http://hamradio.noaa.gov> event takes place Saturday, December 4. SKYWARN Recognition Day pays tribute to Amateur Radio SKYWARN volunteers for the vital services they provide during weather-related emergencies. During the 24-hour activity, radio amateurs set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and work as a team to contact other hams around the world.

"Ham radio operators are a tremendous resource for the National Weather Service," says Scott Mentzer, NØQE, the event's organizer and the meteorologist-in-charge at the NWS office in Goodland, KS. "The dedication these amateurs have shown is inspirational, and their assistance during the year is invaluable."

The 2004 activity gets under way December 4 at 0000 UTC (Friday, December 3, in US time zones) and continues until 2400 UTC. The object is for amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm. Contacts via repeaters and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes also are permitted. Operators will exchange call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of their weather, such as "sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc. Participants in the 2003 SRD logged nearly 19,000 QSOs.

A number of NWS stations will utilize EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project to make contacts during SRD 2004. IRLP reflector node 9219 will be utilized for QSOs with NWS stations and also will be bridged to the EchoLink WX-TALK conference room so that IRLP stations can talk to EchoLink stations using a common point of contact.

WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL, will utilize IRLP reflector 9219 from 1700 UTC through 2100 UTC during SRD 2004. Net control operators will develop a list of stations to talk to WX4NHC using an online form, similar to the process used during hurricane season. Danny Musten, KD4RAA, kd4raa@voipwx.net has more information about SRD VoIP activities.

N5BNWS will be active for SKYWARN Recognition Day beginning at 6 PM local on Friday, December 3. Setup will be Friday evening after 5 PM and operations will run until 11 PM or when the bands fold. We will resume operations on Saturday morning, December 4, and operate until 6 PM.

All amateurs are invited to participate in operating N5NWS and partaking in Hector's chili and cornbread Saturday afternoon.

This is a "low-intensity" event, so everyone should have a good time operating.—Glenn/AA5PK

2005 Club Dues

Membership renewals are due in January 2005. Renewals are as follows:

- Regular memberships: \$20
- Each additional family member: \$5
- Seniors (age 65+) and Juniors (under age 19): \$10
- Renewal package deal: 5 years for \$80
- Associate members: \$25

Dues may be paid to the secretary at any club meeting or mailed to the club's post office box.

Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

These are the severe weather statement and SKY-WARN spotter frequencies to monitor during severe weather.

San Angelo 800 MHz trunked radio system

855.4625, 856.4625, 857.4625, 858.4625,

859.4625, 860.4625, 859.9375 and 860.9375

155.52 low band ASU PD

EMS and hospital

155.340, 460.600, 453.025 AND 453.050.

Tom Green County

CH 1 155.700 SO dispatch

CH 2 156.090

CH 3 154.950 car to car 154.115 800 MHz patch

CH 4 155.370 intercity

CH11 156.210 car to car

Fire Department

154.190 dispatch

154.130

154.160

154.280 M/A

NWS

162.550

SJT

128.450 AND 319.000 AM mode

Goodfellow AFB

139.725 security

163.4875 FD

165.0125 maintenance

2 meter amateur

146.940 WX 146.880 alt

147.340 WX

70 centimeters

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in December: There were 230 countries on the air November 20-26. DXpeditions of note: December VU4—Andamans: Very rare, in fact so rare that most living hams have never heard of a station legally operating from there. A mini-DXpedition will depart India December 3 for 3 weeks and hopes to demonstrate the role of ham radio and also to operate and take the country off the most wanted of most hams. Also, in January, the third DXpedition to Peter I Island (3YØX) between South America and the Antarctic. Others of note: SU, JD1, VQ9, ST2, 9N, 6W, HP, S9, VP9, XU, VK9X, VK9N, PYØ, FO/m, ZD8, ZD7 and 5T.

Island of the Month

Nauru - C2. Shaped like an oblong bowl, literally, the smallest republic in the world is also known as the island that sold its soil for a place in the world economy. Once famous for its vast quantities of phosphates (“bird poop”), the island of



Nauru is fast becoming beaches with no inland to support them. Situated at 0°32'S/166°55'E, the surface area of the island is 21 km². With an almost completely circumferential reef, the island has excellent diving and sport fishing. Due to the income from phosphate mining, the islanders are considered the rich kids of the Pacific. South of the Marshall Islands, almost on the equator, they have the same weather year round with rare tropical storms. The monsoon season is November through February with rainfall about 2 meters a year. Average temperature is 24 to 34 C and average humidity is 80%. The highest point of land is 65 feet above sea level. As the seas rise with the apparent warming of the atmosphere, the island is one that is slowly sinking into the surf. The narrow coastal belt around the island is the only fertile area and some indigenous trees and palms grow. The population this year was estimated at 13,000.

The water supply is from an aging desalinization plant, fish are the main staple of the diet. Australia, being the prime occupier in the past, has the primary market of food stuffs that are sent to the islanders. There is no capital city as there is only one town, and the government is considered a “loose municipality” system of government. There are three political parties, but only one has a leader. Exports are phosphates which are rapidly running out, and all else is imported, including fuel to run everything. One airport, a police force, dependence on Australia to back them in any oceanic or military problems, the natives have found transition to the 20th century traumatic. Their attempts to diversify and get into off-shore banking failed when they were unable to keep adequate safe guards in place so money laundering was in control. Tourism is tough to match with other Pacific islands as they are so far out of the commercial lanes and flights have to come from New Zealand or Australia. There is one ISP with 300 users and one TV station with 500 or so TVs. Medical care is above average, as diabetes, heart disease and alcoholism thrive. The average Nauruan-to-physician ratio is 700:1. There is one paved road that circles the island (12 miles) and the fertile “belt” extends from the beach from 400 to 900 feet all around the island. Several major hotels have indicated that tourism is something they would like to push, but little has been accomplished to improve the overall work place with jobs for the locals. The Australian dollar is the currency in use. Bad investments and corruption have depleted reserves from phosphate production and the island is rapidly dissolving into bankruptcy.

First inhabited by seafaring Polynesians and Melanesian explorers, Nauru remained off of the whaling maps. In the 1840s, the introduction of firearms and alcohol almost wiped the islanders out. In the 1886, the island came under German control, and in 1906 Phosphate mining began to dig into the island. In 1914, Australian forces retook the island, and in 1920 Britain, New Zealand and Australia took over a three country role to protect the islands. The Japanese took the islands in 1944, and took 1200 islanders off to the Carolines to work as laborers and only 750 returned in 1946. In 1968 it became an independent nation. There is a golf course and tennis courts and some of the hotels offer areas for conferences. Amateur radio is primarily provided by DXpeditions from Australia and New Zealand.

QSL of the Month

VU2ATB

Sunil K, an engineer, is active on 20 and 40 meters using a TS-520 and a dipole. He has the first YUDXAC in India.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Nov 8	KA5VTG	15	11 min
Nov 15	KA5VTG	14	9 min
Nov 22	KA5VTG	17	10 min
Nov 29	AA5PK	18	12 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



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

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at 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 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, DEC 9, 6:30 P.M.
OLE GIN STEAKHOUSE, WALL