

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

December 2006

President's Message

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK

I report with great sadness that a club member, Tommy Schafer/N5WJN, after a long battle with leukemia, became a silent key on November 21. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Tommy will truly miss his good sense of humor and affable character. To Michelle/KC5KXX and Paul, our deepest sympathies at your loss. The funeral service will be Saturday, November 25, at 1 PM at Grape Creek Baptist Church.

As we wrap up the year, I encourage every member to attend the December 14 Eatin' Meetin'. This is a family event when we announce the election results for 2007 club officers as well as the winners of the Ham of the Year and Spreader awards. There will be door prizes, good food, and good conversation.

The last operating event of the year will be SKYWARN Recognition Day on Saturday, December 2, at the National Weather Service Office. We plan to operate N5NWS from 0800 until the bands fold, assuming we have operators. Please plan to come out and support the NWS program. There will be SKYWARN spotters coming in from other areas to share in the operating and Hector's chili and cornbread. This is always a fun event and is meant to acknowledge the vital role radio amateurs play in the SKYWARN program.

As mentioned in the meeting minutes, Ron Perry/N5ZIX the city/county emergency operations director has proposed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be drawn up between the SAARC and Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Because the SAARC represents the only organized group of radio amateurs in the Concho Valley, Ron determined an MOU with the club would be in the best interests of the club and OEM. To date, due to scheduling conflicts, the executive committee has not been able to meet with Ron to work on the MOU. We hope to get together sometime before the January club meeting. As a side note, the Department of Public Safety, which runs the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) program, contacted me to solicit an amateur to serve as District Radio Officer for our area. I passed the information on to Tom DuFrense/WB5MTR as he has been trying to volunteer to serve as DRO for some months. He was going to contact DPS and find out more details.

The Ham of the Year Award is our way of recognizing club members who have contributed the most to the club during the year. A simple nomination letter or e-mail of 75 words (or more) will show why you believe your nominee should be selected as the SAARC HOTY. The selection committee this year comprises Bob/W7IKT, Carol/N5CBQ, Ken/KD5NXV, and Elta/KD5NXY. Please take the little time required to compose a nomination and submit it Gary/N5GRC before November 30. He will forward the nominations to the selection committee who will announce the results at the December Eatin' Meetin'.

The ballot for 2007 club officers is included with this newsletter. Please return your ballot to the club's PO box or bring it with you to the December 14 meeting. It's good to see more than one name on the ballot for several of the offices. Perhaps this is the year we infuse new blood into the club's executive committee.

73 and see you at Zentner's on December 14.

Meeting Minutes

By Gary Chaffin/N5GRC, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Glenn Miller/AA5PK, on November 9, 2006 at 1930.

Introductions were made with 17 members and 4 guests in attendance. The guests were introduced by Glenn as follows: Patty Hawkins, Les Bradshaw/KC5ETV, Dave Dierker/WB5RLR, and Bill Tarn/WB6OFG. Les, Dave and Bill became club members during the meeting.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the October issue of *The Kilo-What*, and the Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Old Business

David Behrend/KB5FNK briefed the results of the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event held 21 and 22 October at the clubhouse. Approximately 27 scouts participated in the event and David said it was a resounding success.

The SAARC's 82nd birthday party held October 14 at the clubhouse was attended by approximately 43 current and former members and a good time was had by all. A special thanks to Janet Miller (Glenn's XYL) for lending her organizing

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Meeting Minutes cont'd*(Continued from page 1)*

talents to the event. Tom Earnest/W5UFO's ice cream maker was a hit as were the five gallons of delicious ice cream he dispensed.

Hector Guerrero/KC5BRB briefed the upcoming SKYWARN Recognition Day to be held December 1 and 2. Hector has asked for volunteers to man radios at the NWS location. The plan is to operate on 20 meters, 2 meters, and on Echo-Link. Glenn/AA5PK said he plans to be at the NWS to set up on Friday, December 1, after 5:00 PM. Hector will provide his traditional meal of chili and cornbread around noon on Saturday.

The December Eatin' Meetin' will be held at Zentener's Steak House, 2715 Sherwood Way, beginning at 6:30 PM on Thursday the 14th. The annual election for club officers will be held at that time. The following members have been nominated for the positions indicated:

President	David Behrend/KB5FNK and Joe Kent/KC5ILD.
Vice President	Kent Frazier/K5KNT
Secretary/Treasurer	Connie Frazier/KE5IOY and Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Grounds	Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ
Activities Chairman	Chad Goodman/KD5SMK
Emergency Coordinator	David Wolfe/KA5VTG and David (U.B.) Buck/KB9VTD

Ballots will be mailed with December *The Kilo-What* and, when completed, can either be mailed to P.O. Box 4002, 76902 or turned in at the Eatin' Meetin' on the 14th. Thanks to David/KB5FNK for heading up the nominating committee and ensuring nominations for all positions.

The printer cartridge recycling program is still active and netted the club \$9.30 during October. Free mailers are available at the clubhouse or from Gary/N5GRC.

New Business

Glenn/AA5PK stated that the Ham of the Year award nominations are due to Gary/N5GRC not later than November 30. This award is selected by the membership and Glenn provided a handout outlining procedures for nomination.

The Spreader award will also change hands at the December meeting and the current "owner" Chad/KD5SMK will have the dubious honor of selecting the new recipient.

Glenn/AA5PK is working with Ron Perry/N5ZIX on an MOU between the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and SAARC for assistance during emergencies. They hope to have it finalized before the end of the year and ready to be voted on by the membership. Participation from any/all club members is solicited.

David/KB5FNK has secured the use of Trinity Lutheran Church facilities to host SKYWARN training on January 27, 2007. Last year approximately 120 persons attended the training session. David and Hector/KC5BRB will advertise the event.

John Marshall/KC5FMX polled the group about interest in conducting a "Fox Hunt." The idea was well received and John and Glenn/AA5PK will check out the radio interface to determine serviceability.

The WTU provided security light has been disconnected and a smaller security light purchased and installed on the front of the clubhouse. Projected annual savings on our electric bill is estimated to be \$250.

Good of the Order

Les Bradshaw/KC5ETV was the winner of the split-the-pot drawing and asked that his portion of the \$16 proceeds be retained by the club.

Bob Heiser/W7IKT advised the members that he has available for purchase assorted Anderson Power Pole connectors and also has a crimping tool available for use should someone need that. He suggested that he be contacted at DuCote Air Park for information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2000.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be the annual Eatin' Meetin' to be held 14 December 2006 at Zentner's Steak House beginning at 1830.

License Testing News

*Glenn Miller/AA5PK,
Volunteer Examiner*

The next scheduled test session will be Sunday, January 21, 2007, 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 January 15.

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 Don/AB5BG at 651-5441 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



DXpeditions in December: VU7—Lakshadweep Islands (three different islands by two groups); R1 (Franz Josef Land), 7Q7, 9Q, A7, V5, XT, HKØ, E5, FO5, KP2, VK9A, J7, J2, 3D2, TN, FT5, KH2, 5W, P4, FJ, 9Y, KH8, [ARRL 10M 12/9-12/10], 9Y, 8P6, A3, VP2V, HI, and A35. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of November 12-19, there were 216 countries active.

Island of the Month

CU7—Madeira Island: Madeira is a Portuguese archipelago in the north Atlantic Ocean that lies between 32°22.3' N/16°16.5' W and 33°7.8' N/17°16.65' W. It is one of the autonomous regions of Portugal with Madeira and Porto Santo being the only inhabited islands. It is also part of the European Union. The initial settlers were farmers from the Algarve region of Portugal, and the rich soils, the elevation changes and rainfall allowed the islanders to flourish. Madeira, known originally to the Romans as the *Purple Islands*, was rediscovered, possibly accidentally, by Portuguese sailors and settled by Portugal in 1418. It is a popular year-round resort, famed worldwide for its Madeira wine, a perfect climate, striking scenery, flowers, hand-made embroidery artisans, and New Years' Eve celebrations with a spectacular fireworks show. Madeira is composed of Madeira Island, Porto Santo Island, Desertas Islands and Savage Islands.



Funchal, the capital of Madeira Island (pop 140k), is on the south coast of the principal island, in 32°37.75' N/16°55.3' W. Other main cities are: Porto Santo Town also known as Vila Baleira, Ribeira Brava, Machico, Câmara de Lobos, Santa Cruz, Caniço, Ponta do Sol and Calheta. The archipelago lies about 360 miles from the coast of Africa, 535 miles from Lisbon, 230 from Gran Canaria, and 480 from Santa Maria, the nearest of the Azores. Madeira Island is the largest island of the group with 741 km², has a length of 30 geographical miles (57 km), an extreme breadth of 13 miles (22 km), and a coastline of 80 or 90 miles. Its longer axis lies east and west, in which direction it is traversed by a mountain chain, the backbone of the island, having a mean altitude of 4000 feet (1220 meters), from which many deep ravines radiate outward to the coast. The highest point on the island is Pico Ruivo at 1862 meters (6107 feet). Its geographical position and mountainous landscape permit a very pleasing climate. Temperatures are about 22 °C (72 °F) in the summer and about 16 °C (61 °F) during the winter. With its mild humidity, the weather of the island is classified as subtropical. Influenced by the Gulf Stream, sea water temperature is 22 °C during the summer and 16 °C in the winter. The islands are of volcanic origin.

An English entrepreneur, William Reid, opened the first tourist hotel in 1894 geared towards the large tourist ships. International tourism took off in 1963 when the International Airport was opened. Tourism is now 20% of the GDP. Peak tourist season is March and April (when not to go) and lowest in November and December (when the water is colder). Things to do include all of the water based sports, plus hiking, tennis, squash, and golf. They report that the two courses on Madeira are so hilly that "they would test the ham-strings of a mountain goat." Tourism has really taken off on the island, and although they cater to mostly European travelers, a photo on their tourist web-cam shows a couple holding a sign saying "Merry Christmas, Texas" and one member has the classic UT hand gesture raised for the camera.

The climate is so good that, with the elevation changes, they grow everything from the fruits, found at sea level, to cherries, apples, strawberries, guava, mangos, bananas, sugar cane, and passion fruit, maize, wheat, figs, etc. The island, lying east and west, has different climates depending on where you are, even for a small island. In the northwest it is very wet, with a high rainfall, but in the southeast they have hardly any rain at all. To help water crops all over the island, they built canals (levadas) with many cut through the mountains (25 miles of tunnels). Along these are hiking trails that make hill walking more fun with gentler rates of climb than the roads or trails. Health care is typical social medicine, based on the European Union style of care. Driving is on the right, and electricity is the standard 220 VAC Euro current. Amateur radio is provided by numerous locals as well as visitors. Deep sea fishing, scuba, walking along the water canals that were built to carry water to the terraced fields and just enjoying the plentiful flowers and fruits we have an other tourist Mecca. They claim a low crime rate, and this is probably due to their isolation from the mainland, and not many ways to just disappear on the islands.

Here is a Live web cam: <http://www.madeira-web.com/camera/cam-01.html>. Sources: wikipedia, www.madeira-web.com, CIA Fact Book.

QSL OF THE MONTH 6W1RD

Billy has a neat homebrew antenna on his QSL. Dakar is not a real safe place to be and this antenna probably draws less attention than a commercial one.

We have a new ham in the family here. Number one daughter is now KE5KUQ. Mary lives in Austin and is still very new to the hobby, although she has been to Hamfests since she was 4 years old, and she has been helping her dad play on the radio since she was born.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Nov 6	KA5VTG	11	6 min
Nov 13	KA5VTG	17	9 min
Nov 20	KA5VTG	11	6 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
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 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



**Merry Christmas
San Angelo
Amateur Radio Club**



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, DEC 14, 6:30 P.M.
ZENTNER'S STEAKHOUSE**