

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

February 2006

Meeting Minutes

By Gary Chafin/N5GRC, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order by outgoing President Joe Kent/KC5ILD on January 12, 2006 at 1930. Introductions were made with 16 members in attendance.

There were no minutes from the December 2005 meeting. Bob/KD5PIX gave the Treasurer's Report for December 2005 which was approved as read.

Joe introduced the new officers for 2006 and turned the meeting over to the new President, Glenn Miller/AA5PK. Glenn thanked the outgoing officers for their outstanding service during 2005 and solicited their assistance during the transition.

Old Business

Disposition needs to be decided for the donated air conditioner stored at the clubhouse.

New Business

SKYWARN training is scheduled for January 28, 2006, at 0900 at Trinity Lutheran Church at 3536 YMCA Drive. The session should last approximately 4 hours and coffee and donuts will be available.

Paul/N7SDQ asked that members monitor 146.94 during this extreme fire danger period in order to relay information to fire crews, if necessary, during range firefighting operations.

A club cleaning day needs to be established for the end of March or first of April. Ron/KD5WXJ will arrange.

Possible programs for future club meetings were discussed and ideas solicited. Among those suggested were: small projects such as antenna construction, soldering class, incident management, tour of weather station, tour of US Customs office, tour of San Angelo 911 Center, fox hunt/DF antenna construction, and calibration of members transceivers, HTs, etc.

Discussion ensued about teaching a Technician license preparation class and Glenn said he will put a tentative schedule together. The suggestion is to have two consecutive Saturday sessions of 6 hours each with the test being administered immediately after the second session. David/KB5FNK will check on the availability of the San Angelo Emergency Corps building as a classroom.

Glenn said the club is still in need of an Activities Chairman and a Public Information Officer. He has someone in mind for PIO, but would like to solicit volunteers for both of the positions.

Good of the Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$12 to the winner, David Behrend/KB5FNK, and the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2011.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be February 9, 2006 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

President's Message

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK

It looks like 2006 has gotten off to a good start.

Thanks in large part to David/KA5VTG and his public service announcements, we had a over 100 attend SKYWARN training held on January 28. As always, the NWS staff put on a good show.

Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC volunteered to serve as Public Information Officer for the club this year. Thank you, Hughbert, for stepping up and taking that position.

We're still without an Activities Manager and I'm still soliciting a volunteer to fill that spot.

Congratulations to Ron/KD5WXJ on upgrading to Amateur Extra Class at the January license testing session.

We had a decent turnout for the January club meeting and we've made plans to present some programs in the coming year which, I believe, will be of interest to the membership:

At the February meeting, John/KC5FMX will demonstrate how to recover used PL-259 connectors (something most of us just throw away) and how to correctly attach PL-259s to coax (an art of which John is a master.)

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President's Message (continued)*(Continued from page 1)*

In March, we'll have a session on constructing HF dipole antennas, and we'll make a 40 meter version for installation at the clubhouse so the HF rig will be useable in the evening during this part of the sunspot cycle.

Assuming the 40 meter dipole is up and working at the clubhouse, in April we'll have a demonstration of PSK31, a digital operating mode which is quite interesting and may spark some local activity in this mode.

In May, we'll have a session on direction finding and associated equipment in preparation for a hidden transmitter hunt.

June will be ARRL Field Day 2006 preparation day.

In July, typically a slow month for the club, we're planning to have a guest speaker or to tour of one of the local facilities such as the Customs Service , 9-1-1 Center or NWS. That program is still fluid. Your input is welcome.

In August, we'll hold a radio calibration night. Bring your HT and/or mobile rig out to the clubhouse and check it for frequency, deviation, power output, PL tones, etc. We haven't had one of these sessions in many years.

In September, we plan to have a tailgate swap meet where members can clean out their shacks and bring their "junkie" so others can find treasures.

October will be the annual birthday celebration when we invite current and former club members to come out and help us celebrate the club's 82nd birthday.

In November, John/KC5FMX will present a program on coaxial cable—determining if coax is good, line losses, measuring SWR, etc.

And, of course, December brings the annual Eatin' Meetin'.

Not a program, but also in May, we're tentatively planning to hold a Technician license class. Right now, it looks like two 6-hour or 7-hour sessions to be held on the first and second Saturdays in May with testing at the end of the second session or on the Sunday following. The May club meeting falls between those Saturdays and we'll invite the students to the meeting. Once we firm up the dates and settle on a location, Hughbert will get some publicity out and we'll see if we can get a class formed. Several of the SKYWARN attendees asked me and a few others wearing the club shirt about amateur radio and what is involved in getting a license, so there is some interest. More details on this at the February meeting.

I hope you'll make plans to attend the meetings.

License Testing News*By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner*

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be held on Sunday, April 16, 2006 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 April 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.

Scanner Jack's Corner*By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY*

Frequencies to monitor during a wildfire:	Fire Dept	San Angelo TRS
Texas Forest Service	154.190 Tom Green Co Dispatch	860.4625
159.330 Dispatch	154.130 T/A	859.4625
159.300 AIR TAC 1	154.160 County talk around	858.4625
159.285 dozers	154.220 Robert Lee	857.4625
151.385 AIR TAC 2	163.4875 Goodfellow	856.4625
159.345	154.280 State M/A 1	855.4625
159.270	154.265 State M/A 2	859.9375
	154.295 State M/A 3	858.9375

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



DXpeditions in February: We await word that Peter I Island will be activated as expected the first week of February. Other DX in February: FO/a—Austral Islands, J3—Grenada, 6W—Senegal, FT5—Crozet, J7—Dominica, TO—Guadeloupe, JD1—Ogasawara, FS—St. Martin, VP2V—British Virgin Islands and HBØ—Liechtenstein.

Island of the Month

KH5—Palmyra: Lying 960 miles SSW of Hawaii at 6°N/162°W, this atoll has a quite interesting history surrounded by supernatural and surreal happenings. But we'll let you go to www.strangemag.com/palmyra.html to read more about that. The island was first claimed by the US in 1802 when the ship Palmyra ran aground on the reef, although in 1798 an American Captain was awakened in the dead of night, three times, and finally dropped sails and found them at sun up, a mile off the reef of Palmyra. After the US annexed Hawaii, they forgot to include the island and private parties were given the island by the Hawaiian King. These private individuals kept ownership over the past 150+ years. During WW II, the US set up a naval air station there and Jane's site has photos of the sailors from 1942 <www.janeresture.com/palmyra/index.htm>. The island has not been developed mostly because the private owners wanted to keep it non-commercial. The old landing strip is still there, and periodically amateur radio appears on the bands from the atoll. The climate is classic equatorial with about 120 days of rain/year, otherwise hot and clear to partly cloudy. Reefs and lagoons surround the island. Commercial fishing never took off and the high rainfall and distance from commercial centers has made it a non-profitable spot for other get-rich-quick entrepreneurs. One site says the fish have a contaminant from algae on the reef that poisons them for human consumption, but many sailors (military, commercial and private) shipwrecked on the atoll have survived on the fish. Numerous tales of hippy communes, unexplained disappearances and planes and ships that sunk without survivors or debris. The islands lay at the confluence of the North and South Pacific currents, and beach combing yields just about anything you can think of, including dead people in boxes (see www.strangemag.com). Apparently there is lots of abandoned military hardware there, making it interesting to explore but also dangerous. During WW II, the Japanese tried to take the island with a submarine, but the



NAS crew there was able to drive them off. By some accounts, many intrepid retirees sail towards the islands hoping to find their own private island. Some make the trip and move on, and some never complete the trip. The atoll (we say island, but actually it's just an atoll) was purchased by the Nature Conservancy in 2000, and the US Fish and Game claimed the waters of the lagoons and out 12 nautical miles. The Nature Conservancy has a staff there of 4 to 20 and collect their own rainfall water and have regular supply ship service. Considering the remoteness and the relatively uninhabited nature of the island, there was a lot of information about it on the web.

For more info and photos see: <http://shadow.eas.gatech.edu/~kobb/palmyra.html> and www.answers.com/topic/palmyra-atoll.

QSL of the Month KH6HAM

A retired pediatrician from Ohio, John has devoted himself to amateur radio and the WW II memorial in Hawaii. Neat place to retire and talk to the world, with a unique call sign.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jan 9	KA5VTG	17	10 min
Jan 16	KA5VTG	10	8 min
Jan 23	KA5VTG	10	7 min
Jan 30	AA5PK	12	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

February's Program



Getting the most out of your coax connectors

Name This Piece of Equipment



Keith/K5LSM was the only member to take a guess at last month's boat anchor. He guessed Lafayette HA-225. It's a Lafayette, but it's the HE-80. I finally found one that stumped him!



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 Chafin/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, FEB 9, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE