

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

February 2007

President's Message

By David Behrend/KB5FNK

Greetings! First of all, I'd like to thank Glenn, John and the rest of the 2006 board for their service to the club. I hope each of us on the 2007 board will do a good job.

I believe we have a good club, but I'm sure there are maybe some things we currently do we could do better. I also believe there are some things we currently do not do, but could or should be doing to "advance the art" of amateur radio.

I think we could improve on an already good club. However, to do that will take the participation of each and every member. This means not just coming to meetings each month, but helping in any way, large or small that you can!

Some things I'd like to see us at least *start* doing include:

1. Improving interaction and inter-agency cooperation between the SAARC and other volunteer organizations, such as American Red Cross, REACT, volunteer fire departments and the Civil Air Patrol. When the droppings hit the fan, governmental resources will be quickly overwhelmed, and they'll soon depend on volunteer agencies to help fill the gaps. Improving that interaction would include recruiting potential new amateurs from their ranks to train (see point #5) to at least the entry-level technician class. For example: When an amateur is needed at a shelter, potentially those that are trained (and when it is feasible) and would already be working there, could perform dual duties freeing up another ham to be at another place or when one is not available. This could also work in reverse as many of those same organizations are also looking for volunteers. Having "dual trained" persons in the various organizations only expands what they can do or offer.

2. Improving emergency communications capabilities. Joe/KC5ILD mentioned to me making or purchasing a "tower trailer." This would allow quicker set up of antennas at remote sites. We could have our current or even another small generator on the same trailer in one complete package. There could be other things such as getting a grant for several "jump" boxes including 2m/70cm and small HF radios, with power supplies, quick set up antennas and other supplies, that could be stored, yet quickly deployed.

3. I know Ron/N5ZIX is already thinking of this, but when the emergency operations center moves, we need to be included in the planning phases to include a top notch ham station in it.

4. Along these lines, we need to build up our ARES & RACES programs in the area. I know Glenn tried with the ARES program and it started off pretty good, but then like I have seen in other organizations, interest quickly fell off. We need amateurs trained (and in some cases *authorized*) to provide emergency communications from shelters, the EOC or other sites.

5. Working on recruiting potential new hams from the general public and offering entry-level classes, as well as upgrade classes, as soon as we have enough interest in people wanting to take them and have instructors willing to teach.

6. Try to get some really good "Elmers" to help encourage newer hams as well as "experienced" hams wanting upgrades to go for the previous point.

7. Making the meetings as informative and fun as possible, while still covering the business of the organization. This also includes having interesting programs. If you have any ideas to make this happen, please let me or another officer know.

As I mentioned before, we already have a pretty good organization, and have had good leadership in the past. I just want to build on what we have and what has already been done.

Meeting Minutes

By Gary Chaffin/N5GRC, Secretary Emeritus

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by outgoing President Glenn Miller/AA5PK, on January 11, 2007 at 1930. Glenn presented the 2006 Ham of The Year plaque to John Marshall/KC5FMX. Glenn introduced the incoming President, David Behrend/KB5FNK, and officially turned the gavel over to him.

Introductions of the general membership were made with 17 members in attendance. Bill Vanoss/W5PT and David Wilcox/N5RBW became club members during the meeting.

There were no meeting minutes produced during November and December due to the holidays and absence of the Secretary/Treasurer. The Treasurer's Report for December 2006 was approved as read.

Old Business

Results of the December 2006 election follow:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| President | David Behrend/KB5FNK |
| Vice President | Kent Frazier/K5KNT |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Bob Freeman/KD5PIX |
| Grounds | Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ |

Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 1)

Activities Chairman

Chad Goodman/KD5SMK

Emergency Coordinator

David (U.B.) Buck/KB9VTD

David/KB5FNK briefed the members on the upcoming SKYWARN training session scheduled for January 27, 0900 at Trinity Lutheran church, 3536 YMCA Drive, San Angelo. All members were encouraged to attend.

The printer cartridge recycling program is still somewhat active and has netted the club \$11 so far during January. Free mailers are available at the clubhouse or from Bob/KD5PIX.

Glenn/AA5PK briefed that the club MOU with the San Angelo Emergency Operations Center (EOC) needs to be finalized. The club needs to provide verbiage as to what the club will be able to provide the EOC. This information should be given to Ron Perry/N5ZIX.

New Business

David (U.B.)/KB9VTD briefed that he will be establishing a monthly "on call" roster for notification and response to severe weather events. This will give the NWS a better handle on the pool of spotters available at any time during the severe weather season. David will provide more information on this initiative at future meetings. David also briefed the X-Bar Shootout is upcoming in May and he will provide further information as it becomes available.

David/KB5FNK mentioned that we should start thinking about the upcoming 2007 ARRL Field Day event and more will be discussed at future meetings.

Gary/N5GRC briefed that Chuck/N5JED expressed interest in the club purchasing polo shirts with the club logo for sale to members. A list was provided for interested persons to sign up. Joe/KC5ILD and Gary will obtain quotes from various vendors and present the results at the next meeting.

Good of the Order

Bill/WB5ZAM won the split-the-pot drawing and asked that his portion of the \$13 proceeds be retained by the club.

Glenn/AA5PK said the license testing session previously scheduled for January has been postponed until at least 30 days following the effective date of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) eliminating the Morse code requirement for General and Amateur Extra Class licenses. Testing will possibly be scheduled for the third Sunday in February, but more information will be provided the membership as it becomes available.

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

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club will be 8 February 2007 at 7:30 PM at the clubhouse.

Morse Code Requirement Goes Away February 23

From The ARRL Letter, January 26, 2007

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Federal Register version of the "Morse code" R&O.

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is *not* automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.



CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in February: 5U, 3V, 8Q, 4S, 6W, 5R, ZP, KP2, C6, KH8, VP2M, XU, DXØ, J2, PJ4, 7W, ZK, YW, 5T, EA8, HH, VP2V, VKØN, C9, PJ7 and 5W. AR-Cluster= 222 countries active. Avg sunspots = 15. Meaning poor propagation, especially for West Texas (the best years have sunspot averages in the 180 to 220 range). Listening to the phone at the speaker of a friend's HF radio in Maine, 01/28/07, the VU7 station was very loud. S7 on his meter. And into the station here, not even the frequency cops could be heard! Some stations were heard around the frequencies, but propagation needs sunspots, and for another year we are on the bottom of the cycle. Normally we can hear the Far East over the poles, but with no energizing of the atmosphere, the polar auroras block all signals. This is a good time to tune the system, put up new antennas, and make sure that you have good grounds in place. And think about SKYWARN and the possibilities of storms in the spring.

Island of the Month

(revisit) Harris Island – Outer Hebrides- Scotland Back in 1999, we briefly visited the Hebrides, Scotland, which consists of Lewis and Harris. Here is a closer look at the southern end of the islands, the Isle of Harris. Actually separated from Lewis by a mountain range, Harris is noted for its vast beaches. Of course, let's not



forget, we're in Scotland, on the Atlantic Ocean, but yes, beaches. The rich, warm Gulf Current washes ashore here (remember that bottle you threw in the Gulf of Mexico with the note in it), as well as the flotsam from across the Atlantic. The weather is in stark contrast to Scotland proper, as this warm gulf current keeps the temperature more moderate. Winters are rapidly changeable, with gales one day and warm and sunny (well relatively warm, in the 50's and 60's) the next. Summer time also is tempered by the Gulf Stream and wet rainy spells for England and Scotland miss the islands.

Along the southwest coast, a large expanse of beach was used to mimic other worlds. Tinted shots of the beach near Northton were used by Stanley Kubrick as the surface of Jupiter in the film "2001: A Space Odyssey." The land is fertile, although rocky, and man has for centuries struggled to gain a foothold and maintain it here. An-

cient Norse came ashore looking for water, and plunder, with little to be found. The language spoken is mostly English although over 70% still use the Gaelic as a primary language. In 2001, the population was noted around 3600, with no resident hams noted. The highest points of land are the hills that form the boundary with Lewis, at 800 meters. In 2000, the BBC produced the original Castaway series from here, watching families and non-families, interact, and struggle to maintain a community in the harsh environments. Most were city folks and the weather, the isolation proved tough on many. Visitors to Harris should be aware that Sunday observance is strong here. Most transport links to Lewis and Harris, and within them, do not operate on a Sunday (though the Sound of Harris Ferry does offer a Sunday service). Many shops, petrol stations, cafes, pubs, and visitor attractions are closed on Sundays. Sunday observance is part of the culture of Lewis and Harris, and part of what makes them unique. However, given the difficulty in accessing services of any kind on a Sunday, our advice would be to ensure you know exactly how your food, drink, transport and accommodation is going to be provided in advance. Hiking, biking, and one golf course are part of the distractions on Harris. The island is noted for the high quality of tweed produced and sets a high standards to let any material produced here be named "Harris Tweed." Crofts are available for rent, as are furnished housing (bed and breakfasts) or hotels, but the lure is the quiet and solitude. Electricity is on the British 240 VAC system, and healthcare is available, but most is provided in Scotland proper. Here are some links to the area, and enjoy "roaming in heather." <http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/harris/harris/index.html> -

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harris> - <http://www.visithebrides.com/> - <http://www.destination-scotland.com/guidetoscotland/town.asp?region=23&town=93>

QSL of the Month



5R8GQ. Ken has a high quality color card, and also has a photo of him at his operating position. Name the animal on the card! See you on the bands chasing DX. 73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

| Date | NCS | Check-ins | Duration |
|--------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Jan 8 | KB9VTD | 13 | 6 min |
| Jan 15 | KB9VTD | 14 | 5 min |
| Jan 22 | KB9VTD | 20 | 10 min |
| Jan 29 | KA5VTG | 13 | 10 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 |

SKYWARN Training Rescheduled

Saturday, February 10
0900 until 1230
Trinity Lutheran Church, 3536 YMCA Drive

License Testing News

As the new no-code General and Extra class licenses will take effect in on February 23, the date for the next license testing session sponsored by the club is yet undetermined due to a shortage of volunteer examiners.

Stay tuned to the Concho Valley Two Meter Net or check the SAARC Web site for updates on the next testing session.

Opportunity to Excel

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, newsletter editor/publisher

After nearly 15 years of editing and publishing the club's newsletter, the June '07 issue will be my last.

It's been fun, but after 175+ issues, it's time for someone else to take over. There certainly has to be someone up to the task and, if he or she wishes to begin earlier than the July issue, I'll certainly step down then.

I'll be happy to assist in any way whoever comes forward to take the job.

Contact me for details.



P.O. Box 4002
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2007 SAARC Officers:

President - David Behrend/KB5FNK
Vice President - Kent Frazier/K5KNT
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - David Buck/KB9VTD
Activities Manager - Chad Goodman/KD5SMK
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ

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:
THURS, FEBRUARY 8, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**