

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

February 2013



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just want to take a few lines to recap some of the discussions that we had at the February meeting of the SAARC. The primary focus was on the selection of the Field Day site for this year. Rather than simply look for a site that is suitable for setting up our operations, we wanted to include a good opportunity to get public exposure For Amateur Radio. We plan to have banners inviting the public to come and see what our hobby can do when operating in an emergency type environment. In order to streamline the site selection process, a committee was set up to explore the various options and bring their recommendations to the membership for a decision.

We also decided to proceed with the repeater move to the transmitter tower on Willeke Hill. We have already set aside the money for the move and it will give the .94 repeater a substantially larger footprint. This is to be done despite the fact that Angelo State has decided not to remove the building where the repeater is currently located.

We had a successful Weatherman's Day celebration at the club house on Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup>. We had good participation but I do not have the exact count. In conjunction with the celebration, Joe Kent presented Hughbert Robinson with the HAM OF THE YEAR award for 2012. Our special events station made several contacts and exchanged weather reports, during course of the day.

I have just returned from a trip to the Dalton, Georgia Hamfest. I try to make the trip every year since it is not too far from my home town of Greeneville, Tennessee. It gives me a chance to get in several good "eyeball QSOs" with hams that I have known since I was first licensed in 1957. I must say that I enjoy the social aspects of Ham Radio as much or more than the technical aspects. Dalton is a fairly large Hamfest because it is only about 70 miles North of Atlanta and about thirty miles South of Chattanooga. Fortunately, the weather was warmer than usual and we were able to avoid rain showers that were in the area.

While on the subject of Hamfests, I want to remind everyone of the Midland Hamfest coming up on Saturday March 16. It may already be too late for reservations for an overnight stay because oilfield activity pretty much has everything tied up.

73, for now and hope to see you at the next club meeting.

Tom K4OTM

Club/ARRL News

NATIONAL WEATHERMAN'S DAY SPECIAL EVENT, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2013



Pictures provided by Gary/K5ETJ and Tom/K4OTM

Hector Guerrero, Warning and Coordination Meteorologist, wrote:

On behalf of the National Weatherman's Day, I personally want to thank SAARC for your generosity and kindness you displayed on February 9th at the club station to us weathermen. The food, fellowship and cake were awesome. Thank you very much! 73's, Hector Guerrero, KC5BRB

And thank you, Hector, and all the staff. Ed.

## MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order and the pledge was given.

The board met and discussed the following:

1. Field Day locations. Further input was requested from the members. Several sites were mentioned, including: Sam's, Wal Mart, Sherwood Way @ A&M (Across from Bank of America & Henry's @ the old Jim Bass Ford used car lot), Fort Concho. There was thinking towards "visible locations". Kirby Park was mentioned, but several comments did not like it due to the fact that it was City property. Discussion ensued again later in the meeting and it was decided that Gary / KE5TXL and Ralph / KC5ULE will serve on a committee to search for possible sites.

2. Moving the repeater. ASU has ceased its plans to tear down the remaining high rise dormitory and the need to remove it is no longer a concern at this time. Further discussion ensued. Matt / W5MAT made a motion and Joe / W5IKT seconded the motion to proceed as planned with the move as soon as possible. They will contact Charlie / KC5EZZ who is the trustee of the repeater.

The minutes of the January meeting were read by a member who had the current Kilo-What, which had not made it to everyone due to computer issues. Some minor corrections were made and they were approved

During the board meeting, the status of the 501(c)(3) was discussed. Bob advised them that the club is in a "holding pattern" for 90 days. The IRS changed up some of the ways they operated, which affected not only the SAARC, but a whole lot of organizations.

Matt/W5MAT said that local hams had been asked to help at the Rodeo parade on February 16th. Although several had signed up, more help was needed.

The 50/50 pot came out to \$26.00. Tom/K4OTM won and donated his portion back to the club.

The program was given by Tom / K4OTM. His presentation covered his other passion.....flying. He showed video from an air show in which he participated in Michigan a few years back that benefitted fallen firefighters and law enforcement officers. Tom flew in formations with a group of various Grumman aircraft, which their nicknames all ended in "cat", such as "hellcat" & the F14 "tomcat" (no.....Tom did not fly this one!!). The "cats" included World War 2 vintage propeller aircraft, as well as more modern jets. This was the first time that all these "cats" had flown together. Part of the video included footage from the pilots' point of view, as Tom had a camera mounted to his helmet and showed all the different things a pilot must watch for, especially when flying in formations.

Submitted by David / KB5FNK

Field Day is the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd. Hughbert KC5NPC

Ooops!

Rick Hiller is W5RH, not K5HR. Sorry Rick!

Tom/K4OTM was first licensed in 1957, not 1950.

Jack/KB5TMY suggested both 2002 and 2005 publications.

Joe Kent is really W5UI.

**For Sale**

## NEW ITEMS ADDED

Kenwood TS 430S with matching Power Supply - \$326.00. Hubert/KC5NPC, tbum@aol.com.

Coleman Powermate Generator, 6,250 Watt, excellent condition. Used one time for Field Day (approximately 36 hours). With wheel kit—\$400.00; Yaesu FT-736R UHF/VHF Base Station w/new tone board—\$500.00; Kenwood 2000—\$1200.00; Yeasu FT736R—\$450.00; ICOM IC910H all mode transceiver—\$1150.00; Heathkit Station monitor SV-614—\$100.00. Contact Joe Kent/W5UI at [joew5ui@gmail.com](mailto:joew5ui@gmail.com) or (325) 896-2038.

Kenwood TS-930SAT HF transceiver, \$400; Mirage KS-1/440 70 cm preamp, \$75; Icom AG-25 mast mount 2 meter preamp, \$90; Cushcraft AP-8 8-band trap vertical with radial kit \$100.00. Contact Glenn Miller/AA5PK at [aa5pk@outlook.com](mailto:aa5pk@outlook.com) or (325) 949-4775 (evenings).

**Scanner Jack's Corner**

Tom Green Dispatch is now using 155.1825 MHz (input 153.7625) and TX Law 2 is on 155.7525 MHz. Both are digital narrow band.

Other frequencies in use are:

TGC Courts 155.9475, ASU PD 155.8275 (input 1543775), TX DOT 151.0175 (input 156.0525), Goodyear 451.2875, COG MACC 151.1375 (Grapecreek and TGC also used this during the Rodeo Fair). Also SA TRS TGRP patches: 00-006 TGC Fire Disp, 02-081 Rodeo Fair.

**ARRL NEWS**

## ATTENTION ARRL MEMBERS

As a result of West Gulf Director Woolweaver's efforts, your ARRL booth at the Midland Hamfest will be offering a membership renewal special for all hamfest attendees. For a one-year ARRL renewal at the regular price of \$39.00, you will receive your choice of several ARRL publications ranging from the ARRL Pocket Repeater Directory to the ARRL Emergency Communication's Handbook. The retail price of these publications ranges from \$10.95 to \$19.95. If you opt for a three-year \$111.00 renewal, the deal is even better. You will receive the latest version of the ARRL Handbook which retails for \$49.95. A ham radio library is incomplete without a copy of this famous publication and it can be yours as a free bonus for a three-year ARRL renewal.

We will also have a selection of free operating aids for your station and for you Life Members; we also have a little something special for you.

Carla Dyer  
K5RLA  
ARRL West Gulf Assistant Director

### DX Code Of Conduct

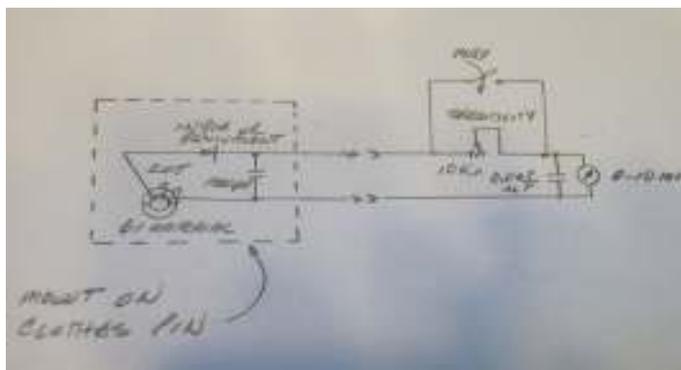
I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.  
 I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.  
 I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.  
 I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.  
 I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.  
 I will always send my full call sign.  
 I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.  
 I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.  
 I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.  
 I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.  
 When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.  
 I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.  
 I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.  
<http://www.dx-code.org/home.html>

Thanks to Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

### AN RF CURRENT METER

By Pete Norris/KJ5SS

Measuring RF current is quite easy and can be done with a remarkably simple device. The current detector described consists of only three components mounted on a clothes pin! The components are a diode, capacitor, and a current transformer wound on a toroid. The schematic for the detector and a meter circuit are shown below.



RF Current Meter Schematic.

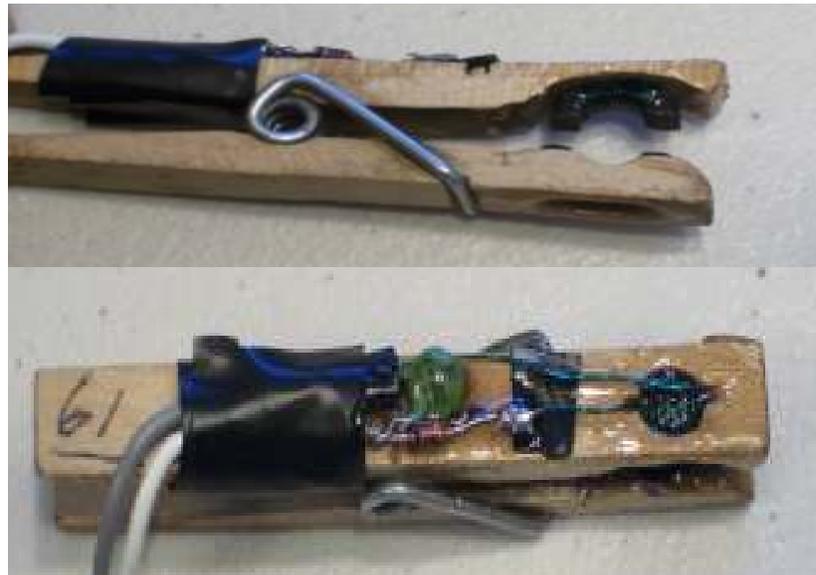
The meter circuit is optional as any DC voltmeter or ammeter set to the appropriate range will do. I just happened to have all the parts so I built a dedicated meter for the current probe.

The circuit was found in *HF Antenna Collection*, edited by Erwin David, G4LQI, and published by the Radio Society of Great Britain in 1991. (Brits, by the way, call clothes pins “household pegs” or just “pegs”.) This device has many uses: Relative current measurements of current in radials, current along feed lines at any point, power delivered to a known load ( $I^2R = P$ ), and so on. Current on the outside of a coax cable can cause a RF voltage on the shack equipment cases as the 60 cycle safety ground may be a high impedance at RF frequencies. (ARRL’s *Antenna Book* discusses this in sections on “Safety First” and “Common-Mode Transmission-Line Currents”.)

Current transformers were discussed in *The eKilo-What* Oct-Nov, 2012 issue. For this project, the cited reference recommendation for 12 – 24 turns was followed and 20 T were used. The 20 T reduces the current to  $1/20^{\text{th}}$  of the current in the primary equivalent of 1 T passing through the toroid. Any small enameled wire larger than 26 AWG will do as long as it will fit the toroid and the primary current is limited to 2A peak. (2 A peak would result in 100 mA if the secondary were shorted.) The toroid ID should be selected for the largest coax OD without holding the two toroid halves open. The toroid material should be selected for the frequency range of interest although this is not terribly important.

The clothes pin should be disassembled and slots cut to receive the toroid halves. The toroid should be carefully cut and the wire wrapped on one half. Then secure both with epoxy to the clothes pin halves. The diode and capacitor are then added and secured with epoxy. The final probe assembly is shown below followed by a picture of the probe and meter.

Probe Assembly



Probe and Meter



Questions or comments? Call Pete at 325-617-4387

## RECENT PROGRAMS

<b>Dec'12</b>	Christmas Dinner—Eatin Meetin
<b>Jan '13</b>	Scanner Jack/KB5TMY—Scanners
<b>Feb '13</b>	<a href="#">Tom/K40TM—Flying</a>

## Upcoming Hamfests &amp; Conventions

Date	Event	Location	Information
03/08/2013	Green Country Hamfest	Claremore, OK	<a href="http://www.greencountryhamfest.org">http://www.greencountryhamfest.org</a>
03/16/2013	Williamson County ARC's Hamfest	Georgetown, TX	<a href="http://www.wcarc.com">http://www.wcarc.com</a>
03/16/2013	St. Patrick's Day Hamfest	Midland, TX	<a href="http://www.hamfest.w5ggg.org/index.html">http://www.hamfest.w5ggg.org/index.html</a>
03/23/2013	Greater Houston Hamfest	Rosenberg, TX	<a href="http://www.houstonhamfest.org">http://www.houstonhamfest.org</a>
03/23/2013	ARC of Parker County Hamfest	Weatherford, TX	<a href="http://www.w5pc.org">http://www.w5pc.org</a>
04/20/2013	Ham Expo	Belton, TX	<a href="http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/">http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/</a>

## NEW CONTEST

NARS is sponsoring a new contest—Texas State Parks On The Air (TSPOTA), April 6-7, 2013, from 1800 UTC Saturday to 2100 UTC Sunday. The contest is open to all Amateurs world-wide. Non-Texas stations may work only Texas stations located in a Texas State Park; Texas stations not located in a Texas State Park may only contact stations operating from inside a Texas State Park. Stations located in a State Park, Natural Area or Historic Site may work all stations. A WATXSP Certificate will be given.

For more information: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/> and <http://tspota.com/>

From Billy D Roberts, W5NPR, Section Manager, ARRL West Texas Section

**Emergency Communications**

de Mike Dominy/KD5URW - Emergency Coordinator

**Tom Green County ARES Net**

Meets every Monday night at 8:30 CST (2030 hr) on the 444.350 MHz (PI 162.2) (N5SVK). The net can also be reached by EchoLink at WB5VRM-R or Node 412402. Other frequencies are announced on the Concho Valley Net at 8:00 pm.

**ARES Net Report**

Date	Net Ctrl	Check-ins	Time	Freq
11/05	KD5URW	15	14	444.350

## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
11/05	KB5TMY	20	13 min
1/7	KB5FNK	12	18 min
2/4	KB5FNK	16	15 min
2/11	KB5TMY	17	16 min
2/18	KB5TMY	15	16 min
2/25	KB5TMY	15	15 min

This net meets every Monday night at 8 p.m. on the club's 146.94 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 PL 88.5	444.350+	San Angelo PL 162.2 (Echo-Link Node)
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5	444.875+	Brady PL 162.2 Linked to 444.225+
147.06+	San Angelo PL 103.5		
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30	San Angelo PL 88.5
146.90-	Brady PL 162.2		
147.30	Brady PL 114.8 (Echo-Link Node)		

## Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due in January 2013. Prices 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: \$20



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

Get all the latest club news on the World  
Wide Web at [www.w5qx.org](http://www.w5qx.org)

### 2012 SAARC Officers:

President - Tom Austin/K4OTM  
Vice President - Joe Kent/W5UI  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - Mike Dominy/KD5URW  
Activities Manager - Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC  
Grounds Chairman - Marcus O'Quin/KF5GKC  
W5QX Trustee - Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ

**SAARC Monthly Meetings:** 2nd Thursday,  
1930, Clubhouse, 5513 Stewart Lane

**Annual Dues:** \$20, Sr. & Jr. \$10

**The Kilo-What:** Edited by Pete Norris/KJ5SS  
325-617-4387, [norrispeter26@gmail.com](mailto:norrispeter26@gmail.com)

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

**NEXT MEETING: 3/14/2013**  
**PROGRAM: TOM DUFRESNE/WB5MTR -**  
**HIGH VOLTAGE SAFETY**

**MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**

