

# The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. *February 2003*

## Carl Smith/K5SD SK

Carl Smith/K5SD became a silent key in December 2002. A long-time member of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Carl was inactive in recent years due to failing health.

Carl was a devoted CW operator, so becoming a "silent key" most accurately describes his passing. Carl was truly a gentleman and helpful amateur radio operator. Those who knew him miss a fine friend.

Carl's estate includes several pieces of amateur radio equipment which Alex/K5CMW has been entrusted with selling:

Kenwood TS-850S w/SP-230 speaker, \$800; Kenwood TS-830S, \$375; Astron RS-35, \$100 and RS-20, \$60; Vibroplex paddles, \$50; Bencher paddles, \$50; WBL V22 paddles, \$75; Radio Shack Pro 67 handheld scanner, \$70; KAM Plus, \$70; PalStar AT-300LCN antenna tuner, \$75; 5-position antenna switch, \$20; break-over tower with mast (will need help taking down), \$175; Yaesu G-800S rotor w/cable, \$200; Mosley TA-33 tri-band yagi w/100 feet of coax, \$85; several 100-foot lengths of RG-8, RG-58, & RG-8X. Contact Alex/K5CMW at 949-4583 (evenings) or [k5cmw@netzero.net](mailto:k5cmw@netzero.net).

SKYWARN Training  
February 8 at 9 AM  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
at the corner of  
Sunset and YMCA

## 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 John Marshall/KC5FMX at 1938 on January 9.

Introductions were made with 13 members, one new member, Leo Flores/KD5URX, and one guest, Kent/KD5AES, in attendance.

The Treasurer's reports for November and December 2002 were approved as read and the minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the December issue of *The Kilo-What*.

### For the Record

The San Angelo Amateur Radio Club's annual Eatin' Meetin' was held on December 12, 2002 at Zentner's Daughter in the Stadium Park Shopping Center. At this meeting, the election of the club officers for the year 2003 was conducted. Officers for 2003 are as follows: President: John Marshall/KC5FMX, Vice President: David Behrend/KB5FNK, Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Freeman/KD5PIX, Activities Manager: Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Emergency Coordinator: David Wolfe/KA5VTG, and Grounds Chairman: Joe Kent/KC5ILD.

### Officer Reports

David/KB5FNK, Vice President, asked for suggestions for programs after our meetings. Some suggestions may require time to get a certain program together. Please contact David as soon as possible with your ideas or suggestions.

David/KA5VTG, Emergency Coordinator, announced that SKYWARN training will be held on either February 8 or 15, 2003. The location is still to be determined. This information will be on an upcoming Monday night Two Meter Net.

Joe/KC5ILD, Grounds Chairman, will install new rain gutter and is going to paint the clubhouse doors.

### Old Business

Charlie/KC5EZZ, has made it possible to use the 145.27 for local use as well as the state wide net. To use the re-

(Continued on page 2)

## License Testing News

ARRL  VEC

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK  
Volunteer Examiner

The next scheduled testing session will be held on Sunday, March 30, at 1300 at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NCVEC Form 605 and \$12 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than March 24.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club's Web site <http://www.qsl.net/saarc>.

Information/forms can also be obtained by contacting Rob/N5OIU at 942-7599 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.

## FCC News

From The ARRL Letter, January 31, 2003  
Comments are due February 28 on another Petition for Rulemaking filed by Dale Reich, K8AD, of Seville, Ohio.

Reich has petitioned the FCC to require sellers of two-way voice or data equipment to keep on file a buyer's name, address, telephone number and "any future information when selling a radio that required licensing under the current FCC rules." Information collected would remain private, available only to the FCC or law enforcement. Reich said in his petition that, under his proposal, any retail vendor would be able to ask local police to investigate if the retailer suspected that the radios were not going to be used in compliance with the law.

A separate petition would require "ownership and license tagging" for gear operating under Parts 5, 15, 18, 74, 80, 90, 95 and 97, including call sign, owner's name and address and any FCC file number. It would include CB, Family Radio Service, Multi-Use Radio Service and General

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**OSCAR News**

*From The ARRL Letter, January 10, 2003*

A third satellite in the SaudiSat series has earned an OSCAR designation from AMSAT. SaudiSat-1C now will be known as SO-50. The Amateur Radio payload was successfully placed into orbit December 20 from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome by a modified Soviet-era ICBM. The German-made SAFIR-M Amateur Radio payload went into orbit during the same launch, as part of the RUBIN-2 scientific satellite. SAFIR-M has been designated as AO-49. SaudiSat-1C is a project of the Space Research Institute of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) <http://saudisat.kacst.edu.sa/>, an independent scientific organization of the Saudi Arabian government.

"On behalf of AMSAT-NA I wish to congratulate you and your associates at Space Research Institute of KACST on the successful culmination of this project and hope that amateurs all over the world will have an opportunity to use SO-50," said AMSAT-NA Board Chairman Bill Tynan, W3XO, in making the announcement this week.

SaudiSat-1C follows by a little more than two years the launch of SaudiSats 1A and 1B. Now in a 650-km (400 miles) orbit, SaudiSat-1C carries several experiments, including a new Mode J FM amateur repeater. The downlink frequency is 436.775 MHz. The uplink frequency is 145.850 MHz. A 67.0-Hz CTCSS tone is required for on-demand access to the satellite, which shares the same frequencies as AO-27 and SaudiSat-1A.

Space Research Institute Director Turki Al Saud reports that the SaudiSat-1C repeater was activated and tested this past week. Its receiving antenna is a quarter-wave whip atop the spacecraft. The 250-mW UHF transmitter is coupled to a quarter-wave antenna on the bottom of the spacecraft. He said the repeater will be available to amateurs worldwide as power permits.

According to a report in Arab News, the new satellite is equipped with capabilities to provide "vital data" concerning weather conditions and oil exploration as well as to monitor the movement of vehicles in remote regions of Saudi Arabia.

**Meeting Minutes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

peater for local use only, you must use a tone of 100. The state wide net tone is 88.5.

The annual Christmas party, known as the Eatin' Meetin', was held December 12 at Zentner's Daughter. ARRL West Texas Section Manager, John Dyer/AE5B, and his YF, Carla/K5RLA, attended the meeting. It was a privilege to have them join us. The annual Ham of the Year Award is presented at the Eatin' Meetin'. This year there were two recipients of this coveted award: Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ, Trustee for the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club. Charlie repairs all of our radios and equipment. He also maintains all of our repeaters. Charlie has several new repeaters in various locations of the Concho Valley making it possible to reach areas during severe weather that previously was not possible. Glenn Miller/AA5PK was there to help drive the first nails to build our clubhouse. He has held many elected positions and was with the committee that allowed us to become a non-profit organization. This status became permanent in February of 2002. Glenn maintains the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club Web site, which requires a considerable amount of time. Glenn also compiles and publishes *The Kilo-What* and he has made it possible for us to receive *The Kilo-What* via e-mail.

Jerry Jennison/N5OKQ received a Certificate of Recognition and a gift certificate from China Garden for the excellent programs after each meeting during the year 2002.

Don Goff/AB5BG received a Certificate of Recognition and a gift certificate from China Garden for the special event stations he has conducted throughout 2002. Don creates a new certificate for each event. There were many events in 2002, the last being the SKYWARN Recognition held at the Weather Service on December 6-7.

**Good of the Order**

The Split-the-Pot drawing was conducted by Dave Wilcox/N5RBW. The club prospered by \$11. The winner of the other half was Bob/KD5PIX.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15.

The next regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club will be on February 13 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

**FCC News**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Mobile Radio Service gear. In his petition, Reich said such tagging used to be an FCC requirement and that his proposed change was long overdue as a needed tool for local law enforcement.

The FCC has lumped both petitions into one, designated as RM-10641. The full text of Reich's petitions is available on the FCC Web site [http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6513398853](http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513398853).

In an earlier petition, designated RM-10620, Reich had asked the Commission to upgrade Novice and Advanced license holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has 20 or more years of operating experience. Reich said such test-free upgrades would compensate for "the previous tougher exam that was past administered" and give credit for violation-free service records. Before the comment window for Reich's earlier petition closed January 17, it attracted more than 150 comments from the amateur community.

**ARRL VEC News**

*From The ARRL Letter, January 3, 2003*

The ARRL has announced that it's now providing FCC Amateur Radio license renewals, address changes and other license modification services to nonmembers. For a \$12 fee, the League will renew a nonmember's Amateur Radio ticket (the license must be within 90 days of expiration), file an application to change address or name or request issuance of a new sequential call sign. The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator is processing these applications.

"The \$12 is in line with our calendar year 2003 exam application fee," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahнке, W9JJ. For several years, the ARRL has been handling renewals, address and name changes and modifications free of charge for members and has directed nonmembers to the FCC's free Internet or hard-copy application options or to other providers of such services.

Amateurs taking advantage of this service should submit NCVÉC Form 605 to ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111 USA for processing. Nonmembers should make the \$12 fee payable to "ARRL."

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in February: KH3—Johnston Island is becoming a wildlife refuge in March 2003, and a DXpedition is on the island as this is written. Look for AH3D until February 3. The EPA is closing their operations on the island and turning it over to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and they are noted for refusing DXpeditions to islands they manage. Look for them on all bands. The ARRL DX CW Contest is the February 15 and 16 and SSB Contest is March 1-2, so lots of DX on the air during these contests.

According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of January 19-26, there were 234 countries active. DXpeditions on the air in February: HH—Haiti, KH0—Marianas, VP5—Turks & Caicos, J3—Grenada, V2—Antigua, VP6—Pitcairn, HP—Panama, 9G—Ghana, V31—Belize, A4—Oman, C6—Bahamas, PJ5—St. Maarten, V5—Namibia, XY1—Mayanmar, 7Q7—Malawi, J79—Dominica, 9Y—Trinidad & Tobago, ST2—Sudan, PJ2—Netherlands Antilles, HC—Ecuador, P4—Aruba, T31—Central Kiribati, 6W—Senegal, AH3D—Johnston Atoll (a Marti Lane OH2BH DXpedition), VP8—Falklands, S21—Bangladesh, KG4—Guantanamo Bay, VR2—Hong Kong, 3B8—Mauritius, 5X—Uganda, PY0ZF0—Fernando de Naronha, V4—St. Kitts, FF—Guadeloupe, and JW—Svålbard.

### Islands of the Month

#### Baker, Howland, Jarvis (National Wildlife Refuges) - KH1

Baker and Howland lie about 40 miles apart, about 1600 miles southwest of Hawaii, the islands just north of the equator, while Jarvis lies just south.

Baker Island lies at 0.13° N/176.31°W, with a land area of 1.4 sq. km. (1 mile wide and 1260 yards from north to south), and is a low-lying coral island with the highest point 8 meters above the sea. Baker's abandoned WW II runway is said to be completely covered with vegetation and unusable (per CIA Factbook). Maps of Baker from the 1800s show tram lines on the island, used to move guano from the center of the island to the landing sites on the western shore. The western shore (leeside) is sandy while the other three shores are broken coral. Baker was said to be discovered and claimed by Michael Baker in 1832 on the whaler Gideon Howland when

it stopped to bury a seaman there. He sold his claim to the American Guano Company and started a rivalry between them and the United States Guano Company for the three islands. The island's bird population has changed over the centuries, primarily due to the introduction of Norway rats and cats by various ships. A British company dug guano from 1886 to 1891 and then the island was essentially abandoned until an American group from Hawaii tried to settle there in 1935. Lack of rainfall, and millions of tons of bird droppings resulted in an ill-fated colonization.

Howland, at 0.48°N/176.38°W, has a land mass of 1.6 sq. km. (1½ miles long and ½ mile wide) and a highest point of 3 meters. All three islands have beacons on them, the most famous being the one on Howland which was where Amelia Earhart was to have landed during her ill-

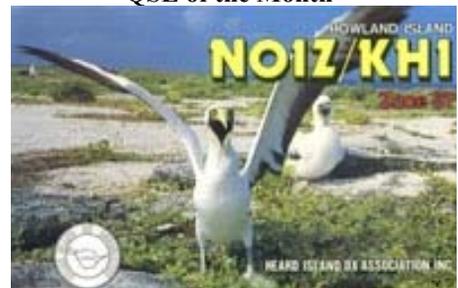
l-fated attempt to fly around the world. Its western shore is sandy (leeward) and the eastern side is covered with broken coral and sandstone. Habitation by ancient Polynesians on Howland was noted by archeologists when they found a type of Polynesian rat infesting the island and stone paths and pits (Polynesia style) where food plants were cultivated. In 1842, the whaler Isabella claimed the island. Howland guano digging peaked in 1870 to 1872 and ended in 1891. American colonists tried to establish residence here in March of 1930 with an airfield built and subsequently improved for the Earhart flight. The airstrip was improved with the idea that Earhart and copilot Fred Noonan would fly there from Hawaii and then on to New Guinea, but instead they flew to New Guinea and then onto Howland for refueling. They left Lae, New Guinea, for Howland and were never heard from again. The strip is supposedly no longer serviceable.

Jarvis lies just south of the equator at 0.22°S/160.03°W and is the larger of the islands with 4½ sq. km. of area (1¾ miles by 1 mile) and a high point of 7 meters. The depression on Jarvis actually has low growing trees and is a prime bird nesting habitat. Tramways were built by the guano diggers in the 1880s and a formal village attempted

with radio towers in the years around WW II. A landing strip was proposed there, but never built before the end of WW II. Jarvis actually has sandy beaches and shoals surrounding it, and the last notable wreck was a coal tender, Amaranth, which ran aground in 1913. The area is noted for scant rainfall, constant wind, and "burning sun." During WW II, the islands were occupied then abandoned when the area was threatened by Japanese invasion. All three islands are actually the tops of 16,000-foot mountains with the sides dropping steeply once outside the surrounding coral reef. Shipwrecks were noted around all three, but, due to the sharp sides of the underwater terrain, most sank to uncharted depths. All three are covered with grasses, low growing vines, and shrubs. The central depression on Jarvis has a Polynesian type of tree that is stressed constantly by roosting and nesting birds. Without measurable rainfall and no facilities for human visitors, the islands are slowly

recovering from human exploitation in the 1800-1900 period. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Coast Guard supposedly visit the islands annually, but permanent facilities that might be used for scientists or DXpeditions are non-existent. See <http://pacificislands.fws.gov/wnwr/pbakernwr.html> for more pictures of the islands. Also see <http://www.janeresture.com/index.htm> with more information on these islands and others in Oceania.

### QSL of the Month



#### NO1Z/KH1 - Howland Island

Nice QSL and probably one of the few DXpeditions for a long time. In 1988, the HIDXA and Fish and Wildlife Service sent a joint expedition to Howland. They were on the island for 150 hours and made 27,500 QSOs.

See you on the bands chasing DX.

## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jan 6	KA5VTG	20	9 min
Jan 13	KA5VTG	15	13 min
Jan 20	KA5VTG	20	10 min
Jan 27	KA5VTG	18	9 min
Feb 3	KA5VTG	19	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



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

### 2003 SAARC Officers:

President - John Marshall/KC5FMX  
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG  
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ  
Grounds Custodian - Joe Kent/KC5ILD

**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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**THURSDAY, FEB 13, 7:30 P.M.**  
**MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**