

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

January 2005

## *Meeting Minutes*

*By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX, Secretary*

The San Angelo Amateur Radio Club's annual Eatin' Meetin' was held at the Ole Gin Steakhouse in Wall on December 9 at 1830 hours.

Tickets for door prizes and Split-the-Pot were given to everyone. Ballots for 2005 officers were counted by Ralph Stout/KA5ULE and John Marshall/KC5FMX. Paul/N7SDQ called for attention and thanked everyone for attending.

Joe/KC5ILD asked Ralph/KA5ULE for the results of the ballot counting. The SAARC officers for 2005 are:

President: Joe Kent/KC5ILD

Vice President: Bill Murphy/WA6CMJ

Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

Activities Manager: Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ

Emergency Coordinator: Bryan Robason/KD5WGM

Grounds Chairman: Ronnie Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ

Joe Kent/KC5ILD awarded Certificates of Merit to Jim DeLong/K5LOZ, Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Jack Roberts/KB5TMY, Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ, John Marshall/KC5FMX, Ken Pierson/KD5NXV, Elta Pierson/KD5NXY, Bob Heiser/W7IKT, Carol Heiser/N5CBQ, David Wilcox/N5RBW, Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Bryan Robason/KD5WGM, Bill Murphy/WA6CMJ, Ronnie Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ, Bill Richards/WB5ZAM and Ivy Young/W5PNL. Ivy Young/W5PNL, not in attendance, at age 86 was acknowledged as being the oldest, longest and still current member of the SAARC.

There was no recipient of the Ham Of The Year Award for the year 2004.

The 2004 Spreader Award was presented to Bryan Robason/KD5WGM and Chad Goodman/KD5SMK. They share not only the award, but also the 40 pounds of cow manure that came with the award.

Wal-Mart Super Center donated \$25 for door prizes and the club furnished other prizes. Prizes were also donated by David Wolfe/KA5VTG, two T-Shirts and a CD from radio station KGKL; Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, perpetual calendar; and Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC, Swiss knife (also became a member).

### **Good of the Order**

There was an anonymous donation to the club of \$100.

John Marshall/KC5FMX presented Joe Kent/KC5ILD with the license plate and \$100 for the sale of "the Queen."

There was \$56 in the Split-the-Pot. The winner was LaRae Kent/KC5KXY, \$28 for her and the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2100.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club will be January 13, 2005 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

## *History of the Spreader Award*

*From The Kilo-What archives*

August 1978—Being very careful not to tip off the recipient, Pete Chamlee WB5ZAF explained the significance of "the Spreader Award" and then handed it to first-time winner Wayne Smith WD5BIM during impromptu ceremonies at a dinner meeting of the Club held August 25.

Wayne, forgetting he had told a story via 2 meters about a butterfly tongue, graciously accepted the wood plaque complete with a miniature John Deere fertilizer spreader.

The award, made every so often, passes from winner to winner. Original recipient was Jim Parsons K5ROV, and Pete followed.

*Editor's Note: Pete Chamlee (now N4MKX and retired from the USAF) lives in Texas City. Pete and Bill/WB5ZAM both earned their tickets after attending a license class Joe Odom (now KD4MJ and works for NASA in Huntsville, AL) and I taught in the AFMARS/military club station at Goodfellow AFB in 1976. Alas, Goodfellow no longer has a MARS station (the base medical clinic now occupies the space) or military club station (K5FFO).*

## Origins

By Glenn Miller/AASPK and <http://www.arl.org/tis/info/history.html#ham>

Where do some of the terms used in amateur radio originate? Some years back I did a column for *The Kilo-What* on the origin of "73" and "ham" and perhaps this is a good time to visit those words again.

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind--it indicated that the end, or signature, was coining up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication *The National Telegraph Review and Operators' Guide*, first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals then used have the same definition now that they had then, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code." A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments." *The Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy* defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you;" but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments." Theodore A. Edison's *Telegraphy Self-Taught* shows a return to "accept my compliments." By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments."

"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used—a "friendly word between operators."

**"Ham: a poor operator. A 'plug.'"**

That's the definition of the word given in G. M. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* even before radio. The definition has never changed in wire telegraphy. The first wireless operators were landline telegraphers who left their offices to go to sea or to man the coastal stations. They brought with them their language and much of the tradition of their older profession.

In those early days, spark was king and every station occupied the same wavelength or, more accurately perhaps, every station occupied the whole spectrum with its broad spark signal. Government stations, ships, coastal stations and the increasingly numerous amateur operators all competed for time and signal supremacy in each other's receivers. Many of the amateur stations were very powerful. Two amateurs, working each other across town, could effectively jam all the other operations in the area. When this happened, frustrated commercial operators would call the ship whose weaker signals had been blotted out by amateurs and say "SRI OM THOSE #&\$!@ HAMS ARE JAMMING YOU."

Amateurs, possibly unfamiliar with the real meaning of the term, picked it up and applied it to themselves in true "Yankee Doodle" fashion and wore it with pride. As the years advanced, the original meaning has completely disappeared.

So forget all this tripe you hear/read about 73 having something to do with Winchester rifles or ham having to do with the Harvard Amateur Radio Club, etc. And, no, "ham" isn't capitalized or rendered in all caps like an acronym. It's just another word. For more <http://www.w5qx.org/style.htm>

## Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

Frequencies (in MHz) to monitor for flooding and road closures.

**70 cm amateur band**

444.225 WX

**NWS**

162.55

**DPS**

155.46 and 155.475

**Red Cross**

47.42, 47.5 and 47.54

**Salvation Army**

35.94 and 35.96

**Parks**

159.270, 159.300, 159.330, 159.345 and 159.385

**Taxi**

157.65 cabs to dispatch

152.39 dispatch to cabs

**Wreckers**

155.16

**School district**

461.05, 461.375, 464.425 and 464.675

**Trash trucks**

855.2875

**Standard-Times**

173.225

**Code Blue**

463.675

**REACT**

462.675

**Shuttle bus**

865.4625

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM



*By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM*

### **DXpeditions in January:**

3CØ—Peter I; all the rest will take a back seat to problems faced by VU4—Andamans Nicobar--DXpedition of the century.

**Island of the Month: ALL STATIONS STANDBY FOR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ONLY:** As we all know the reason for the hobby is emergency communications, and while we might to do some emergency work every so many years, being on a rare island, for a DXpedition and then have the following occur around you, while in week 3 of 4, pales all other DXpeditions. Instead of my usual column, I'm going to give you some of the emails sent to the DX Bulletins by an American, Charles Harpole, K4VUD, who was observing, filming and advising the VU4 DXpedition. His reports start after he was able to return to Thailand and get onto e-mail telling what happened 26 Dec 2004. As a preface, from the USGS: This is the official list of earthquakes, near S.E. Asia, beginning with an event on Dec 23, 2004.

The list is magnitude 6 and above.

Magnitude 8.1 - NORTH OF MACQUARIE ISLAND (VK0)

2004 December 23 14:59:04 UTC

Magnitude 8.9 - OFF THE WEST COAST OF NORTHERN SUMATRA (YB)

2004 December 26 00:58:50 UTC

Magnitude 6.0 - NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA REGION (VU4) 2004 December 26 02:22:01 UTC

Magnitude 6.0 - ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA REGION

(VU4) 2004 December 26 02:51:59 UTC

Magnitude 6.1 - ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA REGION

2004 December 26 03:08:42 UTC

Magnitude 7.3 - NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA REGION

2004 December 26 04:21:26 UTC

Magnitude 6.5 - NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA REGION

2004 December 26 09:20:01 UTC

Magnitude 6.2 - ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA REGION

2004 December 26 10:19:29 UTC

Magnitude 6.3 - ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA REGION

2004 December 26 11:05:00 UTC

Hello DXers

Dec. 27 at 2300 Z

Hey, a whole lotta shakin' goin' on. Sorry to be out of touch for a while, but the phone service and thus email service went out with the first quake on Andaman, VU4. This is my first minute to get to a reliable email service.

1. Morning after Xmas, I was resting from sleep and thinking about what to do that coming day when my bed started to quiver like a large train was coming by. Then, the room started to rock about when I stood up. Walking and standing were difficult, bottles were falling off the shelves, and my fifth floor room floor felt like rubber. I got braced within the bathroom door until things settled down. Then, I found my pants and shirt and ran, shoes in hand, down the stairs and joined everyone else from the hotel in the open out front. Bharathi was already safely outside there. She was on the air at the time, but quickly figured out what was happening and got out.

2. There were extra holiday guests at the hotel. Various groups formed, and I sat with some English speakers at a table in the hotel garden. I noted to all who would listen that a BIG WAVE would come with an ocean quake. We were, by then, drinking tea and looking down on the ocean from about 80 feet above high tide. The sea rapidly turned brown near us, but there was no real surge. As the day went on and 8 to 10 more small tremors came and went, several of us took quick runs to our rooms to get necessities. The radios were left in the room. The roof antennas showed no signs of damage at all.

3. As the other team members came to our hotel, we learned of the big wave that hit the water front in Port Blair. Saraha had taken some videos there with the water still about a foot deep over the street that fronted the ocean. All team members were very OK.

4. In the immediate Port Blair area, four people died (one from landing on his head as he dove out his home window seeking escape), the local newspaper reported.

5. Port Blair and all but 4 of its citizens escaped serious damage. Most of you have now seen the video of the real damage that occurred in other places around the Indian Ocean rim... very bad for people and property.

6. By that afternoon, the team had set up one rig outside with a mobile whip and tuner...powered by the Hotel generator... and Bharathi was taking health and welfare messages from the people standing around there. Many wanted to tell relatives on the Indian mainland that they were ok, and Bharathi established contact with many India ham stations in various cities as needed. Traffic was being passed. She told my wife in Thailand that I was ok via contact with an HS station who passed the message by telephone in Thailand.... very nice to be a ham !

7. The team got cots from the hotel and, along with most others, slept out in the open that night. I slept fitfully near the lobby door on a couch inside, reasoning rightly this time, that the worst was over.

8. I will have more reports later, but the main news for ham radio is THE TEAM IS COMPLETELY OK AND SAFE. They have suspended normal DXpedition operations while helping out with health and welfare messages and whatever other duties may have come to them after I departed Port Blair very early this morning (as I was originally scheduled to do).

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM

I suspect they will go back to DXpedition work soon because Port Blair escaped the worst damage and the after shocks apparently have also stopped.

Thanks for all the good wishes. 73 for now,  
Charles Harpole  
k4vud@hotmail.com

A little more news...

1. Shades of antenna restrictions.... I got back to my place in Bangkok only to have had my dipole taken down from the roof of the condo .... someone complained and I was not here to refute... and just when I need it... gotta talk to the powers now.

2. There is a POSSIBILITY of more VU4 permits coming to new India hams in the next few days. Do not know if the quake will slow that process down, but there is some hope that more operators will travel to vu4 and continue the activation. Stay tuned.

3. I hope to get back on the air here in HS and get direct info via ham radio.... will report then. 73

Charles Harpole  
k4vud@hotmail.com

I am now reporting from Samut Sakhon, Thailand, about 50 miles south-south west of Bangkok. This is my father-in-law home. IC-718 and TA-33 + 40m kit at 40 feet, my call is HS0ZCW.

I am in direct contact with VU4RBI and VU4NRO as well as stations in India and 4S who have called in from time to time. VU4 is readable by me on both 40 SSB and 20 m almost all any day or night.

I have sent 2 health and welfare queries to Bharathi that I received here by email. No answers yet.

1. Bharathi is continuing to operate in emergency communication mode now and has done so virtually every minute since the earthquake shook us all out of our rooms. She and Saraha set up one of the DXpedition radios about 30 minutes after the quake on a table outside the hotel... in the garden...with a mobile whip and the hotel's generator for power. When the generator had to be shut down for an hour from time to time, she used an automobile battery and lower power.

2. Local authorities ask for the team's help to do communications of all kinds. The first messages were H&W from the folks standing around the table to the India mainland. Many concerned people got news from loved ones, often within minutes because the India mainland phones were working ok (except parts of the coast, of course). Once word spread, many others showed up to request a message and were served.

3. Recently, Ram (VU2MYH) and another of the team were dispatched to one of the Nicobar Islands that was hard hit. They are there now and I am listening to them pass messages now as I type this. They are using VU4NRO and batteries and one of the DXpedition radios.

4. Bharathi's Port Blair location has electric power, local phones, and some international phone service now. Despite continuing small tremors, she has recently relocated her station back into the Hotel and is using the larger antennas again.

5. A small tremor was reported just now from Port Blair. No damage.

6. Normal DXpedition operations have been, of course, suspended. Please do not call VU4 stations unless they call you. The future of normal DX ops is in doubt for the time being, as you can understand. We must think months, at least, before we can relax into the fun of DXing there again.

7. Delivery of H&W messages is very difficult. Please do not ask for same unless the party is likely to have a real problem, such as disabled or on medication, I would advise.

8. Based on what I have heard, Sri Lanka 4S may be in the most trouble these days... horrible reports are coming out of the immediate events and now the recovery is bedeviled with lack of everything. I will use the NJDXA reflector as my only ham reporting outlet. Please refer non-users to this reflector so I do not have so many individual emails. The NBC broadcast shot was pushed out by a Colin Powell report. CNN will carry me live on audio tomorrow.... maybe.... spoke to them just now.

**EVERYONE, BE VERY CAREFUL TO REPORT ONLY WHAT YOU DIRECTLY KNOW ABOUT.**

**DO NOT REPORT ANY DEATHS AT ALL NOR ANY INJURIES BY NAME TO THE NEWS**

**NOR TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THAT IS THE AUTHORITIES JOB.** Make your

reports to legit authorities instead, or quote another public news source. Think about donations to established organizations like the Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. as a way to help. Thanks to all for your notes of concern for the team and myself.

73,

Charles Harpole  
k4vud@hotmail.com  
QST at 0300 Z on Dec 31

1. VU4RBI continues to operate from Port Blair Sinclair's Hotel with emergency messages, but no DX calls can now be taken. Bharathi is going to use her regularly scheduled departure ticked on its original date... the best way to get an airline seat...on Jan. 1, 2005.

2. Other VU operators will remain on the Islands and continue the emergency traffic for as long as it takes. More VU operators are traveling to Andaman to help out soon.

3. One of the VU4NRO stations is dispatched to one of the hardest hit Nicobar Islands and is relaying out emergency traffic from that devastated place.

4. The other NRO station is again operational in the college dorm. They also are passing emergency traffic.

5. Around 0400 Z/UTC today Dec. 31, NRO will transmit slow scan TV pictures on 14.190 +-. These are photos from

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM

around the Islands and affected areas there. Any station is free to tune in and copy these TV pictures.

6. Let me again be clear about my status re VU4.... I served as a helper on this DXpedition and at all times tried to be sure it was an INDIA effort, not some foreigner's. That same fact prevailed as soon as the earthquake hit...that is, I helped and observed, and took photos. It was clear from the time just after the quake onward that the INDIA hams had the situation completely handled and were immediately effective as emergency communicators. Further, these India operators speak the local languages, which I do not, further reason for me to only be an observer. I took my regularly scheduled air ticket date to depart Andaman... the only way I could get a ticket and reasoned that I could relay whatever Andaman traffic from my HS0ZCW station. That I did and continue to do.

7. Feel free to give my Thailand telephone number to anyone who wants it...

66-5-046-1922.

Hams all over the affected area in multiple countries are stepping in and helping. It is a very gratifying international effort by hundreds of volunteer hams. I am proud of ham radio, again, today.

Let us hope for a better New Year..... 73

Charles Harpole

k4vud@hotmail.com

Let's hope we never have a disaster of this magnitude, but we all should be prepared to go to full emergency power when needed, as needed. If you want to help those on the Indian Ocean rim, donations through the Red Cross and Salvation Army are being directed to the like services in those countries.

May you have a Happy New Year and the sunspots improve and propagation sparkle, at least for the big DXpedition to Peter I later this month. 73 de Bill.

## Interception and Divulgence of Radio Communications

Contributed by Marcus "Gil" Gilstrap/KK5YZ

### Background

Interception and divulgence of radio communications is governed by many jurisdictions, including Federal and State. Since September 11, 2001, many of the rules have changed. Some federal and state laws make intercepting and divulging radio communications unlawful and may subject the violator to severe criminal penalties. Additionally, the Department of Defense has the authority to prosecute violators.

### Unauthorized Publications of Communications

The FCC has the authority to interpret Section 705 of the Communications Act - "Unauthorized Publication of Communications." This section generally does not prohibit the mere interception of radio communications, although merely intercepting radio communications may violate other Federal or State laws. This means that if you happen to overhear your neighbor's cordless telephone conversation or listen to radio transmissions on your scanner, such as emergency service reports, you do not violate the Communications Act.

**The Communications Act also allows the divulgence of certain types of radio transmission. The law specifies that there are no restrictions on the divulgence or use of radio communications that have been transmitted for the use of the general public (i.e., transmissions of a local radio or television broadcast station); relate to ships, aircraft, vehicles or persons in distress; or are transmitted by amateur radio or citizens band radio operators.**

Section 705 does prohibit a person from using an intercepted radio communication for his or her own benefit. One court held that under this provision a taxicab company may sue its competitor for wrongfully intercepting and using for its benefit radio communications between the company's dispatchers and drivers. A more recent Supreme Court decision, however, raises First Amendment issues about the ability of the government to regulate the disclosure of legally-obtained radio communications, and this area of the law remains unsettled.

In addition, it has been determined by the courts that the act of viewing a transmission - such as a pay television signal - that the viewer was not authorized to receive is a "publication" and this violates Section 705. Section 705 also has special provisions that govern the interception of satellite television programming transmitted to cable operators. The section prohibits the interception of satellite cable programming for private home viewing if the programming is either encrypted (i.e., scrambled) or is not encrypted, but is sold through a marketing system. In this case, you must have authorization from the programming provider to legally intercept the transmission.

The Communications Act also contains provisions that affect the manufacture of equipment used for listening to or receiving radio transmissions, such as "scanners." The FCC cannot authorize scanning equipment that:

- **can receive transmissions in the frequencies allocated to domestic cellular services;**
- **can readily be altered by the user to intercept cellular communications; or**
- **may be equipped with decoders that convert digital transmissions to analog voice audio.**

In addition, after April 26, 1994, these receivers may not either be manufactured in the United States or imported for use in the United States. FCC regulations prohibit the sale or lease of scanning equipment that is not authorized by the FCC.

### Filing a Complaint

If you would like to send the FCC a complaint regarding the interception and divulgence of radio communications or a violation of the FCC's rules, you can file it by e-mail ([fccinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:fccinfo@fcc.gov)), by the Internet ([www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints.html)), by telephone 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) (voice), 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) (TTY), or by mail:

Federal Communications Commission, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Complaints & Inquiries Division, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554

## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
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Dec 6	KA5VTG	21	17 min
Dec 13	---No net held---		
Dec 20	KA5VTG	13	15 min
Dec 27	KA5VTG	15	7 min
Jan 3	N7SDQ	16	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
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	<b>6 Meter Crossband</b>	
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30/53.63	San Angelo PL 88.5

## License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

# ARRL VEC

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, January 16, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NCVEC Form 605 and \$12 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than January 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.



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

### 2005 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD  
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - Bryan Robason/KD5WGM  
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ  
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mechlenburg/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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



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