

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

January 2006

President's Message

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, President Elect

Since no minutes were forwarded to me from the December meeting, I thought I'd enter a few notes here.

We had about 25 members and guests attend the eatin' meetin' held at the Ole Gin Steakhouse on December 8. Door prizes and certificates of appreciation were handed out by Joe/KC5ILD. The election ballots were counted by Paul/N7SDQ, and the election results are listed on the back page under 2006 SAARC Officers (no surprises there.) Joe was kind of railroaded into Activities Manager and has indicated that he'd rather not hold that coveted position. So, we'll need someone to come forward and take his place.

I'd like to see a good turnout for the first meeting of 2006 (and for every meeting thereafter, for that matter.) John/KC5FMX and I have talked at length about a number of things we'd like to see the club do in the coming year and we'd certainly like your input. We're planning some programs that will, hopefully, make the meetings worth attending. I suggest all of the elected officers read the club constitution and by-laws and become familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the office.

I'll be back with a monthly column to talk about what's going on and try to keep the membership informed as to upcoming events.

We'll be having a clubhouse work day coming up this spring. The old "shack" hasn't had a thorough cleaning in several years and it looks it. And, now that we're paying for trash collection, we can use the dumpster without guilt.

And, as the editor/publisher of the newsletter, I'd again like to solicit some input for the newsletter. Bill/WB5ZAM has been faithfully writing his DX column for years now. And I've been filling in with ARRL news, but it would be better if the newsletter filler were local/club news. I'm not asking for a monthly column like Bill's (although that would be nice), but an article about you and what you do with amateur radio would be great. Something you're working on, a new mode you've tried, a memorable QSO, etc. Think about it.

So, again, I invite all of our members to come out to the January 12 meeting. Shake some hands, renew old acquaintances, and let's see if we can make 2006 the best year yet.

73 and see you at the meeting.

Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your membership in the SAARC.

Annual due schedule is as follows:

Regular member: \$20

Additional family member: \$5

Senior (over 65) and Junior (under 18) and handicap: \$10

Associate member: \$25

Dues may be paid at any club meeting or by mailing a check or money order (payable to SAARC) to SAARC, P.O. Box 4002, San Angelo, TX 76902-4002.

2005 Holiday Toy Drive

From The ARRL Letter, December 23, 2005

"Mission accomplished!" That was the word on the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive from ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and assistant warehouse volunteer coordinator Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, on the US Gulf Coast after they'd completed unloading some 5000 toys contributed by generous Amateur Radio clubs and individual radio amateurs from all over. In addition, the second ARRL Holiday Toy Drive benefited from more than \$8000 in cash donations, which permitted the purchase of gifts for older recipients and helped defray the costs of transporting the toys.

"The 2005 ARRL/Salvation Holiday Toy Drive is about completed with the exception of the cleanup," Leggette reported this week. The toys headed to Mississippi following a December 15 send-off ceremony in Memphis.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP--who spearheaded the drive from the League Headquarters side—says Lowenthal, a former FedEx employee, did such a professional packing job that he only needed one truck—instead of the anticipated three—to transport the toys to coastal Mississippi from Memphis, saving even more money to purchase additional toys. "The overwhelming response of hams around the country was clear as thousands of toys, games, bikes and stuffed animals headed south," he added.

The ARRL Toy Drive partnered with The Salvation Army, whose distribution network throughout the Gulf Coast remains intact. "The Salvation Army has the ability to screen recipients and will assure that the toys are used where they are truly needed most," Pitts explained. A big rental moving van took the full load directly to Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi.

Representatives of The Salvation Army and the League were on hand in Memphis December 15 to see the truckload of toys southward. Holiday Toy Drive national chairperson and country music singer Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, joined Amateur Radio volunteers, the news media, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus for the occasion.

"For those who couldn't be here, I'm sure they're here in spirit and giving from their hearts, and I just want to thank them—from all around—for collecting," Loveless told ARRL.

Bill Feist, WB8BZH, The Salvation Army's disaster services director for the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi division, represented his organization for the occasion. "We are certainly very appreciative of what all the Amateur Radio operators around the country and the ARRL have done for the people of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi," he said.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, summed it up simply in thanking Pitts for his role: "It was a great, great project!"

License Testing News

ARRL  **VEC**

Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, January 15, 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 January 9.

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.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



DXpeditions in December: According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of December 25-January 1, there were 209 countries active. DXpeditions expected were from: 3B9, 8R, FG, HBØ, HS, YS, TR, C6, TT8, UP, V63, ZF, V7, FR5, OHØ, TR, 6Y, XU, V3, P4, KP2, 9Q, V2, 6OØ, CEØZ, GU, KG4, and 5H. And we await word that Peter I Island will be activated as expected the first week of February.

Island of the Month

KH2 - Guam. A US territory since 1898, lying in the mid-Pacific at the southern end of the Marianas Islands, Guam has provided strategic basing for the US for over 100 years. Captured by the Japanese in 1941 and retaken in 1944, the island remains a high priority for the US military commands. Anderson AFB has been a key refueling point and forward staging area for US forces from the Middle East to the Southern Pacific. The Navy had COMNAV Marians there and, like Puerto Rico residents, the Guamanians enjoy citizenship and trade benefits of a US state without representation in the US House or Senate.



Laying at 13°28'N/144°47'E, the island has an area of 212 square miles or three times the size of the District of Columbia. The climate is typically tropical with high humidity and temperatures ranging from 75 to 86 year around. They suffer two seasons—wet and dry—like most islands in the tropics, and have a high risk of hurricanes/typhoons from June through December. They have excellent medical care and optional military care or airlift capabilities for major problems. They also have eight 18-hole public golf courses and two military courses. Major environmental problems are essentially the weather and the brown tree snake. The snake was accidentally introduced from Southeast Asia and has decimated the endemic bird population. Main industries are fishing and tourism (and supporting the two military commands.) Arable land is only 9% of the island's total. The population of locals in 2005 was estimated at 169,000 and migration is at 0% per 1000. Average life expectancy is 78 (much like the mainland).

The original inhabitants were called the Chamorro, and were thought to be from the Southern Pacific and from the Mariana chain to the northwest. Magellan is considered to be the first European to set foot on the island in 1521. He was followed by explorers from all over the globe, and island was claimed by Spain in 1521. The Chamorro culture was far different from what he had experienced with the island's society being matriarchal, and the power and prestige of women framed the language, music, dance, traditions and the ability for the islanders to survive all the explorers wishing to claim



and change the island. The Spanish maintained control over the island for 333 years, until the end of the Spanish American War of 1898, when it was formally purchased along with other Spanish held territories for \$20 million. From 1944's recapture of the island the US military kept it a secret and security clearances were hard to get to visit the island. In 1962 this was lifted and tourism started to flourish. Now, with luxury hotels, fine restaurants, and duty free shopping, tourists from all over the Pacific Rim fly out to escape the crowds at islands near to the mainland of Asia as well as from the US and other US territories in the Pacific.

Literacy is much like the more progressive states' with 99% literate. The economy is heavily into tourism and pushes were made for Japanese tourists in the late '90s. But with a downturn in the Japanese economy, they are having

problems in that sector. Most food (except fish) is imported. With military downsizing, Guam is also facing a challenge, like other stateside areas of how to cope with less military spending and fewer service members spending within the local economy. Unemployment in 2000 was estimated at 15%. Fishing and fish exports have not been pushed as in other islands and there are potentials there for the economy. Exports are mainly from transshipments of petroleum products, construction material, fish and beverage products. Major trading partners are Japan 66%, South Korea 10%, and Singapore 8%, the Philippines 4% and the mainland US a smaller portion. The currency is the US dollar; the languages spoken are: English 38%, Chamorro 22%, Philippines 22%, and other Pacific and Pacific rim countries, 18%. Internet users were approximately 1/3 of the population. With 23% below the poverty level, there is still a sizeable income disparity. The Guamanians pay no Federal income tax, but the taxes of Federal/military employees that are collected are paid back to the territorial treasury. They get no economic support, per se, but these taxes provide about \$143 million annually to the treasury.

Most development is on the west coast with numerous areas available for lying on the beach, snorkeling or diving. Amateur radio thrives, not just with tourists, but locals as well as military members.

QSL of the Month KH2WV

Joel has this online photo of his mobile station, with all bands coverage and what a view from the shores of Guam.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Nov 28	KA5VTG	--- No Net ---	
Dec 5	KB5FNK	10	7 min
Dec 12	KD5SMK	--- No Net ---	
Dec 19	AA5PK	9	4 min
Dec 26	KD5NAI	--- No Net ---	
Jan 2	KA5VTG	10	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



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Name This Piece of Equipment



Last month's "winner" was Keith/K5LSM who identified the Drake 2-A. Bill/WA6CMJ came close IDing it as the 2-B. The only outward difference between the two is the number of slide switches on the front panel.



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 Chaffin/N5GRC
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - Joe Kent/KC5ILD
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, JAN 12, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**