

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

January 2008

President's Message

By Joe Kent/W5JBK

2007 was another great year for the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in which the membership provided support to community activities as well as participating in the annual Field Day event. We have developed a close working relationship with the Rebuilding Together organization thanks to the efforts of Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC and the participation of many of our club members in local projects. Because of your dedication, we have regained our status as an ARRL Special Service Club. Thanks is due Bob Freeman/KD5PIX for compiling justification and submitting the application for this recognition. During the coming year we will face new challenges, including the uncertainty of the status of our clubhouse location. While much of our focus will necessarily be on settling this issue, we will continue our tradition of community support and work to ensure the general membership receives the focus and attention they deserve. Upcoming events include the Mas o Menos bicycle races being held February 16 at Terlingua, Midland ARC Hamfest on March 8, Field Day 2008, support of Rebuilding Together projects, and others. I am confident you will continue to support our club as you have in the past and challenge you to mentor prospective hams and encourage others to join our outstanding organization. With your help, 2008 can be another banner year for the SAARC.

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting - January 10, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Joe Kent/W5JBK on January 10, 2008 at 1930. Introductions were made with 18 members and 5 visitors in attendance. The Minutes from the Eatin' Meetin' on December 13, 2007 were read. No Treasurer's Report was read or approved.

New Business

President Joe Kent/W5KNT presented Jack Roberts/KB5TMY the coveted Spreader Award during a brief ceremony. Jack will retain the "award" until such time as he is able to pass it to another worthy recipient during the December Eatin' Meetin'.

Skywarn training this year will be January 26, 2008 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 3616 YMCA Drive. The hours will be from 9a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be refreshments. Call (325) 944-0445 for further information.

The annual bike races at Lajitas will be February 16, 2008. Those that may be interested contact President Joe Kent/W5JBK.

The Air Force Thunderbirds Precision Flying Team will be in San Angelo Tuesday, March 18. The clubhouse is a great spot to watch them from. More information will be forthcoming at the February meeting.

Rebuilding Together will be April 26, 2008. Last year there was a power failure. The club's volunteers headed up by Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC received much praise for the work they did. Due to the fact that we were able to continue operations using emergency power, none of the teams lost communications with the supply warehouse or with those who inspected the jobs. I am sure they will call again.

Jerry Huffman/KE5PRS became a member of the club before the meeting. He is also the Regional Liaison Officer for the Division of Emergency Management for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). DPS is looking to the future, knowing that natural and man made disasters are not only possible, but probable. Therefore, the DPS has appropriated funds to purchase HF, UHF and VHF equipment for their departments. They realize that when all other communications fail, Amateurs can and will get through. There will be HF equipment at all dispatchers and many vehicles will have UHF and VHF.

DPS will look to us for training and testing as well as assistance at dispatch offices and in some vehicles. Mr. Huffman will keep us advised. Now is a good time, for those that can, to complete the ARRL's online Emergency Communications Courses.

Good of the Order

The Split-the-Pot was worth \$14.00 to the club as well as to the winner. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2022.

The next regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be February 14, 2008 at 1930 hours at the clubhouse.

Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

Frequencies to monitor during winter weather and SKYWARN events:

San Angelo (TRS)	Tom Green Co SO/FD	San Angelo Mathis Field
855.4625	154.190 Dispatcher	128.450 (AM)
856.4625*	154.130	319.000 (AM)
857.4625	154.160	
858.4625	EMS/Hospital	National Weather Service
859.4625	155.340	162.550
860.4625	460.600	
859.9375	SKYWARN Nets	Coming Next Month:
860.9375*	146.940, 146.880 (Alt)	• Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) - Programming Weather Radios.
	147.340, 444.225	• Road Closure Frequencies.

Bits and Pieces

Watch for some new call signs around the Concho Valley this month. You will probably hear W5JBK and W5DLL on the air. W5JBK is the new call for Joe Kent (formerly KC5ILD) and W5DLL is the vanity call of David Lewis (formerly KE5PQV). Congratulations Joe and David! Forgive us if we sometimes revert to your old calls out of force of habit (hi).

Several of our members and associate members have been sick recently. Bill Doepp/N5IOU was in the hospital but is home and doing better at this writing. Louise Hall is feeling somewhat better after becoming ill on the 21st of January. I know others, including the XYLs of Glenn Miller/AA5PK and Jim DeLong/K5LOZ are ailing and we wish them well during these difficult times.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

Date	Event	Location	Information
16 Feb 2008	Bastrop County ARC Swapfest, Riverbend Park Pavilion	Smithville, TX	www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing
23 Feb 2008	Orange ARC & Jefferson County ARC Hamfest, VFW Hall	Orange, TX	www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing
1 Mar 2008	South Texas Section Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest), Fort Bend County Fairgrounds	Rosenberg, TX	www.houstonhamfest.org
8 Mar 2008	6th Annual IARC Hamfest, Betcha Bingo Hall #1	Irving, TX	www.irvingarc.org
8 Mar 2008	West Texas Section Convention, Midland Lions Club	Midland, TX	www.w5qgg.org
9 Mar 2008	WCARC/HOTERA Annual Swapmeet, Georgetown Community Center	Georgetown, TX	www.wcarc.com
19 Apr 2008	Temple Amateur Radio Club HamEXPO, Bell County Expo Center	Belton, TX	www.beltonhamexpo.org
17 May 2008	Swapfest/Picnic, Thompson Park, Area 17	Amarillo, TX	www.orgsites.com/tx/w5wx
1-2 Aug 2008	Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest), Wyndham Garden Hotel	Austin, TX	www.austinsummerfest.org

Emergency Communications (EmComm) by Allen G Pitts/W1AGP

During the month of September 2007, there were many positive articles in the media about Amateur Radio. But, there were also a few which did major damage to the public perception of our Service. Unfortunately they were in large metropolitan newspapers and, by the time an ARRL PIO learned about them, it was too late to change things. These articles were proclaiming the "death of Amateur Radio", that it was antique and an anachronism to the 21st century, full of ancient grumpy men and that the hams themselves were not friendly nor welcoming. The real tragedy of this is that the reporters were quoting their community's own local hams!

None of the articles had numbers or empirical data to show the true trends underlying the present state of amateur radio. None looked beyond the personal opinions voiced by their local club or they might see the recent gains following February 2007. None of them saw the larger picture around the country or the work being done in schools, scouting, ARISS, digital work, ARES and other EmComm actions. But they had their quotes, and that was enough to hurt us.

While not all areas of the country are motivated by the same approaches, there really is a lot of new growth in important areas. In some places, emergency operations and EmComm is indeed a BIG deal. We are gaining many new hams entering the field because they want to be part of a response operation. That is part of this year's PR push on EmComm. In other areas, it may not be EmComm that is the big draw. It could be the hobby side of the Service. For them, the "Hello!" materials are still available and timely. If that fits your area, then use them there. In some other places or situations, it will be the technical side of Amateur Radio that is of interest. The ARRL is working on a coordinated program for that to come out in 2008. It will be the hardest of the three to create, but plans are already well along.

These three, Hobby, EmComm and Technical activities are the motivational keystones of the Service. No one thing is going to attract "the general population." We encourage you to look at your own local situation. Which type of motivator works best in your area? Use that one. In the meantime, our importance in EmComm is a motivator in antenna issues, spectrum defense and other political situations.

Are we "dying" out? Not really. Amateur Radio never was, nor will be, a "mainstream" activity. But recent numbers are up and, just as important, the percentage of hams who actually get on the air or go on to higher class licenses is up. With the 10 year license-lag, most who are dropping out seem never to have been active to begin with. We also see trends which follow the solar cycles – currently at a low.

To quote Pogo, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Over the past two months the national PR Committee has seen far too many articles quoting their local hams saying we are all dying out! With attitudes like that, is it any wonder the reporters print it? It's a self-fulfilling prophecy.

This is why we need informed, active PIOs and hams need to defer media responses to them. Anytime you or a ham in your area is contacted by the media, steer them to your local PIO. If you don't have one nearby, steer them to your section's

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Emergency Communications (EmComm) *Continued from page 2*

amateur radio has to offer to the public and to prospective licensees. Fifteen minutes of individual fame is not worth the damage your personal opinions could cause to us all.

Article contributed by **Mike Dominy/KD5URW**

February Special Events

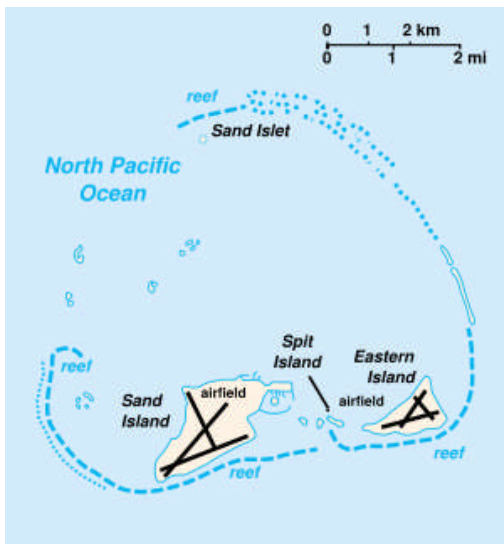
- Feb 2, 1400Z-2300Z**, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery Special Event Station. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. QSL. Nacogdoches ARC, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. www.w5nac.com
- Feb 2, 1400Z-2100Z**, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2008. 14.240 7.240 146.715 147.390. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 Wishaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. www.qsl.net/k3hwj
- Feb 7-Feb 11, 0300Z-0145Z**, Houghton, MI. Michigan Tech Husky Amateur Radio Club, W8C. Winter Carnival 2008. 444.500 21.315 14.250 7.290. QSL. Husky ARC, ECE Dept, 1400 Townsend Dr, Houghton, MI 49931. w8yy.students.mtu.edu/w8c
- Feb 9, 0700Z-1800Z**, Huskvarna, SWEDEN. Swedish Heathkit Club, SK7XN. Heathkit Activity Day, celebrating the birth of Howard Anthony. 14.287 14.040 3.700 3.540. QSL. Swedish Heathkit Club, Mats Gunnarsson, Baldersgatan 6, Ljungby SE-341 33, SWEDEN. www.heathkit.se
- Feb 9, 1400Z-2200Z**, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club, W0EBB. 4th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event. 14.260 14.060 7.290 7.040. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048. www.pkarc.org
- Feb 9-Feb 10, 1500Z-2100Z**, Milan, OH. The Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club, NI8G. Celebrating the birthday of Thomas Edison, born in Milan, OH. 21.265 14.265 7.265. QSL. Jack Hubbard, NI8N, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. *Also celebrating the memory of Tom O'Connor, NI8G.* ni8nl@yahoo.com
- Feb 11-Feb 15, 1400Z-2100Z**, Ft Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, W4LX. Celebrating Thomas Edison's Birthday and our 16th year. 28.430 21.350 14.240. Certificate. FMARC, PO Box 061183, Ft. Myers, FL 33906. stellagurka@embarqmail.com or www.fmarc.net
- Feb 16, 1700Z-2359Z**, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating President's Day and Mt Suribachi, Iwo Jima Flag Raising by US Marines in 1945. 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. kc2gyv@yahoo.com
- Feb 16-Feb 17, 1500Z-2200Z**, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. George Washington's Birthday. 28.415 14.240 7.240 7.038. Certificate. MVARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com
- Feb 16-Feb 17, 1500Z-0300Z**, Jackson, TN. West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society, WF4Q/50. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of our club. 28.400 21.310 14.225 7.250. Certificate. West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 3382, Jackson, TN 38303. www.wtars.org
- Feb 16-Mar 2, 0000Z-2359Z**, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM1R. 40th anniversary of the "Ville de Paris". 14.275 10.110 7.075 3.775. QSL. Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, ARP Radio-Club de Paris, 66 Avenue de la Republique, Paris 75011, FRANCE. *Award available for contact with all 5 special event stations. See URL for complete information.* arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg
- Feb 20-Feb 21, 1500Z-0500Z**, Urbana, IL. Mobile Ohm Volunteer Examiners, W9C. Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Champaign County, IL. 14.175 14.070 7.175 7.080. QSL. Patrick Twigg, N9OQT, 1824 Amber Ln #205, Urbana, IL 61802. www.twiggtimes.com/w9c.htm
- Feb 21-Feb 23, 0000Z-0000Z**, George, WA. Eastern Washington DX Club, W7G. President George Washington's Birthday. 14.250 18.135 7.225 3.880. QSL. Brian J. Nielson, W7BJN, 11650 Road 1 SE, Moses Lake, WA 98837. w7bjn@nwi.net
- Feb 23, 1500Z-2300Z**, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, KD8CKP. 3rd Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event. 14.245 21.315 7.245 EchoLink. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. *Check ins via EchoLink on the KC8RKV node.* www.portcars.org
- Feb 23-Mar 6, 0100Z-2359Z**, Austin/San Antonio, TX. Central TX Contest Group, WA5DTK. Commemorating the siege days at the Alamo. 14.250 7.240 14.040 7.040. QSL. Barry Brewer, 603 Broken Bow Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681-7401. wa5dtk@arri.net
- Feb 28, 1500Z-2245Z**, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. USS Kidd Launch Anniversary. 15 20 40 m Gen bands. QSL. USS Kidd Special Event, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm

CQ! DX de WB5ZAM



Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions during February: 3D2/r; 3Y0E; J2; YI9; VP6; 8Q; XU; JW; J7; E5; VP8; PJ2; KG4; FJ (new country); PJ4; JD1; VP5; S2; J5; 6W; 3B; VP6D; C5; T32; PZ; CN; V6; KH2; FS; V3; 8R; 5X; VP8; V4 and HK0.

Island of the Month-Midway KH4: The atoll was discovered July 5, 1859 by Captain N.C. Middlebrooks, though he was most commonly known as Captain Brooks, of the seal hunting ship *Gambia*. The islands were named the "Middlebrook Islands" or the "Brook Islands". Brooks claimed Midway for the United States under the Guano Islands Act of 1856, which authorized Americans to temporarily occupy uninhabited islands to obtain guano. On August 28, 1867, Captain William Reynolds of the USS *Lackawanna* formally took possession of the atoll for the United States; the name changed to "Midway" sometime after this. On 28 August 1867 the atoll became the first offshore



islands annexed by the U.S. government, as the Unincorporated Territory of Midway Island and administered by the U.S. Navy. Midway was the only island in the entire Hawaiian archipelago that was not later part of the State of Hawaii.

The first attempt at "settlement" was in 1871, when the Pacific Mail and Steamship Company started a project of blasting and dredging a ship channel through the reef to the lagoon using money put up by the U.S. Congress. The purpose was to establish a mid-ocean coaling station avoiding the high taxes imposed at ports controlled by the Hawaiians. The project was shortly a complete failure, and the USS *Saginaw*, evacuating the last of the channel project's work force in October 1871, then ran aground at Kure Atoll, stranding all aboard.

Midway Atoll is part of a chain of volcanic islands, atolls, and seamounts extending from Hawai'i up to the tip of the Aleutian Islands and known as the Hawaii-Emperor chain. Midway was formed roughly 28 million years ago when the seabed underneath it was over the same hotspot from which the Island of Hawai'i is now being formed. The islands of Midway Atoll have been extensively altered as a result of human habitation. Starting in 1869

with a project to blast the reefs and create a port on Sand Island, the ecology of Midway has been changing. Seventy-five percent of the 200 species of plants on Midway were introduced. The USFWS has recently continued this trend by introducing the Laysan duck to the island, while, at the same time, extending efforts to exterminate other introduced species.

The atoll has some 20 miles of roads, 4.8 miles of pipelines, one port (on Sand Island), and one active runway (around 8,000 ft long). As of 2004, Henderson Field airfield at Midway Atoll has been designated as an emergency diversion airport for aircraft flying under ETOPS rules. The FWS closed all airport operations on November 22, 2004. Public access to the island was restored beginning March 2008.

The location of Midway in the Pacific became important to the military. Midway was a convenient refueling stop on trans-pacific flights. It also became an important stop for Navy ships. Beginning in 1940, as tensions with the Japanese were rising, Midway was deemed second only to Pearl Harbor in importance to protecting the U.S. west coast. Airstrips, gun emplacements and a seaplane base quickly materialized on the tiny atoll. The channel was widened, and Naval Air Station Midway was completed. Architect Albert Kahn designed the Officer's quarters, the mall and several other hangars and buildings. Midway's importance to the U.S. was brought into focus on December 7, 1941 with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Six months later, on June 4, 1942, a naval battle near Midway resulted in the U.S. Navy exacting a devastating defeat of the Japanese Navy. This Battle of Midway was, by most accounts, the beginning of the end of the Japanese Navy's control of the Pacific Ocean. Midway was also an important submarine base for what was known as the *Silent Service*.

Ham radio operations were prevalent in the 60's and 70's with easy access for hams in the know, but with the islands falling to the Fish and Wildlife Services in 1988, the island is very restricted in access. Becoming part of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Nat'l Marine National Monument, further restrictions have all but eliminated ham DXpeditions. A visitor program is in the works starting in March 2008, for eco-tours to the islands, and this might provide the "foot in the door" needed to get the island back on the air, at least with a DXpedition. According to the memo from the USF&WS the excursions will be weeklong ventures for eco-tourists and history buffs. (If you are interested and want to go, look at www.oceanaic-society.org). Thanks to Wikipedia for info on Midway.

QSL of the month- BL7IK: Emil shows some firepower on his qsl.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
7 Jan	KB5TMY	14	10 Min
14 Jan	KB5TMY	11	13 Min
21 Jan	KB5TMY	9	15 Min
28 Jan	KB5TMY	11	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
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		
147.06+	San Angelo	6 Meter Crossband	
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30/53.63	San Angelo PL 88.5

News Clips

Motorola Completes Tender Offer for Yaesu's Parent Company (Jan 17, 2008) -- On Wednesday, January 16, Motorola, Inc announced that its subsidiary, MI, Inc, has successfully completed its tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard, parent company of Yaesu. The tender offer period expired on January 15 with approximately 5.4 million shares tendered and accepted. On November 5, 2007, Motorola launched the tender offer, in cooperation with Tokogiken (a privately held Japanese company controlled by Vertex Standard's president and CEO Jun Hasegawa) with the intention of forming a joint venture to develop and sell Vertex Standard products and develop select Motorola products. All regulatory clearances required for the completion of the transaction have been obtained. *Full story @ <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/17/100?nc=1>*

Editor's Notes

By Gary Chaffin/N5GRC

This issue of the Kilo-What marks the return of "Scanner Jack's Corner" as well as an informative article submitted by Mike Dominy/KD5URW. Bill Roberts/WB5ZAM continues to provide his excellent section on DX which is always of interest. I request each of you to try and share with us any items you feel may be of interest to the membership. Articles, events, and other items may be directed to me and I'll do my best to ensure they are included in an upcoming issue. EmComm is the subject of the program to be presented by Mike Dominy/KD5URW at our next meeting. See ya'll there!



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

Get all the latest club news on the
World Wide Web at www.w5qx.org

2008 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/W5JBK
Vice President - Gary Chaffin/N5GRC
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - Mike Dominy/KD5URW
Activities Manager - Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC
Grounds Chairman - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ
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 Gary/N5GRC at 949-0186 or email gchaffin@gmail.com

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



NEXT MEETING:

MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE