

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

July 2004

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 Joe Kent/KC5ILD on June 10 at 1930.

Introductions were made with 20 members in attendance.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in June issue of *The Kilo-What* and the treasurer's report was approved as read.

Old Business

Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Activities Manager, will help set up for ARRL Field Day on Friday June 25, 2004.

Glenn Miller/AA5PK and Bill Richards/WB5ZAM will be our CW operators. Bill will bring his own trailer to use for this purpose.

Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ will use his call sign for the GOTA station. This will be located in Ken Pierson/KD5NXV and Elta Pierson/KD5NXY trailer.

Bob Heiser/W7IKT and Carol Heiser/N5CBQ will operate a station again this year from their motor home. Paul/N7SDQ will operate with the Heisers as well. Paul will go over with the operators the bonus points that will be available.

David Wilcox/N5RBW will barbeque the briskets Saturday for the club. There will be pot luck to go with the briskets. The food should be ready about 1800. David will have breakfast for us Sunday morning.

New Business

The price of a spool of coax and the consideration of purchasing the same prior to next year's Field Day was discussed. Subject tabled for now.

It was brought up that REACT wanted to join the SAARC in the Field Day activities. The discussion became a motion to invite REACT to join in Field Day. The motion was defeated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2012. Following an intermission, Bill/WB5ZAM showed a DXpedition video.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be July 8, 2004 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL  **VEC**

The next regular license testing session will be held on Sunday, July 18, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of **NCVEC Form 605** and \$12 check or money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") for this test session is

required not later than July 12.

Reminder: *The question pool for the General class examination changed on July 1, 2004.* Ensure you study the correct preparation material.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club's Web site <http://www.w5qx.org>.

A Little Bit of Net and Repeater History*By Alex Papoutsas/K5CMW*

A lot of people kid me about keeping old stuff, but somewhere along the way, it seems to come in handy.

The recent gathering of old timers at the SAARC's 80th birthday celebration made me think how it all started for me. After getting my license in 1955, things started getting exciting right away—meeting new ham friends and joining old ones. My first close friends were amateurs like Arnold/W5JXA, Elmer/W5FZY, Carl/W5QX, and Marion/W5RSV. Many more came quickly. Enough of the personal stuff.

Looking back at the history of the 2 meter net is an interesting story. Looking at my first log book, (yes, I still have it) I checked out some dates and calls. Sometime in 1956, Bob Schmalzreid (not sure of spelling)/W5YOX, who was a radio technician for Western Communications, came up with the idea that we could build inexpensive single-frequency transmitters for 160 meters. It would be a club project with Bob doing a lot of the legwork.

He made a list of parts needed and found them in surplus parts catalogs. The receive end of it would be converters (mostly Gonset) used with a car's AM broadcast radio. Bob built the first transmitter and tested it. Complete with the big, bulky antenna to be used on the car, he was only able to talk a few blocks. The units had fairly low power output—a 2e26 in the final driven by a 5763.

The 160 meter plan was soon scrapped and the unit was converted to 10 meters. Running a few watts, we were able to work around the area fairly well. We ground crystals that would operate on 29.188 MHz. That was the net frequency until the early '70s. The net was originally called the Civil Defense Net.

With skip always being a possibility on 10 meters, it was a problem sometimes. During one simulated tornado disaster drill, we stirred some excitement in the north part of the country. The band was dead at the beginning of the drill, so we failed to use the word "simulated" in our drill. Suddenly the band came to life and we had stations from up north calling in to find out where the tornado was in West Texas.

In the early '70s, with the availability of surplus 2 meter equipment, GTE donated several GE Proline units to the local amateurs. Almost every amateur in San Angelo and surrounding area had one in their car and at home. From this, the 2 meter net was born. The first .94 repeater was also a surplus Proline. It was located on Tom Earnest/W5UFO's commercial radio station tower north of town. Sometime later it was moved to the water tower at Mathis Field. In December 1980, a new solid state .94 repeater, built by Al Williams/W5OWX, was put into operation. Through the efforts of Ron Wilson/WB5NBQ, permission was received to place the .94 machine on the men's high rise dormitory (now known as Concho Hall) on the ASU campus.

It's been an exciting journey for me through the years, I hope it will be for the present day amateurs.

By the way, my first contact on the "new" 10 meter home brew rig was none other than Carl Brinegar/W5QX, Carl Brinegar. That was May 9, 1957.



CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in June: ST—Sudan, YA—Afghanistan, KH0—Marianas, 3D—Fiji, TK—Corsica, GJ—Jersey, HB0—Liechtenstein, FP—St Pierre & Miquelon, EA8—Canaries, V4—St. Kitts, IK0—Sardinia, 5W—Western Samoa, VP9—Bermuda, OH0—Åland, 3A—Monaco, CT3—Madeira, ZB—Gibraltar, 7P8—Lesotho, and EA9—Ceuta & Melilla. According to the AR-Cluster Network, for the week June 20-27, there were 201 countries active. Countries available: 3A, 3B8, 3B9, 3D2, 3V, 3W, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4U1U, 4W, 4X, 5B, 5N, 5R, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7P, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8R, 9A, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M2, 9N, 9V, A4, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C2, C3, C6, CE, CE0Y, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, D2, DL, DU, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EP, ER, ES, ET, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FK, FM, FO, FR, FY, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HB0, HC, HH, HI, HK, HK0/a, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I, IS, J7, JA, JD/o, JT, JW, JY, K, KH0, KH6, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OH0, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2, PJ7, PY, PZ, S2, S5, S7, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV5, SV9, T5, T7, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, T19, TK, TR, TT, TU, TY, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V4, V5, V7, V8, VE, VK, VP2E, VP8, VP8/h, VP9, VR, VU, XE, XU, XW, XX9, YA, YB, YI, YK, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZC4, ZD8, ZF, ZK1/s, ZL, ZP, ZS.

Island of the Month

Balearic Islands. Where do you go to escape the cold if you live in the chilly climes of England, Scotland, Germany or points north and east? To the Mediterranean Sea. And the Balearic Islands boast one of the highest volumes of tourists from all over Europe. Situated east of Spain, west of Sardinia (see map) in the western end of the “Med,” the islands draw



“DXpeditions” and vacationers from all over Europe and the colder regions of the area. Multiples festivals and fiestas mark the traditional European cold months. The islands have been a haven for civilization for thousands of years, with megalithic towers and carvings dating to the dawn of civilization. On Menorca alone there are over 500 sites of prehistoric findings, giving the island the nickname “the prehistoric open air museum.” Multiple stone pillars, carved for what appear to be ceremony duties, are found on all of these islands. Most of the famous civilizations in history have come through the islands, leaving their mark. The Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, and the Arabs. Around 1384 they became part of the “Crown of Aragon” (Spain). During the 18th century, the British had control of the islands, and constant power struggles between them,

France, Spain and pirates kept the islands under siege during most of the century. The Balearics have provided Western Culture with a large number of poets, missionaries, and philosophers.

With a temperature and relative humidity around 70 throughout the year, those living there have “a feeling of extreme well-being.” They boast over 300 days of sun, five hours a day in the winter and 10 hours a day in the summer months (so they are also dry inland like Aruba, West Texas, etc.). With a large crafts industry and tourism as their main economy, the



shopping sites abound, as do excellent golf courses, scuba sites, hiking, biking, camping, rock climbing, and whatever one needs to relieve the stress of European life. The water in the primary towns is relatively safe, but bottled water is recommended by one tourist site. Health care facilities are available and meet Spanish standards, as well as Great Britain. Numerous amateurs live there and many new residents are immigrants from the colder countries whom have moved to the islands. To find out more about these islands in the sun, here is one excellent website: <http://www.red2000.com/spain/balears/mallorca/index.html>.

QSL of the Month EA6OI

Joaquin, also known as “Xim” to friends, is a taxi driver by day and a ham at other times. Active from the town of Inca, on Mallorca, he joins a large group of hams that is very active from the islands.

Hope to see you chasing DX. 73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jun 7	KA5VTG	18	10 min
Jun 14	KA5VTG	N/A	N/A
Jun 21	KA5VTG	19	12 min
Jun 28	KA5VTG	14	9 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
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2004 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ

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, JULY 8, 7:30 PM
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE