

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

**July 2005**

## ***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 9, 2005, at 1930.

Introductions were made with 13 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the June 2005 issue of *The Kilo-What* and the treasurer's report was approved as read.

### **Officers' Reports**

Activities Manager, Don Gallion/KD5NAI. The area we will use for Field Day will be mowed and cleaned up the day before we set up. There will be trashcans furnished throughout the area. We will not be charged any fees.

Public Information Officer, Chad Goodman/KD5SMK, is trying to get some business cards printed for the club. Chad has news releases ready to announce our Field Day.

### **Old Business**

Joe Kent/KC5ILD, purchased 1000 feet of RG8X coax and 12 connectors. The total price, including shipping, was \$233.82. It was moved and seconded to purchase the coax and connectors from Joe. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

Tuesday June 14, 2005, several of the members at the meeting will meet at the clubhouse at 1830 to clean the Field Day trailer. The new coax will be cut to length and connectors put on. We will purchase fuel and run the generator.

### **Good of The Order**

Split-the-Pot was worth \$7 to the winner, Lloyd Glasscock/KØGEN, and to the club. Lloyd donated his share to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2024.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be July 14, 2005 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

## ***President greets Field Day 2005 participants***

*From The ARRL Letter, June 24, 2005*

President George W. Bush sent greetings from the White House to everyone participating in ARRL Field Day 2005:

"I send greetings to those celebrating the annual Field Day for Amateur Radio, hosted by the American Radio Relay League. Across our country, amateur radio plays a vital role in relaying important information to the public and emergency service personnel in times of need," the president said.

"By providing emergency communications at the federal, state and local levels, licensed Amateur Radio operators help first responders and law enforcement officials save lives and make our country safer. Your efforts help ensure the right assistance gets to the right people at the right time. I appreciate all ham operators who give their time and energy to help make our citizens more secure. Your good work reflects the spirit of America and contributes to a culture of responsibility and citizenship that strengthens our nation. Laura and I send our best wishes."

An annual exercise aimed at developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio, ARRL Field Day took place this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Stations throughout the Americas participated.

## License Testing News

# ARRL VEC

*By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner*

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, July 17, 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 July 11.

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.

## Amateur Radio and the ISS

*By Emily Clarke, W0EEC – VP of Project OSCAR*

One of the most important additions to amateur radio satellites has been the addition of amateur radio equipment on the International Space Station. The amateur radio equipment on the ISS allows the astronauts and cosmonauts to conduct QSOs with schools around the world, other amateurs, and when not in use it provides services that all hams can use. Because it is in an environment unlike other satellites (pressurized, temperature controlled) the ISS is using the same type of radio equipment many amateurs use on earth! With its huge solar panels, the ISS is also not strapped for power like most amateur radio satellites, so hearing the ISS is as easy as listening to a local repeater.

### How the ISS Communicates

The ISS is using a Kenwood TH-D700 and usually operates at a power of 10 watts, which is almost 20 times the power of AO-51 in low power and 5 times AO-51 in high power. With this much power, the average HT is able to hear the ISS without any modifications or upgraded antennas. Since the TH-D700 has a built-in TNC, it can operate as a APRS digipeater while in packet mode (the most used configuration), or it can be used by the astronauts and cosmonauts as a voice transceiver. Additionally the TH-D700 can operate as a cross band repeater! This means it can also be used much like a terrestrial repeater and other amateur satellites.

### Listening to the ISS

To listen to the ISS, you simply have to tune to the transmit frequency the ISS is using. The worldwide frequency for this is 145.800 MHz. If the ISS is in packet mode, you will hear packet/APRS signals similar to what you would hear on the APRS frequency (144.39 MHz). However, don't be surprised if you hear an astronaut or cosmonaut talking to school children or even other amateurs. If the American astronaut is having a QSO, they will use the call sign NA1SS. If the Russian cosmonaut is having a QSO, the call sign will be RS0ISS. If you hear amateurs having QSOs with each other it indicates the ISS is in voice repeat mode and open for amateurs around the world to use the ISS as a repeater.

### Using the ISS for APRS

Using the ISS for APRS is very easy—you simply use the digipath "UNPROTO VIA ARISS" and the ISS will digipeat your APRS packets. You will need to receive on 145.80 and transmit on 437.80 MHz. If you are successful, you will see your packets repeated by visiting the ISS APRS website: <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/ariss/index.cgi>

### Using the ISS Voice Repeater

Using the ISS voice repeater is a little more difficult. If the ISS is in voice repeat mode, you will have to receive on 145.80 and transmit on 437.80 MHz (there is no PL tone required). However, because of Doppler shift, you will need to start to tune your transmitter about 5 kHz below the center frequency when the ISS is approaching, and tune to about 5 kHz above the center frequency after it passes overhead. This is very critical if you expect to be heard. It's also tricky—unless you are working full-duplex you will not be able to tell if you are making it through the repeater.

### ISS QSL Cards

If you are lucky enough to log a QSO with one of the astronauts, you will qualify for an ISS QSL card. Refer to the ISS website for QSL and other information at: <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>

## Scanner Jack's Corner

*By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY*

These are the frequencies (MHz) to monitor during severe weather:

Goodfellow AFB

138.125

163.4875

165.0125

National Weather Service

162.550

Tom Green County Sheriff's Office

155.700 AND 155.370

EMS hospital

155.340 AND 460.600

2 meters

146.940 ALT 146.880 AND 147.340

70 centimeters

444.225

Fire Department

154.190, 154.130 AND 154.160

Angelo State University

155.520

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM



*By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM*

**DXpeditions in July:** CY9, CY0, J3, J6, SV5, V31, HR9, C9, KP2, HI, PZ, ZK, YK, KH0, 3DA0, OH0 and FP.

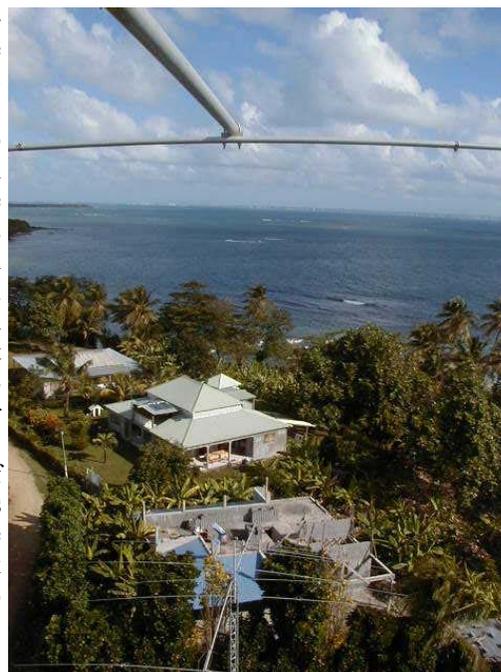
According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week June 19-26, there were 200 countries active. Countries available: 3B8, 3B9, 3V, 3W, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4X, 5B, 5H, 5N, 5R, 5T, 5V, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8R, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M2, 9M6, 9Q, 9V, 9Y, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C3, C6, CE, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, CY9, D4, DL, DU, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EP, ER, ES, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FK, FM, FO, FP, FR, FY, G, GD, GI, GM, GU, GW, H4, HA, HB, HB0, HC, HI, HK, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I, IS, J5, J6, J7, J8, JA, JT, JW, JY, K, KG4, KH0, KH2, KH6, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OH0, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2, PY, PZ, S5, S7, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV5, SV9, T7, T8, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, TI9, TK, TR, TT, TU, TZ, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V5, V7, V8, VE, VK, VP2V, VP5, VP8/h, VP9, VQ9, VR, VU, XE, XU, XX9, YA, YB, YI, YK, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZC4, ZD7, ZK1/s, ZL, ZP and ZS.

### Island of the Month

**Guadeloupe Island—FG.** This butterfly-shaped island in the far end of the Caribbean was “discovered” by our friend Christopher Columbus in 1493. More history on the island was not readily available until the French claimed the island in the 17th century. As with most islands in this part of the Caribbean, the natives were probably from the South American Amerindians who were found all along the windward islands. Lying at 16°15’N/61°35’W, the designation for the group is the Guadeloupe Islands, but is actually nine different islands. The main island is in two parts—Grand-Terre and Basse-Terre. There is a channel that runs between the parts and they are described as two completely different islands. Basse-Terre is the western part and is noted to be more typical of the Caribbean islands, being mountainous and volcanic in origin while the eastern part, Grand-Terre, is flatter and has mostly agricultural producing areas. The western half has the highest point of the island, the volcano (active and accessible by motor coach), and also has a large area reserved as a Nature Park with waterfalls, dense jungle and streams. The island group notes to have about 450,000 inhabitants, of which 95% can read and write (although they do so in French). Electricity is the standard 220 VAC of Europe. Amenities abound with beaches, golf courses, scuba, snorkeling, hiking, biking and just being lazy all available. The climate is classic Caribbean with temperatures in the 70s to low 80s, humid in the afternoons and breezy in the mornings and at night. With a rainy season from mid-April to October and hurricane season from May to November, they have essentially two seasons—one wet and one humid. The primary industries are sugar cane (they also make a nice rum), bananas, tropical fruits, vegetables, cattle, pigs and goats. Tourism is a big industry as it is in most of the Caribbean. Religions are not very diverse with 95% Roman Catholic, 4% pagan African and 1% Protestant. The other islands in the group also contain islands we think of as ham islands: St. Barthelemy and St. Martin, as well as Isles des Saintes, La Desirade, Isla de la Petite Terre and Maria Galante. There are nine airports with one international. The large airport is home to the national airlines that flies directly into the island from Miami. As noted below, the locals are active and can help with mini-DXpeditions. The Japanese ham tourists have also discovered the island and the shack of FG5BG was noted in one of their publications as a place to contest from. Reciprocal licensing is the same as in the European Union (FG/WB5ZAM, etc.). To date there has been little local interest in forming a state-run communication board that would provide FG calls for testers. Medical care is on the same standard as the French system in Europe, and the primary languages are French or French patois (like Creole). Gastronomically the island is noted for food rivaled only in Paris with many chefs coming to the resorts to treat the tourists to French cuisine. Life expectancy, birth rates and morbidity and mortality rates are similar to US standards. They have a local police force and, if needed, have the French armed forces to provide assistance. There is a push for the island to become independent of France, but their reliance on imports from France as well as economic aid make going it on their own difficult. Many of the Caribbean islands are trying to start a united Caribbean state (CARICOM) that would have the member states as part of a whole, so that they are able to bargain with the world as part of a larger group versus individually. This movement has been off and on over the past 30 years, but as we swing into the 21st century the more progressive islands are pushing their neighbors to improve their international bargaining power.

**QSL OF THE MONTH—FG5BG:** No QSL, just a photo from the top of his tower looking to US. Georges is not only very active, but has a barebones apartment with radios and tower for the ham wanting to go sit and operate without taking equipment with him. More photos and info from his shack can be found at: <http://www.qth.com/dxshack/FG/FGtop.htm>. He has two radios and two towers (60 and 100 ft) just for the ham station.

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



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jun 6	----	- No Net -	----
Jun 13	KD5NAI	14	18 min
Jun 20	N7SDQ	14	13 min
Jun 27	KB5FNK	20	13 min
Jul 4	----	- No Net -	----

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

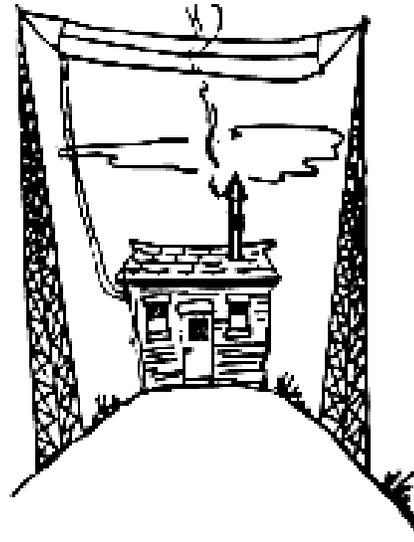
2 Meter		70 centimeter	
145.27-	San Angelo PL 88.5	441.750+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.64-	Sterling City PL 88.5	442.250+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.72-	Eldorado PL 100.0	444.225+	Robert Lee PL 162.2
146.88-	San Angelo	444.350+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5 when needed		
147.06+	San Angelo	<b>6 Meter Crossband</b>	
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30/53.63	San Angelo PL 88.5

## Associate Member



MEMBER  
PROFESSIONAL SALES GUILD  
BILLY W. ROE  
SALES MANAGER

IVEY MOTOR COMPANY  
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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 - Lloyd Glasscock/KØGEN  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ  
Activities Manager - Don Gallion/KD5NAI  
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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING:  
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1930  
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**