

The eKilo-What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

July 2006

Meeting Minutes

By John Marshall/KC5FMX, VP

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Glenn Miller/AA5PK, on June 08, 2006 at 1930. Introductions were made with 12 members and 3 guests in attendance.

The minutes for the May meeting were approved as printed in the June issue of *The Kilo-What*, and the Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Two new licensees from the May license class—Katie Plum/KE5OIZ and Myron Schmiedekamp/KE5IBF—were welcomed.

Old Business

An update on the clubhouse cleanup was given. Painting the outside still is on the schedule. Ron/KD5WXJ has procured the paint.

Since the club will not be setting up in the field for ARRL Field Day 2006, June 24/25, several members have decided to operate W5QX in Class E (emergency power). Anyone who wants to operate is welcome to come out and do so. We'll have some burgers burning on the grill.

A Technician license class is planned for the fall, probably September. It was mentioned that the new Technician question pool takes effect on July 1, 2006.

Interest in a hidden transmitter hunt was polled. A fox hunt antenna "clinic" will be held in the near future so those interested can assemble an inexpensive DF antenna for the hunt. John/KC5FMX will head up the clinic.

Plans continue for holding the club's 82nd birthday party on Saturday, October 14, beginning at 1100. Invitations will be sent to all current and former club members advising them of the event.

New Business

There was no new business.

Good of the Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$6.50 to the club and to the winner, Doug Smith/KC5TRQ, who donated his portion to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2008.

Following a brief intermission, Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ, club trustee, presented a talk on Project 25.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be July 13, 2006 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL  **VEC**

The next regularly scheduled test session will be July 16 at 1300 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 10.

Note: A new Technician question pool went into effect on July 1, 2006. Ensure you use the correct version of license study materials if you plan to test for Tech after July 1.

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.

President's Message*By Glenn Miller/AA5PK*

Another Field Day has come and gone and W5QX was on the air. making a few hundred contacts in SSB, CW and PSK31. Bill/WB5ZAM, Sam/KA5OAI, Gary/N5GRC, Ron/KD5WXJ, Charlie/WB5T and I, manned the clubhouse from contest start at 1300 local until about 2000 local when we decided we'd had all the fun we could stand. We operated one station mostly on 20 meters and the other on 40 using the inverted vee antenna using the 5 kW generator for power to keep us in Class E. Bill and Sam tried their hands at CW for the most part while I think I worked every station there was to work on 40 SSB. After that we tried a little PSK31. At his point in the current solar cycle, conditions were not too great (for PSK) in the late afternoon/early evening on 40.

All told, we worked a few hundred stations on the various mode, and, as usual, we had more food than we needed. Our only visitors were non-club members: Janet/KC5QCB and Randy/AJ5ZX dropped by at the end of the day's operations to check us out and swap some war stories. I took a few photos and will get them downloaded from my camera one of these days and posted to the Web site.

BTW, Paul/N7SDQ sent a newspaper clipping about the Valdosta (GA) Amateur Radio Club's Field Day outing. I'm sure Paul was at the mic for at least part of the weekend. Sorry we didn't find you on the bands, Paul.

Ron/KD5WXJ and Gary/N5GRC completed painting the outside of the clubhouse since the last meeting. That "rig paint" should last a long time. It certainly made a difference in the appearance of the front of the building. We had a new batch of honey bees swarming around the clubhouse on Field Day Saturday, too. Perhaps a group of hatchling since Ron had done a good job discouraging them from hanging around last month. He fought the wind on FD Saturday and gave them another dose of Sevin, which works pretty well. There were very few bees left at the end of the day.

I'm working on getting a tour set up of Phil Kothmann/W5RP's antenna farm and shack for the club. According to Charlie/KC5EZZ, Phil will be happy to host us again, but he took a lightning hit a while back and is still recovering from it. When you see his antennas and other exposed hardware, you'll understand why he might take a hit from time to time.

At the August meeting, we're planning on having Charlie/KC5EZZ bring some equipment out to the clubhouse so everyone can check out their FM gear on a professional quality analyzer. If you think your mic is too hot (or not hot enough) or you're curious about the deviation of the older rig you've been using, bring it out and we'll be able to check it over and, if you have the manual, tweak it back to factory spec.

We're still planning to hold a fox hunt this summer. There was enough interest expressed at the last meeting and John/KC5FMX is going to hold a DF antenna clinic so everyone can assemble a portable antenna that will help them locate the hidden transmitter. More information at the meeting on the 13th.

Hope to see you then.

Five Hams in Space - Three Will Remain On-Orbit With ISS*From AMSAT News*

When the STS-121 Mission is launched, it will have three radio amateurs aboard. These three Discovery crew radio amateurs will join with the two hams already aboard the ISS for a total of five radio amateurs in space. The radio amateurs aboard Discovery are Mission Specialists Lisa Nowak, KC5ZTB, Stephanie Wilson, KD5DZE, and European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut and Mission Specialist Thomas Reiter, DF4TR.

Reiter will remain on the ISS as part of the Expedition 13 and 14 crews joining with Expedition 13 Commander and cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, and Flight Engineer and NASA Station Science Officer Jeff Williams, KD5TVQ.

The Discovery Shuttle carries no Amateur Radio equipment on this mission.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in July: 9Q, FM, H, A7, SV5, TOØ, FO5, T6, YM, HH, EA, SU, HQ, V25, J6, SV9, ZM8, C9, VP2M, FO, ZD8, 9M6, KHØ, 5B, 5H, CU7, SV5, FW, VP5, FP, and Z3 are all to be on the air. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week June 11-18, there were 204 countries active.

Island of the Month

BV-Taiwan The island of Taiwan lies some 200 kilometers off the southeastern coast of China, across the Taiwan Strait, and has an area of 35,801 square kilometers (13,823 square miles). The East China Sea is to the north, the Philippine Sea to the east, the Luzon Strait directly to the south and the South China Sea to the southwest. The island is characterized by the contrast between the eastern two-thirds, consisting mostly of rugged mountains running in five ranges from the northern to the southern tip of the island, and the flat to gently rolling plains in the west that are also home to most of Taiwan's population. Taiwan's highest point is the Yu Shan at 3,952 meters, and there are five other peaks over 3,500 meters. This makes it the world's 7th highest island. Taiwan's climate is marine tropical. The northern part of the island has a rainy season that lasts from January to late March during the southwest monsoon, and also experiences "Plum Rains" in May. The entire island succumbs to hot humid weather from June until September, while October to December is arguably the most pleasant time of year. The middle and southern parts of the island do not have an extended monsoon season during the winter months, but can experience several weeks of rain, especially during and after Lunar New Year. Natural hazards such as typhoons and earthquakes are common in the region. With its high population density and many factories, some areas in Taiwan suffer from heavy pollution. Most notable are the southern suburbs of Taipei and the eastern stretch from Tainan to Lin Yuan, south of Kaohsiung. In the past, Taipei suffered from extensive vehicle and factory air pollution, but with mandatory use of unleaded gasoline and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, the air quality of



Taiwan has improved dramatically. The motor scooters which are ubiquitous in Taiwan, especially older or cheaper 2-stroke versions, also contribute disproportionately to air pollution in Taiwan. Land and soil pollution has decreased as Taiwanese industry moves out of heavy industry; however, several toxic sites left mainly by foreign companies continue to pose challenges. Solid waste disposal has become less of a problem as a nation-wide recycling movement has taken hold, especially with support from Buddhist charity organizations. Water pollution remains a problematic issue. Nearly 90% of sewage waste in Taiwan is dumped into waterways untreated. Several rivers are so heavily polluted that it would take billions of dollars to clean them, which is politically infeasible. (Source: wikipedia--<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan>).

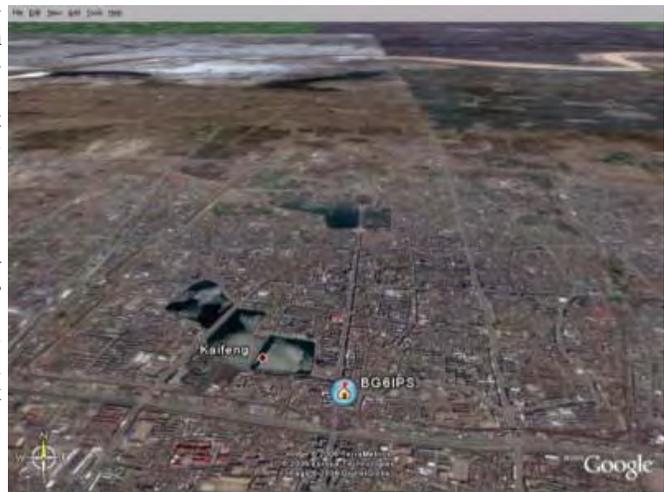
With early civilizations dating back to over 30,000 years, the present aboriginal population can be dated to around 4000BC. The current population is over 23 million people. In 1544 Portuguese explorers named the island Il Formosa (Beautiful Island). With various world powers vying for the island, it has changed governing powers numerous times over the past 450 years. Dutch, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese have all had designs on the area. Some of the islands surrounding Taiwan are also claimed by Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries. Freedom from one country's rule usually meant another jumped in and tried to subdue the islanders. The Japanese gave the island back to China after WWII, and then the nationalist's under General Chang Kai-shek established an independent country. True independence has not really been recognized, as the mainland China government continues to try to absorb the island back into the Chinese governed areas. Advanced in most areas of electronics, they are a major exporter to the US and to China. In the world economy it is now hard to differentiate "Made in China" from "Made in Taiwan" as the Taiwanese call them products as made in China (originally Free China but that was too long for the tags) and the mainland says that there is not a country of Free China (Taiwan), just a prefecture or self governing area, still part of the whole China. Verbal exchanges (saber rattling) and posturing are part of the ongoing exchanges between the "countries." Hams are very active and many are active on 6 meters and 10 meters when the bands are open, competing with Japanese and Korean hams to work everyone in the US. QSLs have always been a problem as their return of cards has been historically slow. Modern medical facilities abound, as well as the problems large populations bring with them. Crime, drug usage, and the problems of a country growing faster than the rest of the Asian market make the island a typical emerging power in the world economy.

QSL of the Month BG6IPS

Zhang Sheng (Chang Sheng) lives in China proper and shows us how to use Google Earth software to pinpoint his QTH in Kaifeng City, China.

Note: I was looking at old files and realized that this is beginning of year 10 of writing for the Kilo-What. Hope y'all enjoy it as much as I enjoy the research and writing about places around the world.

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73 de Bill, WB5ZAM.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jun 5	KA5VTG	14	8 min
Jun 12		--- no net ---	
Jun 19	KA5VTG	17	7 min
Jun 26	KA5VTG	10	5 min
Jul 3	AA5PK	9	5 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



Remember to join or renew your membership with the American Radio Relay League through the club secretary. The club gets a commission on each membership.

Name This Piece of Equipment



Keith/K5LSM correctly identified the Eddystone 850/2 in the June newsletter.



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 - //Vacant
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, JULY 13, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**