

# The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

July 2009



## Field Day 2009

The San Angelo Amateur Radio Club held its 2009 Field Day on June 27-28 at the end of Spillway Road at Lake Nasworthy. A total of forty members, guests and visitors attended the two day event. Stations in operation included CW, SSB HF, 6-m, Satellite, Digital (PSK-31), and a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station. A total of 593 QSO's were made. Here are a few highlights:

CW QSO's - 335  
Digital QSO's - 16  
Phone QSO's - 223  
6-m QSO's - 59  
HF QSO's - 76 (35 on solar power)  
GOTA QSO's - 90  
Satellite QSO's - 17 (on solar power)  
Total QSO points - 1888

Total Bonus points - 1210

Total points - 3098

This compares with 1908 last year.

Thanks go to all who participated and made the event a great success. Here are some of those who made it happen.

Tom Austin/K4OTM and Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC who coordinated the overall plans.

CW Team who made those 335 QSO's: Bill Richards/WB5ZAM, John Oppenheimer/KN5L, and Walt Johnson/K1QS, Tom Austin/K4OTM, and Sam Morgan/KA5OAI

Digital QSO's—Gary Chafin

Digital QSO's: Gary Chafin/W5ETJ

Satellite QSO's: Glenn Miller/AA5PK

6-m Station: Don Hejl/N5SVK

GOTA Station: David Lewis/W5DLL and Mike Dominy/KD5URW and others who made QSO's. We had three youths this year.

Thanks go to:

Mike Dominy /KD5URW for getting the HF antenna trailer ready.

Jack Roberts/KB5TMY who was out night watchman and who passed four NTS messages.

Bob Heiser/W7IKT and Carol Heiser/N5CBQ for their RV which housed the HF station.

Charlie Royall/WB5T for proving the Portapotti

Gary Pittman/KE5TXL for providing ice.

Those who prepared food: Ronnie/KD5WXJ and Sharon Mecklenburg, Jane Austin/N4WES, LaRae Kent/KC5KXY, Louise Hall, and Elta Pierson/KD5NXY.

Joe Kent/W5JBK who prodded us all to get the job done.

Thanks go to the following sponsors who made the Field Day a financial success:

American Truck and RV

H-E-B Food Store

Wal-Mart SuperCenter North

Wal-Mart SuperCenter South

Sam's Club

Mrs. Baird's Bread

Athletes World

Thanks also to John David Fields, City Councilman, SMD 1 for attending and making a QSO on the GOTA station.

We know we have overlooked someone but please accept the thanks of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club for all your hard work. It was a great Field Day 2009. Next year would be even better.

Look at the photos on the next pages to see what happened.

### Field Day Photos



Field Day Photos (continued)





### Scanner Jack's Corner

de Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

Here are the frequencies to monitor during the hurricane season.

#### W L O MARINE TELEPHONE HF

4.369  
8.788  
8.806  
13.110  
13.152  
17.260  
17.362

#### COAST GUARD HF

4.426 WX  
6.501 WX  
8.764 8.502 WX  
13.089 12.788 WX  
17.314 WX  
5.690 5.693 5.696 8.980 8.983 8.996 11.202 SAR

#### HAM HF

##### 80 METERS

3.950 HURRICANE NET  
3.862 HURRICANE NET

3.873 TX ARES NIGHT  
3.905 HOU EOC  
3.935 CENTRAL GULF COAST  
3.955 SOUTH TX  
3.922 BIG BEND  
3.990 TRAFFIC NET  
3.940 TROPICAL PHONE NET

##### 40 METERS

7.248 RACES  
7.273 ARES  
7.285 ARES  
7.290 TRAFFIC NET  
7.265 SATERN  
7.268 CENTRAL GULF COAST  
7.237 TRAFFIC NET

##### 20 METERS

14.325 HURRICANE NET  
14.265 SATERN  
14.300 MARITIME MOBLE NET  
14.303 INTERCONTINENTAL ASSISTANCE TRAFFIC NET  
14.290 ARRL TRAFFIC NET  
14.313 INTERCONTINENTAL TRAFFIC NET

NEXT MONTH I WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE TRAIN FREQUENCIES.

## National Weather Service Day Award

Hector Guerrero, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the San Angelo National Weather Office at Mathis Field presented the club an award for the contacts made during Skywarn Recognition Day, December 6, 2008.

Using the San Angelo Weather Service call of N5NWS SAARC members made 167 QSO's, contacted 33 states and 25 NWS offices. This earned SAARC a Supercell Thunderstorm Certificate for the 25 contacts.



In the photo, SAARC Club President Joe Kent/W5JBK receives the award from Hector Guerrero/KC5BRB of the NWS

## Emergency Communications

de Mike Dominy/KD5URW  
Emergency Coordinator

June ARES Net Report				
Date	Net Ctrl	Check-ins	Time	Freq
6/1	KD5URW	7	15min	444.350
6/8	KB5FNK	8	25min	444.350
6/15	KD5URW	13	26min	444.350
6/22	KD5URW	12	21min	444.350
6/29	KD5URW	11	29 min	444.350

### ARES Net

Meets every Monday night at 8:30 CST (2030 hr) on the 444.350 repeater (N5SVK) with other frequencies announced on Concho Valley Net at 8:00 pm.

The Tom Green County ARES group had their monthly meeting on the 18 of Jun 09.

We had a good meeting discussing plans to do a complete testing, rebuild, and installation of the old B&W antenna that came off the old San Angelo DPS building, on top of the city/county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on 11 July 09. The workday for installing this antenna, support stands and other required antennas started around 8:30 AM that Saturday morning. We will also be working in the radio room of the EOC to work on the computers and the radios.

The group had a good discussion on the up coming Jamboree On-The-Air (JOTA) that is set this year for the 17th and 18th of October. The local Boys and Girl Scout Councils are eager to start promoting it, now that only a few months away. The Councils will be working with the club and group to hammer out a schedule for this year, so that

they can get a flyer created and distributed to the Boys and Girls Councils to try and promote the event. Since this event also coincides each year with the Boys Family Camp event, at Camp Sol Mayer, it was mentioned that the group and/or the club might be interested in setting up a station down at the Camp and letting the Scouts at the camp participate as well. The group had a good discussion on ideas on this and would look into this being part of the upcoming annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) training exercise for October and to work at involving the San Angelo ARC, the Tom Green Co. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the local District 44 Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) for this event.

The group also had a discussion on the possibility of helping the council during their Merit Badge University, held each year in August, to help with a Radio Merit Badge program. This would be a two-day event and all Scouts will pre-register for the different Merit Badges being given out. They asked of we would like to help out and consider teaching the Radio Merit Badge at this function. This event with the Radio Badge might draw some interest for the boys and possibly from the group and maybe some members for the club. The date for this has been moved to December, which will give everyone time to promote the event more for all scouts.

Not much on the weather side, just some nice rains and cool days for a few days, but know it is back to the heat wave for us in West Texas. This heat will start to dry out the vegetation in no time before you know it. We all need to be ready for everything that may come up anywhere. With the storm season still possible and the heat wave on us, we must stay alert, so keep your 'Go-Bags' and our 'Family Ready Kits' ready for anything that could come up. We need to be ready for we may be called at anytime about any storms or major files within the area and any of the surrounding areas.

You never know what may come up and we maybe called to assist with the EOC or any area shelters, so Stay Ready.

## Amateur Radio License Classes and Exams

### Amateur Radio Technician Class and Open Exam

- **Date:** 1st and 8th of August 2009.
- **Location:** The Commons House in the new Centennial Village on ASU. The building is just off of Rosemount Ave. and Ave N. The class will run from 8 a. m. until 4 p.m. There is still class seats available,
- **Open Exam:** for all classes on August 8 at about 1:30 p.m.

### General License Class and Open Exam

- **Date:** 12th and 19th of September 2009
- **Location:** At the same place as the Tech Class.
- **Open Exam:** will be given on September 19 at 1:30 p.m.

If you know of someone who would like to take the class, please get with Mike Dominy / KD5URW at kd5urw@arrl.net or call him at 716-9675 or get with Ralph Stout / KA5ULE at zell7@verizon.net.

## Recent SAARC Programs

<i>June '08</i>	Antenna Theory and Design, I <a href="#">Bill Tarn/AE5AW</a>
<i>July '08</i>	Field Trip AE5AW's QTH <a href="#">Bill Tarn/AE5AW</a>
<i>August '08</i>	Field Trip to Tom Green County EOC
<i>September '08</i>	Antenna Theory and Design, II <a href="#">Bill Tarn/AE5AW</a>
<i>October '08</i>	SAARC Birthday Celebration
<i>November '08</i>	Trunk Tracking <a href="#">Jack Roberts/KB5TMY</a>
<i>December '08</i>	Eat and Meet Meeting
<i>January '09</i>	Antenna theory And Design, III <a href="#">Bill Tarn/AE5AW</a>
<i>February '09</i>	Amateur Satellite Communications <a href="#">Ralph Stout/KA5ULE</a>
<i>March '09</i>	Digital Communications, PSK-31 <a href="#">Gary Chafin/W5ETJ</a> , <a href="#">Ralph Stout/KA5ULE</a>
<i>April '09</i>	Solar Activity and Ham Radio <a href="#">Joe Lynch/KG5X</a>
<i>July '09</i>	APRS <a href="#">Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ</a>

## July Club Program Highlights

Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ presented a program on APRS, Automatic Packet Reporting System used to report the position of a transmitter in real time. Charlie showed a small compact system consisting of a 2-m transceiver, a TNC, and a GPS unit. With this simple system information about the position of a mobile station can be reported. Other information can be transmitted from fixed stations, as well as mobile stations, include weather reports and forecast information. The information is collected and is available on the internet at such sites as [aprs.fi](http://aprs.fi) where real time plots of moving stations are shown.

Charlie made available a handout and a CD with information about APRS systems. This information is available on his ftp website at <ftp://69.39.56.240/>. Enter this into your browser. When prompted enter *guest* as the login and *aprs* as the password. The login and password are all in lower case. As an option, to make things easier to see when you login, go to the view tab and select open the site in

windows explorer option. You may email Charlie at [kc5ezz@texascom.com](mailto:kc5ezz@texascom.com) if you have any problems or questions.

It was a very informative program and a number of questions were raised.

Thank you Charlie for the program.

(Note: from website [aprs.org](http://aprs.org), APRS is a two-way tactical real-time digital communications system between all assets in a network sharing information about everything going on in the local area. On ham radio, this means if something is happening now, or there is information that could be valuable to you, then it should show up on your APRS radio in your mobile. APRS also supports global callsign-to-callsign messaging, bulletins, objects email and Voice because every local area is seen by the Internet System (APRS-IS)! APRS should enable local and global amateur radio operator contact at anytime-anywhere and using any device.)

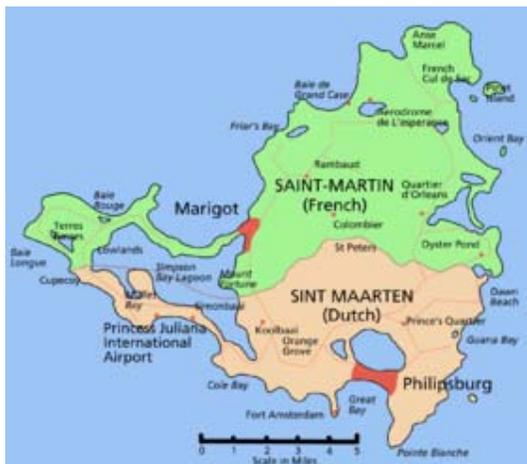
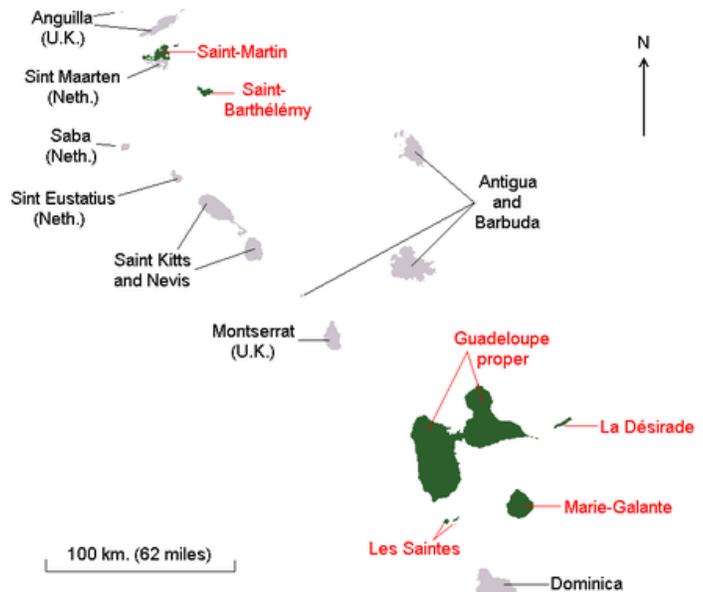


## CQ DX de WB5ZAM for Aug 2009

**Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions during August:** For August let's try something different. Here is a link to current DX info and some photos. <http://www.425dxn.org/monthly/425-200905.pdf>

### Island of the Month: St Martin-PJ6 / Sint Maarten-FJ, FS:

Found at the northwest end of the Caribbean chain, [18°04'N 63°03'W] this island is noted as the smallest island with two countries sharing the mere 37 square miles of land. The island was divided between France and the Netherlands in 1648. "The French territory covers about two thirds of the island and is technically a part of Europe and the European Community. The Dutch side is a member island of the Netherlands Antilles and part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, but not considered European territory. There is no real border, just modest monuments and signs. The island is known as an almost perfect holiday environment; beaches and nightlife are spectacular, shopping and dining the best in the Caribbean. Without visiting, it is impossible to imagine the variety of landscape, cultures and entertainment to be found here. St. Martin just doesn't FEEL that small... Its central mountain range provides for a rugged and interesting terrain, with winding roads up and down the hills, through small villages and still plenty of untouched land.(1, 2, 3)" The northern end is administered by the French Government, as a separate overseas collectivity of France.



The official currency is the Euro, but the US Dollar is widely used and accepted. Tourism is the primary economic activity of both countries. St. Martin is the ultimate micro cosmos, home to residents from over 90 different nations. The island broke out of the Antillean group of third-world economies and societies and became the exciting, active, bustling economic center of the Northeastern Caribbean. To be sure, there are problems associated with its rapid growth, but there are also stunning success stories to be told.

The island ethnic groups are found from West Africa, Mestizo (French-East Asian) European, East Indian, and Mulatto. Languages spoken: St-Martin: French; Sint Maarten: Dutch; both sides: English, Creole, Papamientu and Spanish. In 2006 the southern

Dutch portion of the island had approximately 34,000 residents, while the northern French end has about 40,000. In 1998 the Medical School on Montserrat was moved to Sint Maarten. This due to the volcano there erupting and closing most of the island to habitable living, and a new campus was established on the French end of Sint Maarten.



## .CQ DX de WB5ZAM for Aug 2009 (continued)

"The Caribbean's largest lagoon is the Simpson Bay Lagoon, landlocked with the exception of two narrow channels with draw bridges. The Lagoon is large enough to have a real sail and is home to a giant fleet of yachts, which are either berthed in one of the luxury marinas or anchored in the sheltered waters. St. Maarten has become the yachting center of the Caribbean, home port to some of the world's most outrageous megayachts (2)."" Crystal clear waters, golf, "Jungle zip-lines", parachute jumping, horseback riding are all things to do while there, besides lying on the beach or gambling at their Resort Casino. You thus note that the island (countries) is really geared to tourists, and in fact France gives incentives to citizens to come to the island for vacation (as a note, the French are noted to have less inhibitions on the beaches than other tourists, so there are more topless and clothing optional on the French versus the Dutch ones).



The resort surrounding the one golf course was blown away by a hurricane in 1995 and not rebuilt. So although a perfect spot for a well manicured course, tourist web sites do report that the course is playable, but needing maintenance badly at other times. There is a Course Shop, but not much else. (On the island they do also have Harley Davidson rentals!)

Ham radio is simple, since both countries are part of the EU ham radio agreements; reciprocal licensing is as simple as going to France or Holland on vacation (just take a copy of your license). Many contesters utilize the islands "perfect spot" for weekends or weeklong or longer dx-peditions (4).

### References

- (1) <http://www.st-maarten.com/>
- (2) <http://www.experiencestmaarten.com/>
- (3) <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/st-martin-sint-maarten>
- (4) <http://k9jy.com/blog/2009/03/02/suitcase-dxpediton-to-st-martin-and-saba/>

**QSL OF THE MONTH- FS5UQ:** K3LP really likes both sides of the island of Saint Martin/Sint Maarten, and has made multiple trips to participate in contests from there. Here is a QSL from their 2004 Dx-pedition during the ARRL international DX CW contest.

**General info:** eQSL is an inexpensive way to QSL. Check out eQSL at [www.eqsl.com](http://www.eqsl.com). If you do any significant DX this is easier than paper cards, and now is good at the ARRL. Also look at using Logbook of the World (see [www.arrrl.com](http://www.arrrl.com) for more details on that).

**See you on the bands chasing dx. 73 de WB5ZAM.**



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

<u>Date</u>	<u>NCS</u>	<u>Check-ins</u>	<u>Duration</u>
6/1	KB5FNK	24	14 min
6/8	KB5TMY	22	20 min
6/15	KB5FNK	22	22 min
6/22	KB5FNK	27	18 min
6/29	KB5FNK	26	21 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

<b>2 Meter</b>		<b>70 centimeter</b>	
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 PL 88.5	444.350+	San Angelo PL 162.2 (Echo-Link Node)
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5	444.875+	Brady PL 162.2 Linked to 444.225+
147.06+	San Angelo PL 103.5		
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30	San Angelo PL 88.5
146.90-	Brady, TX PL 162.2		
146.62-	Brady PL 114.8 (Echo-Link Node)		



P.O. Box 4002  
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### 2009 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/W5JBK  
 Vice President - Don Hejl/N5SVK  
 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 Buddy/KD5SBE at  
949-7731 or email [vparker6@suddenlink.net](mailto:vparker6@suddenlink.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING: 8/13/09  
PROGRAM:  
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**