

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

June 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 May 12 at 1803.

Introductions were made with 17 members, 1 associate member and 4 guests in attendance.

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

Officers' Reports

Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Emergency Coordinator, compiled a new list of operators (and back-ups) for the radio at the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service purchased a new Icom IC 2720. Our radio has been returned to the clubhouse.

Good of The Order

Split-the-pot was worth \$6 to the club and to the winner, Louise Hall. Louise donated \$4 back to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1815.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be June 9, 2005 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

Seen at 2005 Dayton Hamvention

Thanks to Charlie/KC5EZZ



License Testing

ARRL VEC

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

The next quarterly 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 is 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.

Choosing A Satellite Radio

By Emily Clarke, W0EEC – VP of Project OSCAR

The purchase of a new radio is possibly the biggest, and most debated, decision a radio amateur makes. When I started out, I asked a dozen people and got as many answers. In the end, I made my decision not on what people told me, but by considering what I wanted the radio to do. Choosing a satellite radio is easy if you know what your needs are. Rather than make specific recommendations, let's examine some general capabilities.

Simultaneous Dual Band: Satellites generally transmit on one band and receive on another. There are a number of dual-band radios, but can you listen on 70 cm and transmit on 2 meters at the same time? This **cross band** capability is an absolute requirement. If your radio will do **split band** operation, this probably qualifies.

Full Duplex: Generally you don't need a full duplex radio for repeaters; however, when operating satellites, it's important to monitor your own signal retransmitted by the satellite. Although you can work the easy sats with a split-band radio, **full duplex** is highly recommended. Dual-VFO radios generally meet this criterion.

Handheld or Fixed: If you plan on working satellites indoors, antennas will probably be up on the roof or on a tower. You'll need extra power (10 watts or more) because you'll also have cable losses to overcome. If most of your contacts will be made outside with a handheld antenna, a handheld radio might be all you need.

All-Mode: All-mode radios are fixed or mobile radios capable of both **FM** and **SSB/CW** modes. They're more expensive, but put out up to 100 watts. FM-only radios can be used for many satellites, but high orbiting satellites always use SSB/CW modes. If this is your goal, an all-mode radio is for you. A word of caution: some handheld radios say they are all-mode, but it is generally only AM receive, not SSB.

HF: Currently only two operational satellites use HF: AO-7 operates in Mode A (2 meter transmit, 10 meter receive) and AO-51 has a PSK mode that is 10 meter transmit and 2 meter receive.

Packet: Some radios have built-in terminal node controllers (TNC). These convert data from the satellite and display them on a screen or computer and vice versa. Other radios don't have built-in TNCs, but have a data port for a TNC. Make sure it supports 9600 baud data.

Computer Interface: Not all radios have the ability to be controlled by a PC running a tracking program to automatically correct for **Doppler shift**. While not very important for FM, it's a highly desirable feature for SSB/CW operation. This feature is generally only available on all-mode fixed station radios.

Whatever your decision, it can sometimes become permanent. Though you can quickly sell a radio you aren't happy with using online auctions, it's generally a decision difficult for amateurs to make. So the best advice is to buy the radio which meets your current needs and possibly the needs you may have in the future.



ARRL Field Day 2005

June 25-26

Mark your calendar!

Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

HF frequencies (MHz) to monitor during hurricane season:

Coast Guard starts 4A 4P 10A 10P

4.426

6.501

8.764

13.089

WLO every hour on the hour

4.369

8.788

13.110

17.362

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in June: DXpeditions: 3D2, 7Q7, 9M8, A35, C37, C6, CY9, EA6, EA8, HR, TF, TI, TK, V31, VP5 and XU. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of May 8-15, there were 217 countries active.

Island of the Month

Saba - PJ8: As a Dutch protectorate, Saba shares the PJ prefix with St Maarten and St Eustacius, although a separate island. Lying in the eastern Caribbean at 63.13°W/17.38°N, this 5-square-mile island does not boast of unlimited beaches, casinos, large hotels, golf courses or any of the tourist attractions of the rest of the Caribbean. With the shortest airport runway in the Caribbean [1300 feet], only STOL planes can get into the airport. The island is volcanic in nature and rises from the sea floor in huge cliffs with few spots where the sea can deposit sand. Snorkeling, scuba and seclusion are the main attractions of the island. With no large hotels, the bed and breakfast and small cottages provide the few tourists that visit a place to stay.

The French, Dutch, British and Spanish all tried to settle and claim the island, but the Dutch provided the families to settle and farm the island, and they then turned to fishing. Saba enjoys low unemployment, an absence of crime and few of the social problems endemic on larger islands. With a total population of 1200 people, most are related and know the happenings of others on the island. The island is considered a free port with no customs, but does require standard identification for visitors of the West. Commercial electricity came late to the country (partial in 1966, then 24/7 in 1970) and is the US standard 110 VAC/60 Hz. The official language is Dutch, but everyone speaks English. Night life is limited to the weekend island-wide party. Towns being small, the reliance on satellite TV has made local stations non-existent. And a small influx of tourists each year has not stimulated interest in a golf course or tennis courts. Each village has what they call "unique" restaurants and supposedly worth sampling.

The largest export from the country is the intricate lace the local women make and sell over the Internet and to tourists. Internet access is apparently limited with only one Internet café on the island. The second main export is called "Saba Spice," a 150-proof rum mixed with locally grown spices. Things to do: Nature hikes and mountain climbing and scuba in the crystal clear waters of the island's park system (apparently the entire shore is considered in the Park and thus are better protected from over fishing). Deep sea fishing is popular with many tournaments originating at larger islands in the area and coming into the deep waters around Saba. According to the dive sites, they have drop offs to over 1600 feet and, being a non-industrial country, have little or no pollution and thus a flourishing coral system. These reefs come into close proximity of the shores, making snorkeling popular in some areas of the coastline.

Amateur radio, due to the island being part of the PJ Netherlands Antilles, has been kept to a minimum with operators working from the larger islands of the group. There are some DXpeditions to the island and QSLs from these are still sought after. Saba is the opposite of most of our visited islands with a lack of tourist focused activities, with little focus on drawing cruise ships or large groups to the island. The weather is classic Caribbean with a dry and wet season and rainfall increasing in May and slacking off in October, and a hurricane season starting the first of May and running into late November. Getting to Saba is problematic with most going to either Puerto Rico and then catching the STOL aircraft or into St Maarten and catching the ferry. There is one main road on the island with one stretch just right for runners, climbing through 14 sharp curves from almost sea level up to 1400 feet. The lowest town and capital city is The Bottom which is 250 meters above the sea. To get from the pier requires a hike up 80 plus stairs carved from the rock. The pier/harbor is able to handle large sailboats and small cruise ships. The roads, once said impossible to build, are now are 9 miles in length and were hand-built by the islanders themselves. The first stretch was built in 1947 and the whole road finished in 1958. There are four towns/villages: The Bottom, St. John's, Windwardside and Hell's Gate.

One of the few things you would expect on such a small, and low population island is a medical school. The school, located in the capital of The Bottom, accepts 50 students a year who complete the first 2 years of a standard medical program and are then transferred to major training centers in the US. The school is approved by the New York Department of Education and accredited by the Accreditation Commission of Colleges of Medicine, as well as The Medical Board of California Licensing Division. <http://www.saba.edu/>

QSL of the Month

A61R: Rashed is very active on all bands from the United Arab Emirates.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
May 9	KA5VTG	14	9 min
May 16	N7SDQ	9	5 min
May 23	---- No Net ----		
May 30	AA5PK	10	6 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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P.O. Box 4002
San Angelo, TX 76902-4002

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at 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

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



**NEXT MEETING:
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**