

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

June 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 May 11, 2006 at 1935.

Introductions were made with 15 members and 1 guest in attendance.

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

Correspondence

Glenn/AA5PK read an e-mail from Robert/W5AJ from the Midland ARC concerning the annual ARRL Field Day competition among ARRL WTX Section clubs.

Old Business

Glenn/AA5PK gave a report on the clubhouse cleanup he and John/KC5FMX had performed on April 15. Much junk was removed from the garage (filled the dumpster!) and the carpet was thoroughly vacuumed. Ron/KD5WXJ will pick up rig paint to finish the needed updates on the outside of the building. The date to do that is TBD.

Glenn gave a report on the progress of the Technician license class which had its first session in May 6. Twenty students had attended and all had gone well with Glenn and Ralph/KA5ULE presenting the material.

Glenn gave a report on Community Awareness Day held at Sunset Mall on April 22. Glenn and Charlie/WB5T manned the club's booth from 10 AM until 4 PM, passing out literature and signing up students for the license class.

Glenn reminded everyone of the upcoming X Bar Shootout bike races Sunday, May 21. The races begin at 0800, so we need to be at the ranch by 0730. There will be breakfast and lunches provided to all volunteers.

A discussion on ARRL Field Day 2006 revealed there was no interest among the membership in expending the time and resources to set up in the field this year.

Glenn reiterated the October anniversary/birthday meeting has been moved to Saturday, October 14, when we will begin the meeting at 1100 and have a lunch and birthday cake and ice cream with former and current club members as well as possibly inviting the media and turning the club's birthday into a PR event.

New Business

There was no new business

Good of the Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$8 to the winner, Don Gallion/KD5NAI, and the club. Don donated his share to the club's radio fund.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2010.

Following an intermission, Bill/WA6CMJ, David/KA5VTG and John/KC5FMX presented an informative talk on hidden transmitter hunting/radio direction finding techniques and equipment.

License Testing News

Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL  **VEC**

A special license testing session was held on May 13 at the San Angelo Visitor's Center to accommodate the students of the license class.

Administering Volunteer Examiners were Don Goff/AB5BG, Charlie Royall/WB5T, John Marshall/KC5FMX, and Chuck Joseph/N5JED.

Twenty candidates were administered 21 examination elements with the following results: Nineteen new Technician class licensees.

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 goes 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

The big news in May, of course, was the successful completion of the Technician license class and the 95% pass rate the 20 students attained at the VE test session following the second class on May 13. I think we proved that a well organized, well located, well presented class can achieve great results. Ralph and I had a good time presenting the material and have decided we'll hold another class in the fall—perhaps in September or October. As you already know, the Technician license question pool changes effective July 1, 2006, so our teaching materials will have to be updated to accommodate the new test questions. Our thanks to Don/AB5BG, John/KC5FMX, Chuck/N5JED, and Charlie/WB5T for administering the examinations.

I have to commend Bill Murphy/WA6CMJ, David Wolfe/KA5VTG and John Marshall/KC5FMX for their fine presentations at the May club meeting. Each contributed useful information from their own experiences in radio direction finding and antenna use and construction. The presentation lasted almost until 2200 and I think everyone learned something.

In June, Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ will give a presentation on Project 25, the national effort to provide communications interoperability between local, state and federal agencies to preclude problems identified on September 11, 2001 and several times since (e.g., Hurricane Katrina). It should be of interest to anyone who operates a radio or plans to participate in emergency communications.

The X Bar Shootout mountain bike races on May 22 went very well. We had eight club members and a guest make the trek to the ranch: David "U.B" Buck/KB9VTD, Adam Buck/KE5FHA, Neal Buck/KE5FDJ, Dennis Spring (non-amateur helper), John Marshall/KC5FMX, Bill Richards/WB5ZAM (rode down on his iron horse), Gary Chaffin/N5GRC (welcome back from Virginia!), Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC, and me. While the day started out overcast and breezy, by 1 PM the sun had broken out and things began to heat up rapidly. Many of the racers on the 48-mile marathon course called it quits after their second time around the 16-mile loop. A total of 71 bikers started the marathon course and approximately 45

managed to sweat through the whole course. As always, Stan Meador and the race organizers expressed their appreciation for our help and hoped to see us again next spring when they do it again. To those of you who volunteered to assist and weren't able to come: you missed a good time.

We welcomed five new or renewing members to the club last month. I've sent guest membership/congratulations letters to the students in the license class who earned their tickets at the test session. We'll welcome them to the club meetings and enjoy the programs and meet the members.

Hope you can make it to the meeting on May 8.



WX4NHC Hurricane Season 2006 Station Test Set

From The ARRL Letter, May 26, 2006

The National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>> will conduct its "Hurricane Season 2006 On-Air Station Test" Saturday, June 3, from 1300 until 2200 UTC.

The annual station test provides an opportunity for WX4NHC to check out all of its radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. It's also a chance for RFI monitoring of NHC equipment and to conduct some operator training. It is not a contest or simulated hurricane exercise.

WX4NHC will operate on HF, VHF and UHF. Phone frequencies will be 7.268, 14.325, 21.325 and 28.525 MHz. CW frequencies will be 14.035, 21.035 and 28.035 MHz. PSK31 will be on 14.070 MHz. Look for WX4NHC on the DX spotting networks as well. WX4NHC also will be on the VoIP Hurricane Net <<http://www.voipwx.net/>> (IRLP node 9219; EchoLink WX-TALK Conference) from 1700 until 1900UTC. WX4NHC also will operate on South Florida area VHF and UHF repeaters and on FM simplex.

When working WX4NHC, report your call sign, signal report, location, name and a brief description of current weather conditions (e.g., "sunny," "rainy," "windy"). Non-hams may participate by submitting their actual weather conditions using the On-Line Hurricane Report Form <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/WX-form1.html>>.

QSL cards are available for an SASE to WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, 14855 SW 67 Lane, Miami, FL 33193-2027. Do not QSL directly to the National Hurricane Center.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in June: 4W, S79, VK9N, ZF2, HH, SV9, TK, FM, XU, OY, PJ4, A7, ISØ, TO(FM)6W, PJ2,,P29 V2, and C9. According to the AR-Cluster Network, for the week of May 20-27, there were 218 countries active.

Islands of the Month

D4—Cape Verde: Discovered by the Portuguese in the 15th century, they were uninhabited until whaling and the importance as coaling refueling points were found. Subsequently the islands became a trading center for African slaves headed for the Caribbean or the Southern states of the US. Upon gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, the islands formed free political parties based on the Portuguese legal system, and also pursued an interest in unifying with Guinea Bissau. But deep political rifts kept the countries on separate paths. Cape Verde established a stable democratic government, which is one of the few in the light of Africa's constantly tumultuous political climate. In the 20th century, this government has been challenged due to persistent droughts. Major immigration has reduced the market of farm hand aged population. But this huge expatriate population sends large amounts of money to their families and helps keep the economy on the islands strong.

The islands lie at 16°N/24°W, 440 km off the western coast of Africa. Their climate is temperate with warm dry summers and "meager rainfall" during the June to September "rainy season." The lack of rainfall is not new "The poor resources and the long and constant droughts which have always struck the country forced Cape Verdeans, more than three centuries ago, to look for other places in search of a better life. Therefore, the immigrating population (500,000) is well above the local resident population. This makes Cape Verde a country of immigrants, who, however, maintain very close relations with their homeland. Cape Verde comprises 10 islands and 8 islets. Of volcanic origin and positioned between parallels 15 and 17 of north latitude, Cape Verde is made up of two distinctly different types of islands. Its six inhabited islands, located to the west, are characterized by their mountainous landscapes, whereas the remaining three are distinguished by their long, sandy beaches. The islands are divided into two groups—windward and leeward—named according to the trade winds that reach them from the African Continent. The first group consists of the islands of Santo Antão, S. Vicente, Santa Luzia (disabitata), S. Nicolau, Sal, Boavista, and the second, more to the south, comprises

the islands of Maio, Santiago, Fogo and Brava. The sun spreads its warmth the whole year round, soothed by the fresh sea breeze. The average temperature is approximately 25°C and changes do not exceed 10°C. With vast beaches that allow for all types of water sports, impressive mountains, high quality fish, various types of delicious seafood and the melodious beauty of its music all distinguish Cape Verde as an exciting tourist destination." (<http://www.caboverde.com/ilhas/cve-card.htm#storia>). The island of Fogo has an active volcano, making it partially uninhabitable. The demand for wood has deforested large areas of the islands and threatened several species of wildlife that had been dependant on the woods for their natural habitat. Health care is available through hospitals and clinics on all the inhabited islands. One of Cape Verde's main riches is the sea, due to its very abundant maritime fauna, the underwater platforms and the purity and temperature of the water that varies between 21° to 25°C. (21C=70, 25C=77F, {Geez, could you stand that?})

The islands have a combined population of 420,000, with a combination of Portuguese and African background for most. Literacy is 77%. From the CIA handbook: "The economy is service-oriented, with commerce, transport, tourism, and public services accounting for 66% of GDP. Although nearly 70% of the population lives in rural areas, the share of agriculture in GDP in 2004 was only 12%, of which fishing accounted for 1.5%. About 82% of food must be imported. The fishing potential, mostly lobster and tuna, is not fully exploited. Cape Verde annually runs a high trade deficit, financed by foreign aid and remittances from immigrants; remittances supplement GDP by more than 20%." Unemployment is at 30%, and only 30% are above the poverty line. There are six airports on the islands and 900 km of paved roads. Amateur radio operators are few on the islands with most operating done by visitors from Europe. More information on the islands is available from various tour sites: <http://www.capeverdetravel.co.uk/>.

QSL of the Month

BD4SI

Li, from mainland China, has an impressive shack. Too bad propagation is still down as we should be able to work him once we have 10 meter openings to Asia.

Note: If you have a computer – **back it up, back it up, back it up!** I just recovered from the primary hard drive dying. The computer is only 6 months old and this took lots of data with it. All my documents, since I backed up last in July of last year, were lost. I lost, as well as e-mail addresses, web sites, and my ham logbook since last summer. The contacts with the rare station on Peter I were not on paper, only in the computer. Redundant hard drives are the way to do it, with data from one on an equal or larger sized, non-primary drive. Also my resources highly recommended Norton System Works.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

| Date | NCS | Check-ins | Duration |
|--------|--------|-----------|----------|
| May 8 | KA5VTG | 15 | 8 min |
| May 15 | KA5VTG | 11 | 14 min |
| May 23 | KA5VTG | 15 | 9 min |
| May 29 | AA5PK | 8 | 7 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 |

June's Program



Project 25 is a public safety communications standard dedicated to ensuring interoperability in communications. It is designed to ensure fast and secure communications between local, state and federal agencies when protecting the public's welfare.

Name This Piece of Equipment



Keith/K5LSM correctly identified the Hygain 3570 in the May newsletter. Try this one.



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, JUNE 8, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**