

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

March 2004

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 at 1930 on February 12, 2004.

Introductions were made with 11 members and 3 visitors in attendance.

The minutes of the January meeting, having been amended by Bill Murphy/WA6CMJ, were discussed and clarified to his satisfaction. The minutes were then approved. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Officers' Reports

David/KB5FNK, Vice President, thanked all who participated in the antenna party at the clubhouse on February 7, reminded of SKYWARN training on Saturday 2-14-04 at Trinity Lutheran Church at 3536 YMCA, and announced Coke County Judge Roy Blair/N5MHP will speak on Homeland Security after the meeting.

David/KA5VTG, Emergency Coordinator, was questioned by Bill Murphy/WA6CMJ whether the club was required to send an operator to the EOC to man a radio link to Mathis Field? According to the NWS StormReady guidelines, this is a requirement. David stated there is no precedent for us to man the EOC.

Old Business

Thanks to the following for helping with our antenna party: Members of the Pecan Creek VFD Mike Dominy/KD5URW, Rhett Filburn, Charlie Patterson, and Chuck Robertson; Rich Sheff/KD6HWF, a student at Goodfellow; and club members Joe/KC5ILD, Glenn/AA5PK, David/KD5FNK, John/KC5FMX, Paul/N7SDQ, Ken/KD5NXV, Jimmy/KD5URV, and Ron/KD5WXJ.

John/KC5FMX presented the 2003 Ham of The Year Award plaque to Joe Kent/KC5ILD.

New Business

Paul/N7SDQ mentioned he was part of a new group called the Local Emergency Planning Committee. This committee combines both city and county personnel. They are new and just getting started. However, they are in need of radio amateurs. Check with Paul if you have questions.

Lew Millegan/KD5NAG, Activities Manager, resigned leaving us in need of someone to fill the void, preferably with experience. And to our rescue came Paul/N7SDQ. Just in time for the activities down south. Paul already had 10 amateurs from the club and the surrounding area lined up for the Mas o Menos bike races. Paul is also compiling suggestions for Field Day locations. Give him your ideas.

Good of the Order

Split-the-pot was worth \$10 to the club and to the winner—Jack/KB5TMY. Jack donated his winnings to the club. Thank you, Scanner Jack.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2035.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be March 11, 2004 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

Antenna Work at W52X



On February 2, several club members and Pecan Creek VFD helpers pulled down the old TH-5 yagi from the clubhouse tower and installed the 6-element TH-6. The boom on the TH-5 was not only bent, it was cracked and was held together only by the boom support cable.

The following week, John/KC5FMX, Glenn/AA5PK, and Joe/KD5ILD replaced the aged (15+ years old) RG-8 feedline with fresh RG-213, donated by John. The RG-58 feedline to the Ringo was replaced with 9913.

All that remains is to replace the worn out/broken HF vertical behind the clubhouse with something to operate on 40 and 80 meters (e.g., the Butternut HF2V) and to overhaul the tower grounding system.

Broadband over Power Line

From The AARRL Letter, February 27, 2004

The FCC this week released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The 38-page NPRM—in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37—proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrowband emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead.

"The noise is deafening, but is tolerable because it doesn't happen very often nor last very long," he observed. "To a radio user, having BPL in the neighborhood would be like having the helicopter hovering constantly overhead."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, offered an example most hams could relate to. "The limit for an unintentional emitter on HF is 30 uV/m at 30 meters from the source," he said. "If you take a dipole cut for 3.5 MHz and put it in a 30 uV/m field, you'll have a noise reading of S9 plus 16 dB at your transceiver."

The FCC proposal takes a broader view of interference. "There is significant disagreement among the commenting parties regarding the interference potential of Access BPL," the NPRM declares. "Amateur operators and amateur organizations in general are opposed to Access BPL and advocate emission limits that are lower than the existing Part 15 limits."

Still, the NPRM concedes, Amateur Radio operations "are likely to present a difficult challenge in the deployment of Access BPL in cases where amateurs use high-gain outdoor antennas that are located near power lines." Noting that power line noise already presents a significant problem for hams, the FCC said, "we therefore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines."

The NPRM goes on to point out that because BPL has the capability to stay clear of specific frequencies, BPL providers can simply "avoid the use of amateur frequencies when in close proximity to amateur outdoor antennas." The NPRM also briefly mentions the possibility of interference to BPL systems from Amateur Radio, an issue ARRL and others raised in their comments on last April's Notice of Inquiry on BPL.

The NPRM emphasizes that under the proposed rules, operators of Access BPL systems would be responsible for eliminating any harmful interference that may occur. The FCC says it believes current Part 15 emission limits for carrier current systems—in conjunction with certain additional requirements specific to Access BPL—"will be adequate to ensure that existing radio operations are protected against harmful interference."

Sumner suggested that, with licensed services and government users taking up large portions of the HF spectrum, protecting all licensed HF users could prove to be a nightmare for BPL providers. He noted, too, that while the FCC maintains that licensed services must be protected, the proposed rules place the burden of initiating corrective action on the shoulders of the licensed services. "And as a practical matter, the FCC's proposed rules offer no protection at all to mobile and portable stations," he added.

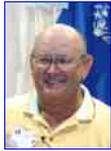
Sumner also said the ARRL would continue to combat the "misconception" that BPL systems are viable as a "last mile" broadband technology for rural dwellers. "In low-density areas, the economics just don't work," he said.

The NPRM is available on the FCC Web site in Microsoft Word format http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc or as an Adobe PDF file http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf.

Interested parties may file detailed comments on the NPRM via the main FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. The comment deadline is 45 days after the NPRM has been published in The Federal Register, and that is not expected to happen for another week or two. The FCC also is accepting brief comments on the NPRM via its ECFS Express page <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload>.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl>.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in March: According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of February 8-15, there were 237 countries active. A lot of DXpeditions in March. Two contests also provide lots of DX for those needing new countries. First, and foremost, are YI9YMA and YI9ZF from Baghdad; FM—Martinique, 6W—Senegal, 9Q—Congo, PJ6—Sint Martin, 9U—Burundi, 8Q—Maldives, VP5—Turks and Caicos, 9Y—Trinidad and Tobago, T32—East Kiribati, XU—Cambodia, VK9N—Norfolk, P4ØA—Aruba, HD8—Galapagos, HR5—Honduras, XF4—Revilleo Gigedo, 9M2—Western Malaysia, 5V—Togo, V8—Brunei, V31—Belize, 3DAØ—Swaziland, T7Ø—San Marino, 3B9—Rodríguez Island, A52—Bhutan, C56—Gambia, JW—Svalbard, T33—Banaba, 9N—Nepal, 7Q—Malawi, and OX—Greenland.

Island of the Month

Faroe Islands - OY. The Faroes (18 total islands) lie half-way between Iceland and Norway at 62°N/7°W. The population is said to be largely descended from Viking settlers, who arrived in the 9th century. The islands have been politically associated with Denmark since the 14th Century and occupy approximately 1400 sq. km.



Although quite a ways north, the islands suffer from mild winters, cool summers, and lots of wind and fog, and are usually overcast. There are few beaches and the shores are mostly rugged, rocky, and have cliffs around most of the islands. The highest point is Slaettaratindur at 882 meters. Fishing is the primary occupation of the islanders. With fishing as a prime industry, and lying in the major North Atlantic shipping lanes, the islanders mostly occupy areas that are low lying, near the sea. The area away from the sea is rough and wind blown and does not support crops.

The population in 2003 was estimated at 46,000. Oil finds in the seas near the Faroes has helped the economy grow. Fishing remains unstable due to the heavy pressure by the Faroe Islanders and other countries.



The first settlers were believed to be Irish Monks, probably in the middle of the 7th Century. The Norwegian Vikings came beginning in the 8th Century and made the Faroes a central part of the Viking settlements in the North Atlantic. Now, under the Danish Monarchy, the islands enjoy a small amount on independence, but maintain their ties to the European community. Hiking and deep sea fishing are the main tourist attractions with almost all land privately held, hiking and camping is only allowed in conjunction some hotels and hostels. Golf has not found a foothold, but tourism is slowing intruding on the daily lives of the Faroese. The utilities are on the European 220VAC



standard and amenities such as digital communications and cell phones are part of the daily lives of the islanders.

With wind a constant factor in their everyday lives, one thing that has not changed from Viking times is the use of grass/dirt for the surfaces of the roofs. Even in the newer homes, this surface provides a warmth that conventional roofs cannot provide. The Faroes are still considered one of the places one can go to get away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Alcohol is limited in access, being only obtained at the “official government” warehouse and not readily available on the economy. They do say on the official sites that if you are going to the islands, you either have health care coverage from the Danish or British Socialized Medicine systems or have your own private coverage. And ham radio is not a big past-time, so hams are not frequently heard on from there. DXpeditions are often heard in the spring (with one expected in May).

QSL OF THE MONTH OY9JD

A real local, Jon was very active in the ‘80s and ‘90s. Not much DX from there now, except DXpeditions.

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

FAROE ISLANDS
OY9JD

JÓN DAM - P.O. BOX 2028 - FR 165 ARGIR
FAROE ISLANDS - CQ ZONE: 14 - ITU ZONE: 18.

QTH LOCATOR: IP 61 OX IP 62 OA IP _____

CONFIRMING MY QSO WITH 1ØHUB				
DATE	UTC	MHZ	MODE	RST
11-12-88	10.22	28	SSB	59

QSL TNX DIRECT 73 de Bill

Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Feb 9	KA5VTG	16	9 min
Feb 16	KA5VTG	21	8 min
Feb 23	KA5VTG	16	10 min
Mar 1	KA5VTG	24	10 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

License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

The next license test session will be held on Sunday, April 18, at 1 PM at the clubhouse.

ARRL VEC

Pre-registration (submission of

NCVEC Form 605 and \$12 check or money order made out to "ARRL/VEC") for this test session is required not later than April 12.

Notice: Test sessions are now held quarterly, on the third Sunday of the month at 1 PM. The schedule for the remainder of 2004 is April 18, July 18, October 17. As before, pre-registration is required not later than 7 days prior to the testing date. Also, the *question pool for the General class examination will change on July 1, 2004.* Ensure you study the correct preparation material if you test after June 30, 2004.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club's Web site <http://www.qsl.net/saarc>.

Information/forms can also be obtained by contacting Rob/N5OIU at 942-7599 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.



P.O. Box 4002
San Angelo, TX 76902-4002

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at www.qsl.net/saarc

2004 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ

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, MAR 11, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**