

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

March 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 at 1730 on February 10, 2005.

Introductions were made with 19 members and 1 visitor in attendance.

Our program on Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was presented at the beginning of the meeting by a representative of CERT as well as a representative of FEMA. The current training schedule is 1 day/week, 3 hours/day, for 8 weeks. Training consists of: disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, disaster medical operations (basic first aid—no CPR), light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology and team organization, course review and disaster simulation. After completion of the course, volunteers are issued a state ID card. This will allow you to get beyond police lines to be able to help your neighbors. CERT is a part of Homeland Security. Nicole Gonzalez, the CERT representative, offered the training to our club as a group and willing to adjust training hours to our schedule. The total training hours are 24. Nicole can be contacted at her by e-mail nicole@cv-citizencorp.org or phone 944-9466. The CERT Web site is www.cv-citizencorp.org.

Officers' Reports

Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Activities Manager. Reminder of Terlingua Mas-O-Menos. Paul would like to have committees for Field Day. One committee for food, one for set-up and teardown and one for equipment, gas, ice and water.

Bryan Robason/KD5WGM, Emergency Coordinator. Bryan was a member when he was elected as EC. Afterward he accepted employment in the Northern Panhandle leaving the office open. Paul/N7SDQ was interested in the position. Then we would have the Activities Manager position open. Don Gallion/KD5NAI, indicated he would be interested in being the Activities Manager. It was moved that Paul to become EC and Don to assume Activities Manager. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.

As EC, Paul would like to have an on-call roster for the National Weather Service. Each person would be on-call for a specific number of days. There would be backups for each person on-call. Paul would also like to have an NCS roster for the Concho Valley Two Meter Net. Again, there would be back-ups.

Old Business

Coax was tabled.

Water. The Airport Manager said the water meter was hooked up. It was up to us to go to the Water Department and pay whatever fees they have, if we care to have city water. If not the meter would be taken out. He didn't care one way or another. Our letter never went to the City Council. It did not get past the City Manager's office. We will check on the fees and have a report during the March meeting.

Chad Goodman/KD5SMK, Public Information Officer, said the new QSL cards and business cards are forthcoming.

May meeting will be our annual "Old Timers Birthday Party."

New Business

David Wolfe/KA5VTG, stated that SK Ivy Young's equipment would be for sale. He would have more information at our March meeting.

Good Of The Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$11.50 to the winner, Don Gallion/KD5NAI, and to the club.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2036.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be March 10, 2005 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

ARRL VEC

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, April 17, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NCVEC Form 605 and \$12 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than April 11.

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.

News from the ARRL

From The ARRL Letter, Feb 11 & 25, 2005

Vanity Calls

The FCC has proposed retaining the current \$20.80 Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee for the 10-year license term. The fee went from \$16.30 to \$20.80 last August. In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2005" (MD Docket 05-59) released February 15, the FCC says it's proposing to collect more than \$280 million in regulatory fees for fiscal year 2005, as mandated by Congress "to recover the regulatory costs associated with the Commission's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities."

The FCC anticipates 8000 vanity call sign applications during FY2005—up from 7800 applications in FY2004—and it expects to raise \$166,443 from vanity call sign fees.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>.

DX

According to 2004 survey results published in the January/February issue of The DX Magazine <http://www.dxpub.com/>, North Korea (P5) remains atop DXers' "most-wanted" lists for DXCC.

"It was a real surprise to see North Korea at the top of the most-wanted list," commented The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com/> Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR. The most-recent P5 operation was by Ed Giorgadze, P5/4L4FN, in 2001 and 2002, during which he logged more than 16,000 QSOs.

Number two on the list is Andaman and Nicobar Islands (VU4), although a post-survey DXpedition in December likely diminished worldwide demand, despite being cut short by the tsunami.

In third place—but topping the list in four US time zones—was Scarborough Reef (BS7). Fourth is Lakshadweep (VU7), and fifth is Yemen (7O). A DXpedition set for this month from number six Peter Island (3Y/P) could blunt demand for that rare one. Rounding out the top 10 are Navassa Island (KP1) and Desecheo Island (KP5), both under jurisdiction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service which has denied visitation permission, Bouvet (3Y/B) and Kure Island (KH7K).

McClenny, who also edits "How's DX?" for QST, notes there's still a large demand for VU4, but he expressed guarded optimism that the VU4RBI/VU4NRO DXpedition's emergency communication operation following the December 29 earthquake and tsunami would make Indian authorities more willing to allow future DXpeditions. "Keep you fingers crossed," he said.

Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

These are the frequencies to monitor for flash floods and road closures.

NWS
162.550
E.M.S. AND HOSP.
155.340 AND 460.600
F.D.
154.190, 154.130 AND 154.160
D.P.S.
155.475
RED CROSS
47.420, 47.500 AND 47.540
SALVATION ARMY
35.940 AND 35.960
CODE BLUE
463.675
REACT
462.675
STANDARD TIMES
173.225
PARKS
159.270, 159.300, 159.330 AND 159.345
TAXI
157.650 CARS TO DISP.
152.390 DISP. TO CARS
SHUTTLE BUS
865.4625
SCHOOL DIST.
461.050, 461.375, 464.425 AND 464.675
TRASH TRUCKS
855.2875
WRECKERS
155.160

From the W52X.ORG Guest Book

Sunday 02/27/2005 11:46:02 am

Name: Gerald Marchant

Your call sign: WB5NZV

E-mail: wb5nzv@att.net

Comments: Thanks for your help with the Mas o Menos bike race. The young man that was injured was in my group. Excellent work getting him first aid in short time.

Gerald/WB5NZV-Denton, TX

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in March: Corrections: First: The St. Lucia Hamboree is scheduled for March 25-28, and they are planning a special event station downtown on the 26th. You are invited to come help operate. Second: the 3YØX DXpedition was cancelled due to the owners of the boat and the helicopter defaulting on the arrangements and the group would not have been able to stay as long as they wanted. Third: the supposedly new country status of Swains Island was stuck down when the ARRL and IARU determined the one-man society in American Samoa wanted to be an independent country when, in reality, he/they are still American territory and thus fall under the ARRL. Strange what people will do to try to be first from a new country.

Lots of activity in March: XT, PJ, SV5, TL, J6, C6, KH8, FG, TO, GJ, CT3, XV, FT/X, KH2, BW, V7, FM, TT, 9Y, J8, FT/W, 9M, PJ7, PY0Z, FS, J7, S9 (whom we cover this month), V2, HH, VP2V, P4, VP2M, ZK1, 5T and V4. According to the AR-Cluster Network, for the week of February 13-20, there were 228 countries active.

Island of the Month

Sao Tome and Principe - S9. Consisting of a series of volcanic eruption islands, the southernmost just on the equator (0°N/7°E), and the climate is noted as warm and humid. With *two* rainy seasons, it is wet, humid and warm. But things are perking up for this slow into the 20th century island. Oil has been discovered off-shore, and their fortunes are about to bloom. Where in the past the cash crops were sugar cane, then coconuts, then cocoa, now oil and tourism are in their future. The beaches are pristine and the seas are perfectly clear (right now.) They have had problems in the past with inland areas and mosquito-borne diseases, and their governmental infrastructure is a bit weak, such that the President cannot leave without the Army trying a coup. Two hundred thousand claim these islands as home, but with an average lifespan at 66 and a birth rate of 5 children per woman, they are still in need of modernization. A long-time overseas territory of Portugal, the language of business there is, of course, Portuguese, even though the country has had its independence for years. When Communism was at its peak, Sao Tome was one of the areas Cuban soldiers trained before clandestine operations in other parts of Africa. Today few tourists know where the islands are, much less what they offer. Outdoor sports are limited by the high humidity, although there are high mountains internally, one rising to 6000 feet above sea level. No golf yet, and little in the way of tourist activities, so this is either an eco-tourist trip or a dive trip for most. The government is republic-based with elected and appointed members, but being a poor country, they are prone to misuse of power and funds. We are told in the different pages how tough life is there, and then find a QSL from Pekka, from Finland with locals in front of the modern housing and his 2-element antenna. The islands form a chain from the equator, 7° east and 300 miles north. There are two airports with one able to take international flights from Portugal and from the mainland of Africa. Overall degree of risk of diseases is primarily to malaria and to typhoid fever. The country produces for export: fish, cocoa, palm kernels, copra, cinnamon, pepper, bananas, papayas, beans and poultry. Electricity is European 220/240 VAC, and their monetary system is tied to the European economy as all imports and exports are European. With tourism on the rise, they are pushing for more direct flights out of Europe. The best time to visit is between June and September when the humidity is tolerable. With volcanic peaks spiking all over the island, jungle hiking and eco-tourism are on the rise. They have several birds on the islands that are extinct on the mainland, and they are pushing for help in maintaining the habitat for the birds. Housing can run from \$20 to \$220 a day, depending upon one's tastes. And meals run lower than comparable European fare. Deep sea fishing and crystal clear diving waters are attracting more proponents of both sports each year. The islands were uninhabited until in the 1500s when plantation owners started ill-fated sugar plantations and staffed them with slaves from Africa (mainly Angola). The slaves revolted in 1530 and it wasn't until in the 18th and 19th centuries that cocoa and coffee reinvented the slave market and the plantation system. Even with the abolition of slavery in 1875, the low wages and forced labor still took its toll on the natives. Portugal showed its worst face in the early 20th century when Portuguese forces there crushed a strike by killing over 3000 freed slaves. Portugal abandoned the islands in 1974 after more strikes and revolts, taking expertise and money and leaving the population destitute. In 1978 Angolan and Cuban forces moved in to "protect the government," but when communism collapsed in Europe in the 1980s and 1990s, they also left. In 1995 the island was granted autonomy. But coup attempts and multiple parties trying to dominate in such a small island has taken its toll. Political corruption is thought to be as bad as most African states, but the current President is trying, with the Army's help, to rid the island of these individuals and restore an island tourists can feel safe to visit. The current President de Menezes was toppled in a coup in 2003 and restored within a week, all due to the countries uneasiness with plans for vast oil drilling and where the revenue was going. Eighty percent of both islands are still thickly forested, and the central volcanic highlands have fast running, clear streams. Most amateur radio is provided by visiting hams.



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QSL OF THE MONTH S92LC

Luis has had the opportunity to work from Sao Tome for years. As with most hams getting there, he was a Portuguese ham before coming to the island. See you on the bands chasing DX (or maybe in the "Sunny Caribbean").
73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Feb 7	N7SDQ	16	13 min
Feb 14	KD5NAI	17	9 min
Feb 21	N7SDQ	18	8 min
Feb 28	N7SDQ	15	8 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 - Bill Murphy/WA6CMJ
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, MAR 10, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE