

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

March 2006

## *Meeting Minutes*

*By John Marshall/KC5FMX, Vice President*

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Glenn Miller/AA5PK at 1935 hours.

Introductions were made with 16 members in attendance.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the February issue of *The Kilo-What* and the treasurer's report was approved as read.

### **Old Business**

Ron/KC5WXJ will conduct a survey of the improvements/repairs the clubhouse needs so we can determine what materials will be needed for the annual spring cleanup day to be held in late March or early April.

Glenn/AA5PK gave a report on the SKYWARN training held on January 28 and expanded on the programs to be presented at club meetings during 2006. Also discussed the Technician license class to be held tentatively on the first two Saturdays in May. Once the location has been confirmed (David/KB5FNK is checking on the availability of the Emergency Corps building), Hughbert/KC5NPC will get publicity out for a date in mid-April for a presentation to prospective students to let them know what they are in for during the class and to take orders for the book (*Now You're Talking*) to be used in the class.

### **New Business**

Alex/K5CMW gave a briefing on the bike races coming up on February 18 in Terlingua. As in the past, lodging and the Saturday night dinner will be provided by Big Bend ARC. All help with the races is greatly appreciated.

### **Good of the Order**

Split-the-Pot was worth \$8 to the winner, Glenn/AA5PK, who donated his winnings to the club's \$8 share.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2015.

Following a short break, John/KC5FMX gave a demonstration on recovering used PL-259 coax connectors and showed all how a professional installs a PL-259 on RG-8 type cable.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be March 9, 2006 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

## *President's Message*

*By Glenn Miller/AA5PK*

The annual St. Patrick's Day hamfest sponsored by the Midland ARC is fast approaching (March 4-5) and will be held at a new location this year. If you didn't get the flyer, you can read all about it at <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org/>.

If you skipped the February meeting, you missed an excellent demonstration by John/KC5FMX on correctly removing and installing PL-259 coax connectors. John has attached more than a few connectors in his professional career and he provided many tips he's learned with all that practice from using an inexpensive device to control the iron's heat to getting the solder to flow without melting everything around it.

At the March meeting, we going to go over the easiest antenna you can make—the dipole. Be it for 2 meters or 160 meters, the principles are much the same. Ultimately, we're going to get a wire antenna up at the clubhouse so we'll finally have coverage on 40 meters and can operate after the other bands fold. And, if the trap dipole Paul/N7SDQ donated works, we'll have 40 *and* 75 meter coverage.

For those interested in testing at the April session, it was pointed out to me that April 16 (the original date) is Easter Sunday (it pays to look at a holiday calendar when scheduling dates months in advance...) So, the April date has been moved back to April 23 with pre-registration required not later than the preceding Monday (April 17.)

Speaking of testing, the new Technician question pool was released on January 23 and will be used for examination given after June 30, 2006. The new pool is available in a variety of formats at <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=333>.

Tops in Blue, the Air Force's traveling talent show, was in town on February 21, performing at the city auditorium. I half expected to hear former club member J.J./KC5ILE on the repeater during their short stay. His photo appeared in the Standard-Times before the show. J.J.'s on his second tour with Tops in Blue, something relatively rare.

That's all for this month. Hope to see all of you at the March 9 meeting.

By David Wolfe/KA5VTG, Emergency Coordinator

This year's SKYWARN training was another great success. We had about 120 participants. It's great to see this many people interested in severe weather. If you missed SKYWARN training in San Angelo, there are still a few opportunities in the Concho Valley. Visit <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/html/preparedness/schedule06.html> for the schedule.

As I write this, it's the last weekend of the rodeo. Wouldn't you know it, it's raining! Seems like the rodeo always brings rain or cold weather. This year, we had both.

A Yahoo! search for SKYWARN training will bring up a multitude of Web sites. Many of them have equipment lists for mobile spotters. It's important as a SKYWARN spotter to have a go-kit or go-bag. This kit should be ready to go at a moment's notice. You shouldn't waste time looking for spare HT batteries or maps when we get the call. Here is a list of items recommended by several Web sites for your go-kit:

1. Vehicle in good working order, with a full tank of gas, spare tire, and a jack. This is considered a given, just ensuring you have enough gas, a spare tire and jack. Also, your vehicle doesn't need to be a tank, but should be able to withstand light hail damage, or get good insurance.
2. 2-meter and/or 70 cm radio, preferably a mobile with 25+ watts. A 5-watt HT may be adequate if powered from the car battery and amplified. Power is needed to get out in adverse conditions or at the edge of re-peater coverage. If you use an HT, also use a mobile antenna. The body of the car greatly reduces range of rubber duckie antennas.
3. First aid kit, the more the better.
4. Maps of the local area. A county land atlas and plat map is superb. However, the Texas Atlas and Gazetteer or Roads of Texas books also show the county and oil field roads. Keep in mind, that secondary county roads may be flooded or impassable because of debris on the road.
5. Flashlight and backup flashlight with spare batteries for both.
6. Compass. Keep in mind that you'll need to be outside the vehicle to use a compass effectively.
7. Rain poncho, preferably in a bright color like yellow, green or orange.
8. Ball point pens and small spiral notebook. Writing things down helps prevent forgetfulness.
9. Snack food and water. Prepackaged high carbohydrate food items that will not spoil easily are best.

Some optional items include:

1. Backup 2-meter radio for emergencies if the main radio becomes inoperative. Extra charged batteries are recommended. This can be an HT, but have a mag-mount or clip-on mobile antenna (or the appropriate adaptors for your mobile antenna) to use with it.
2. Hiking boots or waterproof boots.
3. Roof-mounted magnetic strobe or light bar for safety. According to Texas Law, any additional lighting used on a non-emergency vehicle for visibility can only be used if the vehicle is parked off the paved roadway.
4. Reflective SKYWARN magnetic signs, stickers, shirts, caps, socks, etc.
5. Cell phone, as backup emergency communications.
6. Amateur radio APRS tracker. Jonathan Brazzell at the NWS office is coordinating APRS tracking for our area. You may contact him at [jonathan.brazzell@noaa.gov](mailto:jonathan.brazzell@noaa.gov) for more information.
7. Anemometer for determining wind speed, and optional wind direction, humidity sensor, and rain gauge.
8. Scanner or All-Hazards Radio for monitoring NOAA weather radio. The NWS teamed with Boy Scouts to help promote the new All-Hazards Radio. If you're using a scanner or 2m rig for this, the local frequency is 162.550. Other area frequencies are available at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/html/nwr/nwr.html>.

## Scanner Jack's Corner

by Jack Roberts/KB5TMY



SKYWARN amateur radio frequencies (MHz):  
 146.94  
 146.88 alternate  
 444.225  
 All Hazards/NOAA same radio  
 162.550 NWS San Angelo  
 FIPS codes

048451 Tom Green County  
 048081 Coke County  
 048095 Concho County  
 048235 Irion County  
 048413 Schleicher County  
 048431 Sterling County

# CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

**DXpeditions in March:** VP2V, C6, TY, ZF, TT, SV5, J3, HR, FT5X, HBØ, 9M2, 9H, V4, JW, VP5, YJ, 5Z, 7Q, 9H, EP, FO, KP2, P4Ø, PJ7, VK9, VKØ, V7, and ZD8.

## Island of the Month

**EA8—Canary Islands.** Consisting of seven islands belonging to Spain, lying along the line 28° 06"N/15°24"W, they suffer from winters with temperatures down to 58° to 70°F in January and up to 70° to 79°F in July. The islands have been a European tourist Mecca for 100+ years. And, as would be expected, the prime income for the islands is from tourism. Ranging from concreted shores and tacky apartment blocks to pristine beaches and hotels catering to the Continental clientele, the islands have apparently been a stopping point in the Eastern Atlantic since man took to the seas. Artifacts have been found from Carthaginian and Phoenician seafarers, along with Roman artifacts. The indigenous population today stands at around 1.8 million whose primary languages are Spanish and Castilian. The islands received autonomy from Spain in 1982. Although Morocco has claims on the islands, Spain's dominance since the 1300s has left little doubt they are affiliated with Spain. Anthropologists have traced the original inhabitants to Berber tribes of northern Africa. But with the islands being in the southern course of vessels sailing from the Mediterranean and European coasts, and the ease for pirates to operate in the area, a highly



diversified population developed. But with the ocean currents leading ships southwest off of Africa, unless the sailors were able to navigate by the stars in the 1000 AD time frame, they would have been swept out to the Atlantic. The islands are not visible from the African shores, so unlike the Arawaks of South America and the Caribbean islands, they would not attract those who could see a distant island and then sail out to see just what riches were there. Especially as the nearest point is 108 km off shore.



The islands each have a capital city: Gran Canaria had Las Palmas, Tenerife has Santa Cruz, Lanzarote has Arrecife, La Palma has Santa Cruz, La Gomera has San Sebastian, El Hierro has Valverde and Fuerteventura has Puerto del Rosario. In La Palma, Tenerife and Gran Canaria, you may find tropical rains, while Fuerteventura and Lanzarote are very dry and guarantee sunshine almost without interruption. On

La Palma, the 2400-meter mountain Roque de los Mucachos overlooks the largest volcanic crater of La Caldera del Taburente. The mountains can be snow-covered while the beaches at their base are at 70°F. Most water for the islands is distilled from the sea and electricity is 220 VAC, the Euro is the monetary instrument, and the tourism industry brings over 10 million tourists to the islands annually. The beaches are described as pure sand by the tourist sites, but in further digging, they are a combination of sand and volcanic rock. Things to do include donkey rides to the volcanoes, snorkeling, golf, and all of the standard tourist distractions. Medical care is available, but has to be arranged through the resorts for tourists. Amateur radio is alive and well and many places host European amateurs having pre-existing antennas and equipment or facilities for hanging or erecting antennas.

More information is available on Wikipedia and at <http://www.red2000.com/spain/canarias/>.

## QSL OF THE MONTH EI5JR

This is the shack of Una from County Derby in Northern Ireland. Count the radios and amplifiers.

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



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

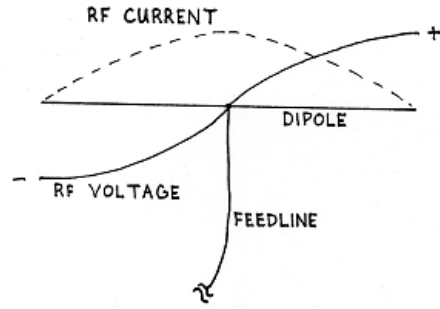
Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Feb 6	KA5VTG	14	8 min
Feb 13	KA5VTG	14	9 min
Feb 20	KA5VTG	11	5 min
Feb 27	KA5VTG	18	10 min

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

## March's Program



*Name This Piece of Equipment*



Keith/K5LSM correctly identified last month's boat anchor as a Galaxy V Mark II.



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

Get all the latest club news on the World  
Wide Web at [www.w5qx.org](http://www.w5qx.org)

### 2006 SAARC Officers:

President - Glenn Miller/AA5PK  
Vice President - John Marshall/KC5FMX  
Secretary/Treasurer - Gary Chafin/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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



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