

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

March 2007

## *Meeting Minutes*

*By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX, Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order by David Behrend/KB5FNK, on February 8, 2007 at 1931.

Introductions were made with 14 members and 4 visitors in attendance.

The minutes for January 2007 were approved as printed in the February 2007 issue of *The Kilo-What*. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

### **Old Business**

SKYWARN training had another big turnout. Those that were unable to attend, there is another scheduled for March.

Joe Kent/KC5ILD made a list of those who wished to order shirts. For sizes up to XL the price will be \$23.50. The Emergency Coordinator did not attend the meeting.

### **New Business**

"Rebuilding Together" (formerly known as "Christmas in April") has been suggested to be an activity we may be able to participate in. Chad Goodman/KD5SMK will check on the program.

Phil Kothmann/W5RP antenna farm was suggested as a possible monthly program. His antennas were hit by lightning not long ago. Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ has been helping to get them fixed. It may be easier to contact with Charlie to get information.

### **Good of the Order**

Bob Freeman/KD5PIX was the winner of the Split-the-Pot worth \$21.

After a brief intermission, Kent Frazier/K5KNT showed a program dealing with storm chasers. This was a very good program.

## *License Testing News*

*Glenn Miller/AA5PK  
VE Team Liaison*

**ARRL**  **VEC**

The next test session is scheduled for Sunday, March 4, 2007, at 1300 at the clubhouse. The normal pre-registration is not required, but you must contact Glenn/AA5PK if you plan to test. Walk-ins will not be accommodated.

All examinees must bring an **NCVEC Form 605** and **\$14** check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC" as well as the original and a copy of their current license and the original and a copy of any CSCE.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club Web site <http://www.w5qx.org>.

Information/forms can be obtained by contacting Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775 or [aa5pk@cox.net](mailto:aa5pk@cox.net).

## *FCC Now Processing Vanity Call Sign Backlog*

*From The ARRL Letter, February 9, 2007*

The FCC has resumed processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. An initial stab at whittling down the backlog began February 8—five weeks to the day after the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) issued the last vanity call sign prior to the resumption. The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications received on or after December 18 while it readied the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> vanity application software to accommodate

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## Vanity Call Signs

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a December 15 rule change to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign. The FCC has continued to accept new vanity applications and to process vanity renewals. A WTB staff member, speaking on background, told ARRL the Commission could wrap up backlog processing and be back on track by next week.

"We've resumed processing, and by next week we'll be caught up," said the staffer, who conceded that the FCC's ULS software had not been fully tested to ensure it could deal with the multiple-applications issue when the new rule's December 15 effective date rolled around. "We knew the date was coming, but the software wasn't quite ready." The staff member indicated the Commission could complete processing of applications that have been sitting in the queue as early as Monday, February 12.

As of February 9, the WTB appeared to have granted some 125 vanity call sign applications submitted between December 18 and December 22. Another 500 or so applications remain in the queue.

The FCC this week also issued a public notice to announce the formal implementation of the multiple applications rule, §97.19(a)(1), effective February 8. The notice said the ULS would limit individuals to filing only one vanity call sign application on the same day. "In the case where an applicant files multiple vanity call sign applications on the same day, only the first-filed application will be considered for the process, and the additional applications will be dismissed," the FCC said. "This new process will eliminate the possibility of an applicant having more than one application for the same call sign being considered on any one day."

The WTB staff member told ARRL that while the FCC knew the ULS software wasn't ready to handle multiple applications on December 15, it went ahead and processed vanity application receipts for December 15, 16 and 17 after determining that no one had filed multiple applications on those dates. The December 18 applications did include at least one such application, however.

"Once we received multiple applications for the same call sign, we knew we had to suspend processing," the FCC staffer explained.

The Commission is likely to receive an avalanche of new vanity call sign applications after February 23, when elimination of the Morse code examination requirement is expected to spur a massive influx of license upgrades.

The FCC is processing new vanity call sign applications now in the queue in the order they were received. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued—or the application is denied. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

### SKYWARN Training Session

Tuesday, March 6  
1900 until 2100  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 3536 YMCA Drive



### Hamfest

The 52nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest will be held on Saturday, March 10, beginning at 8 AM at the Midland Lions Club  
200 Plaza Avenue  
Midland, TX.

For additional information and directions go to <http://hamfest/w5qgg.org>

# CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

**DXpeditions in March:** C5, EA8, 6W, TØ, C6, SV5, PJ7, S9, 5W, VP8, ZF, SU, J5, P4, JW, V8, CT3, 9M, MJ, XU, KH2, V7, 3DA, XV, and ZL. SSB contests: ARRL DX March 3-4 and CQ March 21-22. According to AR cluster, there were 230 countries active in mid-February. According to ARRL propagation, we're seeing a *slow* upswing in sunspot numbers, as though we're swinging into a new cycle.

## Island of the Month

**S7—Seychelles:** The Seychelles consist of an archipelago of about 100 islands in the Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar. The principal islands are Mahé (55 mi<sup>2</sup>; 142 km<sup>2</sup>), Praslin (15 mi<sup>2</sup>; 38 km<sup>2</sup>), and La Digue (4 mi<sup>2</sup>; 10 km<sup>2</sup>). The Aldabra, Farquhar, and Desroches groups are included in the territory of the republic. Located at 4°35'S/55°40'E, the 2006 population was estimated at 82,000. The weather is classic tropical with lows



76° to 86°F and water temperatures 78° to 86°F. Two seasons are suffered: the Norwest Monsoon season in November to March and Southwest Monsoon from April to October. They lie outside the cyclone belt and thus have very few severe storms. They also are located where, even though they are in the Indian Ocean, droughts can affect the local floral and fauna. Life expectancy is 72 (men at 67 and women at 78). Longevity in men is a problem with the ratio of men to women going from 1:1 at 64 to .47 men to women over 65.

The Seychelles were uninhabited when the British East India Company arrived on the archipelago in 1609. Shortly thereafter they became a favorite pirate haven with pirates chasing ships from the Middle Eastern and Indian countries on their way around the Horn of Africa. The French claimed the islands in 1756 and administered them as part of the colony of Mauritius. The British gained control of the islands through the Treaty of Paris (1814) and changed the islands' name from the French Séchelles to the Anglicized Seychelles.

To increase revenue, in 1996, the government quietly initiated an Economic Citizenship Program that provides foreigners with the opportunity to obtain a Seychelles passport upon payment of \$25,000. A new law in late 1995 had granted immunity from criminal prosecution to anyone investing \$10 million in the country. Health care revolves around an English-based free care for citizens system with the primary hospital in Victoria and clinics on the other inhabited islands. Each resort also has a nurse on premises to handle emergencies and to stabilize a patient until they can be transferred to Victoria. Voltage is 220 VAC European standard, driving is the English left side of the road, cars are available to drive the 135 km of roads and, although the water is "safe," bottled water is recommended (to prevent "traveler's trots"). Tourism is the mainstay of the economy along with tuna fishing. Although the official language is English, French Creole is the primary (92%) language of the islanders. Eighty-two percent are Catholic and 7.5% are Anglican. Shops have standard British hours, with a full hour closed at mid-day and closed Sundays. The Seychelles Rupee is the equivalent of the US dollar, and they actually recommend using US Traveler's checks versus European ones. The islands celebrated partial Independence from Britain in 1976, full independence in 1994 with elections and they have a two-party system dominated by the Catholic Church and labor unions. There is a great deal of information on the islands at the sites below. Amateur radio is encouraged and the few local hams are very supportive of visiting hams. The topography of the main islands is flat plains that surround mountainous central areas. And all are ringed with coral reefs with warm waters and lots of snorkel opportunities, hiking, biking and touring. One notable thing missing in the accounts of the islands is if a golf course is present. <http://www.stgt.com/seychelles/html/geography.htm>; <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107955.html>; [http://www.sey.net/isl\\_mahe.htm](http://www.sey.net/isl_mahe.htm)

## QSL of the Month

**YT6A** Ranco shows us how to put up a contest station from Serbia and Montenegro.

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



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Feb 5	KA5VTG	20	11 min
Feb 12	KA5VTG	20	12 min
Feb 19	KA5VTG	05	10 min
Feb 26	=== No Net ===		

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
or PL 100.0 for local transmit		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

## Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

Frequencies to monitor during severe weather:

San Angelo 800 MHz: 855.4625 856.4625 STAYS  
OPEN 857.4625 858.4625 859.4625 860.4625  
859.9375 858.9375

Tom Green Co S.O. 155.700 disp 156.090 156.210  
NWS 162.550 Tom Green Co FIPS code 048451  
Amateur radio 146.94 146.88 alt 147.340 444.225

## Opportunity to Excel

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK  
The Kilo-What editor/publisher

After nearly 15 years of editing and publishing the club's newsletter, the June '07 issue will be my last.

It's been fun, but after 175+ issues, it's time for someone else to take over. There certainly has to be someone up to the task and, if he or she wishes to begin earlier than the July issue, I'll certainly step down then.

I'll be happy to assist in any way whoever comes forward to take the job.

Contact me for details.



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)

### 2007 SAARC Officers:

President - David Behrend/KB5FNK  
Vice President - Kent Frazier/K5KNT  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - David Buck/KB9VTD  
Activities Manager - Chad Goodman/KD5SMK  
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](mailto:aa5pk@qsl.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING:  
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 7:30 P.M.  
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**