

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

May 2003

## *President's Message*

*By John Marshall/KC5FMX*

Another meeting has come and gone with the addition of a few new members thanks to the VE test sessions and the great job Glenn/AA5PK has done in maintaining the club's Web site in expressing our presence.

I would like to thank the officers for helping me with the clubs activities, what little there has been. Maybe by the time my term is over, I will get Robert's Rules of Order down pat. HI.

The PL-259 hands-on soldering demonstration went well except for the removal of a set of finger prints due to my kilowatt iron. I realize that soldering PL-259 connectors is pretty basic, but I was glad to see the hands-on interest. I was approached with an interest in building basic homebrew VHF & UHF antennas. I will get a hands-on program for the next meeting.

Looking forward to the Boy Scout Camporee. Lots of exposure to young minds there. Hopefully Paul's contact will come to fruition.

If any member has a project or an interest in any area of amateur radio to demonstrate, bring it to our meetings. Heat up the ol' iron and melt some solder.

Until then, 73.

## *March 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 John Marshall/KC5FMX at 1934.

Introductions were made with 11 members, 2 visitors, and 1 one new member, Chad Goodman/KD5SMK, in attendance.

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

### **Officer Reports**

Paul/N7SDQ, Activities Manager. Christmas in April was Saturday, April 5, appreciated all who were able to lend a hand. From the SAARC: Paul/N7SDQ, Joe/KC5ILD, and Ken KD5NXV. The Boy Scout Camporee at Goodfellow AFB is May 3, starting at 0700. Paul will keep us posted on the Monday Night Net on number of volunteers and meeting point on the morning of May 3.

David/KA5VTG, Emergency Coordinator. There were SKYWARN activities in northern Tom Green County on April 5. The trained personnel for helping at the National Weather Service is somewhat limited. Those of you interested in helping at the NWS please contact David as soon as possible. The question was brought up why our E.C. did not coordinate with the West Texas Section Manager's E.C. David, while at the Midland hamfest, spoke with John/AE5B, WRX Section Manager, about this matter. Seems the Section Manager does not have a Section Emergency Coordinator designated. Thanks for your time in checking this out David. The Concho Valley Council of Governments has hired Mr. Charles Graves as Director of Tom Green County Homeland Security. David will advise Mr. Graves of our location and that amateurs are willing to volunteer their time and equipment.

### **New Business**

The subject of changing the combination of the lock on the front door was brought to floor for discussion. It was moved, seconded, voted on, and carried to change the combination at least every January. It was moved, seconded, voted on, and carried to change the combination during the April meeting. Club officers have the new combination which is available to all current club members.

David/N5RBW was able to sell some of our excess equipment at the Midland hamfest. His efforts brought the club \$75.

### **Good of the Order**

Split-the-Pot. The big winner was Jim/K5LOZ. Jim and the club hope no one will say anything about this windfall here at tax time. We each have \$6.50 to try and hang on to.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2020. Following a break, John/KC5FMX demonstrated techniques for soldering PL-259 connectors to coaxial cable.

## License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK  
Volunteer Examiner

**ARRL**  **VEC**

Due to the holiday, the next license testing session will be held at 1 PM on Sunday, **June 1**, at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of **NCVEC Form 605** and **\$12** check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than May 26.

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

**Note:** A new Technician Class question pool will be used for Technician examinations beginning July 1, 2003. The SAARC-sponsored June 1 test session will be the last chance locally to use the old study materials/question pool. Be sure to study the newest examination material if you decide to test after June 30, 2003.

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

## Local Repeater News

By Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ

### New Brady Repeater

A new UHF repeater began radiating on Sunday, April 4, across the Eastern Concho Valley. The repeater is located in Brady, and for now, can be linked into the 444.450 repeater at Santa Anna and the 444.300 repeater in Coleman. This link will give control operators in Brady the capability of communicating with the San Angelo National Weather Service via the 444.225 "divide" and 147.340 Robert Lee repeaters located 22 miles north of San Angelo.

The new repeater operates on 444.875 with a plus offset and a PL Tone of 162.2. The repeater owner/trustee is Rick Melcer/N5KAO of Brady.

The repeater was built and installed by Charlie/KC5EZZ with parts provided by Phil White/K5PW and Rick Melcer/N5KAO and me. Coverage toward San Angelo is very good with portable coverage to Eden and mobile coverage continuing to about 5 miles west of that city.

Although this repeater may not be linked to San Angelo at all times, it can be linked by control operators here, if necessary.

### 146.94 Tweaking

An April 19 visit to the 146.940 local repeater confirmed Tommy/N5WJN's suspicions—the repeater's sensitivity was indeed poor again. A slight tweak and we are good as new. I suspect a summer and winter tuning may be required for the machine. Typically, receiver castings like the kind used on the .94 machine can exhibit a deafness in their older years (sounds human to me).

Thanks again Tommy for the heads up!

## DXCC TO ACCEPT IRAQ PORTABLE OPERATIONS

From The ARRL Letter, April 18, 2003

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the League will accept for DXCC credit YI/ operations from Iraq by US or British military personnel provided the operator has written permission from his or her commanding officer.

"There is precedent for this," Mills said, citing an operation during the 1991 Gulf War. "These operators will need written authorization to operate from their commanding officers until an interim Iraqi civilian government is in place," Mills said. After that point, operators would need documented permission from Iraqi authorities.

The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> has reported that several hams with the US military in Iraq have been showing up on the air in recent days. Mark Smith, NG5L, has been active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around 0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz. He's also been spotted in Europe and North America on other 20 meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith is in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Jim Dunkerton, YI/KT4CK, has been active on 15 meter SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. Dunkerton is believed to be with the 101st Airborne. Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ/K4CY, reportedly has been on the air from Iraq as K4CY/p or K4CY/m. Other hams are known to be in Iraq, but have not yet been reported on the air.

Still not known is whether Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN—now in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation last fall—will be on a United Nations World Food Program assignment inside Iraq in the near future. That could depend in part on how big a role the UN plays in rebuilding Iraq.

# CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in May: According to the AR-Cluster Network, for the week of April 13-20, there were 231 countries active. Countries available: 3A, 3B8, 3B9, 3C, 3V, 3W, 3X, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4X, 5B, 5H, 5N, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8Q, 8R, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M2, 9M6, 9N, 9U, 9V, 9Y, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C2, C3, C6, C9, CE, CEØZ, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, D2, D4, DL, DU, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EL, EP, ER, ES, ET, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FK, FM, FO, FP, FR, FY, G, GD, GI, GM, GU, GW, H4, HA, HB, HB0, HC, HH, HI, HK, HL, HP, HR, HS, HZ, I, IS, J2, J3, J6, J7, JA, JD/o, JT, JW, JY, K, KG4, KHØ, KH2, KH3, KH6, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OHØ, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2, PJ7, PY, PZ, R1FJ, SØ, S2, S5, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV5, SV9, T7, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, TK, TL, TR, TT, TU, TY, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6, V7, V8, VE, VK, VK9X, VP2E, VP2V, VP5, VP6, VP8/h, VP9, VQ9, VR, VU, XE, XU, XW, XX9, XZ, YA, YB, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZC4, ZD7, ZD8, ZD9, ZF, ZK1/s, ZL, ZP, and ZS. DXpeditions expected in May: KH9—Wake, ISØ—Sardinia, J5—Guinea Bissau, C9—Mozambique, FO—Austral Islands, 9N—Nepal, E21—Thailand, TX4—Marquessas, VK9X—Christmas Island, ZK1—South Cook, NHØ—Marianas, (look for some good CW contacts May 24-26 in the CQ-WPX Contest), and SV9—Crete.

## Islands of the Month

### Mayotte - FH



Situated in the Mozambique Channel, about half-way from northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique, at 12.5°S/45.1°E, Mayotte has a typical tropical climate with humid, hot, and rainy and dry seasons. Geologically, it's the oldest of the chain of islands listed as the Comoro Islands. It has a population of over 170,000 and a size of 144 square miles. The towns are more like the ones on Madagascar with wide streets and coconut fronds for roofs. The towns of the other Comoros chain islands are fortified and multistoried, while these are one-story, if that.

The Portuguese found the islands in the early years of the 16th century, but in 1595, an Englishman actually landed and claimed the islands. The French, ever watchful of English colonization, claimed and colonized the island in the 1600s. The island was the first of the chain to become a French protectorate. In 1841, one of the locals proclaimed himself Sultan and pursued a contract with the French. He ceded the island to them for 5,000 francs a year in rent and a promise to take his two sons to France to be educated. To this day it remains a French protectorate.

Highest elevation on the island is an ancient volcano named Benara at 660 meters. Life expectancy is 60.21 years, with a fertility rate of 6.15 children per woman. The islanders are 97% Muslim with the rest mostly Roman Catholic. Official language is French, but most speak a dialect of

Swahili. The island is not self-sufficient with most goods, except agricultural and fishing, imported from elsewhere. It is heavily dependant upon France for support. Main agricultural goods are coffee, copra, vanilla, and ylang-ylang (a perfume essence). Food staples, machinery, transportation equipment, metals, and chemicals all are imported. There is one airport and, to date, tourism has not moved into this islands economic scope.

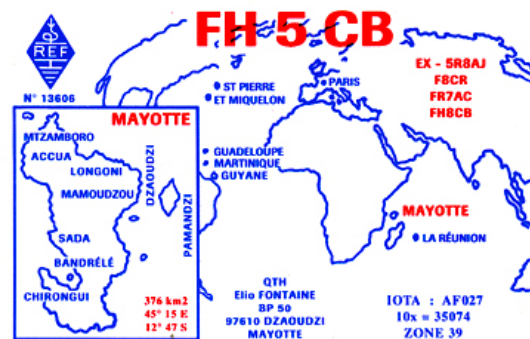
Ham radio is provided by one or two hams on rare DXpeditions, usually by resident hams from nearby French islands. (I couldn't find reference to scuba diving, golf or other forms of diversion for tourists.) As to water, sewage, and electricity, the CIA Factbook had little knowledge to impart. The French provide a small contingent of military for the area, and also provide for social and health care.

## QSL OF THE MONTH

### Mayotte - FH5CB

One of the few hams on the island, Elio Fontaine had problems getting cards from elsewhere ("it must be lost in the mail") and then the post was slow sending cards from the island via France. This was for a 10 meter contact in 1998. And required going through a QSL manager who sent the card via the bureau (you send him an SASE with an IRC and he lumps the cards through the bureau). A lot of repeat mailings to get the final card. But it was worth it when you do get one.

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73.



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Apr 7	KA5VTG	18	11 min
Apr 14	KA5VTG	17	8 min
Apr 21	KA5VTG	12	7 min
Apr 28	KA5VTG	14	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

Jerry White



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Wide Web at [www.qsl.net/saarc](http://www.qsl.net/saarc)

### 2003 SAARC Officers:

President - John Marshall/KC5FMX  
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK  
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG  
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ  
Grounds Custodian - Joe Kent/KC5ILD

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