

# The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

May 2007

## Local Hero

From NOAA News Release. April 19, 2007

<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2007/apr07/noaa07-020.html>

“There are thousands of volunteers who give their time to help NOAA do its work, and the NOAA Environmental Hero award is our way of saying ‘thank you’ to some individuals and organizations each year,” said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator.



“Each year, I am impressed by the efforts of the Environmental Heroes, who serve as inspirations to us all. On behalf of the 12,500 men and woman working for NOAA, I congratulate the 2007 winners.”

### NOAA Environmental Heroes 2007

Charlie Campbell, San Angelo, Texas: Campbell organized a network of “repeaters,” electronic devices that receive a weak or low-level amateur radio signal and retransmit it at a higher level or higher power. This allows the signal transmitting timely severe weather reports from the National Weather Service’s SKYWARN-trained storm spotters to cover longer distances without degradation.

## License Testing News

Glenn Miller/AA5PK, VE Team Liaison

**ARRL**  **VEC**

A license test session was held on March 4 at the clubhouse. Administering Volunteer Examiners were Glenn/AA5PK, Chuck/N5JED and Charlie/WB5T.

Five candidates were administered seven examination elements with the following results: three new Generals and two new Amateur Extras.

The next test session is scheduled for Sunday, July 15, 2007, at 1300 at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (NCVEC Form 605 and \$14 check/money order payable to “ARRL/VEC” mailed to the club PO box) is required not later than July 9.

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@hotmail.com](mailto:aa5pk@hotmail.com).

**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 David Behrend/KB5FNK on April 12, 2007 at 1933.

Introductions were made with 17 members and 4 visitors in attendance.

The March 2007 Minutes were approved as printed in the April 2007 issue of *The Kilo-What*. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Hector Guerrero/KC5BRB and Jonathan Brazzell/KCØILC from the San Angelo National Weather Service office presented the club with the 2006 SKYWARN Recognition Day participation certificate for operating N5NWS. Glenn Miller/AA5PK, the organizer of the 2006 SRD, accepted the certificate on behalf of the club.

Hector and the other members of the National Weather Service nominated Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Environmental Hero Award. NOAA issued ten of these awards this year. Charlie Campbell (our trustee) richly deserves this high honor. Charlie was flown to Washington, D.C. on April 19 and was presented his award the following day. On April 24, Hector/KC5BRB from the San Angelo National Weather Service will furnish a cake and everyone will chip in on pizza for Charlie Campbell at the clubhouse. The media will be invited. Festivities will start at 1730 and last ?

**Old Business**

We had considered the Texas Roadhouse for our Eatin' Meetin'. Seems they do not have a separate room for us. They would only close off one part of the regular seating area. Some of the members are looking for reasonable locations. The sooner we can reserve a location the better.

Field Day is gaining ground on us all the time. Many of the members would like to go to the spillway. We have the wheels in motion to secure that location and get meals and what have you lined up. Anyone with ideas or that would like to help in any way, let us know.

Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC has the locations and times for those who signed up to help on the Rebuilding Together project. This will be on April 28 beginning at 0730. All will meet at the Christmas in April building on South Oaks.

**New Business**

There was a handout of the script of the Concho Valley Two Meter Net. Anyone who would like to help with the net, please let David Behrend/KB5FNK know. Should there be a time when no one seems to be doing the net, and you would like to try, go ahead. We will help you along all we can.

**Good of the Order**

Jim DeLong/K5LOZ thanked Joe Kent/KC5ILD and Ronnie Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ for going to his home to help him take his vertical down, repair it, and reinstall the antenna

Joe Kent/KC5ILD announced that those who ordered shirts could pick them up. You may call him at (325) 949-3907.

The Split-the-Pot was worth \$14 to the winner, Glenn Miller/AA5PK, and to the club. Glenn donated his share back to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2018.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club will be held May 10, 2007 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

**Another Opportunity to Excel**

David "U.B." Buck/KB9VTD, SAARC Emergency Coordinator, has accepted a job back in his home state of Illinois. In accordance with the club by-laws, the vacancy will be filled by special ballot or vote at the first club meeting at which a resignation or withdrawal is announced.

If you are interested in serving as EC, please contact David/KB5FNK prior to the May 10 club meeting.

The duties of the Emergency Coordinator are:

SECTION V - The Emergency Coordinator (EC) shall maintain close liaison with the ARRL EC or Section EC to further fullest possible SAARC participation in nationally and locally recognized radio emergency services. The EC shall remain informed by questionnaires or other means as to the equipment, normal operating frequencies, and hours and types of operation of those members who possess station equipment to facilitate emergency organization. Further, the EC shall serve as liaison between the SAARC and municipal, state, and national authorities on matters related to emergency communications and, in times of emergency, shall coordinate the activities of the SAARC to provide the maximum communications and services possible. The EC shall appoint those assistants necessary to aid in his/her duties.

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM



*By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM*

**DXpeditions in May:** BS7-Scarborough Reef (very rare), JD1, 9H3, FS, 6V, C9, 3D2, PJ2, VQ9, YB9, KHØ, 9N, KH2, VP9, HBØ, and GU. According to the AR-Cluster Network, for the week of April 15-22, there were 219 countries active.

### Island of the Month

**KP4-Puerto Rico** Lying in the Caribbean about 1000 miles southeast of Miami at 18°15'N/66°30'W, the island covers about 3500 square miles.



Puerto Rico is almost rectangular in shape, and is the smallest and the most eastern island of the Greater Antilles. Its coasts measures approximately 360 miles and, if the adjacent islands Vieques and Culebra are included, the coast measures approximately 425 miles. In addition to the principal island, the Commonwealth includes Vieques, Culebra, Culebrita, Palomino (known by some by the Spanish Virgin Islands), Mona, Monito and various others isolated islands. Deep ocean waters fringe Puerto Rico. The Mona Passage, which separates the island from Hispaniola to the west, is about 75 miles wide and more that 3,300 feet deep. Off the northern coast is the 28,000 feet deep Puerto Rico Trench, and to the south the sea bottom descends to the 16,400 feet deep Venezuelan Basin of the Caribbean. The territory is very mountainous (over 60%), except in the regional coasts, but Puerto Rico offers astonishing variety—rain forest, deserts, beaches, caves, oceans and rivers. Puerto Rico has three main physiographic regions: the mountainous interior, the coastal lowlands, and the karst area. Historically Spanish in ownership, the original Tarino Indians were first enslaved then melded into the islands society along with African and Indian (India) slaves. This intermingling has led to a culture that is tolerant of all races. The official language has flip-flopped from Spanish to English and then back to Spanish and is now considered both.

The history of the Caribbean has been based around the island with Columbus discovering the island on his second set of voyages to The New World. His 17-ship convoy brought settlers to a peaceful island along with soldiers and the Tarino and Arawak were not pleased to share with the Europeans. (see <http://welcome.topuertorico.org/history.shtml> for more on the history of the island). The cost of living, wages, unionization and all have closely followed European and US standards. Hospital care, banking, tourism are all in line with Miami or even the US Virgin islands to the east. Numerous tour companies offer trips and concessions to another place in the sun, which except for the occasional hurricane, is noted for the endless summer. The service industries lead other occupations by 77% of the citizenry with industry at 20% and agriculture at 3%. Unemployment is at 12% (2002 figures) and the inflation rate follows US trends. There is a notable oil reserve in the sands under the island, with over 720 billion barrels produced (2004) per day. Of course, like any country that is fairly modern, the usage of oil is at 234,000 billion barrels per day (2004). They import natural gas, while exporting chemical, electronics, apparel, canned tuna, rum, beverage concentrates, and medical equipment.

While the economy has evolved around agriculture, too much was dependent upon US Federal help for companies. During the Clinton Administration, this changed and less Federal funds were diverted to companies based in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico was ceded to the US after the Spanish American War and citizens granted US Citizenship in 1917. And in numerous elections since, independence or becoming a state has been rejected by the bulk of voters. Their hope is to stay a dependency and to form neither a self-supporting government nor a state government. Population estimate in July 2007 was about 4 million. Amateur radio is very alive with lots of radio amateurs on all bands (some really wanting to make 6 meter and 2 meter contacts into West Texas! 6m is achievable while 2m is borderline.) Puerto Rico offers a nearer to home escape or an adventure in an American Territory, but out in the Caribbean. (KP4/WB5ZAM. Hmm, sounds like a possibility!) Golf courses abound, jungles, endless beaches, snorkeling, scuba, deep sea fishing or fishing in inland streams. Endless possibilities for a Hamcation, DXpedition, or just a get-away.

**References:** [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov); [welcome.topuertorico.org](http://welcome.topuertorico.org); [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

### QSL OF THE MONTH

**KP4IA - Tony.** Neat looking family out for a flight. His KP4IA repeater is one of the stronger ones in the Caribbean (2m, 6m and 10m). See more on him at [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com).

See you on the bands chasing DX.



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

| Date   | NCS    | Check-ins | Duration |
|--------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Apr 9  | ==     | No Net    | ==       |
| Apr 16 | KB5FNK | 16        | 12 min   |
| Apr 23 | KB5FNK | 20        | 15 min   |
| Apr 30 | KB5FNK | 19        | 12 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 |
| 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 |                   |                     |
| 147.06+                        | San Angelo          | 6 Meter Crossband |                     |
| 147.34+                        | Robert Lee PL 88.5  | 147.30/53.63      | San Angelo PL 88.5  |



## Opportunity to Excel

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

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

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, MAY 10, 7:30 P.M.  
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**