

The eKilo-What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

November 2003

Meeting Minutes

By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order by President John Marshall/KC5FMX at 1934 on October 9.

Introductions were made with 12 members and 3 visitors in attendance. Guests were Chet Rankin/W5TKE and XYL Edna (guests of Bob/W7IKT and Carol/N5CBQ) and a newcomer to our area, Richard Bowyer/N4ICV.

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

Officers' Reports

Paul/N7SDQ, Activities Manager, thanked those who participated in the Siderwinder Challenge held on September the 13 at San Angelo State Park and the X-Bar Shoot Out held at the X-Bar Ranch outside of Eldorado on September 14. Participants in these events were reported in the September issued of *The Kilo-What*.

Joe/KC5ILD, Grounds Chairman, reported he mowed the lawn and eliminated at least two dozen ant hills. Ron/KD5WXJ also helped eliminate our ant problem. Joe installed two new metal posts on either side of the driveway and he will paint them yellow to be easily visible.

Old Business

Joe/KC5ILD volunteered to be the nominating committee for the election of club officers for 2004. Should you have a person you think would be ideal for an elected position, please contact Joe. Nominees will be announced at the November meeting, and ballots will be mailed out with the December issue of *The Kilo-What*. Results will be announced at the December club meeting.

New Business

The club received an e-mail from the ARRL requesting donations for the defense of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL). After some discussion, it was moved, seconded, and carried that the club to donate \$50.

The Ham of the Year Award was discussed. Bob/W7IKT and Carol/N5CBQ volunteered to be part of the selection committee. They felt Ken/KD5NXV and Elta/KD5NXY would assist again this year and they will contact them when they return to town.

Good of the Order

License Testing will be December 7 at 1300 at the clubhouse. Deadline for submitting your NCVEC Form 605 and \$12 fee will be December 1, 2003. Contact Glenn/AA5PK.

Split-the-Pot was worth \$7.50 to the club as well as to the winner Carol/N5CBQ. Carol donated her share to the BPL defense. The newcomer to our area, Richard/N4ICV, donated \$20 to the BPL defense. The club's share of Split-the-Pot was also put it towards the BPL defense. The check the club sent to the ARRL was for \$85.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2009.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be November 13, 2003 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

Club Archives

Joe/KC5ILD is assembling a historical record of the club's past Hams of the Year to be displayed on a plaque in the clubhouse.

Because meeting minutes were not published in the newsletter prior to 1991, no reliable record of who was selected before then exists. Sadly, the secretary's meeting minutes book, which should have included those data, contains no clue. None of the other archival documents the club has contain those data either.

If you have any information as to who was awarded HOTY prior to 1991, please contact Joe.

License Testing News

ARRL  **VEC**

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

A license testing session was held on September 28 at the clubhouse. One candidate was administered one examination element with the following result: one new Technician class licensee.

A special license testing session will be held in Brady on November 15 to test the members of a license class that has been conducted in Brady.

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, December 7, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NVEC Form 605 and \$12 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than December 1.

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

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

Texas Antenna Decision Shows PRB-1 Has Teeth

From The ARRL Letter, October 24, 2003

A Texas amateur antenna case has affirmed again that the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1.html> has teeth when it comes to compelling municipalities to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication. It took some time, persistence and considerable aggravation, but in the end the US District Court for the Southern District of Texas--Houston Division ruled in favor of Orin Snook, KB5F, of Missouri City. The court determined in late August that Snook could keep his 114-foot antenna structure.

In a 63-page Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law <http://users3.ev1.net/~osnook/34.pdf> that Snook has posted on his Web site, US District Judge David Hittner said the city "failed to meet the FCC's requirement of reasonably accommodating Snook's amateur communication needs in accordance with PRB-1." Missouri City had attempted to limit Snook's tower to 65 feet, limit the size of his antenna array and required removal of the 100-foot structure for which it already had granted him a building permit. Snook, who is ARRL Fort Bend County Emergency Coordinator and an Official Emergency Station, argued that he needed the higher structure to permit him to operate VHF and UHF effectively in an emergency.

The court declared the city's height restrictions, antenna array restrictions and structure removal requirement "preempted, void and unenforceable." Hittner ordered the city to grant Snook a specific use permit allowing his tower and antennas to remain, although Snook must maintain an existing screening of mature trees surrounding the tower.

Although Texas adopted a PRB-1 statute in 1999, it was Snook who made the city council aware of PRB-1. Even so, the city rejected the recommendation of its planner and building inspector to issue Snook whatever permit was necessary under the relevant federal law.

The court found the city "failed to attempt to negotiate a satisfactory compromise with Snook" and rejected consideration of any height extending above the trees. Snook secured the services of professional engineer Kent Marshall, W5TXV, who testified to Snook's need for a 100-foot structure instead of the compromise 65 footer.

For Snook, Hittner's decision is half a loaf because he failed to prevail on several other non-PRB-1 issues, including purported malicious prosecution and his convictions on 21 counts of violating city statutes in the course of the years-long row. Snook alleges that his wife also lost her job with the city as a result of the dispute. The battle, he estimates, also has left him some \$35,000 poorer. "It's a tough victory that's extremely hollow right now," Snook told ARRL. "The 21 criminal convictions of ordinances written after the antenna went up were largely ignored." Hittner determined that the city had, indeed, changed its ordinance, then required Snook to comply with it, even though it already had issued him a building permit in 1999.

Snook also points out that while the court ordered the city to pay his costs, that does not include his attorneys fees or a damage award. In addition, the city gets to keep its ordinance—which he'd tried to get thrown out. "The judge ruled strongly in our favor but protected the city as best he could too," he said.

Hittner's decision was based on case law that's well known in amateur antenna legal circles. Among decisions cited was *Pentel v City of Mendota*, argued successfully by attorney and ARRL Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, KØQB. Also cited was *Marchand v Town of Hudson*. In that case, ARRL New England Division Vice Director and Volunteer Counsel Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, represented the amateur involved in written and oral arguments before the New Hampshire Supreme Court, while ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, filed an amicus brief. Imlay and Bellows both discussed Snook's case with him by telephone.

Snook seeks contributions to his KB5F Legal Defense Fund via his Web site <http://users3.ev1.net/~osnook/>.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions: Looking ahead, a rare island is to be activated in January, by one of the major groups from the US. Peter 1 Island, in the far South Atlantic, is to be activated late in January for 3 weeks. See more in the December *Kilo-What*. Other upcoming DX: ZK1—South Cook, CEØY—Easter Island, 4S7—Sri Lanka, 9M6—Eastern Malaysia, PZ—Surinam, CT3—Madeira, S79—Seychelles, VK9X—Christmas Island, VK9C—Cocos Keeling, 3B8—Mauritius, XW—Laos, HBØ—Liechtenstein, TY—Benin, 9G—Ghana, 6W—Senegal, FY—French Guiana, 3B9—Rodriquez Island, TS—Tunisia, FR/E—Juan de Nova/Europa, and XV—Vietnam.

Island of the Month

Navassa - KP1 The recorded history of Navassa Island (originally called Navaza in Spanish) began in 1504 when Christopher Columbus, stranded on Jamaica, sent some crew members to Hispaniola by canoe for help. The canoes ran into the island on the way, but it didn't have any water. Mariners avoided the place for the next 350 years. Navassa's history resumed in 1857 when Peter Duncan, an American sea captain, landed and claimed the island for the United States under the Guano Act. The U.S. Congress had passed this act the year before, declaring that any unclaimed and uninhabited island anywhere in the world that possessed guano, i.e., bird droppings in various stages of petrification, was U.S. territory if an American citizen claimed it first. The purpose of the Act was to protect U.S. claims to uninhabited guano islands. Navassa had one million tons of guano and became the third island to be acquired under this law. Haiti protested the annexation and claimed the island, which lies 40 miles west of its southern peninsula, but the U.S. rejected the Haitian



claim. Guano phosphate was a superior organic fertilizer that became a mainstay of American agriculture in the mid-19th century. Duncan transferred his discoverer's rights to his employer, an American guano trader in Jamaica, who sold them to the just-formed Navassa Phosphate Company in Baltimore.

After an interruption for the U.S. Civil War, the company built larger mining facilities on Navassa with barrack housing for 140 African-American contract laborers from Maryland, houses for white supervisors, a blacksmith shop, warehouses, and a church. Mining began in 1865. The workers dug out the guano by dynamite and pick-axe and hauled it in rail cars to the landing point at Lulu Bay where it was sacked and lowered onto boats for transfer to the company barque, the S.S. Romance. Railway tracks eventually extended inland. Hauling guano by muscle-power in the fierce tropical heat with harsh rules enforced by abusive white supervisors eventually provoked a rebellion on the island in 1889. After the Navy put down the rebellion, guano mining resumed on Navassa, but at a much reduced level. The Spanish-American War of 1898 forced the Phosphate Company to evacuate the island and file for bankruptcy, and the new owners abandoned the place to the booby birds after 1901.

Navassa became significant again with the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. Shipping between the American eastern seaboard and the canal goes through the passage between Cuba and Haiti. Navassa, which had always been a hazard to navigation, needed a lighthouse. The U.S. Lighthouse Service built a 162-foot tower on the island in 1917, 395 feet above sea level. A keeper and two assistants were assigned to live there until the U.S. Lighthouse Service installed an automatic beacon in 1929. After absorbing the Lighthouse Service in 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard serviced the light twice each year. The U.S. Navy set up an observation post for the duration of World War II. The island has not been inhabited since then.

On August 29, 1996, the U.S. Coast Guard dismantled the light on Navassa. An inter-agency task force headed by the U.S. Department of State transferred the island to the U.S. Department of the Interior. By Secretary's Order No. 3205 of January 16, 1997, the Interior Department assumed control of the island and placed the island under its Office of Insular Affairs. A 1998 scientific expedition led by the Center for Marine Conservation in Washington DC described Navassa as a unique preserve of Caribbean biodiversity. The island's land and offshore ecosystems have survived the twentieth century virtually untouched. The island will be studied by annual scientific expeditions for the next decade at least. With the reputation of the Department of Interior and other uninhabited islands, it will be an almost impossible task to receive permission for DXpeditions.

Diving around the island without landing does occur through dive shops in neighboring countries, including Cuba.(see David Billington's site about Navassa Island <http://members.aol.com/davidpb4/navassa.html> and <http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/navassa/>).

QSL OF THE MONTH KP1/KP2A-Navassa

Casual DXpeditions to many islands have been curtailed due to environmental concerns. Although DXpeditions are usually the better campers, where you take everything out that you brought in, the Federal agencies usually are inflexible. Some groups get onto the islands by going with "scientific expeditions" which is what happened in 1998 and 1999, but further trips are on hold due to the governing agencies "researching further impact of these radio expeditions." But all we can do is support the ones that do get to go.

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73.

Greetings from **NAVASSA-KP1** ZONE 1 NORTH AMERICA

INTERNATIONAL DX FOUNDATION

DX-PEDITION

Operator: **WB5ZAM** Tr: **WB5ZAM** Tr: **WB5ZAM** Tr: **WB5ZAM** Tr: **WB5ZAM**

TO STATION	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	QTH	HR	QTY	MODE
WB5ZAM	19	MARCH	2003	0658	7	SSB	SSB

TELETYPE: **WB5ZAM** TIME: **0658** RADIOS UNLIMITED: **WB5ZAM**

Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Oct 6	KA5VTG	17	6 min
Oct 13	N/A	N/A	N/A min
Oct 20	KA5VTG	15	7 min
Oct 27	KA5VTG	17	9 min
Nov 3	KA5VTG	14	6 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



Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Eatin' Meetin'



7 PM, December 11
Ole Gin Steakhouse



in Wall



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

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at www.qls.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@qls.net

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



**NEXT MEETING:
THURSDAY, NOV 13, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**