

# *The eKilo - What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

October 2003

## *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.

The next license testing session will be Sunday, December 7, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NCVEC 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.

## *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 1937 on September 11. Introductions were made with 11 members in attendance.

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

### **Officers' Reports**

Paul/N7SDQ, Activities Manager, reported the Sidewinder Challenge at O.C. Fisher held on September 13 required three checkpoints. Those who participated were: Paul/N7SDQ, Jack/KB5TMY, David/KA5VTG, Tom/KD5NXW, and Chad/KD5KRE (former member). The X-Bar Shoot Out, held on September 14 on the X-Bar Ranch in Eldorado, had a very late start due to rain. Club members that participated were: Paul/N7SDQ, Joe/KC5ILD, Chuck/KD5OTR, Tom/KD5MXW, Jack/KB5TMY, and Bob/KD5PIX.

### **New Business**

The need for a nominating committee was discussed. A committee will be appointed at the next meeting.

### **Good of the Order**

Split-the-Pot this month was worth \$5.50 to the Club and to the winner, Buddy Perry/KA7TLJ.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1954.

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

## *Rohn Files for Bankruptcy*

*From The ARRL Letter, September 26, 2003*

Rohn Industries <http://www.rohnnet.com/> filed a voluntary petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy September 16 in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana. The best-known manufacturer of tower and tower hardware for the Amateur Radio community, the Peoria, Illinois-based company manufactures towers, antenna support structures and "infrastructure equipment" for the telecommunications industry. In business since 1948, the firm also makes security fencing and provides design and construction services.

"Our immediate goal is to stabilize the company's financial situation and utilize the Chapter 11 process to enable the company to conduct normal business operations as the company works to complete a sale transaction," Rohn Industries President Horace Ward said in announcing the company's bankruptcy filing. Rohn says it's now in discussions with an unrelated third party regarding a proposed asset sale while it continues to conduct business as usual. Ward told ARRL there is "no truth" to a rumor circulating on some Internet newsgroups that disgruntled workers had damaged manufacturing equipment beyond repair in reprisal for consolidating fabrication facilities last January into a single plant in Frankfort, Indiana.

The impact of Rohn's troubles on the Amateur Radio community is not clear, but at least one major antenna products supplier reported earlier this summer that it was having problems getting Rohn products, although it continues to offer them. Ward told ARRL this week that Rohn intends "to execute the orders we have and to continue to take orders in the normal course of business."

In the company's statement, Ward attributed the bankruptcy filing to a severe downturn in the telecommunications industry. In July, NASDAQ delisted Rohn Industries after it was unable to meet its minimum bid price requirement. The company remains eligible for listing on the Over the Counter (OTC) Bulletin Board (OTC-BB: ROHN). During the past 52 weeks, the company's stock has sold for as little as a penny a share.

At the same time it filed for Chapter 11 protection, Rohn has announced it's entered into a \$9.5 million debtor-in-possession credit line with its lenders. The bankruptcy court must approve that agreement.

## Logbook of the World

*From The ARRL Letter, September 19, 2003*

The long-awaited QSL-cardless ARRL awards and contact credit system "Logbook of the World" (LoTW) officially opened for business this week. Within its first five days of operation, the system—which is open to all—already had attracted more than 1000 requests for a digital certificate, the essential pass key to LoTW.

"Although Logbook of the World is a tremendous resource for hams chasing DXCC, VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC), Worked All States (WAS) and other awards, we hope it will appeal to hams who are not currently active in these awards programs," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson, K1RO. "The proliferation of logging software has stimulated activity and interest in contesting, and submitting log data and verifying award credits online is a logical next step."

Data integrity has been a watchword of the LoTW since the project's conception, and that starts with a digital certificate. Obtaining a digital certificate involves a combination of on-line filing and good old-fashioned snail mail. The first step is to visit the ARRL Logbook of the World Web page <http://www.arrrl.org/lotw>, download the LoTW software and request a digital certificate that ties the participant's identity to a digital key.

"We will need to verify you are who you say you are," ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, explains. "The security of the entire system depends heavily on the method used for verifying the user's identity." This first step is called authentication. Everyone who plans to use LoTW first must obtain a digital certificate. There are no exceptions. For US amateurs, this process relies on your mailing address in the FCC database, which must be current.

For non-US amateurs, authentication will rely on other documentation, primarily a copy of the participant's Amateur Radio license and another official identifying document. Mail these copies to ARRL, Logbook of the World Administrator, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA.

Assuming everything goes smoothly, US licensees requesting a digital certificate soon will receive a postcard in the mail that contains a password. "The first batch of postcards has been mailed, and some people have uploaded their passwords," Wilson said. "Those will be checked, and the first batch of digital certificates should be e-mailed to users September 22."

Users then should go to the LoTW Web site and enter the password to complete the processing of their certificate request. Once the password has been entered, the digital certificate will be e-mailed within a working day or two. Non-US stations will receive their digital certificates via e-mail once their documentation has been received at ARRL Headquarters and authenticated.

Participants will use their digital certificates to "sign" and upload either Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) or Cabrillo-formatted files. Participants also may use their primary digital certificates to obtain additional certificates necessary to submit log data and obtain award credit for contacts made under formerly held call signs.

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept will be a huge repository of log data provided by operators—from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions—and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for ARRL-sponsored awards, especially DXCC.

Obtaining a digital certificate and uploading log data are free of charge. There will be a per-QSO charge for each contact credit used, but Mills expects it will be much less than the typical costs involved with exchanging paper QSL cards. When you use an LoTW confirmation for an award credit, the fee will be added to your account and shown in the user's record. The user will be able to pay for these charges on-line using a credit card.

Mills' article, "Introducing Logbook of the World," appears in the October issue of QST. LoTW news and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site <http://www.arrrl.org/lotw/>.

Wilson commended ARRL Web and Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, and the other contributors to the project "for their dedication and hard work that made Logbook a reality."

## Truly an OW

*From The ARRL Letter, September 26, 2003*

The man believed to be the oldest Amateur Radio operator in the US—Byrl "Tex" Burdick, W5BQU, of El Paso—turned 103 on September 25. First licensed in the fall of 1930, Burdick is on the air every day—most recently on 15 meters (look for him on or about 21.314 MHz)—and he enjoys ragchewing. On behalf of the League, ARRL President and fellow Texan Jim Haynie, W5JBP, this week wrote Burdick to extend congratulations and best wishes. Burdick is an ARRL member and a routine QSLer. Happy Birthday, Tex!

## CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

**DXpeditions in October:** We have the CQ-WW SSB contest on 10/25-26, and at least three rare countries coming on during October. 3CØ-Annoban, BQ9P-Pratas Island, and ZM8-Kermadec are to be activated, as well as the following: FG, 9H3, 5B4, A5, HBØ, VP5, OHØ, 5W, FO/A, XZ, T8, VK9X, KH2, S79, VK9C, XU7, 9M6, FR, HKØ/San Andreas, GJ, and XW.

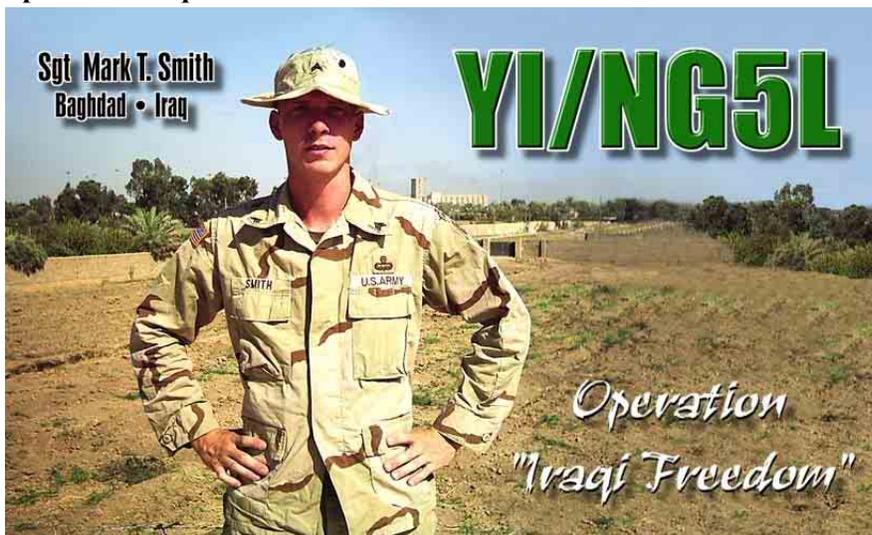
**Island of the Month - Chatham Island - ZL7.** Lying 800 km east of Christchurch, New Zealand, at 44°S, Chatham is said to lay in a temperate weather zone (like the south island of New Zealand—cold). The population in 2001 was 717 with an unemployment of 7%. There is essentially no tourist system of hotels, bars, tourist shops etc. Before being given permission in New Zealand to visit, one must already have confirmed accommodations at the one hotel, the one motel, or with one of the island families. The Chatham Islands are actually ten islands with two—Chatham and Pitt—the only populated ones. Pitt is more rugged with few beaches and high cliffs at the sea, rising to heavily forested areas inland. Chatham has both higher grounds and lowland peat bogs and watery areas. There are roads on the island, but most walk or use bicycles to get around. Lying so far south, the islands experience higher than usual winds and rain. The ZL7C DXpedition in 2002 has numerous pictures of what the weather was like, what the accommodations were like, and what the operating conditions were like at <http://www.qsl.net/zl7c>.

There are not many touristy type things to do, unless you snorkel, dive, fish, or nature hike. There is reportedly a golf course, but no tourist type/style hotels. Settled between 900 and 1500 AD by what were thought to be Polynesians, the now extinct native population were called Moriori. The decline in their population started with the whaling fleets of Europeans and capped when the natives from New Zealand (Maori) came to the islands and essentially overtook the population, and either absorbed them or killed them in fighting.

Due to the rough nature of the coast and the longitude, there are numerous wrecks littering the coastline, making exciting diving for those braving the cold waters. Nature hikers can find 18 species of birds endemic to the island with two—Black Robin and Taike—nearly extinct. English is the traditional language with a few (6%) actually still using the Maori language. 23% have Internet access, but most farm and enjoy their isolation from the outside world, calling the islands the “end of the world.” Winter temperatures range from 6°-10°C and summer temps from 15°-24°C. And it is *moist* according to the Web sites. Not so rare on most hams list of worked, the islands are regularly activated by groups especially from the New Zealand ham population. The 2002 DXpeditions was international in scope with hams from Japan, the US, New Zealand, and Europe. But look at the clothes they wore to operate. Not a West Texas boy’s dream vacation spot. Facilities, while they may be scarce, are excellent, and the hospitality is described superb. The monetary system, as well as Civil Defense, courts, etc. are all governed by the New Zealand system. Their lobsters are world renowned in size and deep sea fishing is said above average. But if you’re a photographer, the islands’ ever-changing weather and landscape and wildlife can be a challenge. And, as a DXpedition, it offers the change from warm tropical beaches and less harsh than Peter-1 (see prior article in *The Kilo-What*). For more information on the island: <http://www.chathams.com/>.

### QSL of the Month - YI/NG5L “Operation Iraqi Freedom”

Here is a picture of Mark Smith with the Army in Baghdad. The front of the card is downtown Baghdad while the back is looking at the Tigris River. He is slowly getting better antennas and equipment together and trying to work stateside. His QSL manager is a one-time San Angeloan, Walt/K1QS. Here is what Walt says: “Mark is a sergeant forward artillery observer in the 82nd Airborne. He’s running an ICOM 706 into wire dipoles not very high. Hopefully, before mid-October, we’ll have a 3-element tri-bander and rotor in his hands. There are still four or more GIs in country and on the air in need of directional gain antennas. Anyone with a small tri-bander to donate or just wishing to donate to a fund to



buy antennas for the guys can contact me. We only pay shipping to Delaware where another ham can have them airlifted directly to Baghdad on a C-5A within days.” Contact Walt at [k1qs@pivot.net](mailto:k1qs@pivot.net).

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73.

## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Sep 8	KA5VTG	20	9 min
Sep 15	N/A	N/A	N/A min
Sep 22	KA5VTG	N/A	N/A min
Sep 29	KA5VTG	16	8 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.ql.net/saacr](http://www.ql.net/saacr)

### 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, OCT 9, 7:30 P.M.  
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**