

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

October 2014

San Angelo Radio Club Officers

President: Tom Austin/K4OTM

Vice President: Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC

Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Freeman//KD5PIX

Activity Director: Gary Chaffin/W5ETJ

Emergency Coordinator: Mike Dominy/KD5URW

Grounds Chairman: Open

Appointed Positions

SAARC Trustee: Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ

Registered Agent: Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ

Public Information Officer: Matt Healy/W5MAT

Club House Location

Mathis Field
5513 Stewart Lane

Mailing Address

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

World Wide Web

www.w5qx.org

eKilo-What

norripeter26@gmail.com

SAARC COMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP Meeting

November 13, 9:00 AM at the Clubhouse

ARES Meeting

November 20, 7:00 PM at the Clubhouse

Other Events

December 6th - SKYWARN Recognition Day

BIRTHDAY ISSUE

Birthday Party

Happy Birthday

On October 11th, 2014, the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club celebrated its 90th birthday. This celebration did not “just happen.” There were a lot of members that took the bull by the horns and truly steered the occasion to a great success.

Before I talk about the event, I would just like to recognize some of the key folks that really pitched in and please forgive me if I've missed anyone, that is simply an oversight on my part. Gary Chaffin, W5ETJ accepted the job of coordinating all of the moving parts to the party, our hats are off to you for the seamless flow. Ralph and Cindy Stout, KA5ULE and KC5RCP for supplying the grill and doing the great cooking; Hughbert Robinson, KC5NPC for securing the food and Gary Chaffin, W5ETJ for getting the beautiful cake.

A very special thanks to Bob & Carol Heiser, W7IKT & N5CBQ, Pete Norris, KJ5SS, and Jimmy Welch KG5BQE for the job done on the store room. They not only cleaned the entire store room but also sorted everything that wasn't needed by the club in the foreseeable future and made it available for the taking (and donations) at the party. In addition, Bob and Carol cleaned the refrigerator in the store room and the entire club house to make it presentable for the celebration. No one would have recognized the area from its previous condition to today. Many, many thanks.

Now to the Anniversary Party. The day was pretty cool and overcast with temps in the low 60's. The humidity was high and that made for a bone chilling morning. But as we all know, we're a pretty tough group. There was one table for the tail gate party and it had a number of items to include a few liners and other components that every shack really needs. With the weather, a few folks used the table inside the club house to sell their goods. Although we had a Special Event Station, most of us enjoyed visiting and catching up on the latest news with each other and then everyone got down to business – the great food. There were more hot dogs, sausages, and chili than we could eat. It was great! To top off the great meal, we all enjoyed the 90th Anniversary Party cake. As everyone was enjoying the cake, Gary Chaffin, W5ETJ, announced not to eat the icing with the picture on the club house displayed because it was toxic. Everyone had a good laugh.

Marcus Barnes, W5CN was a member of our club back in the early 70's who drove in from Austin and share many stories along with some history of the club to include pictures of Carl Brinegar, the original W5QX. It was so nice to visit with one of the true old timers. There were visitors from Sweetwater as well as a couple from Colorado Springs, CO who stopped by and congratulate us on the longevity we have enjoyed as a club.

Don Hejl, N5SVK, Jim DeLong, K5LOZ, and John Herridge, K5SQA also made it out to the party. These are some folks we simply hadn't seen in a while; it was nice visiting with each of them. Glenn Miller, AA5PK was able to receive a few satellites as they made their passes over our area. Although he didn't work them as they were passing, Glenn was able to hear them. Glenn didn't have his big rig with him to work the SSB stations the satellites were using on their passes.

At about noon, operators fired up the HF rig and made 21 contacts on our Special Event Station. Contacts were made in 11 different states and one contact in Canada. Bill Hinds, KG5BQF, Ralph Stout, KA5ULE and Matt Healy, W5MAT were the operators for the Special Event Station. What a great time!

To say our celebration was a great success simply would be understating the event. Everyone that made it out had a great time, great fellowship and great food. Does it get any better than that?

Thanks again for all of the hard work in putting it together, can't wait till next year's anniversary.

Matt Healy, W5MAT

SAARC Happenings

Preparations for the Birthday Party

The Challenge



The Work



The Result



Birthday Party

Pictures provided by Gary/W5ETJ -Ed.



ARES Set

2014 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

On Saturday, October 18th at 8:00 a.m. Mike Dominey, KD5URW, the Tom Green County ARES Emergency Coordinator sent out a “Group Text” to all participating in this year’s Simulated Emergency Test (SET) for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Group. That text message set into motion the activation of this year’s SET.

Mike was at the club house and activated the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) along with Jimmy Welch, KG5BQE who was acting as a backup radio operator as the SET got up and running. Two operators were required to man the EOC for the simulation. To add to the realism, the EOC was not available for use, so Mike immediately moved operations to the club house setting up a temporary antenna to handle the second VHF/UHF radio. This was a situation that could actually happen during a real emergency.

This year’s scenario involved a line of severe thunderstorm coming into our area from the west with a history of producing tornadoes embedded in the line of storms. All participants in the exercise were actually at their home locations and not at pre-designated areas they would eventually be assigned to. At 8:05a.m. the units started checking in with net control, and Mike directed each of the units where they were needed. Our units covered an area north/south from US 87 in downtown San Angelo out to 67 West at Mertzon. While en-route, many units called into net control noting flooded intersections with vehicles and families trapped, downed power lines, blocked roads and a number of other scenarios that would be faced in a true emergency. The main purpose of calling these emergencies in was to “tax” net control with what might happen when a situation like this would actually happen. It put a lot of pressure on net control.

Gary Chaffin, W5ET was stationed at Highway 87 and 6th Street; Ken Grimm, KG5BPY on School House Road; Matt Healy, W5MAT at the rest area on 67 West towards Mertzon, and Bob & Carol Heiser, W7IKT and N5CBQ on 67 West at the Tankersly cut off.

Throughout the exercise we simulated coordinating working with the city and county officials as they set up their Incident Command (IC). Bob & Carol called in a train derailment with a car leaking an unknown liquid and also blocking Highway 2335 from 67 West to Knickerbocker; Matt called in a tractor trailer that had been overturned and blocking 67 West on the east bound lane at the old convenience store; Ken had a subject with chest pains and the simulation went on as Mike and Jimmy simulated calling the appropriate emergency responders.

The exercise wound down at about 10:30 a.m. and we headed to the club house to debrief.

Lessons Learned: Group Text messages don’t always work. The one sent out to initiate this SET was never received, so we always need to have a secondary procedure to ensure all parties are notified and activated. During the SET we used two different frequencies. One was a repeater frequency and the other was simplex. One of the units in the exercise was not able to establish reliable communications with EOC even when going through the repeater. A change in location was required to accomplish the mission.

With the participation, coordination and the debriefing after the exercise we all are better prepared to respond and help when the next disaster hits.

Thanks to Matt/W5MAT - Ed.

A Nostalgic Yarn

by W5CN

1948-1949:

A Spark Coil, The FCC

and

"I'm Only Experimenting"

This nostalgic yarn--set in the West Texas town of San Angelo--is a slice from my plucky teenage years, about the path a young boy might stray upon en route to getting his ham ticket.

As a thirteen-year-old introverted electrical experimenter, my hoard of "high-tech" playthings ran the gamut; voltaic cells to doorbells, crystal sets to Atwater Kents. I fancied my prized clutter equaled that of the young Edison in his day. I'd built one, two, and three-tube radios with '99s, '01As and '30s, ala Hugo Gernsback. But amidst this consuming electrical paradise was what came to be the most mystical and demonic toy I possessed--a **Model-T-Ford Spark Coil**. With Morse Code ability and the obsessive dream of being a radio ham one day, I was off to a buzzing start (like Marconi?).

Illustrated in a radio book was an induction-coil "Experimental Wireless Set." The 1909 edition of *Operator's Wireless Telegraph and Telephone Hand-book*, still on my bookshelf, showed how to do it. With no tuned circuits, you hooked an antenna to one side of the spark gap, the other side to ground, just like in the picture, simple as that. My own version ended up with a Model-T coil and six-volt lantern battery both inside a *Travis Club* cigar box. Fahnestock clips soldered on the Ford Coil's lead contact blobs made connections easy, and the taped-shut cigar box was stood on its edge. A pair of short, flat-ended, number-ten wires in binding posts, comprised the spark gap on the top side. A J-38 telegraph key was mounted nearby. Setting the gap to a bit less than a quarter-inch gave the most ravishing spark ever; thick, blue, and hot...a bewitching fire, fit to blitz the ether! I soon learned that a series condenser with the antenna made it work even better, since it didn't suck down the spark, as a did a direct connection. But I'll never forget that weird, funny smell. My daddy called it "Ozone."

Having a ninety-foot antenna running high to the back of our big lot made getting on the air quick and easy. An SPDT porcelain-based knife switch, from Woolworth's, worked nicely as the antenna changeover. An out-of-the-cabinet Atwater Kent 55 TRF chassis was the receiver, and wherever you tuned it, the buzzing roar of my "Experimental Wireless Set" was equally loud. My mother said it came in over the telephone line. Moreover, my grandmother complained of an annoying sound in her *Beltone* hearing aid.

Charles, a neighborhood pal and kindred electrical tinkerer was dazzled by my "Experimental Wireless Set." He soon got his own Model-T Coil from Sears Roebuck (yes, they still had them), and hastily rigged a similar setup in his garage workshop, a few blocks away. His station sported a Hallicrafters S-38. So as new horizons awaited us, and Charles "committed" to improving his code speed (he didn't), we would somehow--in the dim future--get our ham licenses (he never got his).

And while we had a few code-practice spark-coil QSOs, always initiated by a 'phone call, there dawned a new awareness: At our disposal was an uncanny power, one tantalizingly ripe for assorted mischief, a forte whose prospects far surpassed any juvenile aspirations to the radiotelegraphic art itself. That we were wreaking utter havoc on the AM broadcast band (plus 200 meters and down?) opened the door to more alluring pastimes .

A car--with radio playing--would pass our house on Washington Drive. As it rolled to a halt at the Abe Street stop sign,

A Nostalgic Yarn continued

I'd hit the key, and faithful "Experimental Wireless Set" sounded its crisp, staccato bzzzz, bzzzz, bzzzz. With the street only fifty feet away from my upstairs bedroom window, the spark's harsh note was heard--much to my tittering--blasting from within the car, drowning out local station KGKL. There being no car A/Cs in those days, motorists drove with windows down.

But there was more to come: For anyone whose electrical enlightenment was limited to the mundane shock of a static charge, or maybe 120 volts AC, bodily contact with spark-coil electrodes was, by comparison, a truly unequalled and unforgettable event in their lives.

Take my word for it!

Being imbued with my high-voltage wisdom, there naturally followed a compelling incentive to induce others to share this uplifting experience. In fantasy, virtually nothing--doorknobs, beds, schoolteacher's chairs, sewing machines, doorscreens, toilet seats, sofa cushions, mailboxes--escaped consideration of being wired up. In reality, though, only a few of these perverse fantasies were acted out, offering a jolting shock (step lively, there!) to an unsuspecting, electrically-naive victim. And believe me, it didn't come free of "charge." But although parental confiscation of this infamous, little wooden box and battery was an ever-looming possibility, it never amounted to more than a threat and a scolding. (But I'm only experimenting...like Edison.)

Then there was my first "mobile rig," a novel adaptation of the now tried-and-true "Experimental Wireless Set." Installing the cigar-box rig in the front basket of my *Western Flyer* bicycle, complete with a wire-wrapped cane fishing-pole antenna lashed to the front fork, I boldly took to the streets of San Angelo.

Wiring the spark coil's ground side to the bike frame proved tricky at first. Touching the frame or letting it go, under key-down conditions, guaranteed a shock. So either keeping one hand in contact with the metal handlebar, or staying insulated from the bike altogether, was a fast-learned reflex. In retrospect, dragging a grounding chain would have probably made a difference. To a casual observer, the tall vertical pole on the bike made it look like a boy going fishing. But BCLs...beware.

Keying the spark coil during a Sunday evening bike ride through the quiet Santa Rita neighborhood was the most bizarre amusement ever. San Angelo didn't get a TV station until about 1954, so in those days families gathered about their living-room console sets tuned in to *Stop The Music*, or *Inner Sanctum*. Some houses had outside radio aerials strung high over backyards and garages.

In nice weather it was usual to have windows open and blinds undrawn to catch the evening breeze. Many a vexed BCL lunged for the knobs on his parlor radio as the raucous buzz of my mobile "Experimental Wireless Set" bellowed forth. Although such living-room commotion was clearly seen and heard from out in the street, I recall nobody ever looking out the window!

One evening I peddled up Abe Street to Avenue J, the QTH of W5QX (the late Carl Brinegar), old-time ham and my radio mentor, active on 40-CW and 10-meter phone exclusively. With the backyard hamshack door wide open, he and his son were listening to CW over his 1936-vintage SX-11 Super Sky rider. I could hear it in the alley. Although my original intention was to

A Nostalgic Yarn concluded

show them what I'd proudly rigged on my bicycle, I couldn't resist banging out his call, W-5-Q-X, on the old J-38. What a racket, full break-in! If I confounded a QSO, I don't remember, but a rankled CW operator was out to the alley in no time flat, flashlight in hand, junior op at his heels.

Still abiding to this very day was Carl's ominous tone as he admonished me that night: "...and you'd better keep that thing off the air...do you want Mr. Apple to catch you? He just might do that! It's a federal offense." (Next stop, Leavenworth?)

Known to all radio hams, Mr. Marion E. Apple was the FCC Radio Inspector in Dallas. He sent out those dreaded pink tickets. His own ham call was W5CG. That Dallas was 250 miles away mattered not, for there lurked in my callow mind a real fear of the FCC coming to town one day...and if they did, then what? And so it was that W5QX's fatherly counsel inspired me with a fresh and challenging fantasy: Could I outwit the FCC?

Perceived as both a feared authority figure and hero-policeman of the airwaves, Marion Apple, a couple of years later in September 1951, actually made a radio sleuthing trip to San Angelo, located a 20-meter bootleg ham station and, assisted by a federal marshal, dismantled it. The story made the local newspaper and included a photograph of Mr. Apple triumphantly hovering over the felonious ham rig. Oddly enough, this incident was just two months after I got my novice ticket, WN5TGV. And as it turned out, I soon befriended the bootlegger ham (but that's a whole episode for a future article).

Nine months later, in May 1952, on the sixth floor of the U.S. Terminal Annex Building in Dallas, it was none other than Mr. Apple himself who proctored my General Class code test and radio exam. And although we chatted about his celebrated San Angelo excursion, I dared not mention those memorable spark-coil shenanigans of my adolescent, pre-license era. (But what if I had?)

Epilogue: While I've divulged a treasured piece of my boyhood and coming of age, I must say that as a licensed ham operator, wanton QRM--to my sensibilities--is an abominable high crime of the airwaves. So I trust this account is received in the right spirit. And admittedly, on today's telecommunications scene, we're frayed with young virus-wielding computer hackers whose malicious actions are clearly criminal. The irreparable damage they've inflicted is incalculable. And we read in *QST* of ham QRMers getting nabbed here and there.

But can such banditry be justly compared to youthful radio pranks of a half-century ago? How clear--or how blurred--is the boundary separating these two worlds?

E. Marcus Barnes, W5CN, ex W5TGV, VP5ME

Life Member ARRL, QCWA, AWA

Next Time: Meet Mr. Apple. -Ed.

For Sale

Below is a list of radio equipment owned by Rob Mowrer/N5OIU, now SK.

- Kenwood MC-80 microphone - \$70
- Kenwood TM-G707 dual band mobile - \$150
- Kenwood TM-241A 2 meter mobile - \$90
- Alinco DR-110 2 meter mobile - \$85
- Yaesu FT-60R dual band handie-talkie w/spare battery - \$175
- Realistic PRO-2040 scanner - \$80
- Realistic HTX-202 2 meter handie-talkie- \$35
- Astron RS-25M power supply- \$125
- Astron RS-12A - power supply \$45
- Cushcraft Ringo Ranger II 2 meter vertical- \$50
- Hustler G6-270R dual-band vertical- \$75

If you are interested in any, contact Gail Mowrer at 942-7599 (evenings) or e-mail her at glmowrer@aol.com.

Glenn AA5PK



Scanner Jack's Corner

HERE IS THE SAFD TRS TGRP
 04-021 TAC 1 DISP., 04-042 TAC 2, 04-043 TAC 3, 04-044 TAC 4, 04-045 TAC
 5, 04-046 TAC 6, 04-047 TAC, 04-048 TAC 8, 04-041 PATCH, 0-006 PATCH
 TGC FIRE DISP, 04-006 PATCH, NEW 04-005 VFIRE21, 00-004 PATCH, 04-121
 TRAINING 1, 04-122 TRAINING 2, 04-014 PATCH, 06-006 PATCH TGC FIRE
 DISP

FROM
 SCANNER JACK ROBERTS KB5TMY

00-001 TESTING ALERT SYSTEM, 00-002 TESTING ALERT SYSTEM

Upcoming Hamfests/Conventions

| Date | Event | Location | Information |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 11/8/2014 | 16th Annual South Texas Hamfest | Aransas Pass, TX | http:// www.southtexashamfest.org/ |
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| Hamfests and Conventions are listed for all Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. -Ed. | | | |

Of Interest

Let's Eat!

The current Eating Schedule for TGC Hams is:

Wednesday, 7:30 AM, T-Bears Café, 2105 Knickerbocker Rd

Thursday, 9:00 AM, McDonald's (Wal-Mart), 5501 Sherwood Way

Saturday, 7:30 AM, T-Bears Café, 2105 Knickerbocker Rd

Saturday, 9:00 AM, McDonald's (Wal-Mart), 5501 Sherwood Way

HF Nets of Note de Gary Chaffin/WSETJ

| NET | DAYS | LOCAL TIMES | DIAL |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| Concho Valley Ragchew Net | S-M-T-W-T-F-S | 0600 | 1900* |
| Concho Valley Ragchew Net | S-M-T-W-T-F-S | 1700 | 3825** |
| 7290 Traffic Net | M-T-W-T-F-S | 1000 - 1200 | 7290 |
| 7290 Traffic Net | M-T-W-T-F | 1300 - 1400 | 7290 |
| Texas Traffic Net | S-M-T-W-T-F-S | 1830 - 1930 | 3873 |
| Central Gulf Coast Hurricane Net | S-M-T-W-T-F-S | 1900 - 2000 | 3935 |
| Texas ARES Net | Monday | 1930 - 2000 | 3873 |
| Big Bend Emergency Net | Sunday | 0830 - 0930 | 3922 |
| Texas Trader's Net | Sunday | 0900 - 1000 | 7245 |
| Concho Valley 6 M Roundtable | Sunday | 2100 | 50.135 |

* Alternate frequency: 3825. ** 7212, or close, for summer months.

Emergency Communications

de Mike Dominy/KD5URW - Emergency Coordinator

Tom Green County ARES Net

Meets every Monday night at 8:30 CST (2030 hr) on the 444.350 MHz (PI 162.2) (N5SVK). Other frequencies are announced on the Concho Valley Net at 8:00 pm.

ARES meets the 3rd Thursday at 1900 of each month at the Clubhouse unless announced otherwise on the Monday net.

ARES Net Report

| Date | Net Ctrl | Check-ins | Time | Freq |
|-------|----------|-----------|------|---------|
| 10/6 | KD5URW | 13 | 15 | 444.350 |
| 10/13 | KD5URW | 12 | 10 | 444.350 |
| 10/20 | KD5URW | 11 | 14 | 444.350 |
| 10/27 | KD5URW | 12 | 14 | 444.350 |
| | | | | |

Concho Valley

Two Meter Net

| <u>Date</u> | <u>NCS</u> | <u>Check-ins</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 10/6 | KB5FNK | 23 | 19 min |
| 10/13 | Not Available | | min |
| 10/20 | KB5FNK | 20 | 13 min |
| 10/27 | Not Available | | min |

This net meets every Monday night at 8 p.m. on 145.27 or 146.94 as an alternate repeater. All amateurs licensed to operate on that frequency are invited to participate.

Concho Valley Open FM Repeaters

2 Meter

145.27- San Angelo PL 88.5
 146.88- San Angelo PL 88.5
 146.94- San Angelo PL 103.5
 147.06+ San Angelo No Tone
 147.30+ San Angelo PL 88.5
 146.72- Eldorado PL 100.00
 147.34+ Robert Lee PL 88.5
 146.90- Brady PL 162.2
 147.36+ Brady PL 114.8 (Echo Link Node)
 Echo Link: N5TBR-L Node#920069
 145.7850 Simplex PL-88.5
 147.39+ Eden PL 114.8

70 centimeters

441.750+ San Angelo PL 162.2
 442.250+ San Angelo PL 162.2
 444.225+ Robert Lee PL 162.2
 444.350+ San Angelo PL 162.2
 444.875+ Brady PL 162.2

6 M

53.63- San Angelo PL 88.5 Linked to 442.25 Repeater

D-Star

444.550+ KG5CNG

New Member Application/Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due in January. Regular memberships: \$20, Each additional family member: \$5; Seniors (age 65+) and Juniors (under age 19): \$10, Renewal package deal: 5 years for \$80, Associate members: \$20

Dues may be paid to the secretary at any club meeting or mailed to the club's post office box.



Application for Membership

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
 License Class: _____ Year First Licensed: _____ Previously Held Calls: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Physical Address (if different from above): _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____
 I hereby give permission to publish the above information in the club's membership roster which is distributed to all club members. Check here if you do not want your e-mail address linked on the club's Web site.

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Signature | Date |
|-----------|------|