

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

September 2003

Late Newsletter

By Glenn Miller/AASPK, Newsletter Editor

I apologize for the newsletter being late this month.

I had to travel to Pittsburgh, PA on August 29 to attend my oldest brother's funeral on September 2. He was involved in an accident at work and died of electrocution. He was 59 years old.

A 3000-mile road trip was not the way my XYL and I had planned to spend the Labor Day weekend (and week).

It rained every day, nearly all day long, the entire time we were in PA—sometimes hard, most of the time just a drizzle or mist. They'd had 93 days of rain in the last 104. The rain ended in time for us to begin our return drive on Friday, September 5. Traffic was generally light and road construction was not the major problem it normally is when traveling in mid-summer.

Meeting Minutes

By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order by Vice President David Behrend/KB5FNK on August 14, 2003, at 1930.

Introductions were made with 12 members and 3 visitors in attendance. Visitors were Janet/KC4QCB, Tom Stanfill/KD7BK (from Kamiah, ID) and a third I did not get the other name and call sign.

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

Officers' Reports

Bob/KD5PIX, Secretary, reported that Marsh, our equipment insurance company, had notified us that our claim for the damaged dual-band radio had been forwarded to the appropriate department. They will keep us advised on the progress of the claim.

Joe/KC5ILD, Grounds Chairman, was absent. Bob/KD5PIX reported that the front storm door damage has become a recurring problem. Perhaps we are not making sure the door is secured before we leave. If you are the last to leave, please check to see that the door is secured. Thank you.

Old Business

David/KB5FNK, Vice President, announced The Sidewinder Challenge at San Angelo State Park will be held September 13 and will require several volunteers. Even if you are able to give a couple of hours of your time, it will be a big help. Last year the organizers made the SAARC their charity of choice. David/KA5VTG is contacting the folks at Rattlesnake Racing LLC for details. He will keep us up-to-date on the Monday Night Net. On September 14, the X Bar Shoot-Out is in Eldorado. We always have a good time there and they look forward to our assisting each year. Again, listen to the Monday Night Net, and please let us know if you are able to lend a hand.

Good of the Order

Bob/W7IKT, brought to our attention last month, connectors to standardize all of our equipment. With the use of Anderson Powerpole connectors, all the equipment at the clubhouse, the Weather Service, or personal vehicles would all be interchangeable. It was moved, seconded, and carried that Bob equip all of the club's equipment with the connectors.

Split-the-pot, worth \$7 to the winner Jim/K5LOZ and \$7 to the club. Jim donated his winnings back to the club to help with *The Kilo-What* postage expenses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1957. The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be September 11 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News**ARRL**  **VEC***By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner*

The next license testing session will be held at 1 PM on Sunday, September 28, at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of **NCVEC Form 605** and **\$12** check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than September 22.

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.

FCC Invites Comments on No-Code International Morse Petition*From The ARRL Letter, September 5, 2003*

The FCC has invited public comments on another Morse code-related petition for rule making—this one from No-Code International (NCI) <http://www.nocode.org/>. It's designated RM-10786. When the FCC put six other Morse-related petitions in the sequence RM-10781 through RM-10787 on public notice, RM-10786 failed to show up on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. It remained missing through September 2. NCI calls on the FCC to delete Element 1—the 5 WPM Morse code exam—"totally" from the Amateur Service rules and grant "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technicians. It also wants the FCC to act on the matter as soon as possible, preferably in a separate rule making and without further ado.

"[T]he Commission clearly has the authority to modify its rules on its own initiative and without further public notice or comment," NCI asserted in its 20-page petition.

NCI notes that World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse signals to operate below 30 MHz. As a result, "the Commission is no longer bound to maintain any Morse proficiency requirement." The Morse requirement, NCI contends, is keeping newcomers away from Amateur Radio.

Comments poured in this week from members of the amateur community on all seven petitions. Clearly ahead in the comment-collection race is the petition filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10787, which had collected more than 350 comments by week's end. The other petitions each have garnered more than 100 comments apiece.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all petitions now on public notice http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-238494A1.pdf by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. The ECFS also permits users to view all comments on file. There is a 30-day comment window.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number. You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

To view any comments already submitted for each petition, click on "Search for Filed Comments" under "ECFS Main Links" and type in the complete RM number, including the hyphen, in the "Proceeding" field. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number.

Several countries—including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands—already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria, New Zealand and Australia are expected to do so soon.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in September: According to the AR-Cluster Network, for the week of August 8-15, there were 214 countries active. On the air: 3CØ—Annoban Is., XZ—Myanmar, 9Y—Trinidad-Tobago, V63—Micronesia, VK9X—Christmas Is., FG—Guadeloupe, 9G—Ghana, 7Q—Malawi, S6—Singapore, EA6—Balearic Is., 3DA—Swaziland, VP5—Turks and Caicos, S79—Seychelles, 9L—Sierra Leon, JW—Svålbard, OJ—Market Reef, FO—Austral Is., FH—Mayotte, and ZWØ—St Peter and Paul Rocks.

Island of the Month

Cuba - CO. Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, the subsequent Spanish civilizing of the island eradicated the native population, leaving the Spanish and their imported slaves to inhabit and populate the island. Lying just off the tip of Florida, 750 miles long (about the size of Pennsylvania) and with a population of over 11 million in 2003, the island has suffered over the years from the ups and downs of the world political games.

Although very dependent on the Russians until they withdrew in 1992, the Cubans are a proud people and are working on building a tourism industry that goes around the US embargos. The economy is classic Latin American with few jobs and little opportunities to date. Oil production is at about 50,000 barrels a day, but consumption is at 163,000, so they are in a constant deficit for energy. The land is multi-staged, with multiple scenic seashores, islets, islands, and mountains in the southeast up to 2000 meters.

Exports are listed by our friends at the World Fact Book as salt, timber, silica, iron ore, copper, manganese, steel, coffee, cigars (they still make the best in the world), cement, and machinery. The weather is classic northern Caribbean with the rainy season from May through October and the dry season November through April. About every two years the eastern coast is visited by a hurricane and these have dampened the Cubans once flourishing sugar cane crops.

Life expectancy is 76.8 years, and infant mortality is 7.15 per 1000 births. The education system is mandatory and free thru 9th grade. Literacy is said to be at 97%. The primary language is Spanish, although the Cuban Spanish is more a mix of the Caribbean sing-song languages and Spanish and can be difficult for the North American Hispanics to understand.

As stated tourism is still in its infancy, and the island's charms are still hard to document (i.e., not many online pictures to share) outside of "official" sites. There are only 5 ISP providers and, although they have a fiber-optic phone system from one end of the island to the other, their satellite service is an old Soviet Sputnik satellite. Several professional golf courses are available, and diving is an up and coming tourism draw. Two new hotels built for European travelers have 220VAC electricity, but the rest of the island has 110VAC 60 Hz. Amateur radio is much like in the former Russian states, and is controlled by the government.

The water is drinkable, the rum is said to be of the best in the world, and numerous books and tales have been written about the pre-Castro and early 1950s Cuba. Ernest Hemingway wrote a lengthy novel on life in Cuba during the WW II called "Islands in the Stream." (Did you know the daiquiri originated in Cuba and was a favorite of Hemingway's characters? Most of us were supposed to read it in school ages ago, but never did thanks to Clift's Notes.)

Sport fishing was big in the '50s and is slowly resuming with many Canadians starting tournaments from the island. The US Coast Guard has the dubious task of trying to keep the Cubans at home since the nearest point of Cuba to the Florida keys is less than 50 miles and they report over 200,000 try to escape each year. Along with the smugglers, the seas can get crowded in the area, with US Navy, Coast Guard and Cuban forces all sweeping the area. Cuba has very stringent drug laws and the death penalty for smugglers is not unheard of. With Fidel Castro as President and his son as Vice President, and a political system based on the proletariat of Russia, and a stubborn US Government, it may be years before tourism really takes off. The potential for the islands becoming a Mecca for US tourists is extremely high with flights from most of the US within a 4-hour flight time.

QSL OF THE MONTH DL3GI

Roland from Rottenbach has a neat collection of radios. He's an HF operator, so look for him on the bands.

Band conditions have been very poor this past month, with solar storms causing high A indices and lots of noise on the bands. But Africa is workable, and some 6 meter openings have been noted.

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Aug 11	KA5VTG	16	6 min
Aug 18	KA5VTG	22	8 min
Aug 25	KA5VTG	23	9 min
Sep 1	N/A	N/A	N/A 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

Tuff Shine
Inc.
Auto Appearance Center

Auto Tinting ★ Gold Plating
Car and Truck Accessories
Detailing ★ Undercoating
Pinstripes ★ Graphics
Sunroofs ★ Bedliners

Paul Ostrander

658-1886

1604 S. Bryant Blvd. ★ San Angelo, TX 76903
(Next to Santa Fe Junction)

CarQuik

Lube Center

Your Neighbor Convenience Center

PENNZOIL
Stop. Go. Pennzoil.

U-HAUL

Independent Dealer

Jerry White
Owner

3602 Green Meadow
San Angelo, TX 76904
915/944-1514
915/947-3574
www.cqlube.com



1601 S. Bryant, San Angelo, TX 76903
915.480.9339



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

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at www.ql.net/saac

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

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



**NEXT MEETING:
THURSDAY, SEP 11, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**