

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

September 2004

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 Joe Kent/KC5ILD on August 12 at 1932.

Introductions were set aside until later in the meeting.

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

Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Activities Manager. The X-Bar Shoot Out bike races will be held on September 19 at the X-Bar Ranch near Eldorado. They would like to have 7 or 8 operators (10-12 if possible). The races start at 0730. We need to be there early to get our assignments and be in position. On September 25, the Sidewinder Challenge will be held at San Angelo State Park. Their needs vary from year to year. They will need 3 or more operators. Paul will have more information at the September meeting.

Old Business

The location for the December Eatin' Meetin', by majority vote, will be the Ole Gin Steakhouse in Wall, same as last year.

Joe/KC5ILD will check on some of the needs for installing the air conditioning unit Glenn/AA5PK donated to the club. When it comes to the actual work, we will have an A/C party. Date to be determined.

Once again we tabled the issue of purchasing coax for Field Day. This is to remind us of the need for new coax and a storage facility before the event.

Joe/KC5ILD asked for introductions at this point. There were 20 members and 1 visitor in attendance.

Joe/KC5ILD, with the members present and the consent of more than two-thirds of the SAARC membership, presented Charlie Royall/WB5T a Certificate of Life Membership in the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Charlie is the first member to receive a life membership in the SAARC.

New Business

Charlie/WB5T suggested we have a First Contact Certificate for new amateurs. This may excite them to try to achieve more. Charlie also asked that we start using what is already provided for in the club's By-Laws: "ARTICLE II - SECTION V- Temporary Membership, not to exceed three months, may be granted to newly licensed amateurs in order to introduce them to the SAARC membership and proceedings. Temporary members shall enjoy the same privileges as Associate Members." The point is to introduce them to HF and to inspire them to set higher goals.

Joe/KC5ILD has asked us to solicit additional Associate Memberships. Remember to let potential associates know they will be on the Internet and, if they have a Web site, their site will be on ours as well.

Good of The Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$12 to the club and the winner, David Behrend/KB5FNK. David donated his share back to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2002.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be September 9, 2004 at 1930 at the clubhouse.



Coming Events

September 19 - X-Bar Shoot Out, X-Bar Ranch, Eldorado
September 25 - Sidewinder Challenge, San Angelo State Park

WB5T First SAARC Life Member



By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

At the August club meeting, a surprised Charlie Royall/WB5T was presented with a Certificate of Life Membership in the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Charlie became the first member ever to be so honored. Joe Kent/KC5ILD, SAARC President, cited just a few of Charlie's accomplishments in recognition of this honor: Charlie was instrumental in rebuilding the trailer for "the African Queen." He was the force behind having the security light installed where we park to be used for club activities such as barbecues. Charlie held Morse code classes at the club. He and XYL Nan/KC5YTG donated an ARRL video tape set for teaching the Technician Class License Course. Charlie was the driving force in drafting and submitting the documents necessary for the club to become incorporated and to later gain 501(c)(3) status. Charlie and Nan obtained

much-needed furniture and a new refrigerator for the clubhouse. Additionally, Charlie served as ARRL West Texas Section Manager and is still an Assistant Section Manager.

Congratulations to Charlie on this well deserved recognition.

License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/A45PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL  **VEC**

The next license testing session will be held on Sunday, October 17, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NCVEC Form 605 and \$12 check or money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") for this test session is required not later than October 11.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club's Web site <http://www.w5qx.org>.

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FCC Emergency Communications Declaration Policy

From The ARRL Letter, August 23, 2004

The FCC has formalized its policy for issuing an emergency communications declaration (ECD) on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. The policy, which became effective August 2, states that ECDs will be issued for VHF or UHF repeaters—if the licensee consents—or on simplex channels in the 60-meter band. The FCC will not entertain requests to specifically sequester frequencies in other HF bands for emergency traffic only. Past emergency communications declarations—typically issued during weather-related emergencies—have put frequencies on 75 and 40 meters off limits to general use in an affected region.

"ECDs may only be issued after a disaster disrupts normal communication systems in a geographic area subject to FCC regulation," the FCC said, citing §97.401(b). Under its provisions, when a disaster disrupts normal telecommunications systems in a given area, the FCC may declare a temporary communication emergency that sets forth any special conditions and special rules stations must observe while it's in effect. The policy clarifies that the FCC has authority to issue ECDs only for communication emergencies and not on the basis of anticipated emergencies. It also tightens up the requirements to request an ECD.

The policy calls for VHF and UHF Amateur Service channels to receive preference for ECDs. Requests may indicate a specific repeater system, subject to permission from the repeater's licensee or trustee. On HF, the FCC says, an ECD may authorize the use of one or two 60-meter channels, centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz, subject to §97.303(s). See ARRL's Frequently Asked Questions regarding 60-meter operation <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq-60.html> for details.

The FCC said frequencies in other amateur bands—where emergency nets already have been established—may be used during emergencies under the provisions of §97.101(c). That rule section stipulates that amateur operators give priority to stations providing emergency communications "at all times and on all frequencies."

The FCC policy, Emergency Communications Declarations in the Amateur Radio Service, is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/emcom-declarations.html>.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM

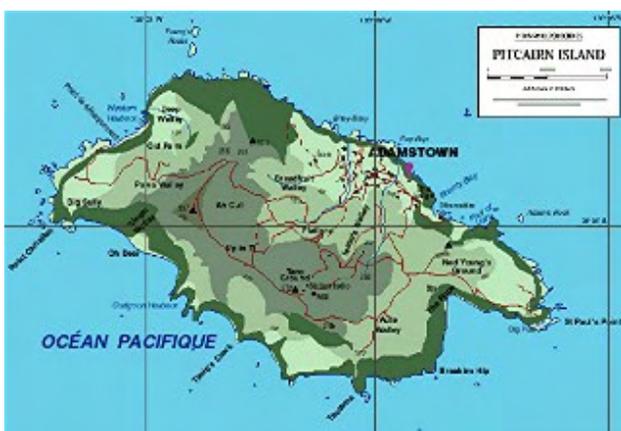


By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

Island of the Month

Pitcairn Islands - VR6. Comprising five islands, the Pitcairn Island group—Pitcairn, Ducie, Henderson and Oeno and Sandy Islands—the only inhabitable and inhabited one is Pitcairn proper. The islands are semi-famous, with over 2000 books and at least five movies about them. Originally thought to be inhabited by Polynesians, they were officially discovered by the British in 1767, although the crew that found the island placed it 188.4 nautical miles west of where it actually was. The island was really settled by the remaining crew of the *Bounty* and their friends from Polynesia, very much like the movies. But between jealousy, home brewed alcohol and homesickness, the original crew was reduced to John Adams. (See the Pitcairn Islands Study Center site for a detailed history of the island—see link below, it's really interesting to read all the details).

The island is a British protectorate administered from New Zealand. This long-distance rule has created problems on the island as when a crime is committed—it is held to British standards versus the islands standards which were a combination of Polynesian and British rules. The population is about 55. The only way to get onto the island is ship-borne helicopter or aluminum long boats the islanders use to come out for goods or to sell the souvenirs. With cruise ships their primary access to the outside world, the island population is again dwindling. In the 1850s, there were over 150 souls on the island.



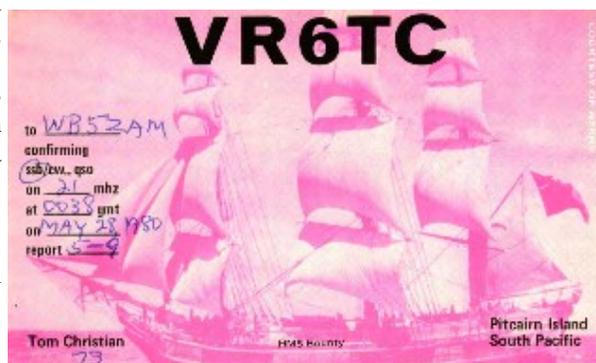
Relocation to Polynesia, then back to the island, relocation to Norfolk Island and then back to the island took its toll on the number of original members of the island clan. Their last reentry to the island just staved off the French from taking possession of the island as they had found the island uninhabited. (Go to supper and the French move in!) Current problems are mostly due to the non-home rule from New Zealand. The Governor in New Zealand has decided that no guns are allowed on the island. Among the residents, the only weapons are .22 rifles used for rodent control and getting bread fruit from high up the trees and a few shotguns for hunting wild boar and goats. In the early 19th century, the islands converted to Seventh Day Adventist and eat no pork or red meat other than the rare goat. Most are vegetarians and a few only eat fish and vegetables. They still live a simple life, relying mostly on self sufficiency and the tourist trade and stamps to maintain a modest level of living. With a very

temperate climate, except for the monsoons in the November to May time frame, fruits and vegetables grow in abundance. Experimental crops of fiber plants have been tried but with little success. Alcohol is strictly banned on the island due to the major loss of life attributed to the effects of it in the islands history. Fishing is a communal affair with catches divided amongst the families there. Handicrafts are sold to passing ships and via the Internet. The islands around Pitcairn supply wood for their carved souvenirs and the Internet has opened doors to sales of these and their stamps as a means of income. The primary income is from tourist trade and imports are sugar and diesel for the sole whole-island electricity generator. There is a one line telephone system (a multi-person party line), a resident physician and nurse to care for on-island problems and ship wrecks that occur around the islands. They are exploring ways to control the international fishing that goes on in their territorial waters, but with New Zealand the nearest Naval station, they are just not able to prevent other countries ships from abusing their waters. Guests are welcome, but migration to the island is by consent of the population and the person wishing to emigrate has to have a craft beneficial to the islanders. As the youngsters grow up, many move to New Zealand or Australia.

In 2002, Tom Christian was a guest speaker at HamCom in Dallas, and brought his daughter, Sherry, who was in the process of moving to the US (East Coast) to work as an RN. And in talking with her, I found she had no plans to return to the island, other than to visit. DXpeditions to the nearby Ducie Island in 2003 gave DXers a new island and country. Tom Christian led this DXpedition and they were very strong into West Texas. Since then there have been other DXpeditions to Ducie (VK9NS went, and a JA group went) and there are more planned in the near future.

QSL of the Month - VR6TC

This is an older QSL from Pitcairn Island. Tom is now VP6TC. More on Pitcairn and older photos of the folks living there can be found at <http://library.puc.edu/pitcairn/index.shtml>
See you on the bands chasing DX. 73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Aug 9	KA5VTG	12	6 min
Aug 16	KA5VTG	15	12 min
Aug 23	KA5VTG	N/A	N/A
Aug 30	KA5VTG	10	10 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

...Classifieds...

For Sale: 50-foot crank-up tower, \$50. Contact Bill/WB5ZAM at 657-0943 after 1900 or wb5zam@yahoo.net.

Other **classified ads** on the SAARC Web site.

...Classifieds...

From ARRL Club News

On September 11, 2004 the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) will be operating a special event station commemorating the attacks that occurred on the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and over Pennsylvania in 2001.

The club will be using the call sign K4AF and intends a 24-hour operation on 20, 40 and 80 meters. There will be a special QSL available for stations that work K4AF.

Members of PARC include civilian employees of the Pentagon as well as personnel from all branches of the military.

The club has a website at www.k4af.org



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

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at www.w5qx.org

2004 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ
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

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



**NEXT MEETING:
THURSDAY, SEPT 9, 7:30 PM
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**