

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

September 2005

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 11, 2005, at 1932.

Introductions were made with 14 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

The minutes for July 2005 were approved as read. The treasurer's report for July, 2005 and for August, 2005 were approved as read.

Officers' Reports

Emergency Coordinator: Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, claims to have the schedule for the Concho Valley 2 Meter Net all in order. Paul informed us the San Angelo National Weather Service will call us if we are needed at the weather facility.

Speaking for the Activities Manager, Don Gallion/KD5NAI, Paul said the dates for the X-Bar Shoot Out in Eldorado are September 16-18, 2005. The Siderwinder Challenge is Saturday, October 1, 2005, at San Angelo State Park. They will have three check points they would like for us to take care of. This is an all-day event, so more than one person per check point will be needed.

New Business

Public Information Officer: Chad Goodman/KD5SMK will obtain all information on the Rebate Night at Mr. Gatti's and present it at September's meeting. The fund raiser is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2005, from 1730-2030.

Bob Heiser/W7IKT purchased a new crimper for Anderson Powerpoles. It will crimp the 15, 30 and 45 amp contacts. Bob offered, at his cost, to apply connectors to anyone's equipment.

All soft drinks and water will be \$.50.

Old Business

Discussed the air show to be held at the airport on October 8-9, 2005. We have been asked to have a display table on the flight line. Did not seem to generate any interest.

Chad/KD5SMK will attempt to check on the A/C. Chad is still working on club QSL and business cards.

Joe/KC5ILD mentioned he and Ralph Stout/KA5ULE are considering another Technician license class.

Good of The Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$6 to the winner, Tom Strickland/KD5NXW, and to the club. Tom donated his part back to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2022. The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be September 8, 2005, at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL



VEC

The next regularly scheduled license testing session will be Sunday, October 16, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NCVEC Form 605 and \$14 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than October 10.

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

Information/forms can be obtained by contacting Don/AB5BG at 651-5441 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.

New vanity call sign fee now in effect

From The ARRL Letter, August 26, 2005

The application fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign rose to \$21.90 effective for applications received by the FCC on or after Tuesday, August 23. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a new Fee Filing Guide http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-260618A1.pdf this week, and WTB personnel have confirmed that the new vanity fee is in effect.

In a Report and Order and Order On Reconsideration (R&O) in the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 released July 7, the FCC raised the vanity application fee for FY 2005 from \$20.80 to \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The FCC said it had adjusted FY 2004 "payment units" for each service to better reflect expected FY 2005 payment liabilities. The fee went up from \$16.30 to \$20.80 a year ago.

A reevaluation in the number of anticipated vanity call sign applications—or "payment units"—accounts for this latest fee hike. The FCC says it anticipates 7600 vanity applications—up only slightly from a year earlier.

The fee applies to applications for new vanity call signs as well as to license renewals for current vanity call sign holders. Vanity call sign licenses issued in 1996 when the FCC resurrected its vanity program will be coming up for renewal starting in mid-2006. Under current rules, Amateur Radio licenses may only file renewal applications within 90 days of their license expiration date.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>.

7100-7200 kHz to become available to Region 1 and 3 FCC licensees

From The ARRL Letter, August 19, 2005

The FCC has realigned Amateur Radio allocations for Commission licensees living or operating within Regions 1 and 3. The changes to Part 97, which reflect decisions made at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, make the band 7100-7200 kHz available to amateur operators in Regions 1 and 3 effective September 9.

Under the revised regime, Novice and Technician Plus licensees may operate 7.100-7.150 MHz, CW only, 200 W output; General licensees may operate 7.100-7.150 MHz, CW/RTTY/data, 200 W output; Advanced and Amateur Extra may operate 7.100-7.150 MHz, CW/RTTY/data, 200 W and 7.150-7.200 MHz, CW/phone/image, 1500 W output. The special segments below 7.100 MHz are also retained.

The changes to Part 97 affect approximately 1250 FCC licensees as well as Commission-licensed stations operating portable or mobile within Regions 1 and 3.

After March 29, 2009, the 7.1-7.2 MHz segment will be allocated to the Amateur Service on a primary and exclusive basis throughout the world, with some exceptions.

Radio Shack and Amateur Radio

From Charlie Royall/WB5T

Once again Radio Shack is out of the Amateur Radio business and no longer sells Amateur Radio gear of any kind. It is not even available from their catalog. I was in there today 8-6-2005. We no longer have a local source for 2 meter, 70 cm or 10 meter gear.

SAARC night at Mr. Gatti's

Mark your calendars! The club will hold a fundraiser at Mr. Gatti's from 5:30 to 8:30 on Friday, October 7. Each diner who tells the cashier they're there for the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club will donate 15% of their check to the club. More details coming at the September club meeting.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in September: For the week August 14-31, there were 200+ countries active; DXpeditions upcoming are K7C (Kure), VK9X, T3, CN, EA8, EI, GD, HI, HS, 7Q, TK, TY, ISØ, VK9C, VP9, 3D2, SY9, OHØ, T8, 5R, S6 (Singapore) and 3A.

Island of the Month

VQ9 - Chagos Archipelago. Discovered by Portuguese explorer Diego Garcia, in the early 1500s, the islands were initially uninhabited. Then, with the establishment of the sugar cane and copra (from coconuts), slaves from Africa and India were brought to the islands. Consists of seven sets of small islands and the large elliptical (footprint in the sand shape someone said) Diego Garcia. As the economy of the world changed, they were left to fend for themselves, and became "indigenous natives." Established as a UK territory in 1965, a number of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) islands



were transferred to the Seychelles when it attained independence in 1976. Subsequently, BIOT has consisted only of the six main island groups comprising the Chagos Archipelago. The largest and most southerly of the islands, Diego Garcia, contains a joint UK-US naval support facility. All of the remaining islands are uninhabited. Until 1965 the islands were occupied by this indigenous group, but with the escalation of the cold war, the US leased Diego Garcia from the British in 1965 (running until 2016). Residents of the islands were relocated primarily to Mauritius and to the Seychelles, between 1967 and 1973. With the other islands in the chain uninhabited, Diego Garcia has wealth that the natives wish to reclaim (not just the coconut trees, but also the airfield, housing, port facilities,

bunkers, generators, water purification facilities, etc.) When they were displaced, none of these facilities were present, but they feel that they should inherit all of the improvements done at US taxpayers expense. With the Cold War dying down the islanders thought they had a chance to regain their islands, but with the invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the US military has made the Diego Garcia base one of the most important in the world.

Military stationed there are in a Club Tropicana atmosphere, with all sorts of activities available, nearly all dealing with the sea. All of the activities involving the ocean are available with the caveat "Swimming, snorkeling, sailing and windsurfing in the lagoon all involve possible contact with hostile and potentially deadly marine life." Temperatures and humidity are both high with tropical breezes keeping the climate tolerable. Scuba diving is said to be among the best reefs in the world. Hiking and biking can be tedious as the island is only 17 miles square. A golf course is present (looking at the satellite map, there is lots of grass as well as lots of sand bunkers/hazards and water/sea is in play on most holes) as well as handball and tennis. Bicycles are available as are boats for deep sea fishing. Electricity is 110 VAC, air conditioning is a must, rental cars are few to non-existent and the sole way to go elsewhere is via AMC flights. While the CIA says the base is a joint venture, the truth is the British are there only in a secondary relationship. Jimmy Carter's Delta Force used the base as home port, Reagan used it to keep an eye on Iran-Iraq, Clinton used it to launch strikes into Iraq and both Bushes used the base for Middle East objectives.

To get to Chagos or to Diego Garcia requires permission of the British Indian Ocean Territories administration. And then to get to the other uninhabited islands would mean having a vast support system onboard an allowed vessel (and since this area is considered in or near a military zone, it is highly unlikely that you could get permission to land there or even be in the area). The other way would be to have active duty orders to the island or be a civilian contractor to the island. As a closely guarded military post, DXpeditions are rare and are mostly held by US service members stationed there.

QSL OF THE MONTH

VQ9LA

Larry is currently stationed on Diego Garcia, and his card shows him at 7°20'S/72°25'E. Our path to the island is due north, and in years past, we have had opening on all bands his way.

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Aug 8	AA5PK	15	10 min
Aug 15	KB5FNK	— no net held —	
Aug 22	N7SDQ	16	9 min
Aug 29	KD5NAI	— no net held —	

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



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Name This Piece of Equipment



Last month's "winner" was Bill/WA6CMJ who correctly identified the piece of equipment as an Instructograph (Morse trainer).



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

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

2005 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD
Vice President - Lloyd Glasscock/KØGEN
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ
Activities Manager - Don Gallion/KD5NAI
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mechenburg/KC5WXJ

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 8, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE