

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

September 2006

Meeting Minutes

By John Marshall/KC5FMX, Vice President

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by Vice President John Marshall/KC5FMX, on August 10, 2006 at 1930. Introductions were made with 12 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as printed in the August issue of *The Kilo-What*. The Treasurer's Report was unavailable.

Old Business

The 2-day Technician license class will be conducted on September 9 and 16 in the San Angelo Health Foundation meeting room in the Visitors' Center. Glenn/AA5PK and Ralph/KA5ULE will again be the instructors. License testing will follow the September 16th class. Pre-registration is required. Students ordering license manuals through the club are required to order not later than September 1 to ensure the books arrive in time for the first class.

The ink cartridge recycling fundraiser for the club is in full swing. We received postage paid mailers and those are available for members to send their empty cartridges to the recycler. The club receives \$.50 to \$4 (depending on the type of cartridge) for each mailed in.

The October anniversary meeting/party will be held on Saturday, October 14. Invitations will be mailed to former members in September.

The 145.27 repeater is again linked into the Southwest Lynx system. Charlie/KC5EZZ discovered that the landline connection to the system had failed some months ago.

New Business

Jamboree on the Air will be October 21 and 22. The scouts have asked the club to participate this year. U.B./KB9VTD has volunteered to coordinate JOTA with the scouts.

The next regular license testing session will be held on October 22 at 1300 at the clubhouse.

Good of the Order

Split the pot was worth \$5.50 to the club and to the winner, Mark Gregory.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1948.

Following a brief intermission, Charlie/KC5EZZ tested radio equipment for members using commercial equipment.

The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be September 14, 2006 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL  **VEC**

The next scheduled test session will be Sunday, October 22 at 1300 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 16.

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

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

President's Message

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK

The upper respiratory infection that kept me from attending the last club meeting took 10 days to shake and it was no fun for those 10 days. Especially since I was recovering from knee surgery at the time. My knee continues to heal, although it's still a bit stiff and I can't straighten my leg fully.

The license class will have started before the next meeting. I was hoping we'd get near a good turn-out like the May class, but that class was filled primarily with communicators from Shannon and the other area hospitals. This class will be smaller, but we hope to get a few new licensees and, perhaps, new club members out of it. Ralph/KA5JLE and I will be instructing on September 9 and, since Ralph won't be able to assist on the 16th, UB/KB9VTD has offered to help. I spent about 8 hours updating the PowerPoint slides we'll use for the class. I have to admit, I hate to see the Technician license exam degenerate to this point. If you read the question pool, you'll see what I mean.

Ron Perry/N5ZIX will be at this month's meeting to present a program on his position as the county/city emergency manager. Ron's has a lot of experience in the field, and he's been an amateur and past president of the club, so he should have some fair into how amateur radio and emergency management should work together, especially locally.

Gary/N5GRC is back in town after several trips to various locations around to country in his capacity as consultant. This last trip home he brought rain with him, so thanks for that, Gary. And we all hope you'll be in town for the rest of the year.

The fundraiser of recycling spent ink jet printer cartridges is showing some profit. As luck would have it, I emptied three cartridges for my HP photo printer all around the same time and I mailed them off in the pre-paid mailers. Mine, along with two others submitted, have generated \$9.50 for the club. Talk about a painless was to donate. My printer at work started blinking its "Low Ink" light last week, so I'll have another in the mail pretty soon. Come to the meeting and pick up mailers or contact Gary and he'll make sure you get a supply.

On October 14, we'll be holding the club's anniversary party with food and cake and ice cream at the clubhouse starting at 1100. All current members are, of course, invited, and we'll be sending invitations to as many former members as we can locate. Plan on coming out for lunch and perhaps some tailgate swapping.

Also in October is Scouting's Jamboree-on-the-Air. UB/KB9VTD has volunteered to head up JOTA for the club. The event is October 21-22 and it's when we give scouts a chance to get on the air and talk with other scouts around the country (and the world, if conditions are good and we have a third party agreement with the country). UB may be calling upon some club members to assist with JOTA. My YF and I will be in Utah visiting our daughter and son-in-law that weekend after a week in Las Vegas attending a reunion of some military folks who I served with on the German/Czech border in the early '70s (remember the Cold War?). Hopefully UB will come to the meeting with JOTA plans.

We have some serious business to attend to at the September meeting, so I hope all of you can find time in your schedule to come hear Ron talk about emergency management as well as take part in the business meeting.

73 and see you on September 14 at 1930 hours.

Possibly Good News—Or Wishful Thinking

From The ARRL Letter, September 1, 2006

The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. At least that's the thinking of some scientists.

"We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, then disappeared, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August—although it subsequently began to dissipate—and some sun gazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24."

"Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle," he said. Radio conditions will not improve any time soon, but over a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in September: Per the AR-Cluster there were 191 countries on the air 21-28 August. DXpeditions were expected from the new Montenegro stations 4O, as well as 3A, 3XM, 5B, 5V, 6W, 7Q, 9A, CT3, CU, EA8, FT/W; FT/X, 7P, V2, XV, J7, SV5 and, coming in late October, is VK9C-Cocos Keeling for a month.

Island of the Month

VK9C—Cocos Keeling: The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are located in the middle of the Indian Ocean some 2750 kilometers north-west of Perth and 900 kilometers west south-west of Christmas Island, its closest neighbor. Cocos lies approximately 12°S/96.5°E, locating the islands in the humid tropical zone. Cocos experiences two main seasons which tend to overlap—the trade wind season from April/May to September/October and the calmer doldrums season from November through to April. They have higher rainfall during March through to July. January through to August may also generate the occasional low pressure system (usually between February and April). However, these systems do not normally interfere with holiday plans. Rainfall usually visits this sandy atoll in the evenings and then sunny humid days! The average annual rainfall is 200 millimeters (let's see, 200 mm=2 m, and 2 m is almost 7 ft, so they have 6+ feet of rain a year!) Temperatures are fairly consistent no matter what the season, remaining around a comfortable 29°C



with a minimum evening temperature rarely dropping below 20°C (68 to 80F). Surrounded by the Indian Ocean, Cocos (Keeling) is a haven for water-based activities. Their golf course is next to the airport, and hence makes play a challenge with incoming flights.

The first group of settlers brought to the islands by Alexander Hare (from Scotland) was predominately Malay with a number of people of Chinese, Papuan and Indian descent. It is believed the party also comprised a few African individuals. They were described by subsequent visitors to the islands as being nominally Muslim and speaking Malay—the trading lingua franca of the then East Indies. Today the Malay dialect spoken by the Cocos Malay people is an unsophisticated oral language. It contains words that reflect the diverse origins of these people and their history of sporadic contacts with outsiders. Of necessity, modern interpretation is given in Bahasa Indonesia/Malay with some adaptation to local usage. The society that exists today has been held together for eight generations by its very isolation, shared economic endeavour, strong family loyalty, a deepening commitment to Islam and their unique version of the old Malay language of the East Indies. Theirs has been a world sealed off from the outside by geography, politics and language. Few outsiders have lived among them and very little has been recorded of their cultural practices and traditions.

Despite their disparate origins, the Cocos Malay people achieved an identity of their own within one generation of settlement. The "Cocos-born," as they were officially referred to, lived separately from both the Javanese contract laborers and the European owner-settlers. They had their own mosques, their own leaders and their own ceremonies. Today the cornerstone of the Cocos Malay society and the focus of each individual's life is the Islamic religion. Few depart from its teachings and observances. Elements of the English-Scottish traditions of the early overseeing families have been absorbed into Cocos Malay cultural practices. Certain foods, dances and musical influences have a western flavor. (Above from the Cocos Keeling Tourist Board)

With the highest point of land 5 meters (again about 3.25 ft/m=16 ft), and a huge population of 574 in July of 2006, their main source of income is copra (coconuts) and tourism. Although consisting of 27 coral islands only two have population centers, the West Island, which has the capital and the Home Island which is home to the Malay and Muslim population. Civil defense and general protection is provided by the country's mother government in Australia. There are 287 telephones (none are digital), no television stations, and only 3 radio stations. The one airport is near the capital (and the golf course). Foodstuff, except for fish, bananas, vegetable and pawpaws, are imported from Australia. Health care is based around the Australian socialized medicine system, and anything acute is taken to the Australian mainland. Amateur radio operators are not found except during DXpeditions by others.

QSL OF THE MONTH

K5KEG - Ken in San Antonio shows one way to organize your shack. Stackables!

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Aug 7	KA5VTG	11	7 min
Aug 14	AA5PK	20	10 min
Aug 21	AA5PK	10	7 min
Aug 28	AA5PK	24	11 min
Sep 4	AA5PK	13	8 min

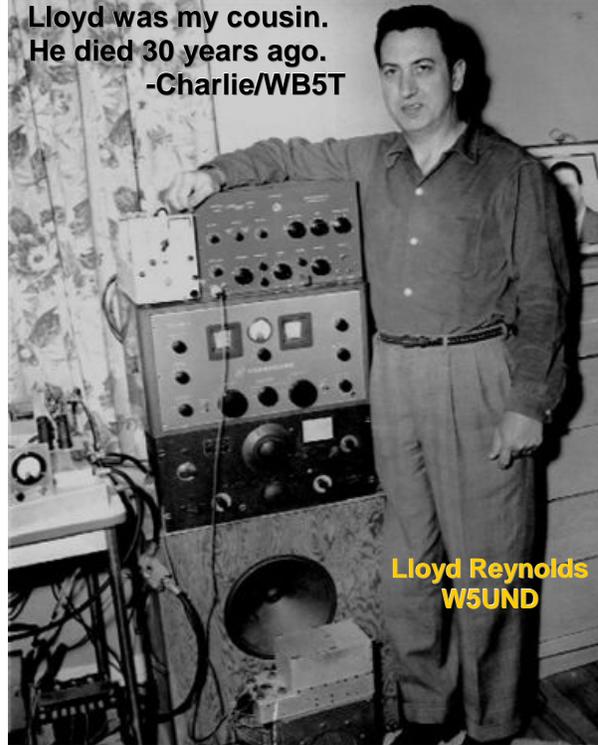
This net meets every Monday night at 8 p.m. on the club's 146.34/.94 repeater. All amateurs licensed to operate on that frequency are invited to participate.

Concho Valley Open FM Repeaters

2 Meter		70 centimeter	
145.27-	San Angelo PL 88.5	441.750+	San Angelo PL 162.2
or PL 100.0 for local transmit		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

Can You Name Any of This?

Lloyd was my cousin.
He died 30 years ago.
-Charlie/WB5T



**Lloyd Reynolds
W5UND**

Keith/K5LSM correctly identified the RCA AR-88D receiver in the August Kilo-What



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

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

2006 SAARC Officers:

President - Glenn Miller/AA5PK
Vice President - John Marshall/KC5FMX
Secretary/Treasurer - Gary Chaffin/N5GRC
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - //Vacant
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 14, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**