

# *The eKilo -What*

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

April 2010

## **March Meeting Minutes**

**de Bob Freeman, KD5PIX**

The regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Ralph Stout, KA5ULE, on March 11, 2010 at 1932.

Introductions were made with 21 members and 3 visitors in attendance.

The February Minutes were approved as printed in the Kilo-What and the Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

## **Old Business**

Hughbert Robinson, KC5NPC, brought up the Food Kits for the Meals on Wheels. He will check to see if a person could donate cash or give us an idea of what they would like for the Food Kits.

Hughbert has a list for those that would like to help on the Rebuilding Together. There seems to be a good turn out for this every year. Get in touch with Hughbert.

The Sunset Mall has invited all nonprofit organizations

to set up in the Mall one day each year to let the community know who they are and what they do. Our club has been invited to participate and the paperwork has been taken care of.

## **New Business**

Mike Dominy, KD5URW, reported that the next Technician Class will be Saturday April 10&17, 2010. Should anyone have any questions about the class, get in touch with Mike.

## **Good of the Order**

Split-the-Pot was worth \$14.00 for the Winner, Jack Roberts, KB5TMY and the club. Jack donated his winnings to the club. Thank you Jack.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2007. The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio club, Inc. will be Thursday April 8, 2010 at the clubhouse at 1930.

## **License Classes and Exam Session**

License classes for the Technician License will be conducted April 10 and 17, 2010. The Saturday classes will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run until 5 p.m. on the 19th and conclude at 1:30 p.m. on the 17th.

License exams for all classes of licenses will be given April 17 beginning at 1:30 p.m. All those interested in testing for any license level are encouraged to attend.

The location of the classes and exams is the Commons Building of the ASU Centennial Village Housing complex at Ave. N and Rosemont.

The classes are offered free of charge. Study Guides are available for a fee.

The license exams require a fee of \$15.00 cash or check made out to ARRL VEC.

For information on what to bring to the exam session see: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml#what2bring>.

### **For more information contact:**

**Ralph Stout, KA5ULE at 374-2244 or [zell7@verizon.net](mailto:zell7@verizon.net), or**

**Mike Dominy, KD5URW at 716-0659 or [kd5urw@arrl.net](mailto:kd5urw@arrl.net).**

Test questions and practice exams are available at: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)    [www.eham.com](http://www.eham.com)    [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

## **April Club Program**

The program for the April SAARC Club meeting will be presented by Ron Perry, KB5UPE of the City of San Angelo/Tom Green County Emergency Management Department.

## Scanner Jack's Corner

de Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

These are the frequencies to monitor during events or bad weather to learn which roads are blocked off.

460.600 EMS DISP  
 462.675 REACT  
 460.600 REACT  
 151.025 TX DOT  
 152.270 HOME MOTORS  
 157.650 TAXI CARS  
 152.390 TAXI DISP  
 855.2875 TRASHAWAY  
 461.050 SCHOOL BUS  
 461.375 SCHOOL MAINT

These are the frequencies to monitor during a wild fire.

159.270 TPWD DISP 1  
 159.285 TXFS dozers  
 159.300 TXFS Air TAC 1  
 159.315 TXFS Air TAC 2  
 159.330 TXFS S.A DISP 2  
 159.345 TXFS S.A STATE PARK  
 155.130 TGC FD DISP  
 155.1825 TGC FD Repeater  
 154.160 TGC FD Trucks  
 154.220 COKE CO FD DISP  
 154.175 LAKE IVY FD DISP  
 154.280 TX FIRE 1  
 154.265 TX FIRE 2  
 154.295 TX FIRE 3  
 154.950 TX LAW 1  
 155.370 TX LAW 2  
 155.475 TX LAW 3

## Emergency Communications

de Mike Dominy, KD5URW  
 Emergency Coordinator

April ARES Net Report				
Date	Net Ctrl	Check-ins	Time	Freq
3/1	KD5URW	18	16 min	444.350
3/8	KD5URW	14	17 min	444.350
3/15	KD5URW	16	16 min	444.350
3/22	KD5URW	12	16 min	444.350
3/29	KD5URW	17	18 min	147,300

### ARES Net

Meets every Monday night at 8:30 CST (2030 hr) on the 444.350 repeater (N5SVK) with other frequencies announced on Concho Valley Net at 8:00 pm.

### Activities

No. of ARES members: 19

NTS liaison is maintained with the: West Texas Section

Total number of ARES operations this month: 5

Total Man hours: 84.0

The Tom Green County ARES group held their monthly meeting on 18 March 29, 2010. We had a good meeting discussing some changes that the Monday Night Net will be going through in the next few months. The changes will be good for the group in doing check-ins from all area members. We looked at more of the primary goals and projects that the group will be and working on this year and at some of the work and training days in April at the city/county EOC, but there is still much to do with the computers and on training.

I wish to say a big Thanks to all who attend the meetings and wish to invite anyone to our meetings to see what ARES is all about. The next TGC-ARES group meeting is set for 15 April 2010 at 7:00 PM at the San Angelo ARC club house.

73s, Stay Safe and Happy 2010 DXing .

### Reading List (From ARES Newsletter of March 24)

Here is a good clip (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8PYZOc9L9o>) on D-STAR.

From Les Rayburn, N1LF: Great NPR article on solar storms here (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124125001>).

A good item from Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU: Using the Internet as a Public Service Radio Scanner (<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2010/03/05/11378/?nc=1>).

## CQ DX

de Bill Richards, WB5ZAM

**Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions during April:** VK9; 7Q; H44; 5X; 5Z; S79; PJ4; 8Q7; HH4; OX; YS; FR; JD/O; MJ; 9K2; Y19; A7; 3B; LX; FW; 3W; V6; T2; BW; ZA; 3D2; A5; KH0; FM; T8; TS8; ZL7; ZS8 (RARE).

**Island of the Month—ZK-Niue Island:** With a population in 2004 of about 1600, this small island has survived the ravages of nature and man and continues to attract tourists. Niue (pronounced /'nju:ei/ in English) is an island nation in the South Pacific Ocean. It is commonly known as the "Rock of Polynesia", and natives of the island call it "the Rock".

Though self governing, Niue is in free association with New Zealand, and thus lacks full sovereignty. Queen Elizabeth II is Niue's head of state. Most diplomatic relations are conducted by New Zealand on Niue's behalf.

Niue is 2,400 kilometers northeast of New Zealand in a triangle between Tonga, Samoa, and the Cook Islands. The people are predominantly Polynesian. Located at 19d03'48"S and 169d51'11" W, the island has a total area of 100 sq mi.

The first European to sight Niue was Captain James Cook in 1774.

Cook made three attempts to land on the island but was refused permission to do so by the Polynesian inhabitants. He named the island "Savage Island" because, legend has it, the natives that "greeted" him were painted in what appeared to Cook and his crew to be blood. However, the substance on their teeth was that of the hulahula, a native red banana. For the next couple of centuries the island was known as Savage Island, until its original name Niu ē, which translates as "behold the coconut", regained use.



Niue was a British protectorate for a time, but the UK's direct involvement ended in 1901 when New Zealand annexed the island. Independence in the form of self-government was granted by the New Zealand parliament with the 1974 constitution. Robert Rex, ethnically part European, part native, was appointed the country's first premier, a position he held until his death 18 years later. Rex became the first Niuean to receive a knighthood, in 1984.

Niue is one of the world's largest coral islands. The terrain consists of steep limestone cliffs along the coast with a central plateau rising to about 60 metres above sea level. A coral reef surrounds the island, with the only major break in the reef being in the central western coast, close to the capital, Alofi. A notable feature is the number of limestone caves found close to the coast. The island is roughly oval in shape (with a diameter of about 18 kilometers), with two large bays indenting the western coast, Alofi Bay in the centre and Avatele Bay in the south. Between these is the promontory of Halagigie Point. A small peninsula, TePā Point (Blowhole Point), is close to the settlement of Avatele in the southwest.

Most of the population resides close to the west coast, around the capital, and in the northwest. Temperatures are typical Tropical, with highs near 80 and lows near 70. The rainy season is in the time frame from November to April. The island is self governing with a free association with New Zealand. It is fully responsible for all internal affairs of the island.

Niue's economy is small, with a GDP of NZ\$17 million in 2003,[14] or US\$10 million at purchasing power parity. Most economic activity revolves around the government, as the government was traditionally in charge of organizing and managing the affairs of the new country since 1974. However, since the economy has reached a stage where state regulation may now give way to the private sector, there is an ongoing effort to develop the private sector. Most Niuean families grow their own food crops for subsistence and some are sold at the Niue Makete in Alofi, some exported to their families in New Zealand. The Niuean taro is known in Samoa as "talo Niue" and in international markets as pink taro. Niue also exports taro to the New Zealand market. The Niue taro is a natural variety and is very resistant to pests.



Some of the soils are geochemically very unusual. They are extremely highly weathered tropical soils, with high levels of iron and aluminum oxides (oxisol) and mercury, and they contain surprisingly high levels of natural radioactivity. There is almost no uranium, but the radionuclide's Th-230 and Pa-231 head the decay chains. This is the same distribution of elements as found naturally on very deep sea beds, but the geochemical evidence suggests that the origin is extreme

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**Recent Programs**

<b>July '09</b>	APRS <b>Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ</b>
<b>August '09</b>	Batteries Plus, <b>Richard &amp; Patrick Brown</b>
<b>September '09</b>	DPS, <b>Trooper Shawn Baxter</b>
<b>October '09</b>	85th SAARC Birthday Celebration
<b>November '09</b>	Satellite Operations, <b>Glenn Miller/AASPK</b>
<b>December '09</b>	Eatin' Meeting
<b>January '10</b>	CVCOG Interoperability Data and Radio Systems, <b>Jim Koca/N5PIY</b>
<b>February '10</b>	Tour of the San Angelo Public Safety Communications Facility, <b>David Berhend/KB5FNK</b>
<b>March '10</b>	Tour of the San Angelo National Weather Station, <b>Hector Guerrero/KC5BRB</b>
<b>April '10</b>	San Angelo/TGC Emergency Management Department, <b>Ron Perry/KB5UPE</b>

**Rebuilding Together and Christoval Cleanup**

Help is needed to provide communications for two events coming up.

**Rebuilding Together — April 24****Christoval Cleanup Day — May 8**

If you can help with either of these projects contact Hughbert Robinson , KC5NPC by email at [tbum@aol.com](mailto:tbum@aol.com) or phone at 949-7478.

**ARRL Requests Support for Senate Bill 1755**

Senate Bill 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 introduced in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee. S 1755 accomplishes the same things as HR 2160; HR 2160 was introduced in April 2009 by Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). Since S 1755 has already been approved by the Senate, moving it forward in the House will simplify the process.

S 1755 points out that "[t]here is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

If enacted into law, S 1755 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study -- and report its findings to Congress within 180 days -- on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

Please contact Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA-30) and Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-TX-6), urging them to send this bipartisan bill to the House floor for adoption. A sample letter can be found here (<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/sample-letter-S-1755.doc>). Send your letters urging consideration of S 1755 by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to Rep Waxman via fax at 202-225-2525, and to Rep Barton via fax at 202-225-1919. Also, please fax a copy of your letters to the ARRL's Washington representative, Chwat & Co at 703-684-7594.

For more information on S 1755, please visit the ARRL Government Relations Web page (<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/>).



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weathering of coral and brief sea submergence 120,000 years ago. Endothermal upwelling, by which mild natural volcanic heat draws deep seawater up through the porous coral, may also contribute. No adverse health effects from the radioactivity or other trace elements have been demonstrated and calculations show that level of radioactivity would probably be much too low to be detected in the population. These unusual soils are very rich in phosphate, but it is not accessible to plants, being in the very insoluble form of iron phosphate, or crandallite. In August 2005, an Australian mining company, Yamarna Goldfields, suggested that Niue might

have the world's largest deposit of uranium. By early September these hopes were seen as overoptimistic, and in late October the company cancelled its plans to mine, announcing that exploration drilling had identified nothing of commercial value. In 2003 the Government made a commitment to develop and expand vanilla production with the support of NZAID.

Vanilla has grown wild in Niue for a long time. Despite the setback caused by the devastation of Cyclone Heta in early 2004, there was ongoing work on vanilla production. The expansion plan started with the employment of unemployed or underemployed labor force to help clear land, plant supporting trees and plant vanilla vines. The approach to accessing land include having each household interested to have a small plot of around half to 1-acre (4,000 m<sup>2</sup>) to be cleared and planted with vanilla vines. There are a lot of planting materials for supporting trees to meet demand for the expansion of vanilla plantations; however there is a severe shortage of vanilla vines for planting stock. There is of course the existing vanilla vine, but cutting them for planting stock will reduce or stop vanilla from producing beans. At the moment the focus is in the areas of harvesting and marketing.

Tourism has been identified as one of the three priority economic sectors (the other two are Fisheries and Agriculture) for economic development in Niue. And Hams are welcomed by the places with visitor accommodations. Especially after the Cyclone in 2004 left all communications except ham radio non-operational.

Read more about Niue at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niue>;  
<http://www.niueisland.com/>;  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ne.html>.

**OSL OF THE MONTH-ZK2PI:** Burt was on Niue in 2004 and was instrumental in getting out the call for help when Cyclone Heta tried to wipe the island clean of humans. For more see:

<http://www.pa3gio.nl/ZK2GI/>

**See you on the bands chasing dx. 73 de WB5ZAM.**



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

<u>Date</u>	<u>NCS</u>	<u>Check-ins</u>	<u>Duration</u>
3/1	KB5FNK	35	24 min
3/8	KB5TMY	30	27 min
3/15	KB5FNK	24	16 min
3/22	KB5FNK	23	20 min
3/29	KB5FNK	29	20 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 PL 88.5	444.350+	San Angelo PL 162.2 (Echo-Link Node)
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5	444.875+	Brady PL 162.2 Linked to 444.225+
147.06+	San Angelo PL 103.5		
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30	San Angelo PL 88.5
146.90-	Brady PL 162.2		
146.62-	Brady PL 114.8 (Echo-Link Node)		



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

Get all the latest club news on the World  
Wide Web at [www.w5qx.org](http://www.w5qx.org)

### 2009 SAARC Officers:

President - Ralph Stout/KA5ULE  
 Vice President - Lisa Koca/K3LLK  
 Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX  
 Emergency Coordinator - Mike Dominy/KD5URW  
 Activities Manager - Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC  
 Grounds Chairman - Joe Kent/W5JBK  
 W5QX Trustee - Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ

**SAARC Monthly Meetings:** 2nd Thursday,  
1930, Clubhouse, 5513 Stewart Lane

**Annual Dues:** \$20, Sr. & Jr. \$10

**The Kilo-What:** Edited by Buddy/KD5SBE at 949  
-7731 or email [vparker6@suddenlink.net](mailto:vparker6@suddenlink.net)

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



**NEXT MEETING: 4/8/10**  
**PROGRAM: RON PERRY/KB5UPE**  
**MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**