

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. *August 2003*

Activities Notes

By Paul Wittenborn/N7SDQ, Activities Manager

Attention all SAARC members and other interested and available amateurs: please mark your calendar for September 13 and 14.

On Saturday, September 13, the Sidewinder Challenge adventure race will be held at the San Angelo State Park. We've helped with this event for the past 3 years and have had great reviews. This is a hard one to work because it lasts all day and possibly into the evening. We need 10 to 12 operators to run this to allow everyone who needs a break to have one. Also, some folks can't work the entire day. Last year the lady who runs this decided to make us her charitable organization for this event. She was able to donate \$250 for our help. Hopefully this year she'll be able to do the same thing.

On Sunday, September 14, we'll be helping at the X-Bar Shoot Out Bike Race at the X-Bar Ranch in Eldorado. We've helped with this event for the past 4 years and they also really appreciate the help. For the X-Bar, we need 6 or 7 operators until about 3 in the afternoon. It's usually very pleasant down there and they're always glad to see us.

What I need is someone to step up and take charge of either or both events. I have to be in Oregon that weekend to celebrate my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. As much as I hate to miss these events, I do have to be elsewhere. If you're interested in helping, or taking charge, please give me a call and let me know. Thanks.

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 John Marshall/KC5FMX at 1934.

Introductions were made with 21 members, 1 associate member, and 4 visitors in attendance. Visitors were Darrin Boyett of San Angelo, Bryan Crandell/KD5WXI, Lloyd Glasscock/KØGEN, and Kent Frazier/KD5AES. Lloyd and Kent became members after the meeting.

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

Officers' Reports

David/KB5FNK, Vice President, reported Field Day activities went very well. Thanks to every one for every aspect of the event. Those who helped with the meals to the operators to those who helped to set up and tear down. There are so many jobs and we needed you all. And we thank you all. Every one made the event a success.

Paul/N7SDQ, Activities Manager, again thanked everyone for all their hard work. We had 1280 points with 900 bonus points for a total of 2180. We are not on the bottom, for sure. Good showing for the club. September there are two major events the club participates in: the X-Bar Shoot Out in Eldorado and the Sidewinder Challenge at San Angelo State Park. The Eldorado event is always a lot of fun and they really do count on our being able to help out. The Sidewinder event has a designated charity and last year we were that charity. It is possible that we could become their charity of choice. They said we have been more help to them than any others have offered. Paul will not be in town during these events. He will get the dates confirmed and inform the president.

David/KA5VTG, Emergency Coordinator, announced the dual-band radio damaged by lightning at the National Weather Service office will cost almost as much to repair as to replace according to John/KC5FMX. It was suggested that David check with the NWS to see if they have insurance to cover our

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Meeting Minutes

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equipment when used at their facility. David reported there will be a SKYWARN class at the Grape Creek Fire Department from 0900-1300 on July 19. The computers we wanted to use for Field Day did not have working memory batteries. The lithium batteries are inexpensive and David suggested buying them and keeping them on hand until needed. He also suggested old laptops would be easier to work with and handle. Charles/KD5TKR and Chad/KD5SMK offered to donate two to the club.

Joe/KC5ILD, Grounds Chairman, thanked everyone who made the Saturday night Field Day meal a great success. There are so many to thank and the meal spoke for itself. There would not have been any meat on the plate had it not been for the magic touch of Tommy/N5WJN and his XYL Michelle/KC5KXX. We cannot overlook all the hard work from Paul Schafer. Joe said he had the generator running one more time. He suggested the carburetor be gone over by someone familiar with this type of equipment. It was suggested David/N5RBW may be of help. John/KC5FMX said his father would look it over if we could get out to him. We never know who may have to pull on that generator and it should be as easy to start as possible.

Good of the Order

Antenna repair. We need to set a day and ask for volunteers to take down the HF yagi from the tower and swap it with the 6-element in the garage. If we receive another antenna from an anticipated donation, fine. Otherwise we have to do something with what we have. We can rent a lift over some weekend and possibly accomplish other jobs as well. More to come.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be Thursday, August 14, at 1930 at the clubhouse.

License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

ARRL  **VEC**

A license testing session was held on July 27 at the clubhouse.

Administering volunteer examiners were Don/AB5BG, John/KC5FMX, Rob/N5OIU, and Glenn/AA5PK.

One candidate was administered two examination elements.

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>.

First UK-US Amateur 2SDs Logged on New Band

From The ARRL Letter, August 1, 2003

The first transatlantic contact between the US and the United Kingdom on their overlapping 5-MHz channel—5405 kHz (5403.5 kHz)—has been reported. Charly Harpole, K4VUD, in Florida, worked Paul Widger, GØHNW, in West Yorkshire, England on July 4—the day after the band first became available to US amateurs. Harpole reports the QSO took place at 0345 UTC. John Easey, G4XBE, in Essex confirmed overhearing the contact. "Subsequently K4VUD and GØHNW worked a string of stations, and I worked N1WJ," said Easey, who also worked K4VUD and reported hearing NP4A/m and other stations on the US mainland. Harpole, who participated in the ARRL WA2XSY 5-MHz experimental operation, used a Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V reprogrammed for 60 meters and running 50 W into an inverted V. In 2002, Harpole's WA2XSY signal on 5 MHz was received by Paul Gaskell, G4MWO. Harpole said several other US stations worked GØHNW and G4XBE on 60 meters on July 4 until propagation quit. While it is legal for US hams to work UK amateurs, US hams are advised that UK operators are on the air specifically as part of propagation and equipment experiments and not for the purpose of making routine contacts.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in August: 3B9—Rodriquez Is., (rare), FP—Miquelon and St. Pierre, 9N—Nepal, TZ—Mali, PJ6—Netherland Antilles, TF—Iceland, EA6—Balearic Is., VP5—Turks and Caicos, P29—New Guinea, V7—Marshall Is., SV5—Dodecanese, CY9—St Paul Is., 3DAØDX—Swaziland, 9H—Malta, T32—Eastern Kiribati, JD—Ogasawara, XU—Cambodia, OY—Faroe Is., H44—Solomon Is., C6—Bahamas, and H4Ø—Temotu. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of July 20-27, there were 211 countries active.

Island of the Month: Curacao - PJ

With 38 beaches, mountains rising to 1200 feet, a 20-inch rainfall, and 170,000 Dutch speaking residents, Curacao lies just east of its sister island, Aruba, west of Bonaire, and 44 miles off the Venezuela coast. The island is 40 miles long and varies from 5 to 12 miles wide. The history is as interesting as most Caribbean islands, with the Arawak Indians first settling on the island over 6000 years ago. Columbus and numerous Portuguese and Spanish sailors found the island, each claiming to be the first.

The official language is a mixture of Amerindian Arawak, African, Dutch, Portuguese, English, and Spanish, and is called Papiamentu. If you remember, it is spoken in St. Lucia and is a basic language as far north in the Caribbean as Sint Maarten, Saba, and Eustacius. The Spanish claimed the island at one point, looking for gold, but found dry and rain-free land, not supportive of colonization. The Dutch West Indies Company laid claim in 1634, and after going in and out of British and Dutch hands, the island became a protectorate of the Dutch Crown. The island slowly found a niche in the far end of the Caribbean commerce, growing peanuts, maize, and fruits. Salt ponds produced large quantities of marketable salt. With deep ports and the establishment of forts on the island, the Dutch West Indies Company used the island as a transshipment point for slaves bound for the US. In the early 1700s, Jewish families from Amsterdam established colonies on the island and attracted others from Europe and South America. On the island is the oldest synagogue still in use in the Western hemisphere.

In 1920, the fate of the island was sealed when oil was discovered off the coast of Venezuela, and a refinery was established. Along with Aruba, the two islands became the center for oil distillation in the Caribbean. During WW II, the US established a base at Waterfront Arches, near Willemstad (the capitol/largest town). As the center island of the ABC islands and one of the more prosperous, Curacao became the capital for the Netherlands Antilles, administering Aruba, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustacius, and Sint Maarten. Each island maintains local control and relies to some extent on the Netherlands for assistance. Although with the rise in the tourist industry in the area, and the continued finds of oil in the region, the island continues to prosper. Also, a major employer is the water desalinization plant that provides fresh water for the residents.



Willemstad lies to the south and west of the island, and the northern/western end is mostly a preserve, with the few hills rising to 1200 feet. One of the noted animals in the preserve is the approximately 200 deer, similar in size and marking to those found in West Texas. Apparently they were brought by the Arawaks when they first found the islands. Iguanas are found on the island, but unlike other islands they are not protected and do find their way into local cuisine.

Local healthcare is modern with numerous clinics about the island and a large hospital in Willemstad. Electricity is odd, with a 112-115 VAC 50 cycle system. The tourism sites recommend bringing adapters to bring it up to 60 cycles

else many appliances/computers/clocks, etc. lose time or overheat. Multiple tour boats come to call at the port in Willemstad and over 200,000 tourist visit the island. Many are from the Netherlands, and Europe. The Gilder is the local currency and is reported to trade at 1.77 to the US\$1. Local time is 4 hours ahead of GMT. Weather is stable all year, with temperatures ranging like other Caribbean islands from 74 to 86, with rare rainy or cloudy days. Being as close as it is to the South American coast (12°N/68°W) is an advantage as most hurricanes develop and work north of the island, but also the rain systems do not visit the island and the 20 inches of rain barely supports the native cacti population. There is lots of information on the Web about accommodations and how to get to the ABC islands, and this article came from www.curacao-travelguide.com. Amateur radio activity is limited mostly to local operations, but DX condos are available for the avid contester to set up and operate from.

QSL OF THE MONTH: G7BYF

Peter has a classic rig, the Yaesu FT-100, on his card. When much younger, I carried a similar radio (FT-100E) by the handle through DFW, JFK, and into Scotland for a vacation/ham DXpedition. You don't realize how much 45 pounds lengthens your arm until you carry it through long hallways and down concourses. And I was so tired carrying it, I didn't get but about 6 QSOs.

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



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jul 7	KA5VTG	21	10 min
Jul 14	KA5VTG	18	13 min
Jul 21	KA5VTG	22	6 min
Jul 28	KA5VTG	24	8 min
Aug 4	KA5VTG	17	9 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



Jerry White

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Wide Web at www.ql.net/saarc

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, AUG 14, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**