Kilo - What ❓

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SAN ANGELO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting Minutes

August 2007

Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
July 12, 2007

The regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President David Behrend/KB5FNK on July 12, 2007 at 1935.
Introductions were made with 12 members and 3 visitors in attendance.
The June 2007 Minutes were approved as printed in the July 2007 Kilo-What. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Old Business

Field Day went well. Chad/KD5SMK will have all the particulars at the August 9 2007 meeting. I believe we did rather well.
David/KB5FNK and others had met with Ron Perry concerning Homeland Security equipment. David had nothing to report.

New Business

Lori and Carol from the Red Cross were asking for volunteers for "Day of Caring", This is a city wide program to clean up homes and lots of elderly citizens that are not able to do so themselves or able to afford to hire someone to do the work. The program will be July 28 2007.

Good of The Order

Split-the-Pot was worth $9.00 to the winner Mike Dominy/KD5URW as well as to the club. Mike donated his share back to the club. Thank you Mike.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2016.
The next meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be August 9, 2007 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

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License Testing News

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, VE Team Liaison

Two license testing sessions were conducted in July. Volunteer examiners at both sessions were Glenn/AA5PK, Chuck/N5JED and Charlie/WB5T.
At the first session, held on July 8, tested the students of David/KA5VTG's license class at the San Angelo Visitors Center. Six candidates were administered six examination elements with the following results: five new Technician licensees.
The second session was the regularly scheduled session on July 15 at the clubhouse. Two candidates were administered two examination elements with the following results: two new Technician licensees.
The next testing session is scheduled for Sunday, October 21, at 1 PM at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (NCVEC Form 605 and check/money order for $14 made payable to "ARRL/VEC" and mailed to the club PO box) is required not later than October 15.
Note: The General class license question pool changed effective July 1, 2007.
Forms and testing information are available on the club Web site (www.w5qx.org). For more information, contact Glenn/AA5PK at aa5pk@suddenlink.net or at (325) 949-4775.
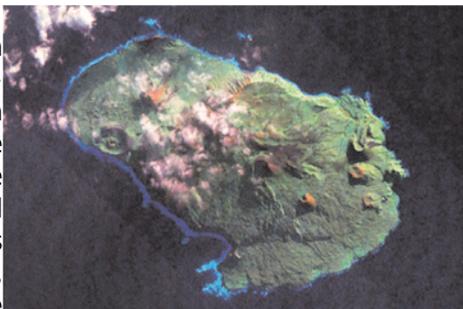
CQ DX

DXpeditions to exotic places in August: FW0-Wallis; K9W-Wake; JD1 Minami Torishima; 8Q-Maldives.

Island of the Month- ZS8-Prince Edward Island.

The Prince Edward Islands are two small, uninhabited islands in the sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean that are politically part of South Africa. As a group of two islands, the Prince Edwards Islands are located at 46°46′23″S, 037°51′09″E. The two islands are named Marion Island (46°54′45″S, 37°44′37″E) and Prince Edward Island (46°38′39″S, 37°56′36″E). Prince Edward Island is much smaller (only about 45 km², 17 sq mi) and lays some 12 nm (19 km) to the northeast. Prince Edward Island is located at 46°38′39″S, 37°56′36″E. At the Von Zinderen Bakker Peak northwest of the center, it reaches a height of 672 meters (2,204 ft). There are a few offshore rocks along the northern coast, like Ship Rock (100 meters, 330 ft, north of northernmost point) and Ross Rocks (500 meters, 1650 ft, from the shore). The island group is about 955 nm (1770 km) south-east of Port Elizabeth in mainland South Africa. The islands were discovered in 1663 by the Dutch ship Maerseveen. In 1772, Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne visited the islands and spent five days trying to land, thinking he had found Antarctica (then not yet proven to exist). In 1776, his expedition, now headed by his second-in-command, Jules Crozet after the death of du Fresne, met James Cook in Cape Town. Cook subsequently set sail for the islands, but was unable to attempt a landing due to bad weather conditions. He named the smaller island after Prince Edward, the fourth son of King George III and to the larger gave the name of Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne. The first recorded landing was in 1803 and was made by a group of seal hunters, who did, however, find signs of earlier inhabitation, probably other sealers. Finally, the islands were surveyed by Captain George Nares in 1873. In 1908 the British government granted William Newton the rights to exploit guano deposits for the next 21 years, and a 10-year-grant for seal exploitation to a sealing company in 1926. In late 1947 and early 1948, South Africa annexed the islands and installed the meteorological station Fairbairn Settlement on Transvaal Cove on the northeast coast of Marion Island. On September 22, 1979, one of the U.S. Vela spy satellites recorded an activity near the Prince Edward Islands, which was initially interpreted like the "double flash" of a small nuclear test. The event is still controversial and is known as Vela Incident. Marion Island and Prince Edward Island were claimed for South Africa by a South African Navy force from the HMSAS Transvaal on 29 December 1947 and 4 January 1948 respectively. The weather is unfortunately almost always bad - there are low temperatures throughout the year, a lot of snow and rain, strong winds, and the sky is usually at least three-quarters covered by clouds. On Prince Edward Island, scientific research is severely restricted. No more than four people are allowed to land there once every three to five years - even these people are not allowed to stay more than two or three days. Fur and elephant seals breed on the Prince Edward Islands, as do hundreds of thousands of penguins (kings, gentoos, rockhoppers, and macaronis), hundreds of thousands of petrels, and thousands of albatrosses. The only ham radio has been allowed from Marion Island, and the operator had to be South African, and part of the scientific team. (resources: Wikipedia and www.70south.com)

QSL OF THE MONTH- A52K-Bhutan: A nice picture of Katsumi on DXpedition in Bhutan.

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

Live Ham CD

By Chad Goodman/KD5SMK

While sorting out our logging records for this last field day I came to the realization that we seriously need to update our logging capabilities. The current DOS based program we typically use, named after it's creator WR9R, has had some issues with the newer versions of Windows that most current laptops come with. On top of this, we tried using a digital mode in this last field day which requires the use of a computer. How can we merge all these needs together? Enter Harv's Ham-Shack Hack (hereby refered to as Harv's).

Harv's is a full blown Linux distribution that can be booted off a CD. What is special about this particular distribution is that it is geared towards the Ham Radio operator. While Linux has always been a Ham friendly OS, Harv's allows you to harness this fact simply and without the need to abandon your current OS. Since Harv's boots from a CD and runs in memory without the need for a hard drive, you can run it on a current Windows machine without having to erase your Operating System.

Harv's has a whole bag of tricks up its sleeves. Which includes a logger which will log in the "cabrillo" format that ARRL uses for submission of all contest results online. It has a multitude of programs which can talk almost any digital mode you can think of, as well as a program for Slow Scan TV. All of these modes are accomplished by interfacing your soundcard to your rig. Soundcard interfacing is becoming very popular in today's ham radio world. A trend the author believes originated in the Linux community, but I could be wrong. This support is enabled by default upon booting and is usable in most common sound cards that Linux supports. One of the other purposes for the soundcard interfacing is the use in standard VHF/UHF packet. Harv's includes a digipeater program and APRS gateway program that run in the background, making a great portable digi when combined with a suitable radio. Rounding out the list of features is a APRS mapping program to display data as well as a GPS navigation program. Some of the basic programs are included as well, such as a web browser, e-mail client, word processor, etc.

Now at this point your saying, "Sounds great, where can I get my hands on it. Sounds like a good waste of a weekend." Before you jump off the deep end, let's cover a few other things. First of all, since Harv's does not require the use of a hard drive, where do you store things? Well there are a couple of ways to approach this. First thing would be to install Harv's to a hard drive and run it like any other OS. Another option is to use the increasingly common USB thumb drives that are sold just about everywhere. I have seen 2 and 4 GB models in the $20-$40 ranges. Any size is better than nothing, just pick one and have fun. What happens when you use a thumb drive is that you can make a file on the drive which looks like a drive in and of itself (I know this is starting to sound confusing). Once done, whenever the system is booted this file is used as a drive (called "mounting" in the Unix world). This mounted file is then used for personal storage. By keeping your storage portable, in theory, dumb machines without storage can be setup, and thumb drives used to carry your data from point A to B. Personal storage is used for log storage and storing settings for the various programs, such as callsigns for the various digital mode programs.

Ok, Ok, so your proverbial mouth is watering with the equally proverbial drool, you want to play with all this. Great, go for it. To use Harv's go to the project's webpage and let your curiousity run wild, but I'll give you a primer just in case. First go to http://hamshack-hack.sourceforge.net/ and start reading. If you "don't need any stinking instructions", try this. Download the CD image, called an ISO image (named after the filesystem used on data CD's). Then use any CD burner to burn the ISO image to a blank CD. Next find a machine you want to play with that has a CD drive in it, and set the computer to boot from a CD. Now put the CD in the computer and fire it up. It's pretty much that simple. Now all the details of running Linux and the technical specs and limitations of Harv's are beyond the scope of this article. However, it doesn't run on your hard drive, so your not going to mess up much. Now Harv's should autodetect your hardware and the drivers needed, which makes it able to work with the majority of semi-modern computer hardware. However your mileage may vary, but remember, it doesn't use a hard drive, so your probably not going to mess up much by trying. The best way to guarentee success in operation is to use very standard hardware, which most desktops have, but if you run a laptop, you are on your own. Many laptops use proprietary hardware, which only last for one generation of computer technology, making unworthy and hard to reverse engineer in the Linux world. Consequently, no drivers show up for such proprietary hardware. However, this doesn't mean it won't run on a laptop, just that your chances of making it work are less, but trying is the only way to know.

Want to play with integrating computers into the ham radio world without risk, Harv's is worth taking a look at. Want to try linux, try Harv's. You get the idea.

73 Chad

DirecTV Announces Plan to Provide Service via BPL

According to the August 15 edition of The Wall Street Journal, "Satellite-television provider DirecTV announced a wholesale agreement today with Current Group to provide high-speed Internet service over electric-power lines," otherwise known as broadband over powerlines (BPL). "Broadband over power line is a new technology that allows customers to plug a modem device the size of a cell phone into an electric outlet and connect a cable from their computer for Internet access that is capable of speeds that are faster than some popular Internet plans from cable and phone companies. Current is building out broadband networks in Cincinnati and Dallas-Fort Worth and is in talks with a number of utilities around the world about a commercial rollout," the Journal said.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said "There is no reason to panic [over this decision]. ARRL's only concern about BPL is the interference potential. In that regard, the approach that Current has taken to date -- limiting its use of the medium-voltage lines to 30-50 MHz and using the HomePlug standard to avoid the HF ham bands on the low-voltage drop -- has been satisfactory. If the FCC mandated what Current has been doing, we would be quite happy."

Sumner continued: "We can be glad that DirecTV chose to align itself with a BPL company that has taken the interference problem seriously and has a good track record of avoiding interference in the amateur bands."

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, commented, "ARRL and Current have communicated regularly over the past few years. Current has been an early leader in carefully choosing its design to avoid interference to Amateur Radio. They don't operate below 30 MHz on overhead lines at all, and use HomePlug technology, which doesn't use the ham bands, in customers' premises. To date, ARRL has no Amateur Radio interference reports involving Current or HomePlug equipment."

Local Repeaters

6 Meter

53.630 - San Angelo (88.5)
147.300 - 2 meter input (88.5)

2 Meter
145.27- San Angelo (88.5 SWL, 100.0 Local)
146.94- San Angelo (103.5)
147.06+ San Angelo
146.72- Eldorado (100.0)

146.88- San Angelo
147.34+ Robert Lee (PL 88.5)

70 cm
441.750+ San Angelo (162.2)
444.225+ Robert Lee (162.2)
442.250+ San Angelo (162.2)
444.350+ San Angelo (162.2)
442.300+ Big Lake (162.2)

Monday Night Net
Statistics:

Date	Check-ins	Net-Ctrl
7-2-07	13	KA5VTG
7-9-07	13	KB5FNK
7-16-07	18	KB5TMY
7-23-07	13	KB5TMY
7-30-07	14	KB5TMY

Schedule
1st Monday is David Wolfe/KA5VTG
2nd Monday is David Behrend/KB5FNK
Other Times: Jack Roberts (Scanner Jack) KB5TMY

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2007 SAARC Officers:
President –David Behrend/KB5FNK
Vice President - Kent Frazier/K5KNT
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - Jack Roberts/KB5TMY
Activities Manager - Chad Goodman/KD5SMK
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ

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

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