

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

February 2004

License Testing News

ARRL  VEC

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK, Volunteer Examiner

A license testing session was held on January 25 at the clubhouse. Administering volunteer examiners were Rob/N5OIU, Don, AB5BG, John/KC5FMX, and Glenn/AA5PK. One candidate was administered one examination element. No license upgrade was earned.

Notice: Effective immediately, *local testing sessions will be held quarterly*, on the *third Sunday* of the month at 1 PM. The schedule for the remainder of 2004 is April 18, July 18, October 17. As before, pre-registration is required not later than 7 days prior to the testing date. The change to quarterly testing is due to the low number of candidates wishing to test, and the change to the third Sunday is to preclude conflicts with end-of-the-month holidays. Also, the *question pool for the General class examination will change on July 1, 2004*. Ensure you study the correct preparation material if you test after June 30, 2004.

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

Information/forms can be obtained by contacting Rob/N5OIU at 942-7599 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.

Meeting Minutes

****Note: Due to a failure of the laptop computer that I took the minutes on, the minutes of the January 2004 meeting are incomplete and the enclosed a very brief synopsis of what Joe / KC5ILD and I could come up with. Additions to complete the minutes as well as corrections would be greatly appreciated. David / KB5FNK.*

The January 8, 2004 meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30pm by President, Joe Kent / KC5ILD.

The minutes of the December 2003 meeting were read and approved.

The upcoming SKYWARN training to be held on February 14, 2004 was discussed.

Bill Murphy / WA6CMJ requested a committee be established to research how the SAARC can fit into the Homeland Security picture and the APCO (Associated Public Safety Communications Officers) Project 25. Committee members will be Lew / KD5NAG, David / KA5VTG and Don / KD5NAI.

Don / KD5NAI won the 50/50 drawing, with \$9.00 going to the club coffers.

The meeting was adjourned.

Midland Amateur Radio Club

presents

the 49th Annual

Saint Patrick's Day Hamfest

and

West Texas Section Convention

March 20th and 21st, 2004

<http://www.w5qgg.org/hamfest2004.html>

ARRL files "Restructuring 99" petition with FCC

From The ARRL Letter, January 30, 2004

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission left unfinished in 1999. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access. While several countries—including Germany, the UK and Australia—already have dropped their Morse requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the central issue.

"Changes in Morse telegraphy are one aspect of the proposal, and it would be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said, calling its licensing proposal "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to encourage newcomers to the Amateur Service and to encourage those who enter its ranks to proceed further on a course of technical self-training and exposure to all aspects of the avocation."

Last fall a total of 14 Morse-related petitions were filed with the FCC. Several called on the Commission to drop the Morse requirement altogether, while others proposed to keep and even expand the requirement or put forth various license restructuring schemes of their own. The petitions, RM-10781-10787 and RM-10805-10811, attracted thousands of comments from the amateur community.

Beyond the Morse question, the ARRL says, the time is right--now that WRC-03 has finished its work—to follow through on the restructuring process the FCC began with its 1999 restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>. Among other things, that landmark Order, which became effective April 15, 2000, reduced the number of Morse code test elements from three to a single 5 WPM requirement for all license classes offering HF privileges.

Simply dropping the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse requirement, the ARRL asserted, would fail to address the critical need for an entry-level ticket other than the Technician. Calling the Technician license "a dead end" for many people, the ARRL said its proposed entry-level license—being called "Novice" for now—would offer newcomers a much wider sampling of Amateur Radio. It would require passing a 25-question written examination—but no code test—and offer limited HF phone, image, CW and data privileges at modest power output levels.

"This structure provides a true, entry-level license with HF and other operating privileges which will both promote growth in the Amateur Service and integrate newcomers into the mainstream of Amateur Radio," the ARRL told the FCC. "It will better introduce newcomers to more seasoned licensees who will assist them."

The League proposal also would consolidate current Technician and General licensees into General class without further examination. Future General applicants would not have to pass a code test, but the written exam would remain the same. Current Advanced licensees would be merged into Amateur Extra class without further testing, and the Extra exam would remain intact. The ARRL proposal would retain the Element 1 Morse exam for Extra class applicants.

The ARRL said its overall plan dovetails with the FCC philosophy and goals stated in its 1999 Report and Order--to simplify the license structure and streamline the licensing process. The League said its plan would implement licensing requirements and privileges that are in harmony with each other and is designed to attract and retain "technically inclined persons, particularly the youth of our country" and encourage them to advance in areas "where the United States needs expertise."

"Now, the issue is not merely whether there should or should not be Morse telegraphy as an examination requirement," the ARRL said, "but rather what is the best overall approach for positioning the Amateur Service for future growth and incentive-based self-training."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/restrux2-petition.pdf>. The FCC has requested that individuals refrain from contacting or attempting to comment to the FCC on the ARRL's restructuring proposal before the FCC issues a Rule Making (RM) number for the ARRL petition and invites public comments on it. Until that happens, it is premature to comment to the FCC.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM

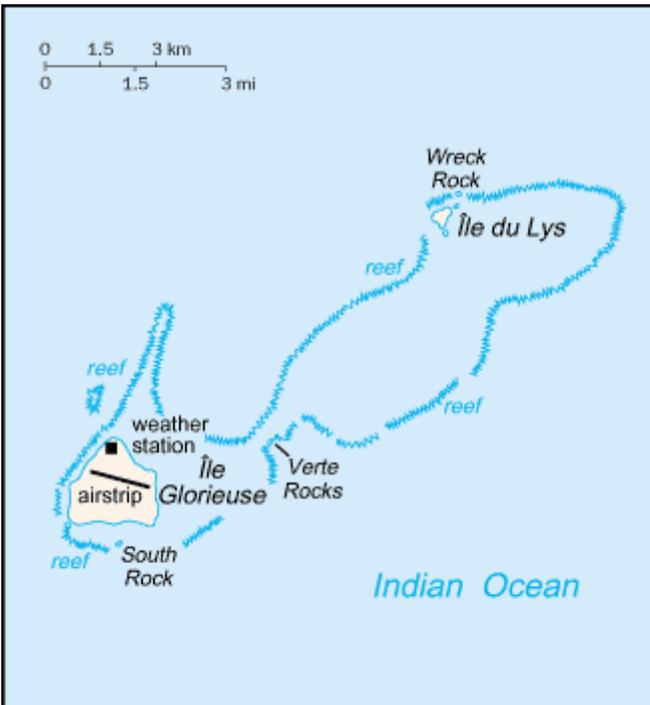


By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

DXpeditions in February: According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of January 4-11, there were 223 countries active. Countries available: 1A, 3A, 3B8, 3B9, 3D2, 3DA, 3V, 3W, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4U1I, 4X, 5B, 5H, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7P, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M2, 9M6, 9N, 9V, 9Y, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, AP, BS7, BV, BY, C3, C5, C6, CE, CE0Z, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, D2, DL, DU, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EL, EP, ER, ES, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FH, FK, FM, FO, FP, FR, FY, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HC, HC8, HH, HI, HK, HK0/a, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I, IS, J3, J5, J6, J7, J8, JA, JT, JW, JX, JY, K, KH0, KH2, KH6, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OH0, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P4, PA, PJ2, PJ7, PY, PY0F, PZ, S2, S5, S7, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV/a, SV5, SV9, T2, T30, T7, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, TJ, TK, TR, TT, TU, TY, TZ, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V4, V5, V7, VE, VK, VK9N, VP2E, VP2V, VP5, VP8, VP8/h, VP9, VQ9, VR, VU, XE, XU, YA, YB, YI, YK, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZC4, ZD7, ZD9, ZF, ZK1/s, ZL, ZP, and ZS. Not many DXpeditions in February: FM-Martinique; ZK-Tokelau; VK9L-Lord Howe Island; FS-St. Martin; A35-Tonga; C6-Bahamas; VK9-Norfolk.

Island of the Month

Glorioso - FR/G. Another French-controlled island in the Indian Ocean, just northwest of Madagascar, Glorioso hosts a small French military/weather garrison. A French possession since 1892, there are actually two islands and a string of reefs located at 11°30" S/47°20"E. The total area of the islands takes up 5 sq. km., with a highest point at 12 meters above the ocean (low and vegetation covered). The primary natural resources are guano and coconuts. There are no permanent natives, only the French, and they are there for the weather station as well as a radio station.



Numerous DXpeditions have operated from the island with about one-half actually being approved. K8CX (<http://hamgallery.com/qsq/country/Glorioso>) has a set of QSLs from various DXpeditions, running from 1963 through 1992. FR5ZU/G in 1994 was one of the better operations, utilizing the resources of French and Reunion hams. As it is on most islands in the area, the climate is hot, humid, or humid and hot, but they are in an area prone to cyclones (remember cyclone in southern hemisphere and hurricane in the northern). Permission to operate is through the French Territories offices, and, like most wildlife sanctuaries, is limited to self-sustaining and "do-no-harm" landings. There is no harbor, so offshore, from the reefs are the only spots. There

is an airfield on the island for resupply of the garrison, but it is not allowed for DXpedition use. With the reefs stretching from Ile du Lys to Ile Glorieuse, approximately 5 miles, one would think the diving would be fantastic. And, of course, first aid is the sole medical care, and there is no golf course on the island.

QSL of the Month—Glorioso

FR5ZU and FR5AI cards are presented with nice pictures of the islands and what to expect if you should want a remote French Foreign Legion assignment or as a meteorologist.

See you on the bands chasing DX. 73.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Jan 5	KA5VTG	20	9 min
Jan 12	KA5VTG	11	9 min
Jan 19	N7SDQ	16	9 min
Jan 26	KA5VTG	11	9 min
Feb 2	KA5VTG	16	7 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

----- Classified Ads -----

For Sale: Leather climbing belt, \$75. Contact Rob/N5OIU at 942-7599 or 942-2068 ext 247 or rob-mowrer@aol.com.

For Sale: Mint condition Kenwood TM-G707A mobile radio. I'm also throwing in the programming cable worth about \$30. First \$250 takes all. Best contact via email kc5ezz@texascom.com or call Charlie/KC5EZZ evenings at 651-8027.

For Sale: Diawa MR-750 heavy duty rotor and control box, \$250. Contact Alex/K5CMW at 949-4583 or e-mail k5cmw@netzero.net for more info.

For Sale: Kantronics All Mode (KAM) and KPC-3. Worked when last used. Have manuals and cables. Make an offer for one or both. Contact Bill/WB5ZAM at wb5zam@yahoo.com or to wm.richards@verizon.net or 657-0943 after 1900 local.



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

Get all the latest club news on the World
Wide Web at www.qsl.net/saarc

2004 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/KC5ILD
Vice President - David Behrend/KB5FNK
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - Lew Millegan/KD5NAG
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ

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, FEB 12, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**