

The eKilo - What

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

January 2003

FCC Petitions

From The ARRL Letter, December 27, 2002

The FCC is inviting comments on two Amateur Radio-related petitions for rule making. Both have been put on public notice and are available for public review and comment. In his petition, designated RM-10620, Dale Reich, K8AD, has asked the Commission to automatically upgrade Novice and Advanced license holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has 20 or more years of operating experience. Reich has said such test-free upgrades would compensate for "the previous tougher exam that was past administered" and give credit for violation-free service records.

Among other proposed changes in his "merit and service upgrade" schedule, Reich asks that Novice phone privileges in the 2-meter band—rescinded in the 1970s—be reinstated for those still holding that license. In his petition, Reich asserts that Radio the proposed changes could augment public service abilities on the part of the affected licensees.

In another amateur-related petition, designated RM-10621, AMSAT-NA has asked the FCC to drop its presently required 27-month pre-space notification to the FCC's international branch for Amateur Satellite launches and substitute a pre-space notification within 30 days of a launch commitment.

The comment deadline for both petitions is January 17, 2003. Interested parties may view the Reich and AMSAT petitions and file comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Commenters should include full name, US Postal Service mailing address and the applicable rule-making number—RM-10620 or RM-10621.

ARRL VEC News

From ARRL VEC E-Express, winter edition

Test Session Fee Increase

Starting January 1, 2003, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will become \$12 for calendar year 2003. The \$12 fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading their license class and operating privileges.

Renewals or Modifications

FCC processing: FCC license renewals or modifications (non Vanity) can be filed directly with the FCC on line or by mail. This is a *free* FCC service. When filing on line, the filer must already have a CORES registration with FRN number and password. For CORES registration go to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> (Register CORES/Call Sign). If you are already registered, but you don't know your CORES password, call FCC Tech Support for assistance weekdays at (202) 414-1250.

When filing with FCC by mail, a March 2001 or later version *FCC Form 605* must be used. You must write your FRN on the FCC form. Send the completed form to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245. *Do not send an NVEC Form 605* (the form used for exams) to FCC, as it is not an FCC form and FCC will therefore refuse it.

ARRL processing: ARRL VEC will process for *free* applications from ARRL Members seeking an FCC license renewal (within the FCC's 90-day window before expiration, or up to 2 years after expiration) or address, systematic call sign or name changes. ARRL Members can send any Form 605 to: ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Do not send to ARRL Vanity call sign requests.

ARRL processing for non-ARRL Members: ARRL VEC will process for a \$12 fee.

License Testing News

ARRL VEC

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK
Volunteer Examiner

The next scheduled testing session will be held on Sunday, January 26, at 1300 at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of NVEC Form 605 and \$12 check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than January 20.

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

145.27 Repeater

In addition to getting the repeater antenna raised to 488 feet, Charlie/KC5EZZ has added a further enhancement to the .27 repeater.

To use the 145.27 repeater in "local" mode (i.e., not accessing the Southwest Lynx System (SWLS)), use a PL of 100.0 Hz instead of 88.5 Hz.

With PL 100.0, you will not activate the SWLS interface, and you may use the repeater for local contacts. You will, however, hear audio from the SWLS when in local mode.

Charlie plans to add a PL 100.0 tone to the repeater output so you may tone decode the repeater and hear the .27 repeater only when it is in local mode. This will permit scanning the .27 repeater and not having scan stop each time the SWLS is activated.

Charlie plans to eventually configure the repeater so there will be no SWLS audio when the repeater is operating in local mode.

Happy New Year!

N. Korea Off the Air

From The ARRL Letter, December 6, 2002
 The only Amateur Radio station active from North Korea has been ordered off the air. Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, had been operating for the past year as P5/4L4FN from Pyongyang. The ARRL subsequently accredited SSB and RTTY operation of P5/4L4FN for DXCC.

"This really hits the ham community hard," QSL manager Bruce Paige, KK5DO, said in a news release. "I, for one, was looking forward to a satellite contact on AO-40. I know that many of you were still awaiting your first QSO."

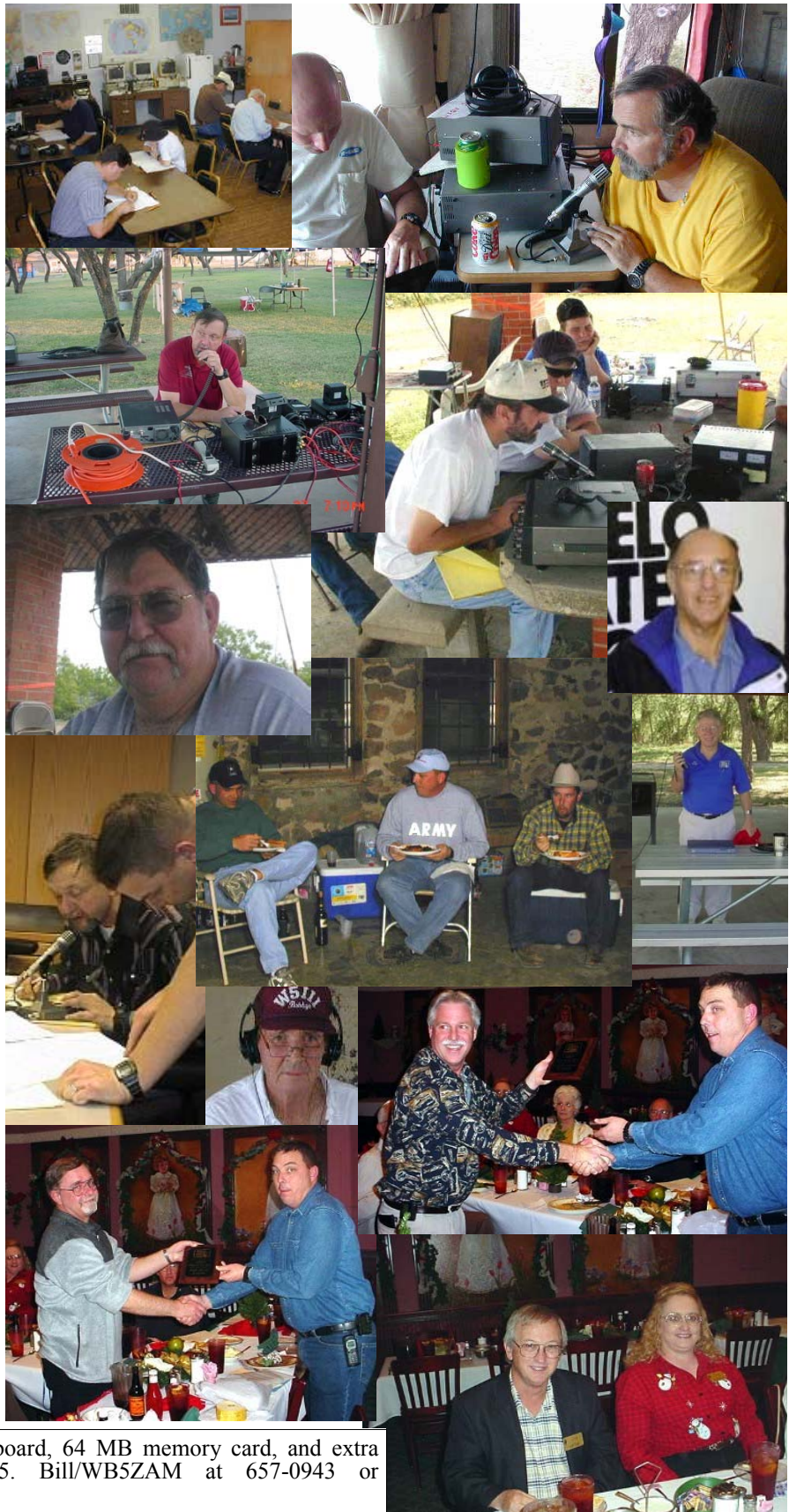
Paige said that on Friday, November 22, Giorgadze was called into a meeting with the "Radio Regulation Board" without any explanation, and he was politely asked to quit all transmissions and pack all his radio equipment. "Saturday, he spent all day on the roof disassembling his antennas and packing boxes." Paige said North Korean government officials later came by and sealed all of the boxes. When Giorgadze leaves North Korea on December 10 for two weeks of vacation, "he is to take everything with him out of the country," Paige indicated.

Giorgadze had tried for more than two years to obtain permission to operate Amateur Radio in North Korea and finally was given the okay in 2001 to bring an ICOM IC-706MkIIIG into the country. In the intervening months, he's been slowly upgrading his antenna system. He's made more than 16,000 contacts during his stint in North Korea, and earlier this year attained the first DXCC ever from that country.

Paige said the P5/4L4FN logs should be 100% complete on his Web site <http://www.amsatnet.com/> (click on "P5 North Korea").

Giorgadze, who's from of the Republic of Georgia, had been operating on the basis of oral permission from North Korean authorities, but ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the League was satisfied on the basis of written information submitted that the P5/4L4FN operation conformed with DXCC rules and cards would continue be accepted for credit.

The Year in Review



For Sale: Palm m505 with Palm keyboard, 64 MB memory card, and extra charging cords for mobile/ac, \$225. Bill/WB5ZAM at 657-0943 or wb5zam@arrl.net.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



By Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

January DXpeditions: According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of December 22-29, there were 224 countries active: 3A, 3B8, 3D2, 3DA, 3V, 3W, 4J, 4L, 4S, 4W, 4X, 5A, 5B, 5H, 5R, 5V, 5W, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8R, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M2, 9M6, 9N, 9V, 9Y, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C2, C3, C6, C9, CE, CE0A, CEØZ, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, D2, DL, DU, E3, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EL, EP, ER, ES, ET, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FK, FM, FO, FP, FR, FY, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HBØ, HC, HI, HK, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I, IS, J6, J7, JA, JD/m, JD/o, JT, JW, JY, K, KG4, KH0, KH2, KH6, KH8, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OHØ, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P4, PA, PJ2, PJ7, PY, PZ, S2, S5, S9, SM, SP, SU, SV, SV5, SV9, T7, T8, T9, TA, TF, TG, TI, TK, TR, TT, TU, TY, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6, V7, V8, VE, VK, VK9N, VP2E, VP2V, VP5, VP6, VP8, VP8/h, VP8/o, VP9, VQ9, VR, VU, XE, XU, XW, XX9, YA, YB, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, ZA, ZB, ZC4, ZD7, ZD8, ZD9, ZF, ZK1/s, ZK3, ZL, ZP, ZS, EY8—Tadjikistan, FG—Guadeloupe, FR—Reunion, S2—Bangladesh, ZK2—Tokelau, VP5—Turks and Caicos, PJ4—Netherlands Antilles, P4Ø—Aruba, V31—Belize, 3C5—Equatorial Guinea, and ZK2—Nuie.

Island of the Month

VK7-Tasmania. Located 240 km off the southeast tip of Australia, Tasmania has been a little-known island in tourist circles for many years. The Tasmanian Aborigines had been on the island for thousands of years before the Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman, discovered the island in 1642. French and English explorers were all active in exploring what was then called Van Diemen's Land. In 1802, the British Governor of Sydney sent a token landing party to insure that the island remained a part of English/Australian provinces. In 1803, the first permanent British settlement was established at Sullivan's Cove. The island's remoteness and the usage of Australia as a penal colony rolled over into Van Diemen's Land with the first prisoners arriving in 1822. In 1825, the island was given autonomy from Sydney and the administrators began full exploration

and use of its natural resources.

The discovery of gold and tin opened the island up to exploration and migration. In 1853, transportation of convicts to the island ceased. In 1856, the island was renamed after the original discoverer, Abel Tasman. Cultural diversity is actually less in Tasmania than in the big cities in Australia. Of non-native Tasmanians, 62% were born in the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, or the US. After the island became a true agricultural entity,

over the island and into Australia with a resultant cancellation of the plan to disrupt the environmentally protected areas.

In recent years, tourism has grown with eco-tourism flourishing along with all forms of tourism. The official language is English with the electricity at 240 VAC and amateur activity mostly local communications. Amenities rival the US, Australia, or New Zealand. Openings to Australian occur on all HF amateur bands with peri-



it became the "Apple Island," producing large quantities of apples for export to the world. With modern techniques, the islands have recently gained the distinction of being the first country approved by the Japanese government for import, due to their verifiable pest-free status.

Geographically the islands have a diverse make-up with powdery beaches, and 5,000-foot snow covered mountains. In the west of the island the average rainfall can be as high as 84 inches per year, while in the southern midlands Turnbridge is the driest area having 18 inches a year. According to encyclopedic sources, the census in 1991 was 360,000 on the 26,380 square miles of the island.

In the western portion of the islands, the hydroelectric plants produce enough energy to power the entire island. A scheme in the 1980s to add another hydroelectric dam in the mid-portion of the island created demonstrations all

odic openings on 6 meters. Reciprocal licensing is similar to that with the British Isles. One of the little known ex-pats from Tasmania was 1930s film star Errol Flynn.

QSL of the Month



F8AAB

Here is Gerard in front of his station. See you on the bands chasing DX.

Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Dec 2	N5OIU	36	8 min
Dec 9	N5OIU	27	7 min
Dec 16	N5OIU	17	2 min
Dec 23	N5OIU	20	5 min
Dec 30	AA5PK	20	4 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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Get all the latest club news on the
Internet at www.qsl.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, JAN 9, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE**