

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

March 2008

President's Message

By Joe Kent/W5JBK

Once again the turnout of SAARC members and guests at the Air Show was impressive. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and the seats were among the best in the house. For those that were there before noon, "burned" sausage was available. A hearty thanks to Charlie Royall/WB5T for donating the bottled water and soft drinks that we offered for sale to the general public. Sale of these items resulted in a net profit of \$54.00 which has been added to the club fund.

Construction on the antenna trailer is progressing with the goal of having it completed prior to Field Day 2008. Thanks to all who are assisting with this project.

The first of two Technician preparatory classes is history and appears to have been a great success. The National Weather Service's San Angelo facility provided the classroom and we appreciate the efforts of Buddy McIntyre/KB5APY and Hector Guerrero/KC5BRB that made it possible. Mike Dominy/KD5URW said the attendees were extremely attentive and feels that all 18 will pass the exam when administered following the final class on 4/5/08. Thanks to all organizers, including instructors Mike Dominy, Ralph Stout/KA5ULE, and all others who are helping to make this program possible. Also, thanks in advance to the VEs who will conduct the testing.

The Belton Hamfest is being held this year on 19 April and, if it is like previous years, is certainly worthwhile to attend. There are generally a large number of vendors and a big tailgate event outside as well.

Mike Dominy/KD5URW is the new District Emergency Coordinator for ARES. Congratulations on your new job Mike!

The next meeting of the SAARC Executive Committee will be held Thursday 4/3/08 at Baker Street. The meeting will commence at 1830 hours. It is requested that all club officers attend and any other interested persons are invited as well.

Meeting Minutes

By Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

SAARC Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Joe Kent/W5JBK on March 13, 2008 at 1930. Introductions were made with 17 members and 3 visitors in attendance.

The February minutes were approved as printed in the eKilo-What. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Old Business

Vice President Gary Chaffin/N5GRC informed all that Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC is attempting to secure permission from Phil Kothmann/W5RP to visit his home on 10 April 2008 and tour his impressive antenna farm and ham shack. Last time there we conducted our meeting at his home and Hughbert will check to see if that will be possible this time.

Hughbert is also trying to set up a tour of the Border Patrol facilities. The plan is to have a brief meeting on 12 June 2008 and then caravan to the Border Patrol parking lot.

After the July 10, 2008 meeting we will visit Bill Tarn/AE5AW at his QTH to view his antennas and tour his ham shack.

This will leave May, August and September open. Anyone with ideas for a program can contact Gary/N5GRC.

Our Emergency Coordinator, Mike Dominy, reports that most of the folks that are interested in attending Technician Class amateur radio training are ready for the class to be held March 29, 2008.

New Business

Our Activities Manager, Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC is working with the committee for Field Day. He has the rules copied from the ARRL web and will be contacting individuals that have volunteered to assist.

The Twin Mountain Steak House has been reserved for our Eatin' Meetin' on December 11, 2008.

Good of the Order

There was a drawing for a MFJ mug. Buddy Parker/KD5SBE was the big winner. To add to the excitement, there was a drawing for a Midland ARC cup. This was won by Jack Roberts/KB5TMY.

Split-the-Pot was worth \$15.50 to the winner Buddy Parker/KD5SBE and to the club. Buddy did not want to mess his MFJ cup up with money so he donated his share to the club. Thank you Buddy Parker!

After a brief intermission, Gary/N5GRC gave a presentation on the Eldorado PAVE PAWS site that operated in Schleicher County from May 1987 until it closed in 1997.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2027. The next regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be April 10, 2008 at 1930 at the clubhouse.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

Date	Event	Location	Information
19 Apr 2008	Temple Amateur Radio Club HamEXPO, Bell County Expo Center	Belton, TX	www.beltonhamexpo.org
17 May 2008	Swapfest/Picnic, Thompson Park, Area 17	Amarillo, TX	www.orgsites.com/tx/w5wx
13-14 Jun 2008	Ham-Com 2008, Plano Centre	Plano, TX	www.hamcom.org
1 Jun 2008	Lufkin Hamfest, Denman Avenue Baptist Church	Lufkin, TX	www.lufkinhamfest.com
12 Jul 2008	Texas City Hamfest, Doyle Convention Center	Texas City, TX	www.tidelands.org
1-2 Aug 2008	Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest), Wyndham Garden Hotel	Austin, TX	www.austinsummerfest.org
11 Oct 2008	Paris Texas Hamfest, Red River Valley Fairgrounds	Paris, TX	www.paristexasradio.com

Growth of Amateur Radio Reflects Growth in Community

By Mike Dominy/KD5URW

The growth of any community can reflect the way Amateur Radio grows. Both by the growth of the population within the United States, the State of Texas, and by the way we look at emergency communications. Why, many of you will ask?

Let's look some examples out here in the West Texas area.

One of the ways is the weather climate. West Texas has such a broad mix of weather conditions that many people, from all areas of the country, desire to come here establish residence. As such, the growth of the many towns, cities and the surrounding rural areas near San Angelo, Abilene, Midland, Odessa and others have grown in the last few years.

What we as Ham Radio operators must ask ourselves is "with all of the newcomers moving into the areas, are there any new operators that have moved in?" "Also, will there be enough hams to support a club that will serve the areas of the county?" and of course the one big question, "Will we have enough people trained in Emergency Communications to respond when events require?"

We, as radio operators, can imagine the ability to connect to a satellite in space and to be able to speak via satellite radio equipment to a newly made friend in Finland, or another far off place across the world. The true excitement of successfully building an antenna for the first time which works and using it to send a signal halfway around the world. Amateur Radio is so diverse and limitless in scope that it may take a life-time to explore it in all its facets. By definition, Amateur Radio is a radio service that is under the regulation of Federal Communications Commission, also known as the F.C.C. Ham Radio's purpose is to spread goodwill around the world through wireless communication, provide volunteer emergency communications in disasters, and maintain a pool of experienced and knowledgeable radio operators and electronics enthusiasts.

Amateur radio operators are experienced in improvising antennas and power sources, and with most of the equipment today, it can be powered by an automobile battery. With the many annual "Field Days" held in many countries across the world, like the one for us upcoming in June this year, hams use it to practice emergency improvisational skills. Amateur radio operators can use hundreds of frequencies and can quickly establish networks tying disparate agencies together to enhance radio communications interoperability. Where amateur radio is used to coordinate disaster relief activities is when other systems have failed. When it comes to emergency communications, this is the true spirit of ham radio. But, when you really think about it, in reality it is much more. On September 11, 2001, many hams volunteered their time to pass traffic during the need in New York City, and the Washington D.C. area. During this and past events in our nation's history, amateur radio operators have worked behind the scenes patching holes in our nation's communications network with their expertise and rapid action without most people even realizing it. Helping pass emergency traffic to government aid agencies (fire, police, medical), and weather reports to the National Hurricane Center's ham station in Miami from the safety of your room during a powerful hurricane. Assisting tornado stricken citizens in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas or other states, towns or cities.

In times of crisis and natural disasters, Amateur radio is often the only means of emergency communication when telephone lines, cell phones and other conventional means of communications fail. Unlike commercial systems, Amateur radio is not as dependent on terrestrial facilities that can fail. It is dispersed throughout a community without "choke points" such as cellular telephone sites that can be overloaded.

During Hurricane Katrina, more than a thousand ham operators from all over the U.S. converged on the Gulf Coast in an

Growth of Amateur Radio Reflects Growth in Community (Cont.)

effort to provide emergency communications assistance. Subsequent Congressional hearings highlighted the Amateur Radio response as one of the few examples of what went right in the disaster relief effort.

Many of us know that there are two major methods of organizing amateur radio emergency communications: the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), sponsored by the ARRL, and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which requires registration with municipal or county governments, to allow continued operation under Part 97.407 of the FCC regulations in the event the Amateur Service is ever shut down by presidential order. ARES and RACES involvement within the same area are usually intertwined, with many governments requiring membership and service in that locale's ARES organization as well. Many government Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Red Cross Chapters and National Weather Service (NWS) facilities have permanent Amateur Radio stations installed. Emergency communications and disaster assistance is one of the key areas that we, as hams, are doing in conjunction with local volunteer disaster relief organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, local government emergency management agencies, as well as volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps.

The one big involvement in the Concho Valley area for ham radio is with SKYWARN and the San Angelo National Weather Service (NWS) office. We have a permanent Amateur Radio Net Control station installed at the office. Each year we do Basic and Advanced SKYWARN Spotter training for Amateur Radio operators and for members of the general public that wish to take the training. This is one of the key training programs that prepare personnel to assist the NWS during the times of severe weather in the Concho Valley area. The training helps us identify and report severe weather that occurs within the area and serves to foster the development of Amateur Radio and advanced Ham Radio operating techniques for emergency communications. It is a way to employ our operating techniques, both through theory and on the air practice, to provide a suitable environment of camaraderie and support within the ham community. Not only with area club members, but with the spouses and their children to obtain a better understanding of amateur radio, gain proficiency in the art of amateur radio, and maintain a suitable environment for fun and growth.

That should be one of the main goals of all amateurs and their clubs. Not only work on perfecting operating techniques, but to provide emergency communications assistance in the time of need. The next big question is; *Are you ready to meet the challenge?*

For Sale

The following items are offered for sale by Joe Kent/W5JBK:

1. Cushcraft R5 antenna for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters. Good condition, asking \$125.00.
2. Cushcraft R-7000 antenna for 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30 and 40 meters. Good condition, asking \$200.00.
3. Cushcraft Boomer antenna for 2 meters. Good condition, asking \$75.00

Note: If you would like to offer items for sale in this publication, please contact Gary Chaffin/N5GRC at (325) 949-0186 or e-mail the information to gchaffin@gmail.com.

2007 Spreader Award™©®

Article & photos by David Behrend



Jack Roberts/KB5TMY, better known as "Scanner Jack" was the winner, if you want to call it that, of the 2007 *Spreader Award™©®* for the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club. The *Spreader Award™©®* is given to an individual or group of individuals for their gratuitous spreading of what could generally be called, in a politically corrected form, bovine excrement (AKA: "BS"). Their offerings of this biological product (in audible form)



are generally well known with members of the club. Mr. Roberts won the award this year because of his well offered phrase "I'm an angel", which we all know that it CAN NOT BE TRUE!!! Congratulations, I think, to Jack Roberts/KB5TMY, the 2007 *Spreader Award™©®* recipient. *Disclaimer: The San Angelo Amateur Radio Club has not actually made any official attempt to register, trademark or copyright the term Spreader Award (but we reserve the right, hi, hi).*

April Special Events

Apr 1-Apr 30, 0000Z-2359Z, Quebec, QC, Canada. Club Radio Amateur de Quebec, VC2VQ. 400th anniversary of foundation of Quebec City. 14.150 7.070 3.780. QSL. CRAQ, CP 70021, Succ Quebec-Centre, Quebec, QC G2J 0A1, CANADA.

www.craq.qc.ca

Apr 5, 0000Z-2359Z, Tulsa, OK. Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, K5THD. Celebrating World Health Organizations World Health Day 2008. 14.273 7.273 14.070 14.230. Certificate. Dave Cox, Tulsa Health Department, 5051 S 129 E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74134. www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd

Apr 5, 1500Z-1900Z, Pine Bluff, AR. Pine Bluff Amateur Radio Club, K5DAK. 819 Steam Locomotive and Museum. 14.250. QSL. E. Glenn Wolf Jr, 210 S Estates Cove, White Hall, AR 71602.

Apr 6-Apr 7, 0000Z-0500Z, Independence, MO. Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, W0C. ASCRA "QSO Party" - Founding of Community of Christ church in 1830 and ASCRA in 1973. 14.287 7.233 3.985. Certificate. ASCRA/W0SHQ, PO Box 73, Independence, MO 64051. *This is not a contest. We invite all hams (and world-wide ASCRA members) to contact us. Include SASE for certificate.* www.ASCRA.org

Apr 10, 0000Z-2359Z, San Angelo, TX. **AB5BG. Bataan Death March. 28.400 21.300 14.250 7.235. Certificate. Donald R. Goff, 1210 Ardmore, San Angelo, TX 76905.** ab5bg@wcc.net

Apr 11-Apr 12, 1330Z-2100Z, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY. 96th Anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. Titanic Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053.

www.hcra.org/titanic.htm

Apr 11-Apr 13, 1330Z-2359Z, Venice, FL. Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, K4S. Annual Venice Sharks Tooth Festival. 21.313 18.153 14.236 7.233. QSL. Jack Sproat, W4JS, 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd, Englewood, FL 34223-6341. w4js@juno.com or tamiamiarc.tripod.com

Apr 12, 1400Z-2200Z, Gaylord, MI. Top Of Michigan Amateur Radio Club, N8ES. 1st Annual Statewide Youth Conference for Amateur Radio. 14.300 14.250 7.250 7.230. Certificate. TOMARC, PO Box 15, Gaylord, MI 49734. www.nm8rc.org

Apr 14-Apr 23, 0000Z-2359Z, Westford, MA. PART of Westford, K1P. Patriots Day celebration. 21.300 18.140 14.250. QSL. PART of Westford, WB1GOF, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886. www.wb1gof.org

Apr 19, 1500Z-2000Z, Carthage, TX. Panola County Amateur Radio Club, WA5PC. From the only international boundary marker within USA. 14.287 7.240 3.900. Certificate. WA5PC, 380 CR 1241, Gary, TX 75643. www.wa5pc.org

Apr 19, 1600Z-2300Z, Everett, WA. Cascade Radio Club, W7K. 60 years of ARRL affiliation. 21.350 14.250 7.25 3.85. Certificate. Roger Attwell, WN7M, 1814 Silver Lake Rd, Everett, WA 98208. *All stations worked will receive a certificate confirming the contact, postage paid, no QSL required.* www.cascaderadioclub.org

Apr 19, 1600Z-2200Z, Long Beach, CA. Shoreline Amateur Radio Association, K6SYC. SYC Salutes 33rd year of Long Beach Grand Prix. 14.265 7.250 3.850 147.090. QSL. K6SYC, 386 Shoreline Dr S, Long Beach, CA 90802. *Tune in and hear the roar of Grand Prix racing in the background. Special event station is just a few yards from the track.* K6SYC@yahoo.com

Apr 19, 1600Z-2200Z, Norman, OK. South Canadian Amateur Radio Society, W5NOR. Commemorating the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889. 14.325. QSL. SCARS, PO Box 720993, Norman, OK 73070.

www.w5nor.org

Apr 19-Apr 20, 1400Z-0500Z, McArthur, OH. Vinton County Amateur Radio Club, W8V. 5 Covered Bridges in Vinton County, Ohio. 14.250 14.080 7.225 3.835. Certificate. Tom Coelho, 62130 Locker Plant Rd, McArthur, OH 45651.

Apr 24-Apr 26, 0700Z-2300Z, Barry, IL. Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, K9P. 2008 USPSA Handgun Nationals PASA-Park. 14.265 7.265. QSL. Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1522, Hannibal, MO 63401. www.w0kem.com

Apr 25-Apr 27, 1900Z-0700Z, Visalia, CA. International DX Convention, K6V. Celebrating the 59th International DX Convention. 14.250. QSL. Mel Hughes, K6SY, 28017 San Nicolas Dr, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. www.dxconvention.org

Apr 26, 0000Z-2359Z, Wall, NJ. Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club, N2MO. International Marconi Day, Award Station. 14.250 14.050 7.250 7.050. Certificate. OMARC, PO Box 267, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. *International Marconi Day Award Station from the original Belmar, NJ site.* www.omarc.org

Apr 26, 1300Z-2330Z, Springfield, IL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club, N9L. 2008 BSA Lincoln Trail Hike. 14.240 7.240. QSL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club, c/o American Red Cross, 1045 Outer Park Dr, Springfield, IL 62704. www.svrc.org

Apr 26-Apr 27, 1600Z-2300Z, Aberdeen, WA. Grays Harbor Amateur Radio Club, W7ZA. 54th Birthday at Bowerman Airfield Tower, Hoquiam, WA. 14.280 14.100 7.250 3.950. QSL. W7ZA GHARC, PO Box 2250, Aberdeen, WA 98520.

www.gharc.org

Apr 27, 1600Z-2200Z, Charlottesville, VA. Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, W9GFZ. National Radio Astronomy Observatory Community Open House. 14.220 7.220. QSL. AARC, PO Box 6833, Charlottesville, VA 22906. aws-winger@earthlink.net

Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack Roberts/KBSTMY

Texas Forestry Service:

159.330 Dispatcher
159.300 Air Tac 1
159.285 Dozers
159.345 Parks

Air Show Frequencies:

121.600 Air Boss
238.150 Air Boss Discrete
132.950 Ground Boss Discrete
235.250 Thunderbirds
154.950 MPs Security
San Angelo Mathis Field (SJT):
118.300 Tower 284.700
125.350 Approach 354.100
121.900 Ground 348.600
126.150 Ft. Worth Center 322.550
128.450 ATIS 319.000

Air to Air:

122.700 122.725 122.750 122.800
122.825 122.850 122.875 122.900
122.925 122.950 122.975

Helicopters:

123.050 123.025 123.075
ELT 121.500 243.00
SAR 123.100

CQ! DX de WB5ZAM



Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions during April: J5; 6W; H44; CE0Z; EL; VK9; 5R; 3B9; A7; KH2; TI; 6V; V6; 3B8; T8; P4; ZA; ZS8 (Marion Island – rare!!)

Island of the Month-Mauritius-3B8: Mauritius -- officially the **Republic of Mauritius**, is an island nation off the coast of the African continent in the southwest Indian Ocean, about 900 kilometers (560 mi) east of Madagascar [20 17 S, 57 33 E]. In addition to the island of Mauritius, the republic includes the islands of St. Brandon, Rodrigues and the Agalega Islands. Mauritius is part of the Mascarene Islands, with the French island of Réunion 200 km (125 mi) to the southwest and the island of Rodrigues 570 km to the northeast. The population was estimated at: 1,250,882 (July 2007).

The local climate is tropical, modified by southeast trade winds; there is a warm, dry winter from May to November and a hot, wet, and humid summer from November to May. Anti-cyclones affect the country during May to September. Cyclones affect the country during November-April. The island's capital and largest city is Port Louis, in the northwest. The island is well known for its natural beauty. Mark Twain noted in *Following the Equator*, his personal travelogue, "You gather the idea that Mauritius was made first and then heaven, and that heaven was copied after Mauritius". Since independence in 1968, Mauritius has developed from a low-income, agriculturally based economy to a middle income diversified economy with growing industrial, financial, and tourist sectors. For most of the period, annual growth has been of the order of 5% to 6%. This has been reflected in increased life expectancy, lowered infant mortality and an improved infrastructure. Sugar cane is grown on about 90% of the cultivated land area and accounts for 25% of export earnings. However, a record-setting drought severely damaged the sugar crop in 1999. The government's development strategy centers on foreign investment. Mauritius has attracted more than 9,000 offshore entities; many aimed at commerce in India and South Africa while investment in the banking sector alone has reached over \$1 billion. Economic performance during the period from 2000 through 2004 combined strong economic growth with unemployment at 7.6% in December 2004. France is the country's biggest trading partner, has close ties with the country, and provides technical assistance in various forms.



In order to provide locals with access to imports at lower prices and attract more tourists going to Singapore and Dubai, Mauritius is gearing towards becoming a duty-free island within the next four years. Duty has been eliminated for several products and decreased for more than 1850 products including clothing, food, jewelry, photographic equipment, audio visual equipment and lighting equipment. In addition, reforms aimed at attracting new business opportunities have also been implemented.



A plan by ADB Networks calls for Mauritius to become the first nation to have coast-to-coast wireless internet access. The wireless hot spot currently covers about 60% of the island and is accessible by about 70% of its population. By the end of 2007, antennas should have provided access to 98% of the island. The official language of Mauritius is English. All government administrative documents are therefore drawn up in English. Together with English, French is also used in instruction in the educational system. French, however, predominates in the media, both broadcast and printed as well as with business and in corporate affairs. A majority of the population can speak French fluently. American and other English-language movies and TV programmes shown in Mauritius are conventionally dubbed in French. (information from Wikipedia and CIA-Factbook).

OSL of the month-E74LO- Bosnia-Herzegovenia: nice photo of Ado.

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

Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
3 Mar	KB5FNK	20	18 Min
10 Mar	KB5FNK	16	12 Min
17 Mar	SKYWARN Net In Progress		
24 Mar	KD5URW	14	18 Min
31 Mar	KB5FNK	13	18 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	444.350+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5		
147.06+	San Angelo	6 Meter Crossband	
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30/53.63	San Angelo PL 88.5

Around the Town

By LaRae Kent/KC5KXY

One of the long-time San Angelo amateurs became a silent key on Saturday, March 14, 2008. W. J. (Jim) Stroman/W5DHK was a former member of the SAARC and attended many of the "Old Timer" gatherings in recent years. We were sorry to learn of his passing and wish to offer our condolences to his family. Jim will be missed.



Charlie Campbell's father has been ill recently and we hope he is feeling much better by now.

We are planning a garage sale for around the middle of May and request that anyone who has items to donate bring them to the club house and place them near the table in the garage. Also, if there is anything there you would like, please make a donation and help yourself to the item(s). There will be a tail-gate sale of amateur equipment held in conjunction with the garage sale. Start looking now for those items that have been collecting dust and bring 'em out. Who knows what "treasures" you may find.

\$6.00 Haircuts

Ron's Barber Shop

*Ron Salvato
1 North Milton Street, Ste. #8
(Across from the Sherwood Way Albertson's)*



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

Get all the latest club news on the
World Wide Web at www.w5qx.org

2008 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/W5JBK
Vice President - Gary Chaffin/N5GRC
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - Mike Dominy/KD5URW
Activities Manager - Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC
Grounds Chairman - Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ
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 Gary/N5GRC at 949-0186 or email gchaffin@gmail.com

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



NEXT MEETING: 3/10/2008

MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE