

The eKilo-What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

March 2010

February Minutes

de Bob Freeman – K5PIX

President Ralph Stout-KA5ULE called the regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. to order on February 11, 2010 at 1930. Introductions were made with 22 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

Then January minutes were approved as printed in the KiloWhat and the Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Officer's Reports

Vice President Lisa Koca-K5LLK reminded everyone of the ARRL membership contest. She also announced that the program tonight was a tour of the San Angelo Public Safety Communications Facility. David Behrend - KB5FNK will be the tour

guide.

Emergency Coordinator Mike Dominy - KD5URW announced that the ARES group will meet at 7 p.m., February 18 at the clubhouse. There will also be a Skywarn class March 6 from 9-1 at the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Activities Manager Hughbert Robinson-KC5NPC announced that certificates are available for club members who contacted the special event station during National Weatherman's Day.

Mike Dominy announced that February 21-27 is Storm Weather Week. on the 25th a notice will be sent to all public schools for an alert at 9 a.m. buy the NWS.

Ralph-KA5ULE announced the Midland Hamfest to be held March 20. More information is available on the

website at www.w5qgg.com.

Old Business - None

New Business

Ralph suggested that the club donate two weather radios for door prizes at the Skywarn training.

Ralph also suggested that the club look into giving some small memento such as a mug to guest speakers.

It was announced that Bill Murphy's wife had been in the hospital with pneumonia.

For the Good of the Order

Jack Roberts won the split the pot which was \$30 total. Jack donated his half to the club. Thanks jack.

The meeting was adjourned and members who wished went to tour the San Angelo PS Comm Center.

ARRL Membership Contest

The top 10 West Gulf ARRL-affiliated clubs who recruit the highest percentage of new and lapsed ARRL members will win prizes and awards.

Winners will be announced at Ham-Com in Plano Texas, June 11-12.

Winning clubs will be determined by dividing the number of new ARRL members recruited during this membership drive by the total number of club members as of 12/17/2009.

Only NEW ARRL members and LAPSED membership (of two years or more) can be counted for this contest.

Applications and forms must be postmarked by *May 1, 2010* and submitted through the Club Secretary, Bob Freeman-KD5PIX.

Prizes

The 10 clubs with the highest percentage increase in new members will win a prize:

1st Prize: MFJ-259B SWR analyzer

2nd and 3rd Prizes: ICOM T7H Sport 36 with BP170 battery pack

4th thru 7th Prizes: \$150 in gift certificates good towards the purchase of ARRL publications and supplies.

8th thru 10th Prizes: \$50 gift certificate good towards the purchase of ARRL publications and supplies.

In case of a tie, the winning club will be determined by a drawing.

As of 12/17/2009 our club had 49 members, 32 of which are ARRL members.

Calling All Rookies -- and Non-Rookies, Too!

Get On the Air for the ARRL Rookie Roundup

The ARRL Rookie Roundup is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio. The SSB Rookie Roundup will be held on Sunday, April 18 from 1800 UTC-2359 UTC

Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. If you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you can compete in the 2010 Rookie Roundup. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work everybody. A major part of the success of this contest will be non-Rookies getting on the air and working the Rookies.

Look for more information at the Club meeting. Also go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/18/11349/>

Scanner Jack's Corner

de Jack Roberts - KB5TMY

These are the frequencies to monitor during Skywarn spotter activation and severe weather.

NWS

Channel 7 - 162.550

Amateur Repeaters

146.940 Primary Skywarn repeater

146.880 Alternate

444.225

147.340

Public Safety

TGC SO 1 P-25 - 155.700

TGC SO 2 P-25 - 156.090

DPS CH 7 P-25 - 155.445

These could save your life during any severe weather warning.

If you have a ham radio, scanner, NOAA all hazards weather radio or a DTV converter box that needs programming I will do it for you.

Call me by phone at 325-651-4840 or email at scannerjack1@juno.com

Emergency Communications

de Mike Dominy - KD5URW

Emergency Coordinator

Total number of ARES operations this month: 5

Total Man hours: 64.0

November ARES Net Report				
Date	Net Ctrl	Check-ins	Time	Freq.
2/1	KD5URW	14	15 min	444.350
2/8	KD5URW	16	18 min	444.350
2/1	KD5URW	16	20 min	444.350
2/22	KA5ULE	14	24 min	444.350

The Tom Green County ARES group held their monthly meeting on the 18 Feb 10. We had a good meeting discussing some of the primary goals and projects that the group will be looking at and working on this year. We are looking at some work days and some training days in March and April to work on the radio room and do some training on the WebEOC program at the city/county EOC. The radio room has come a long way, but there is still much to do with the computers and training.

The group also discussed the December and future additional shelter range surveys that should yielded additional valuable information about simplex capability to support the EOC during any shelter operations within the county area during times of emergencies.

I wish to say a big Thanks to all who attend the meetings and wish to invite anyone to our meetings to see what ARES is all about.

The next TGC-ARES group meeting is set for 18 Mar 2010 at 7:00 PM at the San Angelo ARC club house.

Tom Green County ARES Net

Meets every Monday night at 8:30 pm CST (2030 hr) on the 444.350 repeater (N5SVK) with other frequencies announced on the ARES Alert system.

Activities

Total no. of ARES members: 19 Change since last month: 2 73s, Stay Safe and Happy 2010 DXing .

St. Patrick's Day Hamfest and ARRL West Texas Section Convention

Sponsored by the Midland Amateur Radio Club

March 20, 2010

Midland Lion's Club, 200 Plaza Avenue, Midland, Texas

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

More information and registration at www.w5qgg.org

Vendors, ham gear, door prizes, food, license exams and more

CQ DXde **Bill Richards - WB5ZAM**

Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions during March: VP6; T6; VK9W; J7; J5; HS0; 6W; 7Q; 5X; H44; V88; 9U; TO2; SV5; C6; PZ5; P4; VP2; XR0; VK9; 5W; 3B9; C56; FS; 7P; J6; V25; V7; VP2; 5W; J3; A3; C30Z; V21; E51; OX; JD1; MJ. CQ WW WPX SSB contest 27-28 March. This contest is a very good opportunity to sharpen your SSB contesting skills (hint, hint—CQ Field Day from W5QX).

Island of the Month—Abaco Islands – C6—Bahamas out islands: The "Lukku-cairi" or island people, as they called themselves, were the first settlers. Originally from South America, they meandered up through the Caribbean and finally arrived in The Bahamas around the Ninth Century AD. Known as Arawaks, they are also called "Lucayans" and "Indians"—a label bestowed by Columbus, who mistakenly thought he found the East Indies when he dropped anchor in San Salvador in 1492.



The next phase of Bahamian history involves the Eleutheran Adventurers, English settlers who left Bermuda in 1647 searching for religious freedom. They formed the first British colony on the Island of Eleuthera, and began a prosperous agricultural economy that still thrives today.

The geography of the islands attracted many well-known pirates, such as the infamous Blackbeard, Henry Morgan, and Anne Bonney, who dominated the islands for the next 70 years in what was known as "The Golden Age of Piracy." Their chief occupation was luring unsuspecting ships into the treacherous, shallow waters, then pouncing on and plundering them like insects trapped in a spider's web. Britain, which claimed islands in 1670,

remained powerless against their predations for almost 50 years, until the first governor, Woodes Rogers, drove them out in 1718. Britain then recognized them as a colony.

Privateering, a government-sanctioned form of piracy practiced during Britain's war with Spain and the American Revolution, brought periods of prosperity to the islands. Spain entered the fray on the side of the Americans and briefly retook The Bahamas in May 1782. A year later, under the Treaty of Versailles, it once again became a British colony.

Following Britain's defeat in the American Revolutionary War, southern loyalists brought their slaves to the islands and grew cotton under the Crown's protection. Troubled times in the neighboring America often meant prosperity for The Bahamas.

In 1861, during the American Civil War years, the Union Navy blockaded the islands in an attempt to cripple the Confederacy, and Bahamians grew rich running Confederate cotton to English mills and sending military equipment to Confederate rebels. Great Britain granted the islands self-government in 1964 and changed their status from colony to Commonwealth in 1969. In 1973, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas became independent within the Commonwealth of Nations, but retained Queen Elizabeth II as constitutional head of state.

The Abaco Islands, stretching for more than 130 miles through the northernmost Bahamas, are known as "the Family Islands" as well as being recognized as one of the world's favorite cruising grounds. Here, in villages first settled in the late 18th century by loyalists who left New England after the American Revolution, the clapboard houses in pastel tones suggest an early Cape Cod moved to warmer latitude.

The Abacos are only about a 60-minute flight from South Florida, but the days here move at a much slower pace than in the neon-disco resort worlds of Nassau and Freeport. The Abaco islands are the second largest of The Bahamas' Out Island groupings (Andros is #1).

With a 1997 population estimated at 12,000+, the Abacos' main islands (Great Abaco and Little Abaco) and myriad offshore Cays cover approximately 650 square miles of land area and extend for about 120 miles from Walker's Cay on the north to Hole in the Wall on the southern end. The Abaco mainland's recently completed (and fully graded and tarred) highway now connects all the "mainland" Abaco settlements, with electricity, phone and associated services gradually extending throughout the entire island group. Originally settled by the Arawak (sometimes called "Lucayans") Indians, and then resettled by American Tories during and after the U.S.'s Revolutionary War, the islands have towns with names like New Plymouth and gingerbread New England-style homes with front porches. These slow-paced, laid-back islands

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Recent SAARC Programs

April '09	Solar Activity and Ham Radio, Joe Lynch/KG5X
July '09	APRS, Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ
August '09	Batteries Plus, Richard & Patrick Brown
September '09	DPS, Trooper Shawn Baxter
October '09	85th SAARC Birthday Celebration
November '09	Satellite Operations, Glenn Miller/AA5PK
December '09	Eatin' Meeting
January '10	CVCOG Interoperability Data and Radio Systems, Jim Koca/NSPIY
February '10	Tour of the San Angelo Public Safety Communications Facility
March '10	Tour of the National Weather Service

March Program

de Lisa Koca – K5LLK

A tour of the National Weather Service has been arranged. The tour will commence at 8:15p.m. at the NWS on Knickerbocker Rd. after a short club meeting. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the SAARC Clubhouse, Thursday, March 11. Please make plans to attend and be prepared for severe weather season.

February Program Notes

David Behrend – KB5FNK gave us a great tour of the San Angelo Public Safety Communications Center in downtown San Angelo. We were able to see the consoles used by the dispatchers to answer calls to the police and fire departments. The system is an EDACS trunked system using digital technology.

The dispatcher's console is comprised of several computer screens which display the calls, the locations of units and other information in real time. The dispatcher has access to the NCIS data base for checking licenses.

About 20 club members made the trek downtown from the clubhouse after the club meeting.

Thanks David for your time..



Rebuilding Together

We will assist the Rebuilding Together Campaign in San Angelo again this year.

Date: April 24, 2010

We provide communication between the main headquarters and the remote sites. Plan to join us.

Contact Hughbert Robinson - KC5NPC for additional information at tbum@aol.com

Classified - For Sale

	preamp
Pre-Midland Hamfest sale	Bookshelf stereo speakers
Kenwood TS-530S HF transceiver	All prices are negotiable.
Kenwood TS-830S HF transceiver	I'd rather sell these items locally than haul them to Midland on March 20.
Heath SB-1000 kW HF amplifier	
Radio Shack 25w 2 meter amplifier	Contact Glenn AA5PK at 949-4775 or aa5pk@hotmail.com
Tokyo HiPower 40w 70 cm linear amplifier	
Alliance U-100 antenna rotor	
Channel Master antenna rotor	
Kenwood 7-amp power supply	
Thrust bearing	
Heath signal generator	
Icom AG-25 2 meter mast mount	

**Recent Club Meeting**

We have been having good crowds. Join us each second Thursday , 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse on Stewart Lane

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(thankfully, some don't have cars or televisions) are known for their superb shipbuilding skills, exceptional diving & fishing (sailfish, Wahoo, grouper, sail fin tuna, kingfish, amberjack), great sailing waters and, above all, the unequalled hospitality and genuine friendliness of the Abaconians. Treasure Cay does have a Championship 18 hole golf course, so all activity is not tied to the sea. The economy of most of the islands is based around tourism and financial services, and the official language is English.

The weather suits many of us that dislike cold and heat, with lows in January and February about 65F and highs in August around 86F. Average rainfall is less than two inches a month, with more in September and October, ranging up to 7.4 inches in October. Relatively flat, the sea at your door, and laid back, this could be a perfect escape from either the summer heat or the snow, and with a good radio and antenna (and accessories) will get you working the world real fast. Ref: www.Islands.com ; www.go-abacos.com ; www.geographia.com



QSL OF THE MONTH- C6AYM: Erik is K9GY when stateside but shows on this card what he loves to do when in the Bahamas. If you have the opportunity to go "swim with the dolphins" do it. It is really a "religious" experience.

See you on the bands chasing dx.

73 de WB5ZAM.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

<u>Date</u>	<u>NCS</u>	<u>Check-ins</u>	<u>Duration</u>
2/1	KB5FNK	30	16 min
2/8	KD5SBE	26	27 min
2/15	KB5FNK	30	14 min
2/22	KB5FNK	29	16 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 PL 88.5	444.350-	San Angelo PL 162.2 (Echo Link Node)
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5	444.875+	Brady PL 162.2 Linked to 444.225+
147.06+	San Angelo PL 103.5		
147.34+	Robert Lee PL88.5	147.30	San Angelo PL 88.5
146.90-	Brady PL 162.2		
146.62-	Brady PL 114.8 (Echo Link Node)		



P. O. Box 4002
San Angelo, TX76902-4002

Get all the latest club news on the Internet
at www.w5qx.org

2010 SAARC Officers:

President – Ralph Stout/KASULE
Vice President – Lisa Koca/K5LLK
Secretary/Treasurer – Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator – Mike Dominy/KD5URW
Activities Manager – Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC
Grounds Chairman – Joe Kent/W5JBK
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 Buddy Parker/KD5SBE at 949-7731 or vparker6@suddenlink.net

Article submission deadline: Ten days prior to monthly meeting



NEXT MEETING: 3/11/10
PROGRAM: Tour of NWS
SAARC Clubhouse, 7:30 P.M.