

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

March 2011

Attention all Radio Amateurs!

A message from the West Gulf Division Director, David Woolweaver, K5RAV

Your assistance to defend one of our amateur bands is urgently requested. Please read and follow through on the requested action described below. This is an important issue for every Amateur Radio Operator in the nation.

You may have already heard that our 440 MHz band is being threatened by a bill introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. In its current form, HR 607 provides for the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network. As a part of that network, the bill proposes to allocate the so-called "D-Block" of frequencies in the 700 MHz range. The "D-Block" consists of two, 5 MHz wide segments of spectrum (758-763 MHz and 788-793 MHz) that became available when the FCC ended analog television broadcasts in June 2009. It was initially expected that the "D-Block" would be auctioned for commercial use.

HR 607 provides for the reallocation of other spectrum for auction to commercial users in order to offset the loss of revenue that will occur as the result of the allocation of the "D-Block" to Public Safety instead of commercial auction. Among the bands to be reallocated for commercial auction within ten years of passage of HR 607 are the paired bands of 420-440 MHz and 450-470 MHz.

The concept for this proposed network has merit. Everyone wants first responders to have the radio systems they need in order to protect themselves and us. However, there is absolutely no need to reallocate for auction the 440 MHz band to make it happen. We must let our U.S. Representatives know we oppose the current wording of HR 607.

What can I do? A web site to automatically prepare a letter opposing HR 607 has been created to assist you. Go to <http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm>.

Insert your call sign where indicated and follow the simple instructions. The name and address of your U.S. Representative will automatically be inserted into the letter along with your name and address. The letter will then be displayed ready to be printed and signed.

IMPORTANT: Please be certain to observe the following once you have printed your letter:

- ◆ Be sure to sign it. Letters without a handwritten signature are not effective.
- ◆ Signed letters can be sent by fax or postal mail to -
John Chwat
Chwat & Co.,
Suite 103, 625 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314
Fax number: (703) 684-7594
- ◆ The letter can also be signed and scanned into .pdf format and then E-Mailed as a file attachment to: john.chwat@chwatco.com. Chwat and Co. is the ARRL's legislative relations firm in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Do not send this letter or any letter about HR 607 to your U.S. Senators at this time. The bill has only been filed in the U.S. House of Representatives. WHY should the letter be mailed to John Chwat and NOT your Representative? There are two reasons. *First*, all postal mail addressed to members of the U.S. Congress is delayed 6 to 8 weeks to search for the inclusion of hazardous materials. *Second*, Mr. Chwat will increase the value of your individual letter by combining it with others. He will then hand carry the stack of letters directly to your Representative's office. This manner of delivery makes a particular impact on members of Congress.

March Club Program

March's program will be presented by KC5NPC, Hughbert Robinson. He will be sharing some of the different nets he checks into and will share times, frequencies and what got him interested in this part of the hobby. We hope this will spark a little interest in having folks study for their General ticket.

**President's Note
de Ralph Stout/KA5ULE**

Hello everyone!

Looks like we are almost into spring and we all know what that means, thunderstorms.

We are having our annual Skywarn training this next Saturday March 12, 2011.

I hope to see a good turnout from all agencies as well as the general public for this class.

Speaking of class, Mike and I will be taking names of those who are interested in taking a Technician class and hope to have enough interest to set up a class real soon.

The Midland Hamfest is March 19, 2011 and I hope to see a good representation of San Angelo up there. We usually do show up in droves.

Back on February 24, I launched our SAARC Yahoo group. As of this writing, we have 19 members.

While the reflector has served us well, I think the Yahoo group has features that will serve us better in the future.

We have message archiving, a section for files to be uploaded/downloaded, a place for photos, a database, polls, links for your favorite sites and a membership list so you can see who is a member.

I encourage you to sign up and use it. The address is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/saarc76902/>

Send me a note at ka5ule@arrl.net and I'll send you an invite.

FYI, Field Day will be here before you know it. Let's start thinking about where it will be and what we need to start doing to get ready for it.

73 and see you at the March meeting.

February Meeting Minutes

Minutes of last meeting February 10, 2011 as taken by Ralph KA5ULE

Meeting called to order by President Ralph Stout KA5ULE at 1940

We had 12 in attendance.

Had a moment of silence for Bill Murphy's wife Wanda who recently passed away.

Then after introductions by all in attendance, Mike KD5URW talked about upcoming Skywarn class on March 12, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church at 9am.

Mike also discussed antenna project for EOC, the roof is now done and it is time to put antennas back up.

He also discussed the latest news about ARES.

Welcomed Jim Fisher KD6IWD to the membership rolls.

Introduced Marcos OQuin KF5GKC as the new Building & Grounds person for 2011.

Discussed doing a dry run for Field Day in April to find any potential problems.

Also discussed the upcoming fox hunt. We got the fox out and demoed the operation of it.

Discussed starting a Tech class soon after Skywarn. Will possibly have a sign up sheet at the training..

Split the pot was won by Marcos Oquin KF5GKC and he donated his winnings back to the club.

Meeting was adjourned at 2005

Scanner Jack's Corner

de Jack Roberts/KB5TMY

Monitor these frequencies for the roads that are closed due to the rodeo parade.

460.600 Fire EMS Dispatch

462.675 REACT

464.550 Parade Ops CH 1

Monitor these frequencies for the rodeo and fairgrounds.

154.600 video ops

151.1375 Cmd Link to PS Event

154.3100 Ops Link to PS Event

154.4450 Tac Link to PS Event

151.2500 Tac Link to PS Event

155.475 TX LAW 3 Link TO 800MHZ PS Event

151.250 COG Link TO PS Event

Notice: Be careful when purchasing a scanner by mail or internet. Check the specification carefully to make sure it will receive digital signals.

If you have an amateur radio, scanner, all hazards (weather) radio, or digital TV converter that needs programming contact Jack at:

scannerjack1@juno.com

326-651-4840

Emergency Communications

de Mike Dominy/KD5URW - Emergency Coordinator

Tom Green County ARES Net

Meets every Monday night at 8:30 CST (2030 hr) on the 444.350 MHz (Pl 162.2) (N5SVK). The net can also be reached by Echolink at WB5VRM-R or Node 412402. Other frequencies are announced on Concho Valley Net at 8:00 pm.

February ARES Net Report				
Date	Net Ctrl	Check-ins	Time	Freq
2/7	KD5URW	14	12 min	444.350
2/14	KD5URW	9	10 min	444.350
2/21	KD5URW	10	12 min	444.350
2/28	KD5URW	10	15 min	444.350

Activities

Total # of ARES members: 20 Change since last month: 0

NTS liaison is maintained with the West Texas Section

Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month: 5

Man hours: 98.0

Total number of ARES operations this month: 5

Total Man hours: 98.0

The Tom Green County ARES group held their monthly meeting on 17 Feb 2011 with a good meeting discussing the re-installation project of the EOC antennas or the city/county Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

We are looking into the many different options on how to do the guy wires for the HF antenna on the EOC and the location of the antenna stands on the roof after the roofing project is complete. We talked about work days at the EOC and set the dates of 26 Feb and 5 March as work days.

With time permitting, the group reviewed other agenda items and some training dates for training with the We-bEOC at the EOC. Announced the Skywarn training date (12 Mar 11 at 9 AM to 1 PM) and other information on some training.

The group had a good discussion and an overview of what we would like to see as part of the HSMM-MESH project that we have been working on for the past several months. The group reviewed some dish antenna designs that Marcus (KF5GLC) had brought to the meeting. We discussed the building designs he had done and what it would take to expand on the designs and on the mounting of them onto the different dishes that we are looking at using. We reviewed additional information on the testing and programming of the equipment that will be used as part of the groups HSMM-MESH project.

The next TGC-ARES group meeting is set for 17 March 2011 at 7:00 PM at the San Angelo ARC club house.

73s, Stay Safe and Happy DXing.

CQ DX - January 2010

de Bill Richards/WB5ZAM

Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions during February: V55; VP8ORK (thru 2/8); S9; CU7; LU1ZS; D2; V31; J7; H44; FH; 3B8; 8P9; PJ2; J3; J5; 6W; T8; D4; 5H; C6; FK; JW8; A3; CN; XU; PJ4; J6; 8Q; P29; T3; KH0; KH2; T8; TJ9; PJ2; V4; TT8; T70; 3B9R; HH4; 5X; J73; 9M8; 8P6;

Island of the Month-FH-Mayotte : Mayotte, southeastern most island of the [Comoros](#) archipelago and a French dependency, situated in the [Mozambique Channel](#) of the [Indian Ocean](#), about 193 miles (310 km) northwest of [Madagascar](#). The capital city, Mamoudzou, is located on the eastern coast of the island. Pamandzi, an islet lying about 1.5 miles (2.5 km) east of Mayotte, is connected by a 1.2-mile causeway to the rocky outcrop known as Dzaoudzi, site of a city and port. Land area of the island is 144.5 square miles (374.2 square km). Pop. (2007) 186,452. A [volcanic mountain](#) range forms a north-south chain on Mayotte Island, with summits from 1,600 to 2,000 feet (500 to 600 m) in elevation. Protected waters for shipping and fishing are created by surrounding [coral reefs](#)



some distance from the shore. The climate is warm, humid, and maritime, and average monthly temperatures range from 75 °F (24 °C)



in August to 81 °F (27 °C) in December. The island's average annual rainfall is 200 inches (5,000 mm). The vegetation comprises lush green [tropical forest](#). Agriculture is the principal occupation on Mayotte and is confined to the central and northeastern plains; cash crops include vanilla, ylang-ylang, coffee, and coconuts. Cassava (manioc), bananas, corn (maize), and rice are grown for subsistence. The island's main exports are ylang-ylang extract, vanilla, coffee, and copra. Rice, sugar, flour, clothing, [building materials](#), hardware, cement, and transport equipment are imported. Mayotte's major trading partner is France, and the economy is in large part dependent on French aid. A road system links the principal towns on Mayotte Island, and an international airport is located at Dzaoudzi. In the 15th century, Arabs invaded the island and converted its inhabitants, who were probably descendants of earlier Bantu and Malayo-Indonesian peoples, to Islam; in the 16th century, the Portuguese and French visited Mayotte. At the end of the 18th century, the Sakalava, a Malagasy tribe from Madagascar, invaded and populated the island, bringing a Malagasy dialect. The French gained colonial control over Mayotte in 1843 and, together with the other islands of the Comoros archipelago and Madagascar, Mayotte became part of a single French overseas territory in the early 20th century.



The French administered Mayotte separately from the remainder of the Comoros beginning in 1975, when the three northernmost and predominantly Muslim islands of the Comoros declared independence, and the Muslim and Christian inhabitants of Mayotte chose to remain with France. In 1976 the French government introduced a special status of *collectivité territoriale* for the island. In 1979 the [United Nations](#) passed a resolution affirming the sovereignty of [Comoros](#) over Mayotte. The [African Union](#) also supported Comoros's claim to the island.

The population of Mayotte had long demanded the status of an overseas *département* for the island, but the French government did not make firm plans to implement the change until the early 21st century. In a referendum held on the issue in March 2009, 95 percent of Mayotte's voters favoured the change in status, which was set to take place in 2011.

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Recent Programs

April '10	San Angelo/TGC Emergency Management Department, Ron Perry/KBSUPE
May '10	Q codes, Band Limits, Ralph Stout/KASULE
June '10	Field Day
July '10	National Weather Service, Dr. Steve Lyons
August '10	EME, Glenn Miller/AA5PK
September '10	Kenwood TS-570, Charlie Royall/WB5T
October '10	SAARC's 86th Birthday Party
December '10	Eatin' Meetin'
March '11	Nets, Times, Frequencies, Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC

(Continued from page 4)

Mayotte is a very active island for DX-peditions, with at least 8 cards listed on the web when you look up FH. There is one main airport, no railroads, and 58 miles of roads. Official currency is the Euro. (Note: DXpedition to FH now ongoing until Feb 28, 2011).

Photo of FH4VOS



QSL OF THE MONTH-DL0DLH- Lufthansa ARC Club, Frankfurt: The club had seven members wander to Namibia the 5th thru the 12 Feb. Good signals in the morning on 15m. Funny, I hear complaints of dead bands. But we have had quite a few crews out on islands that are rarely activated. Some took amplifiers, and some went with Buddi-poles and 100w rigs, or 45w back pack rigs. And even those with hidden indoors antennas, or low to the roof antennas are working these stations. The sunspots are slowly rising and we should see big improvements this year.

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

2011 SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training Class for San Angelo

Date: 12 March 2011 - Saturday

Time: 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church - 3616 YMCA Drive. Just off of Loop 306 - between the Texas DPS Office and San Angelo Community Hospital

Class will cover both Basic and Advanced Storm Spotter Training. **Door Prizes to be given away.**

For further information: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/?n=skywarn>

New 2-m Roundtable Net

A new 2-m Roundtable Net is on the air on Monday nights. Tune to 146.52 (simplex), the national simplex frequency. The net begins around 8:30 p.m. after the regular Concho Valley 2-m Net (146.94) concludes on Monday nights, The Roundtable continues after the ARES Net concludes (444.350), around 8:45 p.m. A Roundtable is a Net where each person has an opportunity to share in the order they check in.

This is a good opportunity to check out your Simplex capability and see if you need a better antenna or more power.

Join us on Monday nights. If you are new to Ham radio tune to 146.520 and listen in for a bit then join in the fun and conversation.

Satellite News

ARISSat-1 news

Roscosmos has announced that ARISSat-1, still inside the ISS, will be turned on using an external antenna on Yuri's Night, April 12, 2011, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first manned space flight.

AMSAT will support this event and issue certificates to those stations reporting reception of the ARISSat-1 signals.

Yuri's Night is a global event with more information available on-line at: <http://yurisnight.net/>

SAARC Yahoo Group is Up and Running.

This is the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club Group. All ham radio operators are welcome! Feel free to join, upload files and photos. Use this as a valuable resource to discuss and plan events, share tips and promote amateur radio and the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/saarc76902>

Congratulations to Sam Morgan - K5OAI

Sam Morgan - K5OAI is an avid QRP (low power) contester. Here is his report from the recent 2010 Texas QSO Party.

"I won 3rd place in 2007 and finally got back in the running this year with 3rd place again."

Texas Single-Ops QRP

Call	Category	Club Affiliation	QSO	Mult	Score
WB5BKL	TX SO QRP	CTDXCC	240	133	100760
W5ESE	TX SO QRP	Hays-Caldwell ARC	210	130	89900
K5OAI	TX SO QRP	N/A	71	49	10437
WA5DSS	TX SO QRP	N/A	60	50	6500

Upcoming Hamfests

- **03/12/2011 | 9th Annual IARC Hamfest.** Location: Irving, TX Sponsor: Irving Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://www.irvingarc.org/iarchamfest.html>
- **03/19/2011 | West Texas Section Convention (56th Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest).** Location: Midland, TX Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>
- **04/02/2011 | HamEXPO.** Location: Belton, TX Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://www.beltonhamexpo.org/>
- **06/10/2011 | ARRL National Convention (Ham-Com 2011).** Location: Plano, TX Sponsor: Ham-Com, Inc. & supporting clubs Website: <http://www.hamcom.org/>

Concho Valley Two Meter Net

<u>Date</u>	<u>NCS</u>	<u>Check-ins</u>	<u>Duration</u>
2/7	KB5FNK	16	15 min
2/14	KB5TMY	26	20 min
2/21	KB5TMY	19	15 min
2/28	KD5SBE	19	20 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 PL 88.5	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, TX 76902-4002

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

2009 SAARC Officers:

President - Ralph Stout/KA5ULE
Vice President - Matt Healy/W5MAT
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
Emergency Coordinator - Mike Dominy/KD5URW
Activities Manager - Tom Austin/K4OTM
Grounds Chairman - Marcus Oquin/KF5GKC
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/KD5SBE at 949-7731 or email vparker6@suddenlink.net

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



NEXT MEETING: 3/10/11
PROGRAM: H. ROBINSON, KC5NPC
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE