

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

November 2006

President's Message

By Glenn Miller/AA5PK

We didn't hold a business meeting in October because of the anniversary party at the clubhouse on October 14. It was nice to see the former members come out and enjoy the meal and conversation. And, I think the highlight of the event was Tom Earnest/W5UFO's ice cream maker connected to a kerosene-powered 1920 Fairbanks Morse single-cylinder engine (photo on page 4). Quite an interesting contraption and it churned up 5 gallons of great tasting ice cream. I counted 43 in attendance, most of whom were "Old Timers." The weather held out after threatening rain a few times in the morning.

Following the anniversary party, on Oct 16, my XYL and I headed off for a 2-week vacation to Las Vegas and Ogden, UT. We had a good trip, didn't win a fortune in Las Vegas, but had a good visit with our daughter and son-in-law in Utah. He will be deploying to Afghanistan with the USAF in December. We returned on Friday evening, Oct 27, and I had over 200 e-mails to sift through and many photos to post on another of my Web sites.

The big event at the November 9 club meeting will be the nomination of club officers for 2007. David/KB5FNK, serving as a nominating committee of one, has contacted the membership and come up with a slate of candidates for the new year. We'll be taking nominations from the floor at the meeting and firming up the election ballot which will be mailed to voting members in late November. Ballots can be mailed to the club's PO box or brought to the Eatin' Meetin' at 1830 on December 14 at Zentner's Steakhouse on Sherwood Way.

The big news in October concerning amateur radio was the release of the FCC Report and Order on Amateur Radio. The long-anticipated R&O expands operating frequencies and clarifies a few rules on other topics. Still unresolved is the issue of the Morse code requirement for US licensing. I had expected a decision on this issue by now, but... The gist of the R&O is reproduced in this issue for those of you who don't have access to the Internet.

Another item worth mentioning is the exterior lighting situation at the clubhouse. As you may know, the club pays roughly \$500/year to have the guard light out front. We've discussed this expense at several executive committee sessions and decided we can install our own light fixture and pay the electricity for it for much less than WTU wants. So, Gary/N5GRC and Chuck/N5JED have installed a light and Gary has instructed WTU to disconnect their light. This'll save us big bucks in the long run and Gary says it throws as much light as the WTU fixture.

Hope to see you all at the November 9th meeting. 73.

FCC Releases Omnibus Report and Order

From The ARRL Letter, Oct 13, 2006

Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the changes it had put forth in its 2004 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the proceeding. The R&O the FCC released this week does NOT include action on the Commission's proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement. A Report and Order in that proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, is pending. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, expressed the League's gratitude to the FCC for acting this week in the wide-ranging proceeding.

"On behalf of the ARRL and the Commission's licensees in the Amateur Radio Service I want to express appreciation for your release yesterday of the Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) amending Part 97 of the Commission's Rules," Harrison wrote October 11. "The Commission's action in clearing this pending proceeding will assist the Amateur Radio Service in meeting its objectives, particularly with regard to providing emergency and public service communications."

The new rules are expected to become effective later this year. Among the highlights in the October 10 Report and Order, the FCC:

- * "refarmed" the current Novice/Tech Plus bands to expand certain phone subbands;
- * agreed to allow Novice and Tech Plus licensees to operate CW in the General class CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.
- * implemented rules to discourage multiple vanity call sign filings on the same day from the same applicant;
- * permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;
- * permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;
- * eliminated certain restrictions governing the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers intended

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FCC Report and Order cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

for Amateur Radio use;

- * clarified that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions";

- * deleted the requirement to publicly announce Amateur Radio examination locations and times, and

- * deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations.

In response to an ARRL Petition for Rule Making, the Commission agreed to "reform" the HF segments currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus licensees. The reallocation will expand the phone subbands for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra licensees, although not all commenters agreed with the idea.

"We are persuaded, however, by ARRL's contention that increasing the amount of spectrum for voice communications will reduce interference among stations using voice communications," the FCC said in its R&O, "thereby benefiting all licensees." The FCC said authorizing more phone spectrum would "more closely reflect licensees' operating preferences" and mean more efficient spectrum use.

On 75 meters, the FCC went well beyond the modest expansion the ARRL had proposed and the FCC had tentatively adopted in its 2004 NPRM. Generals will be able to operate on phone from 3800 to 4000 kHz, Advanced class licensees from 3700 to 4000, and Amateur Extras from 3600 to 4000 kHz—greatly reducing the amount of 80-meter spectrum available for RTTY and data (the only segment where automatically controlled digital stations may operate on 80 meters is 3620 to 3635 kHz).

The FCC said the amateur community wanted as much phone spectrum as possible. "Indeed, a number of commenters argue that the NPRM proposal to increase the amount of spectrum permitted for voice communications would still not meet the demand for voice communication spectrum in the HF bands, particularly in the 80 meter band," the FCC said.

On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class licensees will be able to operate phone from 7125 to 7300 kHz, and Generals from 7175 to 7300 kHz. On 15 meters, General class operators may operate phone from 21,275 to 21,450 kHz.

The FCC affirmed its intention to permit Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW in the current General exclusive-CW allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW/data on 10 meters, where the FCC provided an additional 100 kHz for Novice/Tech Plus licensees. Novice/Tech Plus licensees still may run no more than 200 W PEP, but the Commission has done away with Novice band power limitations for higher-class licensees.

The FCC revised its vanity call sign rules to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign on the same day, and many commenters supported this concept. As implemented in §97.19(d)(1), if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the Universal Licensing System. "Subsequent vanity call sign applications from that applicant with the same receipt date will not be accepted," the rule concludes.

"We are persuaded that we should adopt rule amendments to discourage multiple vanity call sign applications," the FCC said in the R&O, "and we believe that a one-application-per-day-per-applicant rule, as requested by ARRL and others, will eliminate multiple applications requesting the same assignable call sign on the same day." The FCC concedes that its one-application-per-day rule "will not prevent an individual from requesting multiple vanity call signs per se," because an applicant may request up to 25 call signs at a time.

When the FCC receives multiple valid applications from several individuals requesting the same vanity call sign as a first choice on the same day, it uses a lottery system to decide which application to process first.

The R&O also affirms changes to Part 2 and Part 97 rules the FCC had proposed regarding the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers. Current FCC rules prohibit commercial manufacturers from marketing RF power amplifiers capable of transmitting on the 12 and 10 meter bands. The rules were put in place as a way to prevent use of such amplifiers by CBers.

"We agree with ARRL that the requirements imposed on Amateur Radio operators by the current rule are unnecessary because, under the present rules, 'the equipment, once authorized, can be modified to transmit on all amateur service frequency allocations,' and that revising the rule 'will enhance use of the 12 and 10 meter amateur bands,'" the FCC said.

To prevent the use of Amateur Radio amplifiers by CBers, the FCC says manufacturers of Amateur Radio amplifiers must design their products to avoid operation between 26 MHz and 28 MHz. They also must certify that amplifiers are not easily modifiable to operate between 26 MHz and 28 MHz prior to a grant of equipment certification.

The various rule changes become effective 30 days after their publication in the Federal Register <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

A copy of the R&O appears on the FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf.

ARRL has posted a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the R&O <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/faq.html>.

A downloadable chart shows the band changes http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3_color.pdf.

CQ DX de WB5ZAM



DXpeditions in November: XF, J3, BY, XU, 3CØ, FO, 9Q, 4O, V2, PJ, TO, P4, VK9C, FT5X (Kerguelen), V6, VP9, PJ4, TK, C3, VP5, E5, 5H, KHØ, KH2, 5A, HKØ, 3B8, KP2, (December 1st VU7 = VERY RARE!). According to the DX sheets there were 225 countries active the last week of October, even with a low sunspot count.

Island of the Month

Kerguelen — FT8X. The **Kerguelen Archipelago** is situated at 49°20'S/70°20'E, midway between Africa, Antarctica and Australia. Kerguelen is a French possession, lying some 13,000 km from France in the Southern Indian Ocean. The main island measures roughly 120 km by 140 km, occupies 6,675 sq km and is surrounded by around 300 other smaller islands, reefs and rocks, forming an archipelago of 7,215 sq km. The coast of Kerguelen is deeply indented with fjords, whilst the interior is heavily glaciated. The highest point is **Mount Ross**, at 1,850m, in the south of the island. Scattered French possessions in the Southern Ocean contribute to its position as the country with the largest Exclusive Economic Zone in the world. It is one of the four parts of the Terres Australes ET Antarctiques Françaises, which include Terre Adelie (Antarctica), the Crozet Islands and the islands of Amsterdam St-Paul. Kerguelen's weather is harsh, with rain and snow most days of the year. Winds blow continuously from the west, as the islands lie in the path of the "Furious Fifties." Winds of 150 kph are common and gusts up to 200 kph have been known. As Kerguelen lies on the Antarctic Convergence, where upwelling cold water from the Antarctic mixes with the



warmer waters of the Indian Ocean, birdlife and marine mammals are abundant. The state of the sea reflects the high wind speeds, with wave heights of 12-15 m being common. The sea around Kerguelen is, however, ice free. A brief history of Kerguelen can be found at: http://www.btinternet.com/~sa_sa/kerguelen/kerguelen_history_18.html.

In common with other sub-Antarctic islands, Kerguelen has suffered greatly from man's thoughtless introduction of alien species. Rabbits were brought to Kerguelen in 1874 by the British Transit of Venus Expedition. They have devastated Kerguelen's native vegetation and several attempts have been made to eradicate them. Myxomycosis was introduced in 1955 in an attempt to control them; although their numbers declined rapidly, they soon recovered and are still a pest. Rats arrived from ships in the



19th century and continue to devastate the island's bird populations, preying on eggs and chicks. Cats were introduced to control rats in both the 19th and 20th centuries, but soon became feral and again prey on the endemic birds. Eradication programs have so far failed to eliminate them. Other introduced species have included mink, reindeer, cattle and sheep. Tourism is only with organized Sub-Antarctic tours and only with permission from the French Overseas offices. Amateur radio is provided by visiting hams that are also on the island performing scientific missions. Tourism is still not even a low priority for the French Government for these islands.

Thanks to the Kerguelen site for info for this month's article: http://www.btinternet.com/~sa_sa/kerguelen/

QSL OF THE MONTH JX6DFA

Per-Einar shows where he operated from on Jan Mayen Land (Island). Does *cold* come to mind? See you on the bands chasing DX. 73 de Bill.



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
Oct 9	KA5VTG	21	13 min
Oct 16	- - - -	No data available	- - - -
Oct 23	- - - -	No data available	- - - -
Oct 30	KA5VTG	11	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	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

License Testing News

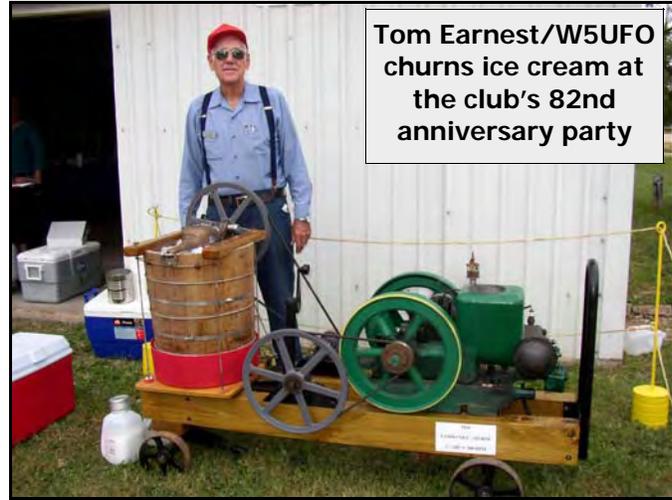
Glenn Miller/AA5PK,
Volunteer Examiner

ARRL VEC

The next scheduled test session will be Sunday, January 21, 2007, at 1300 at the clubhouse. Pre-registration (submission of **NCVEC Form 605** and **\$14** check/money order payable to "ARRL/VEC") is required not later than January 15.

License testing information and a link to download the form are available on the club Web site <http://www.w5qx.org>.

Information/forms can be obtained by contacting Don/AB5BG at 651-5441 or Glenn/AA5PK at 949-4775.



Tom Earnest/W5UFO churns ice cream at the club's 82nd anniversary party



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

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

2006 SAARC Officers:

President - Glenn Miller/AA5PK
Vice President - John Marshall/KC5FMX
Secretary/Treasurer - Gary Chaffin/N5GRC
Emergency Coordinator - David Wolfe/KA5VTG
Activities Manager - //Vacant
Grounds Custodian - Ron Mechenburg/KC5WXJ

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, NOV 9, 7:30 P.M.
MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE