



# The eKilo-What



Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

Nov-Dec 2008

## President's Message

by Joe Kent/W5JBK



2008 has been a very good year for our club. The ARRL Field Day numbers were better than last year and everyone enjoyed the 84th birthday celebration. This year we began hosting special event stations and will have three under our belts after the SKYWARN Appreciation Day December 6th. In fact, the special events were so successful we plan to have several more in 2009. Member participation is the key to our success and I thank you one and all and solicit your support in the upcoming year. If this year is any indication of things to come, 2009 should be a banner year for our club. At the last regular meeting we approved funds for relocation of the 146.94 repeater which will ensure we keep this valuable asset continuously available for SKYWARN activities and regular amateur use. Thank you for your support of this important asset.



I hope all SAARC members and their guests are able to attend this year's Eatin' Meetin' at the Twin Mountain Steak House. If you have attended these functions in the past, you will remember it is a time we get together for an enjoyable meal and fellowship with other hams and their families. See you at Twin Mountain Steak House on December 11 at 1800 hours.

## Meeting Minutes

by Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

### Meeting Minutes - November 13, 2008



The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Joe Kent/W5JBK on November 13, 2008 at 1930 hours. Introductions were made with 19 members and 4 visitors in attendance. The October Minutes were approved as printed in the Kilo-What and the Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

### Officer's Report

Vice President Gary Chaffin/W5ETJ informed all that the program for the evening would be on scanners and is to be presented by Jack Roberts/KB5TMY. He said the next program will be during the January 2009 meeting and the content has not been determined.

Activities Manager Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC said we will participate in the Skywarn Recognition Day on December 6, 2008 at the San Angelo National Weather Service on Knickerbocker Road. Hughbert has asked several club members to meet at the clubhouse at 1700 hours on December 5, 2008 to pick up equipment and, including an antenna, to transport and install at the Weather Service. We should have everything ready to begin operating by 0800 Saturday morning.

### Old Business

David Behrend/KB5FNK gave a report on the recently completed Jamboree on the Air. David stated that he had fifty scouts and almost as many adults in attendance.

Joe Kent/W5JBK explained that at some point in time, possibly during 2009, we will have to move the 146.940 repeater from the old men's high rise at ASU to the new tower located on Wilkie Hill west of town. The high rise is scheduled for demolition but the date is thus far undetermined. The club's Trustee, Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ has given us an estimate to get the job done including materials and labor. Charlie has identified a professional climber who should be available. The materials are either on hand or available within a short period of time. It was explained by Joe Kent/W5JBK that waiting for the last minute will only increase the cost of labor and materials. We really need to move forward with the relocation while the manpower and equipment is available.

There was a motion made for expenditure of club funds to move the repeater as soon as possible. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

There was another motion for Charlie Campbell to purchase a new repeater antenna if, after removal and examination, he determines it needs to be replaced. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Nominations for the Ham of The Year (HOTY) Award need to be concluded by the end of this month. Those of you that would like to nominate someone for HOTY must write a 75-150 word justification on what the person has done during the year

Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 1

to promote Ham Radio or the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Should you nominate a current officer, you cannot cite what was accomplished while performing duties that are normally the officer's responsibilities; "above and beyond" is the key. Send the Nomination to the Secretary/Treasurer and he will forward them to the Awards Committee. Deadline for submission of nominations is November 29, 2008.

Officer Nominations are as follows:

- President: Joe Kent/W5JBK
- Vice President: Don Hejl/N5SVK
- Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Freeman/KD5PIX
- Emergency Coordinator: Mike Dominy/KD5URW
- Activities Manager: Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC
- Grounds Chairman: Ron Mecklenburg/KD5WXJ



Good of the Order

Split-the-Pot was worth \$17.50 to the winner Jack Roberts/KB5TMY and to the club. Jack donated his winnings to the club; thank you Jack!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1818 hours. The next regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be 1800 hours Thursday, December 11 2008 at the Twin Mountain Steak House which is located just west of Sam's Club on the Mertzon highway.

Random (unpublished?) Pictures of Past Events



Club Meeting 11/13/08



Club Meeting 10/11/08



Club Meeting 11/13/08



Special Event 09/20/08



Joe/W5JBK Buddy/KD5SBE

Special Event 09/20/08

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

Date	Event	Location	Information
9-10 Jan 2009	Cowtown Hamfest, Lockheed Martin Recreation Area	Ft. Worth, TX	<a href="http://cowtownhamfest.org">http://cowtownhamfest.org</a>
10 Jan 2009	San Antonio Amateur Radio Fiesta, Schertz Knights of Columbus Hall	Schertz, TX	<a href="http://w5sc.org/swapfest.htm">http://w5sc.org/swapfest.htm</a>
7 Feb 2009	Annual Swapmeet, VFW Post 8587	Georgetown, TX	<a href="http://www.wcarc.com">http://www.wcarc.com</a>
13-14 Mar 2009	Green Country Hamfest, Inc., Claremore Expo Center	Claremore, OK	<a href="http://greencountryhamfest.org">http://greencountryhamfest.org</a>

## Scanner Jack's Corner by Jack Roberts/KB5TMU



This month, I am providing information on methods I use to search the 800 MHz public safety bands. In addition, the 5 I-TAC nation-wide interagency frequencies are listed for your information. Enjoy your hobby and happy scanning!



This is how I search the 800 MHz public safety bands:

851.000 to 856.000  
 856.000 to 861.000  
 861.000 TO 866.000  
 866.000 TO 868.9875

Here are the 5 I-TAC frequencies known as interagency nation-wide:

I-TAC 1 866.0125  
 I-TAC 2 866.5125  
 I-TAC 3 867.0125  
 I-TAC 4 867.5125  
 I-TAC 5 868.0125

Note: DO NOT put these in trunk mode. Rather put them in FM or WFM depending on your scanner model.

## ARRL VEC Announces Fee Increase

*Contributed by Glenn Miller/AA5PK*

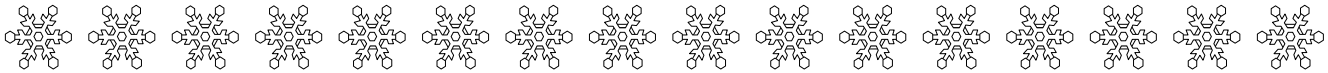
On November 6, The ARRL VEC announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

The FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license (FCC Rule 97.527); these exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its services.

Every examinee at each ARRL coordinated examination session is charged the same fee in accordance with the annually-established fee schedule. Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at a test session, must pay the exam fee applicable for the calendar year. The ARRL VEC's exam fee for calendar year 2009 is \$15. Each time a candidate pays one exam fee, they are entitled to take tests for Elements 2, 3 and 4 as needed, up to all three elements under the single exam fee. Each time an examinee retakes an exam element (assuming the VE Team has different exam design available), another exam fee is charged.



Tenth Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day by John Dyer/AE5B



The Tenth Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day is from 6:00 PM CST Friday, December 5 to 6:00 PM Saturday December 6, 2008. The SRD event is the National Weather Service's way of expressing its appreciation to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to keeping our communities safe. During the 24-hour special event, Amateur Radio operators, working together with their local National Weather Service (NWS) offices will activate NWS amateur radio stations and work as a team to contact other hams across the world. The National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League, the National Association for Amateur Radio, sponsor the event.

Last year, almost 100 NWS offices across the country participated and logged over sixteen thousand contacts. Look for the following NWS sites in our WTX Section to be active:

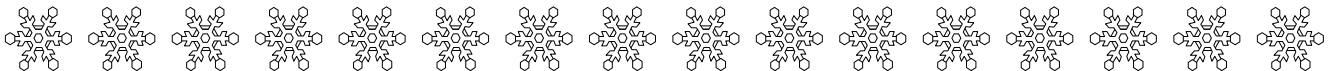
Midland NWS	W5MAF	20-80 meters
El Paso NWS	WX5ELP	20-40 meters
Lubbock NWS	WX5LBB	20-80 meters
San Angelo NWS	N5NWS	20 meters

See the web site for a list of other participating cities at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

Join me in working the SRD stations this weekend. I was hoping to operate from WX5AMA this year but equipment problems forced them to cancel their participation. The W5MAF team has invited me to join them, so I hope to work you from NWS MAF. You can earn a SKYWARN Recognition Day certificate by working just one National Weather Service office.



John Dyer/AE5B  
ARRL West Texas Section Manager



Dear SKYWARN Leaders and Friends,

I am pleased to announce that the annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will occur December 6, 2008, from 0000 to 2400 UTC. SRD is our way of saying "thanks" to amateur radio operators who provide weather information during hazardous weather. SRD is co-sponsored by the NWS and the American Radio Relay League. The official SRD web site (<http://hamradio.noaa.gov>) contains further information.

A special thanks goes to the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club (SAARC) who has volunteered to set up a special event station at the NWS Office located at 7654 Knickerbocker Rd. You are more than welcome to help us make contact with other offices and hams across the country on that Saturday from 8AM-5PM or so.

As always, I want to thank you all for supporting past SRDs and look forward to working with you this year. If you have further questions, please contact me.

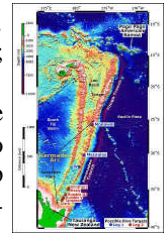
Thanks,  
Hector Guerrero



## CQ! DX de WB5ZAM



**Upcoming/Ongoing DXpeditions during December:** FT5YI-Antatctica; 6W; J5; 5R8; T8; 5K; PZ; VP9; TO3R; J3; 8Q7; CQ-WW CW DX 11/29-30; S2; Z21; KC4; FK; TR; XU; CN; JD1.



**Island of the Month- Kermadec Islands-ZL8:** The Kermadec Islands are an island arc in the South Pacific, annexed by New Zealand in 1887. Laying at 29d to 31.5d South and 178d to 179d West, they are 800 to 1000 miles northeast of the North Island of New Zealand. The group includes four main islands (three of them might be considered island groups, because the respective main islands have smaller islands close by) and some isolated rocks, which are, from North to South:

Raoul or Sunday Island is by far the largest of the Kermadec Islands. Raoul Island is located at [29°16'0"S 177°55'10"W](#) / [-29.26667, -177.91944](#) (Raoul Island), 900 km SSW of 'Ata, the southernmost island of Tonga, and

1100 km NNE of New Zealand, area 29.38 km<sup>2</sup> with numerous smaller satellite islands, Moumoukai peak, 516 m high). Macauley Island, the second largest (located at [30°14'S 178°26'W](#) / [-30.233, -178.433](#) (Macauley Island), 110 km SSE of Raoul Island, Mount Haszard with an elevation of 238 m, area 3.06 km<sup>2</sup> with neighboring island: Haszard Island) . Macdonald Rock, about 4 km north of Macauley Island at [30°11'S 178°26'W](#) / [-30.183, -178.433](#) (Macdonald Rock) .Curtis Island, the third largest (located at [30°32'32"S 178°33'39"W](#) / [-30.54222, -178.56083](#) (Curtis Island), 35 km SSE of Macauley Island, 137 m high, area 0.59 km<sup>2</sup> with neighboring Cheeseman Island) . L'Esperance Rock, formerly French Rock (80 km SSE of Curtis Island at [31°26'S](#)

[178°54'W](#) / [-31.433, -178.9](#) (L'Esperance Rock), 250 m in diameter, 0.05 km<sup>2</sup> in area, 70 m high). L'Havre Rock, about 8 km NNW of L'Esperance Rock near [31°21'S 178°59'W](#) / [-31.35, -178.983](#) (L'Havre Rock) (submerged, barely above water during low tide). The islands, except for the Raoul Island Meteorological Station on Raoul are all uninhabited. The climate of the islands is subtropical, with a 22.4C mean temp in February and a 16C temp in August. Rainfall is about 1.5 meters (48 to 60 inches a year). Polynesian people settled the Kermadec Islands in around the fourteenth century (and perhaps previously in the tenth century), but when Europeans reached the area in 1788 they found no inhabitants. The islands were named for the French captain Jean-Michel Huon de Kermadec, who visited the islands as part of the d'Entrecasteaux expedition in the 1790s. European settlers, initially the Bell family, lived on the islands from the early nineteenth century until 1937, as did whalers. One of the Bell daughters, Elsie K. Morton, recounted the family's experience there in her memoir, *Crusoes of Sunday Island*. Since then, a government meteorological and radio station and hostel for Department of Conservation officers and volunteers have been maintained on Raoul Island. Introduced cats, rats, and goats devastated the forests and seabirds. Overgrazing by goats eliminated the forests of Macauley Island, leaving open grasslands, and altered the understory of Raoul Island. Predation by rats and cats reduced the seabird colonies on the main islands from millions of birds to tens of thousands. The New Zealand government has been working for the last few decades to restore the islands. New Zealand declared the islands a nature reserve in 1937 and the sea around them a marine reserve in 1990. Goats were removed from Macauley in 1970 and from Raoul in 1984, and the forests have begun to recover. The islands are still known for their bird life, and seabird colonies presently inhabit offshore islets, which are safe from introduced rats and cats. Efforts are currently underway to remove the rats and cats from the islands, as well as some of the invasive exotic plants. Visits to the islands are restricted by the Department of Conservation. The Department allows visits to Raoul by volunteers assisting in environmental restoration or monitoring projects, and other visitors engaged in nature study. Visits to the other islands are generally restricted to those engaged in scientific study of the islands. So ham radio expeditions are a rarity, but from West Texas, when they occur we have a front row seat and are able to work them easily. The last DXpedition was in 2006 (ZL8R). One thing that they do note is that the islands are volcanic in origin and the volcano on Raoul is very active, in fact erupting in 2006. There are also tours from the North Island of New Zealand for snorkeling and diving in the magnificent reefs surrounding all of the islands.

Here is a link to K7AGE working the group in 2006: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5NptJ\\_hHic](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5NptJ_hHic)

**OSL OF THE MONTH -- SV7LEX:** Thanases, a new Greek ham who wants to work the world. See you on the bands chasing dx. 73 de WB5ZAM.

References:<http://www.seafriends.org.nz/issues/res/kermadec/kermfoto.htm>; [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kermadec\\_Islands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kermadec_Islands)



## Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
------	-----	-----------	----------

03 Nov	KB5FNK	22	17 Min
10 Nov	KB5FNK	17	12 Min
17 Nov	KB5FNK	18	12 Min
24 Nov	KB5FNK	17	14 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, TX PL 162.2
147.06+	San Angelo PL 103.5		
147.34+	Robert Lee PL 88.5	147.30/53.63	San Angelo PL 88.5
146.94-	Brady PL 162.2	444.875+	Brady PL 162.2
146.62-	Brady Echo-Link PL 114.8		

**6 Meter Crossband**

## Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due in January 2009.

Renewals are as follows:

- Regular memberships: \$20
- Each additional family member: \$5
- Seniors (age 65+) and Juniors (under age 19): \$10
- Renewal package deal: 5 years for \$80

**SAARC ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

*\$6.00 Haircuts*

*Ron's Barber Shop*

*Hours of operation:*

*Tue-Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm*

*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](http://www.w5qx.org)

### 2008 SAARC Officers:

President - Joe Kent/W5JBK  
Vice President/Special Events - Gary Chaffin/W5ETJ  
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

### Appointed Positions:

Documents & Data Officer - Buddy Parker/KD5SBE  
Goodwill Ambassador - David Lewis/W5DLL

**SAARC Monthly Meetings:** 2nd Thursday,  
1930, clubhouse, 5513 Stewart Lane

**Annual Dues:** \$20, Sr. & Jr. \$10

**The Kilo-What:** Edited by Gary/W5ETJ at 949-0186 or email [gchaffin@gmail.com](mailto:gchaffin@gmail.com)

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



**NEXT MEETING: 12/11/2008**

**TWIN MOUNTAIN STEAK HOUSE**