

The eKilo - What

Monthly Newsletter of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

September 2008

President's Message

by Joe Kent/W5JBK



The 84th anniversary of our club is almost upon us. We will mark the event with a birthday party that includes a tailgate party and special event station. Hamburgers, cake, and Tom/W5UFO's "special" ice cream will be served. This is a party you won't want to miss! The special event station will kick off shortly after 0900 and continue through the afternoon. Volunteers are needed to man the radios and to log contacts.

Alex Papoutsas/K5CMW has advised that he and Don Elliott/N5DE have added tone input to the 147.06 (PL103.5) and 146.88 (PL88.5) because of interference and intermod. He said they would be glad to remove the tones temporarily for special events and etc; just ask.

David Behrend/KB5FNK is asking for volunteers (General class and above) to assist with the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event to be held at the club house October 18—19. Please contact David ASAP if you will be able to help.

Many thanks to all who have made our first special event station a success including Hughbert/KC5NPC for getting the word out via local media and all who showed up at Grape Creek to help with the operating and logging.

Meeting Minutes

by Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

Meeting Minutes—September 11, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by President Joe Kent/W5JBK on September 11, 2008 at 1936 hours. Introductions were made with 16 members and 3 visitors present. The August Minutes were approved as printed in the Kilo-What. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Officers Report

Vice President, Gary Chaffin/W5ETJ briefed on the Special Event Station for the 150th Anniversary of the Butterfield Overland Mail that stopped near Grape Creek, Tom Green County. The event will be held Saturday September 20, 2008. W5QX will operate HF, UHF and PSK – 31 from Cloud Country Airport, Grape Creek. Gary also reminded everyone about sending in our empty ink cartages.

Activities Manager, Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC has notified the TV stations and the San Angelo Standard – Times of our Special Event Station.

President Kent/W5JBK asked Buddy Parker/KD5SBE if he would serve as Documents and Data Officer. Buddy accepted the responsibility.

President Kent appointed Ralph Stout/KA5ULE as Senior Instructor and Mike Dominy/KD5URW as an assistant. Bill Tarn/AE5AW was presented a Certificate of Appreciation.

The October Meeting will commemorate the 84th Birthday of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club. We will have the celebration on Saturday October 11, 2008. There will be food, cake, ice cream and plenty of stories; some of which may actually be true. We plan to operate a Special Event Station in conjunction with the event.

Good of the Order

There was a drawing for a pocket knife that was furnished by Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC. The knife was won by Gary Pittman/KE5TXL. Another drawing for a 6 inch metal pocket ruler was won by David Behrend/KB5FNK.

Split – the – Pot was worth \$12.50 to the winner Jack Roberts/KB5TMY. Jack donated his share to the club. Thank you Jack.

The program after the meeting will be the second in a series on antennas and will be presented by Bill Tarn/AE5AW.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2027 hours. The next regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be Saturday October 11, 2008 in observance of our 84th birthday.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

Date	Event	Location	Information
10-11 Oct 2008	Paris Texas Hamfest, Red River Valley Fairgrounds	Paris, TX	www.paristexasradio.com
8 Nov 2008	NCTECH 2009, Azle Community Center	Azle, TX	www.wc5c.org
10 Jan 2009	San Antonio Amateur Radio Fiesta, Schertz Knights of Columbus Hall	Schertz, TX	http://w5sc.org/swapfest.htm
13-14 Mar 2009	Green Country Hamfest, Inc., Claremore Expo Center	Claremore, OK	http://greencountryhamfest.org

Scanner Jack's Corner by Jack Roberts / KB5TMY



This month I am providing some of the frequencies used by Air Mobility Command (Previously Military Airlift Command (MAC)) as well as some HF USB frequencies utilized by Global Command. I enjoyed the Butterfield Overland Mail celebration at Grape Creek and was able to monitor several frequencies in use in support of that event. These frequencies are also provided below.

These are the Air Mobility Command (AMC) frequencies (Old MAC)

AM Mode

130.650
141.800
297.000
319.400
340.800
349.400
372,800
390.900
284.000

Global Command USB Mode

4.724
6.697 Navy
6.712
6.739
6.870
6.826
8.992
9.016
10.204
11.175
11.244
11.267 Navy
13.200
15.016
17.976
18.002

The following frequencies were active during the Butterfield Overland Mail observance at Grape Creek's Cloud Country Airport.

122.900 Air to Ground
122.975 Air to Air
154.130 Grape Creek FD
154.295 TX Fire 3
155.700 Sheriff's Office
154.950 TX Law 1

Emergency Communications EmComm by Mike Dorniny /KD5URW

For many of us in Texas, we think of Galveston as a beautiful place with the scenic view of the ocean and a laid back way of life. The cool ocean breezes, the sound of the ocean waves and just the easy pace of a really wonderful place in which to live and visit.

That is the Galveston that we used to know. Galveston was visited by one of the most notorious national disasters in 1900. The Hurricane of 1900 made landfall in the city of Galveston, Texas on September 8, 1900. It had estimated winds of 135 mph (215 km/h) at landfall, making it a Category 4 storm on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. The hurricane caused great loss of life with an estimated death toll between 6,000 and 12,000 individuals; the number most cited in official reports is 8,000, giving the storm the third-highest number of casualties of any Atlantic hurricane, after the Great Hurricane of 1780 and 1998's Hurricane Mitch. The Galveston Hurricane of 1900 is to date the deadliest natural disaster ever to strike the United States. By contrast, the second-deadliest storm to strike the United States, the 1928 Okeechobee Hurricane, caused approximately 2,500 deaths, and the deadliest storm of recent times, Hurricane Katrina, claimed the lives of approximately 1,800 people.

The hurricane occurred before the practice of assigning official code names to tropical storms was instituted, and thus it is commonly referred to under a variety of descriptive names. Typical names for the storm include the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, the Great Galveston Hurricane, and, especially in older documents, the Galveston Flood. It is often referred to by Galveston locals as The Great Storm or the 1900 Storm.

What has this to do with EmComm you say? This has a lot to do with emergency communications. Back then, very little was known about the storms or just getting information about a storm across country or along the coastline was very hard. Many of the early storms origins back then where unclear, due to the limited observation ability at the end of the 19th century and the type of communications network back then compared to what we have today. Ship reports were the only reliable tool for observing hurricanes at sea at the time and because wireless telegraphy was still in its infancy, many of these reports were not available until the ships put in at a harbor. This made it even more limited in communications capabilities.

This storm was reported to be north of Key West on September 6, and in the early morning hours of Friday, September 7, the Weather Bureau office in New Orleans issued a report of heavy damage along the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts. Details of this storm were not widespread mainly due to damage to telegraph lines which limited communication to their area and other areas along the coast line. The Weather Bureau's central office in Washington, D.C. ordered storm warnings raised from Pensacola, Florida to Galveston. By the afternoon of the 7th, large swells from the southeast were observed on the Gulf, and clouds at all altitudes began moving in from the northeast. Both of these observations are consistent with a hurricane approaching from the east. The Galveston Weather Bureau office raised its double square flags; a hurricane warning was in effect. The ship *Louisiana* encountered the hurricane at 1 p.m. that day after departing New Orleans. Captain Halsey estimated wind speeds of 100 mph (160 km/h). These winds correspond to a Category 2 hurricane in the modern-day Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. By early afternoon, a steady northeastern wind had picked up. By 5 p.m., the Bureau office was recording sustained hurricane-force winds. That night, the wind direction shifted to the east, and then to the southeast as the hurricane's eye began to pass over the island. By 11 p.m., the wind was southerly and diminishing. On Sunday morning, clear skies and a 20 mph (30 km/h) breeze off the Gulf of Mexico greeted the Galveston survivors. The storm continued on, and later tracked into Oklahoma. From there, it continued over the Great Lakes while still sustaining winds of almost 40 mph (as recorded over Milwaukee, Wisconsin) and passed north of Halifax, Nova Scotia on September 12. From there it traveled into the North Atlantic where it disappeared from observations.

If you look at the way this storm hit and the recent one of Hurricane Ike, you would find that they were very close to being on the same track of each other. The one main thing that we should look at between the two storms is that we had more advance warnings this time then what they had back then. The communications about the storms and the direction, the type of storm and what we could be looking at as far as the storm surge and the type of damage is far more advanced than with the storm that devastated Galveston back in 1900.

Massive evacuations took place this time from Galveston and all of the outlying areas around the main point of landfall of Hurricane Ike. There were many Amateur Emergency Radio Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) members from Texas prepared for a major communications effort. If you monitored the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz, you became aware that the National Hurricane Center (NHC) was looking for reports from stations along the Texas Gulf coast.

As Hurricane Ike weakened and became a tropical storm and then a tropical depression after slamming ashore near Galveston island that early Saturday morning, hams in several ARRL sections from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky were supporting various agencies with their communications needs.

The main thing that Hurricane Ike did was ruthlessly destroy telephone lines, damaged numerous cell phone towers, and left many others without operating power of any kind. The result: a nearly complete communications blackout rarely experienced by 21st century America.

Although the final word on all the locations where ARES/RACES/MARS was providing communications support has yet to be reported, it was clear that Amateur Radio and emergency communications played a large part in the response to this massive storm. Included elements were the type of support, the way we responded and the actions taken to support the require-

Emergency Communications EmComm *cont. from page 3*

ments of all of the requesting agencies and to the individual states.

It was reported that ARES/RACES/MARS was supporting many of the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) throughout the region and at the state level and that equipment shipped to the Gulf Coast under the Ham Aid program from ARRL was either being put to use or held for possible use as requests arrived, or made ready for shipment to other affected areas of the country as needed. That is what we are setup to do and what we train to do. That is way we should always be prepared.

While Hurricane Ike did not directly impact the West Texas region, remnants from Tropical Storm Lowell from the Pacific side of the ocean were affecting residents within our area. The storm dumped a large amount of rain in Mexico and parts of West Texas over several days and because of that, water was being released from the Luis Leon dam in Mexico due to the large amount of water behind the dam. This put the levee system in the town of Presidio, Texas on edge due to the large amount of water being released from the Luis Leon dam. This additional water was dumped into the Rio Grande causing that river to flood. Although the levee systems were holding, water was close to the top in many sections and in some small areas, had come up and over the some of the levees. Just before Hurricane Ike hit the Gulf coast area, the rains left over by Tropical Storm Lowell had the town at more than 11 feet above flood stage causing the Rio Grande to flood. No one expected the levees to hold at that point and residents had been advised that if they hear sirens, immediately leave and seek higher ground.

Although it has been a rough and tumble season so far, we're only now at the halfway point of the season and we still have time for more storms in the coming months. In observing the trends for this season, one of the enhancements that everyone should realize is that we have had better coordination of possible movement of ARES/RACES/MARS volunteers to affected areas from other counties and sections than we have had before.

It seems we are in a new era of emergency communications that emphasizes cross-sectional coordination and cooperation for mutual assistance and a more proactive role from all volunteers around the country and here in the state. It's very important to be able to do what we can do, especially after an emergency. We hams are able to use simple and proven technology that has come with years of experimenting, testing and the understanding of what we do as a hobby and how it can be employed in effecting emergency communications. It is why we, as Amateur Radio operators, can continue to communicate when many entities are plunged into total communications blackout. Amateur radio operators began to pick up the slack for a multitude of services by relaying messages and other vital traffic information. It is at this time that agencies that are affected will extend their support and solicit the assistance of local amateur radio to provide emergency communications coverage. That is what we do during an emergency.

Soon we must look at going from focusing on the hurricane season to looking at the winter storms coming in. This is the time for all SKYWARN storm spotters to get ready, if you are not already, be prepared for the coming season of storms. Before we know it, the spring season will be here and the fun will begin again. That is why we must always be prepared. If not, then who?



Charles Lloyd Williams/AI5Z Silent Key



Charles (Chuck) Williams / AI5Z became a silent key Friday, October 3, 2008. Some of the more senior members of the SAARC may remember Chuck as he was very active in the club during the '60s through the '80s. Alex/K5CMW recalls that Chuck previously held call sign W5SBI. Chuck's obituary was printed in the San Angelo Standard Times on 10/5/08 and stated he was "an avid ham radio operator throughout his life." It is always sad to hear that another of our ranks has passed away and we offer our condolences to his survivors.

Butterfield Overland Mail Special Event Station

The Butterfield Overland Mail 150th anniversary and associated Special Event Station was held Saturday the 20th of September at Cloud Country Airport, Grape Creek TX and a great time was had by all. The station made a total of 74 contacts including 13 PSK-31, 17 VHF and 34 SSB. Requests for certificates have been arriving almost daily and are being processed by Joe Kent/W5JBK and Bob Freeman/KD5PIX. A number of our SAARC members operated the stations and assisted in set up and tear down operations. Thanks to all for making this event a great success!



Concho Valley Two Meter Net

Date	NCS	Check-ins	Duration
1 Sep	KB5FNK	18	16 Min
8 Sep	KB5FNK	20	13 Min
15 Sep	KB5FNK	16	20 Min
22 Sep	KB5FNK	18	14 Min
29 Sep	KB5FNK	16	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 PL 88.5	444.350+	San Angelo PL 162.2
146.94-	San Angelo PL 103.5	444.875+	Brady, TX PL 162.2
147.06+	San Angelo PL 103.5	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

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill Richards/WB5ZAM and his wife as she undergoes treatment for a recently discovered illness. Bill will understandably put his DX column on hold until her health returns.



AMERICAN
Truck & RV
HOME-OWNED SINCE 1983

Treva Boyd • Owner

(325) 653-1978 Fax: (325) 658-7159
americantruckandr.com treva@suddenlinkmail.com
Sales & Service: 4100 S. Bryant
Mail: 4110 Ben Ficklin Rd., San Angelo, TX 76903

**SAARC ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS**

\$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)

**SAARC ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS**

ATHLETES
WORLD

WWW.ATHLETESWORLDUSA.COM

3949 SHERWOOD WAY
SAN ANGELO, TX 76901

325-944-2155
FAX 325-944-0792
1-800-541-TEAM

Wayne@athletesworldusa.com



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/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

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



NEXT MEETING: 10/11/2008

MATHIS FIELD CLUBHOUSE