

AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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FEB.
1975

AARCOVER

Lew McCoy Speaks To AARC Friday, Feb. 14

The February meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club will be held at the North Austin Bank Building, 7600 Burnet Road at 7:30 PM on February 14th. Please note the change in time and place. We are moving the meeting day (Friday), time and place to accommodate our speaker who is Lew McCoy, WIICP, Beginner and Novice Editor of QST, from ARRL Hq. in Newington, CT. Lew will be in Texas principally for the Texas VHF FM Society meeting in San Antonio the following Saturday, as he also serves as the Hq. staffer in charge of VHF FM repeater activity and authors the FM Repeater News section each month in QST.

Roy Albright, W5EYB, our ARRL West Gulf Division Director, will also be in attendance, so if you have questions about League affairs come on out Friday, February 14th.

Friday, Feb. 14



Roy Albright, W5EYB, (left) and Lew McCoy, WIICP, chat at ARRL Hq.

DE HR REPORT

JOHN HUNTOON, W1RW, RESIGNS as ARRL General Manager and Editor of QST! John's resignation, which becomes effective January 31, does not include all his ARRL responsibilities -- he will continue as League Secretary as well as secretary of the IARU.

Though a complete surprise to most of the amateur radio fraternity, John's stepping down is not a sudden decision. He has apparently been considering the move and discussing it with a very few close friends for some time.

ARRL DIRECTORS' MEETING January 16 confirmed Dick Baldwin, W1RU, as League General Manager and QST editor to replace John Huntoon. Dick takes over February 1, while John will continue as both ARRL and IARU Secretary through at least January, 1976. Interesting aside on Huntoon story -- Worldradio publisher Armond Noble got the story as his February issue went to press, re-wrote his first page at the printer to make Worldradio the first amateur radio monthly with the news. That's good journalism!

Docket 20282 Discussion occupied much of the Directors' time, resulted in authorization of a "membership opinion survey" to be conducted on the Division level. Though the survey will be sent out through individual directors, the survey questions and presentation will be identical to avoid any chance of personal bias in the results. Survey will be made in time for individual directors to consider results before the special Board meeting May 15-16 at which the League response will be determined.

Sister Cities Program was also discussed, and a committee of west coast amateurs familiar with the program is being set up to consider

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Free Class

The Austin Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring Amateur license classes this spring. An orientation session will be held Sunday, February 9, at 2 PM at the Red Cross Building, 1225 Red River. These classes will cover both International Morse Code and Amateur theory, and are designed to progress the members from Novice to General. The first session (Feb. 9) will last several hours, so if you can't make it at 2 drop by later that afternoon. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons at a time convenient to the teacher and students. Most of the teaching will initially be by Ken Hollan, W5UIT.

The license classes are being offered free of charge by the AARC; for further information please contact Gerald Clough, WB5JEO, at 452-1267.

Fees Lowered

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 519 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS CK 96 NEWINGTON CT JANUARY 23, 1975 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS.

Effective March 1, 1975, a new reduced fee schedule goes into effect for the amateur service. The new fees are 4 dollars for new licenses and renewals, 3 dollars for modifications. FCC points out that remittances in excess of these fees received after March 1 cannot be refunded because of processing difficulties. Applications received before March 1 with insufficient money for fees in effect at that time will be returned. The League filing opposing the principle of fees for amateur licenses appears on page 66 of December QST AR

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Ken Goodwin, W5UGE, spoke at the AARC January Banquet. Here is Ken at his station in Houston; it's nice to see that the Route Manager of Southern Texas has a dependable station.

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY:

- 14 AARC FEB. MEETING
- 15-16 DX CONTEST - CW
- 20 AARCOVER DEADLINE

MARCH:

- 1-2 DX CONTEST - PHONE
- 11 AARC MARCH MEETING
- 15-16 DX CONTEST - CW

APRIL:

- 12-13 CD PARTY - CW
- 19-20 CD PARTY - PHONE

JUNE:

- 14-15 VHF QSO PARTY
- 28-29 FIELD DAY

9657

ND OCCASIONALLY A CONSTRUCTIVE IDEA OR TH
 OP OF THE EDITOR OF THE AARC COVER W
 TH OCCASIONAL INPUT FROM THE REST OF TEXAS

The AARCOVER staff is happy to announce that photographs can now be reproduced in the AARCOVER. As you can easily see, we have chosen to "go overboard" this month in testing our photograph reproduction capability. However, we do hope to include at least one or two photos per month to liven things up a bit. Material from our readers is welcome, as always, and we are particularly willing to print photos of your station, some special construction project, or any other amateur activity. We can easily reproduce photos which are of good quality (photos of medium contrast and darkness work best) and whose size is 2 1/4 inches square (the width of an AARCOVER column.) Please carefully print your name on the back of the photo and indicate whether the AARCOVER staff can cut up the photo and if you want us to return the photo. In most cases we will want to cut the photo to a size of 2 1/4 inches square, but we will be happy to return the cut photo to you if you so indicate. In special cases, we may be able to handle larger photos or photograph your photo so that we don't have to cut it, but these steps take time and cost money. So unless you indicate otherwise, we will keep the photos that look interesting and publish them when we get the chance.

Speaking of reader's contributions, the AARCOVER still needs interesting articles to fill in the blank spaces (you may have noticed that the Editor has his own ways of filling in these blank areas, but I wouldn't recommend such running-off-at-the-mouth for others.) Any technical, operating, or general interest article of interest to the amateur radio operators of Central Texas would be greatly appreciated.

And now a few words about Docket 20282. Although the AARCOVER is financially very insecure, we may publish the docket in the next two months, but only if a number of our readers request it. I do strongly recommend that every amateur obtain a copy and read the docket. Just as all citizens have a duty to vote, all amateurs have a duty to help in the restructuring of amateur radio which will occur in the next year or two. Those with years of experience should share their knowledge with the Commissioners; the beginners should share knowledge of the hurdles to becoming an amateur that so many of us have forgotten. If you don't have the will or "the time" to participate in the restructuring debate which will occupy the next few months you should stop renewing your license, for you have forgotten why we are amateurs in the first place.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JOE FISHER, K5EJL

The Executive Committee met January 19th for preliminary organization and officer area assignments as follows:

- President - Joe Fisher, K5EJL
- General Organization Meeting Arrangements
- Vice-Pres. - Bob Petrosky, WB5FMA
- Programs
- Assist President
- Secretary - Doug Brooke, K5YHX
- Publicity
- Club History & Records
- Treasurer - Jim Dear, K5HWH
- Membership
- Activities Manager - Matt Thomas, WB5EYL
- Licensing Classes

Projects in the above areas will be the responsibility of the corresponding officer; if you have any questions or suggestions about any Club activity in one of these areas bring them to the attention of that officer. This is, of course, in addition to their duties prescribed by the By-Laws.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be February 16th at 6 PM, probably at the Night Hawk at 19th Street and Guadalupe. Any Club member is welcome to attend; contact me for details if you wish to attend.

ACTIVITIES

BY MATT THOMAS, WB5EYL

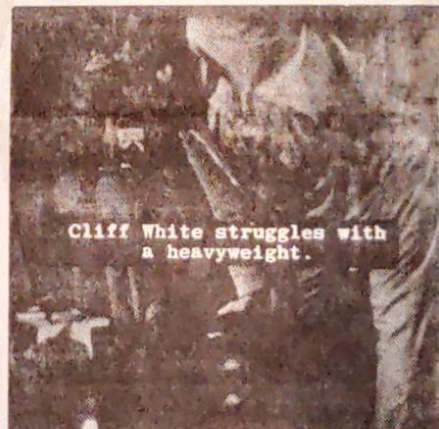
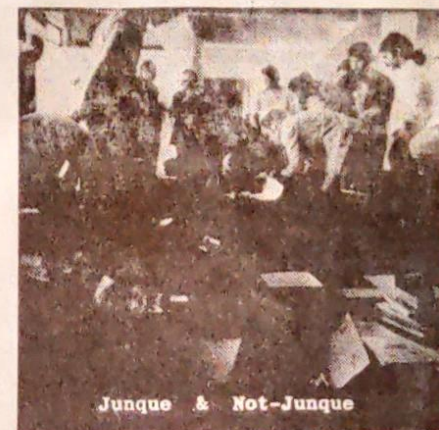
This being my first correspondence to the "amateur world" as Activities Manager of the Club, I think it would be a good move on my part to express the goals I wish to accomplish this year.

First, under my supervision is the subject concerning licensing classes. I would like to begin these classes about mid-February, and by December 31 this year I would like to see 20-25 newly licensed amateurs.

Secondly, of importance to many people, is the subject of Field Day. This year, I think the Club should not only come in first in the fifth call district, but first in the nation in our class. This will require lots of work from many people. Hopefully, the support will not be hard to find.

Also, slated for this year's activities will be such events as: Safari (April), VHF QSO parties (June and September), and a building project. Also, I would like to see an event especially for the Novices. For example, the 1975 ARRL Novice Roundup is rapidly approaching. I will attempt to get something started in this direction if I receive a minimal amount of support.

This should about do it for now; later I may come up with a few new ideas for consideration among the membership. For now 73; see you February 14.



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1975 AARC OFFICERS

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- Vice-President: Bob Petrosky, WB5FMA 863-3869
- Secretary: Doug Brooke, K5YHX 327-3114
- Treasurer: Jim Dear, K5HWH 444-0229
- Activities Manager: Matt Thomas, WB5EYL 453-4198
- AARC Club Call Sign: W5KA

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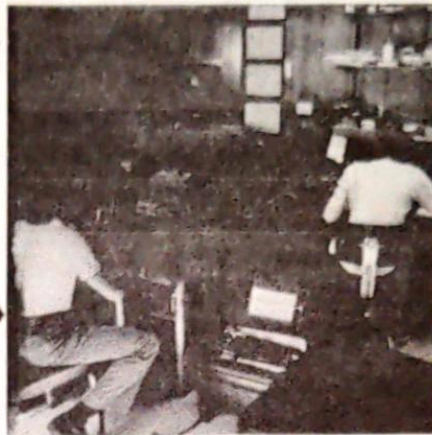
WHERE IN THE EMERGENCY COORDINATING
 OFFICE
AREC NEWS
 SECTION

AL TEXAS COUNTIES EXPOUND ON THE NECESSITY
 FOR AMATEURS TO BECOME PROPERLY PREPARED
 TO DEAL WITH COMMUNICATION EMERGENCIES

WA5ZBJ: CW/SSB Key Station
 WB5EYL on HF Traffic Net
 WA5ZBJ on VHF RTTY link to WSKA



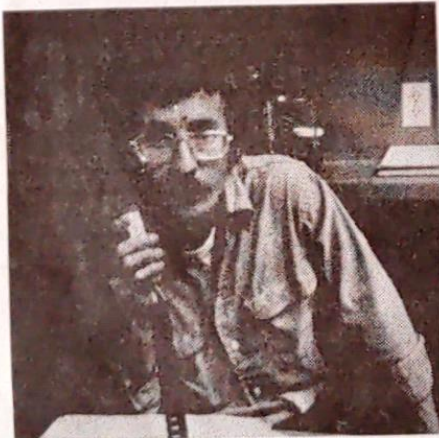
WB5BTF copying messages
 from San Marcos on 6 meters



WA5XUM taking a break at WA5ZBJ

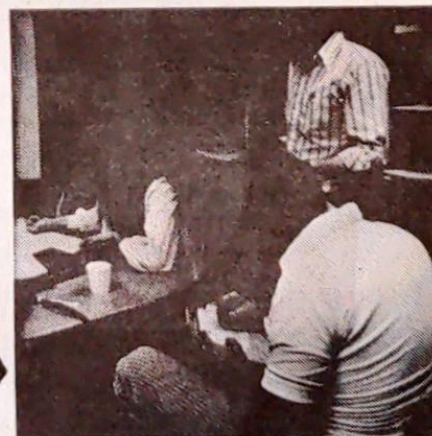


1975 SET



WB5CUK and two others handling
 messages in San Marcos

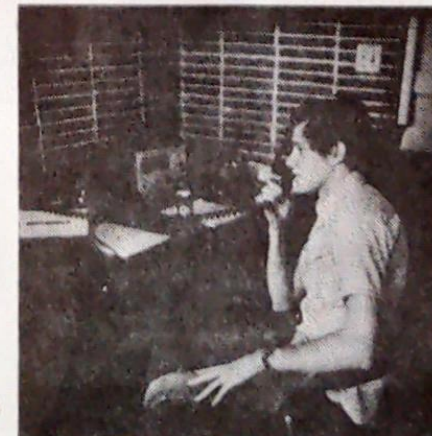
K50VW on Portable/Mobile Net
 in San Marcos (2m PM)



Master Control in San Marcos:
 K5YHX on the air to Austin



WSKA at Red Cross headquarters:
 WB5DQE in charge



RFI

WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS DON'T KNOW
 CAN HURT

by Gerald L. Clough, WB5JEO

A story in the *Washington Star Post* earlier this year tells of a Virginia amateur whose neighbors throw fish at his door, paint obscenities on his house, and snub his wife because their television sets make strange when he is on the air. It was not the ham's fault. The trouble began when the companies that made the televisions (and other home entertainment devices) deliberately left the sets open to radio frequency interference in order to save a couple of bucks.

More than one percent of all televisions and audio devices will experience RFI. In Austin, possibly 5,000 problems, and, in most cases, the amateur operator will have to deal with it. The manufacturer will not warn the customer and servicemen can be quite ignorant in this area. So the amateur had best be prepared to help.

If a neighbor has complained to the FCC, it will have paved the way in placing the blame. For TVI complaints the owner gets a form statement explaining that 90 percent of the TVI cases require treatment of the set rather than the transmitter. They also include a note to the owner's repairman with tips on correcting the problem. In the case of record and tape players, p-a systems and telephones, another statement lays the blame squarely on the maker. It explains why the device picks up signals and strongly urges that problems be brought to the attention of dealers and manufacturers.

Of course, the amateur, because of his antenna system, may get blamed, even when the RFI source is from another service, and his first job will be to determine what is doing the interfering. The second will be to try to explain why the neighbor's \$500 pride and joy does not reject the interfering signal. Some time spent in patient explanation will go a long way toward keeping peace.

Another aid will be a large packet of information from the ARRL RFI Task Force. It includes information on causes and cures with a model letter for the set owner to send to the manufacturer's service department asking for help. It's free for forty cents postage and a large envelope from: Dr. Ted Cohen, W4UMF, 8603 Conover Place, Alexandria, VA 22308.

Most American manufacturers will provide free filters to their customers, but the owner will have to pay for the installation. Some cases will require internal work, but be careful that any work attempted will not void the sets warranty.

Today's cheaply built, often unshielded, audio and video equipment will be with us for a while, but some help is on the way. The FCC is seeking legislative authority to enforce good circuit design on the part of manufacturers. The EIA is beginning to face up to the RFI problem. Meanwhile amateur radio's number one public relations problem will give us a bad name with folks who should be friends.

And, although I have not mentioned it before, 4,000 RFI complaints to the FCC in 1973 were the fault of the transmitting station, and that kind of trouble is what we really don't need.

 **the good neighbor.**
 The American Red Cross

DE HR REPORT (CONT. FROM PAGE 1):

ways to further the program nationally. This is particularly timely, looking ahead to the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979.

ARRL Foundation Board saw some changes -- Tom Watson, W6DW, replaces Ed Bock, W0BB; Phil Wicker, W4ACY, replaces Bob Chapman, W1QV; and Stan Zack, K2SJO, replaces Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ.

DX Advisory Committee matters were also considered, and both recommendations -- that 5 Band DXCC holders have an annual listing in QST, and that a cw-only DXCC be adopted -- were approved.

AMSAT NEWS: Listen for "double-translated" signals while the two OSCARS are traveling close to each other -- on days when O7 is on the 2-10 meter mode and O6 is operative, users will hear themselves through both simultaneously with signals about 5 kHz apart, while when O7 is on the "B" mode its beacon will be heard coming out of O6. Double OSCAR contacts are also possible, working into O7 on 432 MHz and listening to O6 on 10 meters retransmitting the 2-meter O7 output!

Users Are Requested to avoid operating near the beacon frequencies -- some problems are occurring with QRM of telemetry.

OSCAR WAS Award now offered by ARRL -- request WAS Application Form from ARRL with SASE.

ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY SHAKES ANTENNA TOWERS -- OSHA, the occupational safety people, want all towers over 20 feet to have a built-in OSHA-approved ladder (16-18" wide, with side rails mounted 6" off the tower)! Since the OSHA ladder is heavier than most light-duty amateur and TV antenna towers, such a requirement would have a great effect on tower prices -- and how necessary is a ladder to a tower climbed as infrequently as the average antenna tower?

"GOOD" AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICITY isn't always good! Recent TV Guide piece on ATV repeater (HR Report, November 15) has resulted in two schools working up petitions to have the FCC grant them permission to use our 420-450 MHz band for educational purposes and/or inter-campus communications! One would think that one of our most prestigious universities would know they already have a 2500 MHz band dedicated to such uses -- or maybe they want to go the cheaper ham route with old taxi rigs.

Another Example of good/bad publicity was found in the December issue of *Flying* which featured an article extolling the virtues of putting a two-meter rig in your private plane to use repeater auto patches as you fly cross country. Little mention was made of the effort required to become a ham, much less the responsibilities and limitations involved in such operation. It may make sense to author WA2BQK, but it sure riled many hams!

220 MHz CLASS E CB still very much a threat -- December 27 letter from OTP Acting Director John Eger to FCC Chairman Wiley urges giving "every consideration" to "expedient action" in granting Class E 222-224 MHz! The letter cites the need for a "disciplined" citizen's communications service, half billion dollar a year market (though if 2-meter FM and Class D CB are any indication, the better part of that half billion would go to Japanese manufacturers, not U.S.), giver lip service to value of amateur service -- and would let us continue to use the new CB band, with limitations! The letter also mentions the use of repeaters -- expect Class E start up as early as May!

FCC Schedule shows the Commissioners planning to consider Class E on March 6, and don't be surprised to see us lose this one despite the proposed expansion of Class D (Docket 20120, HR Report, August 1, 1974) and Communicator Class license in 29282. Despite the seriousness of the situation though it is not illogical that the Commissioners might conclude that in view of the pending Class D and amateur restructurings, final action on Class E should be deferred until such time as the results of those two important actions can be determined.



WHEREIN ITEMS WHICH YOU WISH TO BUY/SELL TR
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AARCADS
ENTORLEASECANBEADVERTISEDATAMINISCU
LERATEWHETHERYOUSEANINDIVIDUALORALARA
RGE BUSINESSAARCADSSPREADSTHEADSFAST

FOR SALE -- New Swan FM 2XA solid state transceiver complete with mike and power supply. Will discount \$75.00. S. F. Duffie, 609 Barton Blvd. 442-5515.

WANTED: 90 degree color tv deflection yoke for Magnavox tv. Manufacturer's No. 361290-102. 21 mH vertical, 12.2 mH horizontal. Need to borrow color dot generator. -- Patrick Stallings, WXSML, work telephone number 478-8300.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



It seems that ole Ken Hollan misunderstood my six meter operating. I haven't worked west Austin yet, but I have worked 32 states (16 confirmed) on this fine band during the two months I have owned my HA-6 transverter. In one opening I worked the whole "4" call district in 20 minutes! Six meters is one of the most interesting bands in the amateur frequency spectrum. Six meters has many characteristics of propagation that other bands do not have (sporadic-E skip, auroral propagation, ionospheric scatter, etc.). Six meters is between the usual "DX" bands and the local range bands, so the band is useful for both types of operation. The only problem with six is that it is 4 MHz wide, and that is a lot of wasted space even when the band is open. Any interested operators? -- John Firey, WB5HRI

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austin amateur radio club

TO: Jim Dear, K5HHW
Treasurer, AARC
P. O. Box 13473
Austin, TX 78711

Here's my \$6.00 dues for calendar year 1975. I understand that I can become a voting member only if I have an amateur license. I also understand that the Club gets a rebate if I renew my ARRL membership through you.

Tnx es 73.

NAME _____
CALL _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
ARRL MEMBER? _____
DATE _____