

***** MEETING *****

October 10, 1989

8:00 P.M.

Luby's North Loop

WY5L, Bob Autrey, from San Antonio will present a video presentation and talk on his operation from Johnston Island.

NO SMOKING PLEASE during the Club Meeting/Program. The Austin Amateur Radio Club has a no smoking policy during meetings and programs.

***** 1989 AARC OFFICERS *****

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(Numbers after the call signs are: phone # and autodial #.)

Contributions of articles, cartoons, etc. for printing may be mailed to 1809 W. St. Johns Ave., Austin, Texas 78757-2238. The editor may be contacted evenings and weekends at 454-1678; or during the day at 463-4338. The deadline for articles is the next-to-last Monday of each month. Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles appearing in the AARCOVER, provided credit is given to AARCOVER and author. Commercial ads are accepted \$15 for full page, 1/2 page \$10. Members ONLY may advertise ham-related For Sale or Wanted ads free if space is available.

***** HAM AD *****

WANTED: Any old Hallicrafter or Echophone gear, parts, manuals, etc. BEAD OR ALIVE! Chuck Dachis-WD5EQ - The Hallicrafter Collector - 512-443-5827

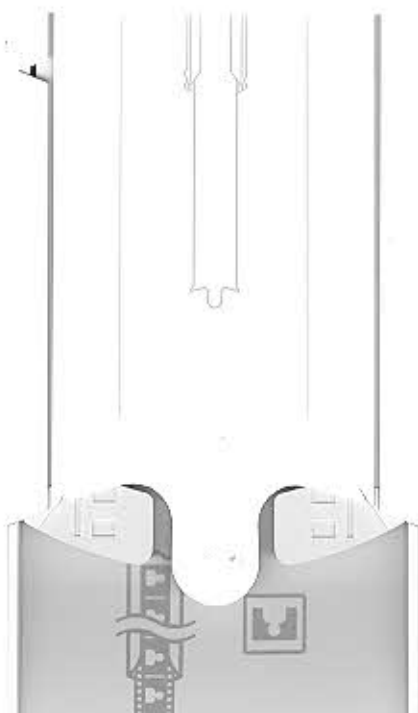
***** WANTED *****

Kenwood makes a mobile whip antenna called an MA-5. I need a base coil (the lower rod). If you have an old one of these gathering dust please call Alex Vrenios (KX9I) at 471-1616, or 338-1621 until 9PM.

*** AARC PICNIC REPORT ***

On Saturday, Sept. 23 we had our annual picnic. It was at Bull Creek Park for the third year. Attendance was down from the last few years, but those who showed up had their fill of chili dogs, assorted goodies, and good fellowship. If you missed out, well, there's always next year!

-.. . W5NH



for September 12, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, September 12, at Luby's on North Loop, Austin, TX by our President, Dave, WDSN.

OFFICER'S REPORTS: The minutes of the July 11 meeting as published in the AARCOVER were corrected and accepted. Our AARCOVER Editor, Rick, K5FNI, read an announcement of the upcoming first annual swapfest in Laredo on September 16. Rick requests your items and articles for the AARCOVER. Bob Inks, WA5MUM and Treasurer, reported that the club now has about \$1409 in the checking account plus a sum in the postal account. Our Activities Manager, Darrell, WDSCDY, reminded everyone of the club picnic on Saturday, September 23 at Bull Creek Park, just off FM 2222.

VISITORS: There were a number of visitors and we may not have gotten everyone's name. They include Bertil Carlsson, SM7BGF, from Sweden who presented the club with a decorated scarf from Sweden; also Allen, WA6ATC, from Los Angeles who was visiting for a second time; Don, no call but interested; Robert, son of K5ARS; Bob, KA5YGZ; Roger, K5YJC, from the Heart-of-Texas Radio Club in Waco; and Hem, VU2TEG, who is working on his Masters in Engineering.

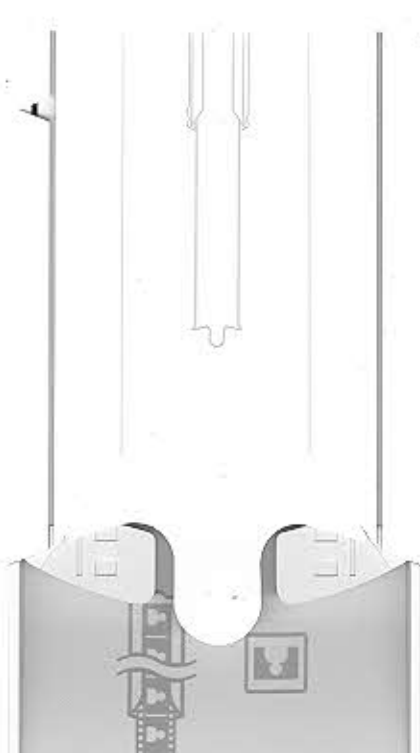
NEW MEMBERS: David Beer, KB5HZN, was elected a new member.

OLD BUSINESS: The tower donated to the club was sold. One of the antennas donated to the club has also been sold, one or two of the others may be kept to be used for emergency communications such as the recent Jarrell tornado.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Miles, N5KOB, has a letter from Radio Shack giving permission for the stores to post signs about ham meetings, classes, etc. Miles is taking volunteers to keep the stores in their area up to date. A novice class started at the Becker Community School in South Austin started yesterday. Late registrants may call the school for information. We have two recent Silent Keys: Bob Farley, WA5EOL, and Robert Gullion, WB4SWL. Dave thanked all who helped with the ham radio demonstration in Highland Mall last Saturday. Dave noted that Miles, N5KOB, has prepared a information sheet telling about the club and ham activity in Austin. These were used at the demonstration and are available from Dave for handouts, posting, etc. The rosters are ready to be mailed. Those present may pick up theirs from the Secretary after the meeting.

PROGRAM: Kevin, KG5KI, introduced our speaker, Clif Maloney, KA5VDJ. Clif works for the Texas Department of Public Safety and trains city, county, and state personnel how to organize their emergency management system and how to respond to local and statewide emergencies. Hams have a role in these systems and actions. Clif urged the club members to learn what they can do and to join in the various training programs available to them.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe Canfield, NSHPC AARC Secretary



***** OWN A COMPUTER? *****

***** HELP US PRODUCE KENWOOD MANUALS IN BRAILLE *****

Blind Services Inc is a nonprofit organization dedicated to producing hard to obtain technical manuals in braille. Many blind people are hams, so BSI contacted Kenwood and received permission to produce all of their manuals in braille. The blind person purchasing the manual will buy it from BSI at the same cost a sighted ham would get it from Kenwood.

How You Can Help! Blind Services Inc needs persons who have access to IBM compatible computers to help with this project. The manuals will be scanned onto diskettes with an optical scanner and therefore will need editing or "cleaning" to fix the mistakes that scanning produces. Also, some editing will need to be done to add formatting commands that our braille translator will recognize. The diskettes and the hardcopy, with formatting commands written in, will be provided. Your job will be as simple as editing. You can use whatever word processor or editor you have available, but we need the final product in an ascii text files.

If you are interested in helping with this project please contact Zena Pearcy at 453-3956 or Tommy Craig at 451-1717. (Tommy, N5GXB, can also be found frequently on the 718 repeater.

Do you know a ham who reads braille? Blind Services Inc has already produced the Kenwood 440 manual in braille. If you or someone you know would like to obtain the 440 manual, call us at the above numbers or write to: Blind Services Inc., 6909 Rufus Dr., Austin, Tx 78752.

***** " Q T C " -- THE BOOK *****

Austinite Ray Redwood has written a book, titled "QTC". It is about shipboard radio operators, which Ray was for many years. (For you newcomers out there, QTC is the Q-signal for traffic, or messages). Ray loaned me a couple of copies of the book, and although I haven't had time to read it yet, it seems quite fascinating just by glancing through it. Contact me if you are interested in purchasing one but would like to take a look at it first. It is available in softcover (\$7.95) or hardcover (\$15.00) from Ray at 442-1311. WDSN

***** HIGHLAND MALL DEMO REPORT *****

On Saturday, September 9, we had our ham demonstration at the mall. The setup was very neat and professional looking (as long as you didn't walk behind the table and see the tangle of assorted cables that is a part of any station!). Although only a few hams volunteered to man the table, quite a few club members showed up during the day to see how it was going and eyeball the setup. In fact, there were usually more hams around the table than non-hams, for whom the demo was designed! I would have liked to see more prospective hams come check out the gear.

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but we did have a few dozen people stop by to ask questions and pick up some literature. No one took us up on the offer to send messages anywhere in the country for free. The ARRL says that this Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day will be an annual event from now on, so next year we'll try to do better at letting potential hams know that the demo is taking place. ARRL sprang this on us without very much notice this year. I would like to thank N5KOB, KG5KI, WD5CDY, KB5BGU, KK5V, KC5US (and a couple of others whose calls I forget) for the help they provided. Hopefully we will get at least a few new hams as a result.

WD5N

***** SILENT KEYS *****

Cliff Dawson, WB5PPQ, father of our activity manager, Darrell, WD5CDY, passed away. Our condolences to Darrell and his family.

Club member Robert Gullion, WB4SWL, husband of Jean Gullion, N5HAO, passed away. Our condolences to Jean.

Former club member Bob Farley, WA5EOL, passed away. Our condolences to his family.

***** AILING MEMBER *****

Mel Fenrich, WASTXN, has been in Seton hospital for several months. He may be out by the time you receive this. If you know him, he would appreciate a card or call. Best wishes to Mel for a speedy recovery.

WD5N

Folks Still Needed to "Adopt" Radio Shacks

Last month's AARC-Over carried a request for help in maintaining ham-radio information signs in local Radio Shack stores. We still need several more hams to watch one or two stores each, and make certain that up-to-date information is posted. The signs are already made, and in many cases they are already posted in the stores. The store managers have been very helpful and glad to assist, but we can't reasonably expect them to notify us whenever a ham-radio sign gets torn or smudged. We have to keep track of them ourselves. Several folks have volunteered to "adopt" Radio Shacks, but we still have quite a few "orphan" stores left. Here are the locations of some of the orphan stores.

Central Austin: Capitol Plaza, Hancock Center, 216 West MLK, and 110 N. I-35.

North Austin: Highland Mall, Springdale Shopping Center.

Northwest Austin: 9012 Research Blvd.

South Austin: 5744 Manchaca Rd., Oltorf & S. Congress, Southwood Mall.

Southeast Austin: 1915 E. Riverside Dr.

Southwest Austin: Barton Mall, 2239 S. Lamar, Westgate Mall.

Outside of Austin: all except Round Rock.

If you can help, please call Miles Abernathy at 327-1310 or 471-6521. Thank you. ... N5KOB

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When you send an item in for repair, be sure that you can identify your unit. A handset was sent in for repair. The owner kept the serial number of the unit, but there was no marking on the chassis. The unit was returned as unrepairable, but it was the wrong chassis. A complaint to the repair shop brought the reply that it was, indeed, the one they had received. The problem is still unresolved. When you send in a unit for repair (or for any other purpose) mark it with your own mark if it does not bear a serial number. You will then know if you have your original equipment returned.

Suppose you did a great many addresses on your computer a year or so ago. You need the old list to correct and run them again. Do you know where they are? A simple way to file computer lists is to tape (or paste [don't staple - hi]) the disk envelope to the inside of a file folder. You then keep the disks relative to the listing in the folder, so you always know where they are. Additionally, you may wish to print a directory of the disk and tape it on to the envelope. Since many directories contain a lot of information of no value, cut the program names apart and paste only this list to the envelope. Now you will not lose the location of the disks. KOML, Andy Anderson in ARNS Newsletter

***** QUICKLY ON TEN METERS *****

I use a wire J-pole on 2 meters for emergency and backpacking situations, why not scale it up in size for 10 meters? First problem was to select one of several dimensions that are floating around for the 2 meter antenna. I figured if I started with the dimensions for a 2 meter antenna and then pruned the 10 meter version using an RF noise bridge, I might save some time. The construction follows.

1. Cut a piece of 300-ohm TV twin lead to 280.5 inches. Strip 3/4" of insulation off one end and drill two 1/16" holes near the opposite end to hold line for hanging the antenna. Cut a quarter inch wide notch through just one of the wires of the twin lead at a point 78.75" from the end with exposed wire.

2. Cut a second piece of twin lead 8" long. Strip 3/4" of insulation off each end. Twist together wires at one end and solder.

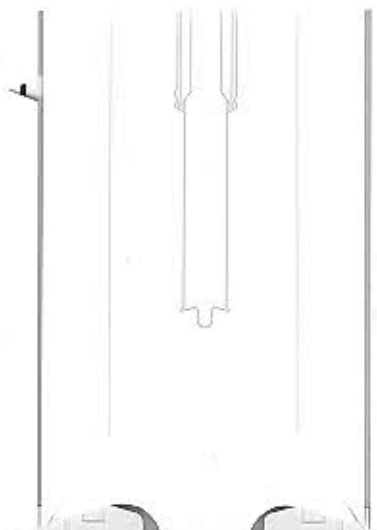
3. Twist together the exposed wires from the short and long pieces of twin lead as if to make a splice.

4. Connect the center conductor from a piece of RG58 coax to the wires on the long side of the twin lead and connect the outer braid (shield) to the side having the notch. Solder. Tape this junction to protect the wire and to reinforce this joint.

5. Attach a string through the 1/16" holes and toss over a tree branch.

On the air you go. How does it work? Well, the first contact was an

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DO IT THE EASY WAY!

by Frank Treadwell, K3LDE, in THE FEEDBACK, Laurel ARC, Laurel, MD

Wrapping an antenna feedline with electrical tape is rather easy, but trying to tear the tape when you have finished has been a bit of a problem ...until now. Here is an easy cure for "tapetearitis."

Figure 1 is supposed to be a reasonable facsimile of a roll of electrical tape. Using a fine tooth hacksaw, make the cuts across the roll of tape as shown in Figure 1. Cut across both sides of the tape at the same time, from A to B, C to D, and E to F. By making three cuts across the roll, the notches will be approximately one inch apart. Figure 2 shows the notched tape. Notches should not be more than about 1/16 inch deep. It may be a bit difficult to saw through both sides of the roll at first, but with a little practice it is a piece of cake.

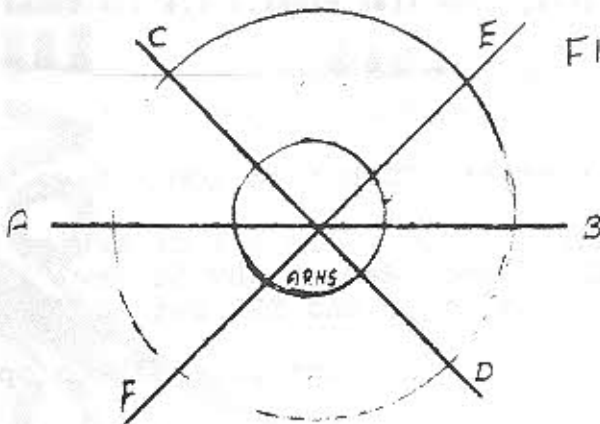


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

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Continued

F6 in France, the next in West Germany and then a mobile near Amarillo, TX. I used a transmatch, but when I connected it direct to my old Omni, the SWR was 1.4:1 and the rig fed it with no problem. I decided not to waste time tuning it and have been using it with no transmatch. The project took an hour to round up the material and do the cutting. Cost is about \$2.50, not including the coax. Guess I will cut one for 12 meters next. K4JST, Gil Frey in Auto-Call, official journal of the Foundation for Amateur Radio reported in ARNS Newsletter

My, how the year flies by! It is again time to start thinking of club officers for next year. Due to various personal obligations, at least three of the officers will be unable to continue next year, so there are at least 3 slots to be filled. Joe Makeever, W5EJB, has kindly agreed to chair the Nominating Committee this year. If you would like to serve the club as an officer, please contact Joe at 345-0800. And if a member of the committee calls and asks you to serve, please give it serious consideration. There is some work involved, but also much satisfaction and yes, even fun! The committee selects a slate of officers and will present their recommended slate at the November club meeting (also in the AARCOVER newsletter). Then at the December meeting elections are held. While the slate of nominees from the committee has only one person per office, the floor will be opened to further nominations from the members. However, if you intend to nominate someone for an office, be sure to check with that person beforehand to make sure he or she is willing to serve. --. . WD5N

[Ed. - Nominating committee members are Jim Bennett and Claude Green.]

1st week-end in August 1990

***** XYL but no XOM - Says Who? *****

Lorraine McCarthy, N4CIO, in her otherwise interesting article (see 9/89 AARCOVER, "Women Hams - Why So Few?"), says we have OM for Old Man, YL for Young Lady, and XYL but no XOM. Not true!

X stands for "not", or "not licensed to operate", in this case.

Too many hams (and especially their wives) think the X means "ex", as in "no longer"; the resentment generated by ex-YL seems to have completely obscured the illogic of ex-OM!

A wonderful old book, "SOS to the Rescue" (long out of print) has stories about disasters at sea, from the perspective of the radio operator, rich with the historical reasoning behind SOS, XYL, etc.

Somehow, XYL got equated with "wife" over the years. An insult can douse a flicker of interest in radio. Maybe that's REALLY why there are so few women hams; maybe we ought to set the record straight, every time we hear such nonsense on the air. .. . Alex, KX9I

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