

November 14, 1989

8:00 P.M.

Luby's North Loop

PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM

A representative from the United States Postal Service will be making a video presentation on the automated equipment they use. There will also be a question and answer period. The nominating committee will make their report at this meeting.

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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 *****

PRES DAVID HARPER WDSN 454-9205 919
 V PRES KEVIN MANDAVILLE KGSKI 345-6322 918 TREASURER BOB INKS WASHUM 327-4963 916
 SECRETARY JOE CANFIELD NSHPC 258-4761 917 ACTIVITY MGR DARRELL DAWSON WDSYD 258-1433 915

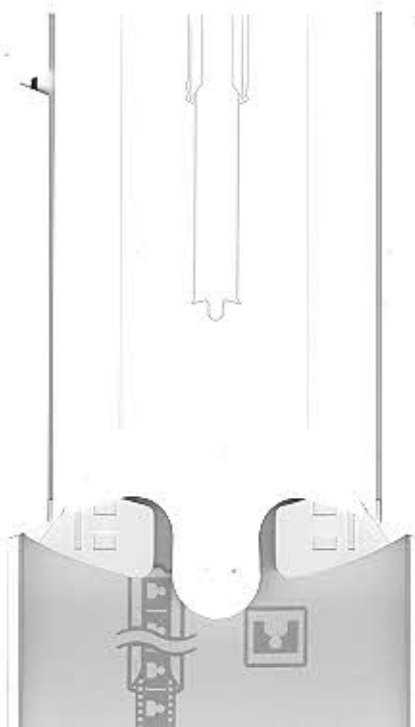
***** COMMITTEES *****

TECHNICAL ED GOLLA K3AHS 255-4818 111 EMERGENCY COORD (position vacant)
 WSKA TRUSTEE JOE FISHER K5EJL 926-4689
 EDITOR RICK HERNDON K5FNI 454-1670 914 LABELS & ROSTER PETE JORDAHL K5GM 454-7889 913
 (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 454-1670; or during the day at 465-6338. 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 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. ~~INTERESTED OR AMBITIOUS!~~ Chuck Dachis - WD5EOG - The Hallicrafter Collector - 512-443-5027



for October 10, 1989. The President, Dave, WDSN, called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM by asking for guests to stand and introduce themselves. Ray Redwood, KASHCX, was the only one who confessed to being a visitor.

OFFICER'S REPORTS: Dave then called for corrections to the minutes as printed in the AARC/OVER. None were heard, a number of people (including the writer) had not received their AARC/OVER. Our Activities Manager, Darrell, WD5CDY, asked for assistance in parking and talk-in at the Manchaca Swapfest this coming Saturday. The AARC picnic was enjoyed by the few, perhaps 15 or so, who attended. Our AARC/OVER Editor, Rick, K5FNI, asked for other items of interest for the newsletter. Also, Rick reminded us that we do accept advertising for the newsletter. Rates are a bargain.

NEW MEMBERS: Three new members were elected. These were Ray, KASHCX; Fred, WB5CVE; and James, N5OUJ.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe, W5EBJ, presented a check to Dave, WDSN, for the AARC as its share of the Summerfest proceeds. A nominating committee has been set up by Dave, WDSN, for the purpose of presenting a slate of candidates who have agreed to serve as club officers for the coming year. Joe, W5EBJ, was appointed the chairman of this committee. Joe discussed the purpose of this committee, noting that any member is still free to present their own list of nominees or to make suggestions to the committee. Other committee members are Jim, WB5IMB, and Claude, WD5JCB. Joe, W5EBJ, read two ARRL Bulletins to the membership. The first, No. 69 concerned the adoption by the House, on October 5, of House Rule #3299, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989". The House bill and the Senate version, as adopted by the Commerce Committee, sets a \$35.00 fee for all FCC transactions including a change of address or a license upgrade. The ARRL is lobbying for a floor amendment to the committee bill that reduces or eliminates this fee. Members are urged to write opposing this fee and to urge their Senators to co-sponsor such an amendment. If the amendment passes, members are urged to write their congressmen to support the Senate version of the bill. Bulletin No. 70, highlights some of the Senate opposition to this fee. It has been brought to light that the Senate Commerce Committee version did not include other non-profit organizations in the fee structure. The chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee has been reported to agree that amateurs should not be charged. The Senate floor version was last reported to still have a \$35.00 fee for amateurs. Amateurs are urged to write their Senators and Representatives urging the elimination of this fee both on the Senate floor and in the conference committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DAVE, K5SND, has handouts describing the 144.950 packet cluster operating instructions. Ron, W4SRON, has a brochure on a November 3 lecture on UFOs. Ray, KASHCX and one of our new members, announced the publication of a book he has written, "QTC", concerning his experiences as a shipboard radio operator.

PROGRAM: A tape by Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, advocating a "No Code" license was shown. The floor was then opened up to comments both pro and con. This resulted in a lively discussion from a number of members. A poll showed the members present would support the adoption of a "No Code" license. Respectfully Submitted: Joe Canfield, N5HPC, AARC Secretary.

The Fall '89 Manchaca/AARC Swapfest came and went on October 14, and was a very fine 'fest. Parking went more smoothly this time than I have ever seen it go before. Getting the grass parking lot open early, and getting Dan, W5AHC, down to the gate with a flashlight to mark the entrance, undoubtedly was of considerable help. Also of considerable help was the 440 Mhz crossband link to the 146.94 repeater provided by Dave, KG5ND. Although there was some initial confusion, with a little debugging of the "setup" and the band closing down, all of the coordinators could hear the repeater and access it from any spot at the fire station using low power and small antennas. This is the solution we needed to move talk-in back to the W5KA 146.78 repeater. The tailgate section of the swapfest was double its usual size with two rows of tailgaters extending into the dirt parking lot. In the past we have had to turn a few tailgaters away because they got there late (sun up), but I sure hope it wasn't this many. Anyway, thanks go to W5AHC, K5KVH, W5KNA, KG5ND, WD5N, and N5HPC for their assistance to me on the parking, talk-in, clean up and collecting details that had to be performed.
Darrell! WD5CDY

***** NEW MEMBERS *****

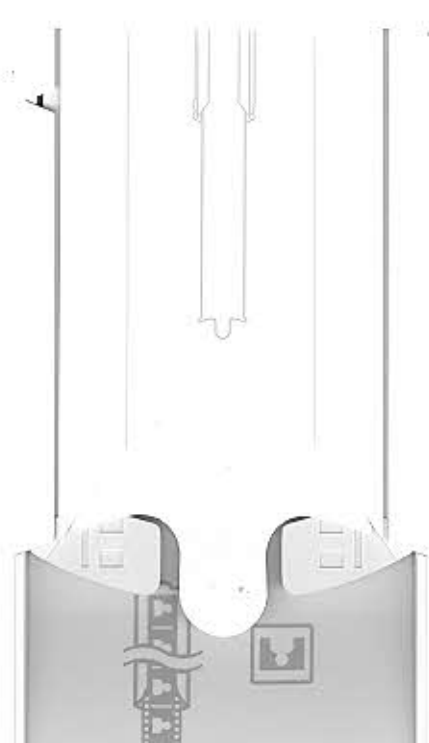
These folks joined the Austin Amateur Radio Club at the October meeting. Be sure and say "hi" to them at the next meeting.

RAY REDWOOD, KA5HCX Ray gave a presentation about his new book, "QTC", at the October meeting. Born in Manchester, Great Britain, he has lived in Austin for the last 18 years. Ray has been involved with radio for most of his life, as a radio operator first in the Royal Air Force, then in the British Merchant Marine, next in the U.S. Merchant Marine, and since the mid-80's as a General-class licensee. Ray is married, and has a child who currently practices law in the District of Columbia. His phone number is 442-1311.

JAMES ROBBINS, N5OUJ (Old Uncle James) James is a native Texan, born in Killeen and living in Austin for the last 30+ years. He retired from employment at the Travis State School in 1986. James originally became interested in radio through CB, and kept in touch with several friends as they became licensed amateurs. He took Claude Green's class, and got his Novice and Tech licenses in February of this year. James says that 2 meters is his favorite band, and his Icom 271A all-mode rig and Ringo Ranger 2 up 56 feet let him reach out a long way. On the same mast he has an 11-element 2-meter beam, an ATV antenna, and a 3-element beam for 10 meters. He has talked all over the world on 10, including Germany, Japan, Belgium, and the Marshall Islands. James lives in Del Valle, and his phone number is 247-3996.

FRED SCHLABITZ, WB5CVE Fred is an Austin ham who moved to Houston, now returned to Austin, and he is already known to many members of the club. Call him at 447-8412, especially if you want to buy a 3-bedroom house in South Austin with a built-in ham shack/workshop. N5KOB.

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***** OCTOBER VEC EXAM RESULTS *****

Congratulations go to the following folks who successfully upgraded at the October VEC exam session:

<u>NAME/CALL</u>	<u>UPGRADED TO:</u>
Louisa Preston	Novice
Richard Straight II	"
William Campbell	"
Rick Zerr	Technician
KB5KAX	"
KB5HZO	"
KB5CZN	"
KB5HTP	"
N5PLF	GENERAL
WA2TMD	EXTRA

Items of interest: new Novice Louisa Preston is only 9 years old (her proud dad is K5CP). Bob Nagy, WA2TMD, came to the exam because his girlfriend was trying to upgrade to Technician. Bob had not studied for nor had any intention of taking any tests. But Bill, KF5NB, talked Bob into giving it a shot since he was already there, and he passed the code & theory for Extra Class! The examiners were KF5NB (Coordinator), AA5BU, AA5AK, & WD5N. Those interested in future exams should note that the tests are given, with few exceptions, on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Texas School for the Blind on 45th St. at 11 a.m. [but, be there by 10:30 a.m. -ed.] WD5N

***** DARK HUMOR *****

A funny thing happened on my way to work last week. It was about 5:30 AM and I was travelling north on Interstate 5 when off to my left I saw what appeared to be a structure fire. There was a church, with flames reaching up well into the sky. I quickly got on the radio and used an auto-patch to call 911 emergency. I asked for the Anaheim Fire Dept.

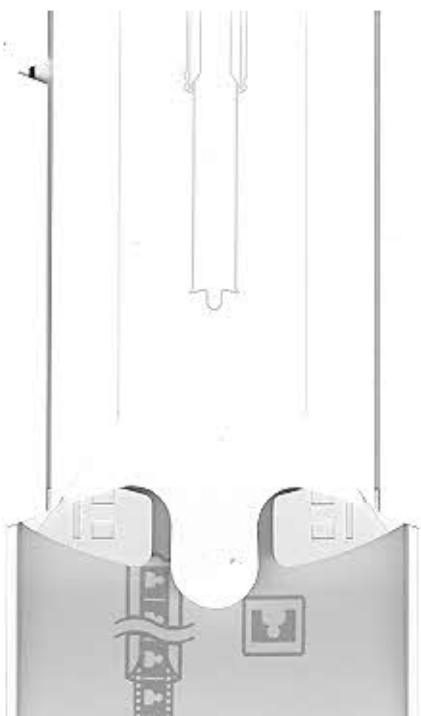
As soon as they came on the line, I identified myself as an amateur radio operator and asked them if they were aware of the structure fire near I-5 between State College and Katella. They asked me if I was referring to the "Melrose Abbey." It was dark, but I could see the name and I told them yes. They said, "Oh, that's not a structure fire. They're just doing cremations!"

— Peter Jacobs, WD6DVT; "The Intermod" of the West Coast ARC, POB 7561, Newport Beach CA 92658. August 1989 via N5KOB

***** SPICE UP YOUR QSO *****

As communicators, radio amateurs often get involved in the process and techniques of our hobby while ignoring the content of our QSO's. This is understandable. When we first entered ham radio, the sense of accomplishment that came from making radio contacts with faraway places was all we considered. What was said during those exciting QSO's was often secondary.

Today, our sophisticated equipment allows us to enjoy on-air contacts that are often solid, with 59 reports and the feeling that the person we're working "sounds like next door." Use your VOX for break-in **4**



and your contact becomes natural and conversational.

Have you ever thought about what you were discussing in a ragchew? Considered the person on the other end and learning a bit about them? What's their job? What's interesting in their area? How do they like their rig? How did they design and build their antenna? The list of questions is endless.

What can you tell the ham about your area? What's to see around here? What does your radio club do these days? (If they're a club member, what are their current club projects?)

Could we make our contacts more rewarding if we tried to know the person we're talking with? Think about ways to get people to talk about themselves and you'll find a pretty interesting group of hams. Instead of a radio contact, you'll have enjoyed a more meaningful exchange and perhaps made a new friend. . . . Dee, W1HEO (club president); "The LCARA Patch," The Lake County AR Assn., POB 868, Painesville OH 44077. September 1989 via N5KOB

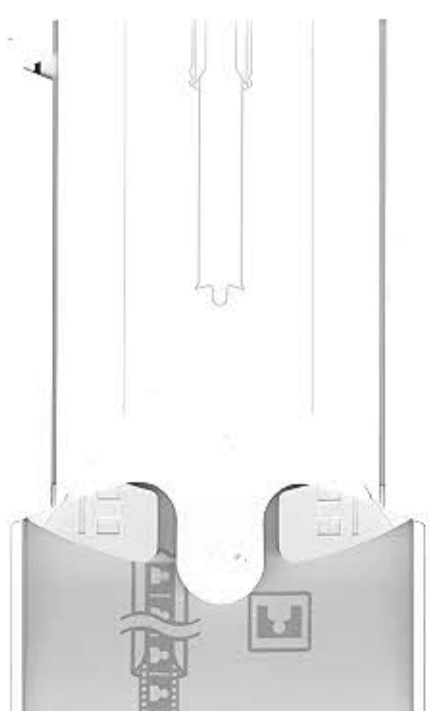
***** THE CRICKET CAGE *****

AMTOR is the best-kept secret in amateur radio. To keep it that way, we never let the signal sound like a conventional QSO. To fool 'em we make the signal sound like something exotic, like a cricket! Tune around 14,070 to 14,080 KHz. Hear 'em? Welcome to the cricket cage! You've found the digital oasis: AMTOR! What's that? You say it sounds like an ole RTTY nest? If it does, that is because it is RTTY, with the modern touch. Some evening at 6 PM (eastern time), tune in 14.095 KHz. That strong signal is W1AW. If you are prompt, you'll hear the RTTY signal first, sending ARRL bulletins. After a few minutes, they'll switch to ASCII, which sounds like real fast RTTY. In another few minutes, W1AW will send the same bulletins in Forward Error Correction mode AMTOR.

Two AMTOR modes exist. The FEC mode is the one-way transmission mode. It's used only for broadcast bulletin work and to call CQ. The other mode, ARQ, Automatic ReQuest for corrections, is the heart of AMTOR. ARQ is what the crickets are doing! Let's go back to a clear spot around 14,075 KHz and call CQ in the FEC mode. Here is a typical call: CQ CQ DE W4AT W4AT W4AT SELCALL WWAT WWAT CQ CQ, etc., ending with PLEASE K or GA. Suppose EA1BYF answers back. He types in my SELCALL, WWAT, and hits (Enter). Conditions are good and we establish a link, his call automatically shifts my rig from FEC to ARQ, and we continue the QSO with our assigned calls. If I were to see his CQ, I'd use his SELCALL, EBYF, to establish the link between our two stations.

So, the secret is out! Those crickets you hear are two stations linked in QSO, one sending 3 bytes at a time (bleep) and the other sending one byte (blip) that say either (in effect) "QSL" or "say it again." That's ARQ, a great rag chew, DX, or traffic handling mode. As long as the link is maintained, the two stations get perfect copy, even though eavesdroppers may not. There's much more. The bottom line is "it's fun in the cricket cage." And if you haven't got a modem and computer, at least you now know what those critter-like signals are about! . . . W4AT via N5KOB

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***** EDITORIAL *****

As November rolls around and thoughts turn to Thanksgiving, Amateur Radio operators have a lot to be thankful for. Although it seems a blind FCC is "taking our bands away", we have more frequencies now than we did a few years back. The WARC bands are here. Amateurs have not enjoyed so many HF bands since the days of "200 meters and up". This is not a plea to be complacent; only one to give thanks for what we have.

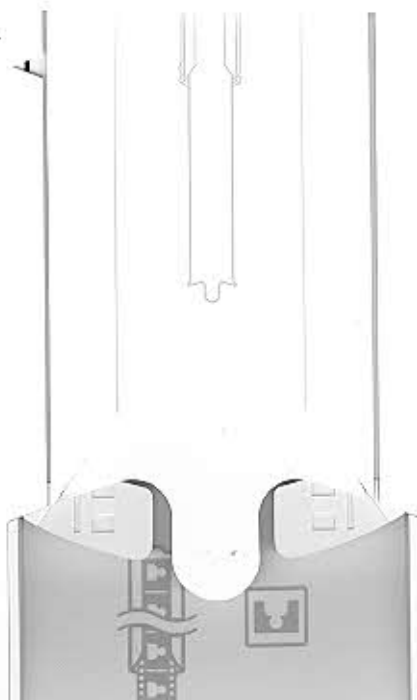
In the holidays of the coming season, as amateurs handle large volumes of traffic that will bring cheer, remember to do your part to help in the public service arena of traffic handling. Pick up a microphone or key (or put your hands to keyboard - hi) and handle a few REAL messages to help out. If you can get into the thick of it, maybe it will get you ready for some future emergency you will be called out to help in.

Look around the shack and see if you have some book that a new ham or prospective ham might profit by having that has served its usefulness to you. Surprise someone who would not otherwise get a present from you by giving a book this season. Try looking in the local bookstores in the Electronics section if you want to give a new book. You might be surprised at the huge selection of interesting books. I'm in the process of reading Ray Redwood's book OTC right now... maybe that is what you've been looking for... a book to stimulate interest in the general area of radio.

Maybe inviting some local youngster into your shack during the time they're off during the holidays might just prompt enough enthusiasm to bring them into our hobby. Don't just invite the boys! It's too easy to forget the hobby is for all.

Thanks to all that have helped this year to bring the AARCOVER out month after month. It sometimes seems pretty difficult to get enough material together for a monthly publication. When people come through with articles and assistance, they need their names put before the membership (if I've left any out, let me know): Joe Canfield, Miles Abernathy, Dave Harper, Pete Jordahl, Louis Pecenka, Darrell Dawson, Kevin Mandaville, Dick Kriss, and Bill Wehling.

73 and good holidays from K5FNI, Rick Herndon



AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Membership application

P.O. Box 13473
Austin, TX 78711-3473

Please circle one: NEW RENEWAL membership application

Date: _____

Call: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home telephone: (____) _____ WILL be printed

Work telephone: (____) _____ in our roster

Please CIRCLE one choice to each of these questions:

1. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) needs you. During a communications emergency, when can the local Emergency Coordinator contact you for help?

- A - ARES - Work or Home
B - ARES - Home only
X - I do NOT want to be an ARES member

2. What class of Amateur Radio license do you now hold?:

- E - Extra T - Technician X - None
A - Advanced N - Novice
G - General F - Foreign

3. Are you a current member of the ARRL
(American Radio Relay League)?

- M - Yes X - No

YEARLY DUES: Individual: \$6.00 Family: \$10.00 [List below]

- - - Dues are prorated quarterly for new members only. - - -