

December 12, 1989

8:00 P.M.

Luby's North Loop

PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM

The annual officers' elections will be held. The proposed slate of officers is in this issue's minutes. Nominations are open from the floor. Please check to see if the person you propose to nominate is willing to serve. After the elections will be the annual ragchew. Much fat will be masticated.

PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM - PROGRAM

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

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

PRES DAVID HARPER WDSN 454-9205 919  
V PRES KEVIN MANDAVILLE KG5KI 345-6322 918 TREASURER BOB INKS WASHUM 327-4963 916  
SECRETARY JOE CANFIELD NSHPC 258-4761 917 ACTIVITY MGR DARRELL DAWSON WDSCDY 258-1433 915

\*\*\*\*\* COMMITTEES \*\*\*\*\*

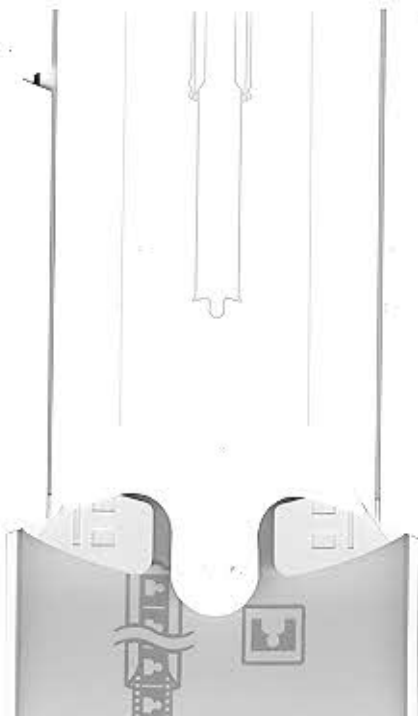
TECHNICAL ED GOLLA K3AKS 255-4818 111 EMERGENCY COORD (position vacant)  
WSKA TRUSTEE JOE FISHER K5EJL 924-4689  
EDITOR RICK HERNDON K5FNI 454-1670 914 LABELS & ROSTER PETE JORDAHL K5GM 454-7889 913

(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 78757-2230. 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. DESPED CDR ANLIWEE! Chuck Dachis - WD5EOG - The Hallicrafter Collector - 512-443-5027



\*\*\*\*\* MINUTES OF THE AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB \*\*\*\*\*

for November 14, 1989. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by our President, Dave Harper, W5DN.

VISITORS: Paul Prescott, N1AAC, who moved here from Connecticut and is interested in old vacuum tube gear; Doug, G3XPD, who is visiting his son, G3WQO; Lloyd, N5GDB, whose interests is mainly in the technical side of radio; Mary, N5IGP, a former member; and Doug, KB3GV, from Maryland, New York, and now Austin.

OFFICER'S REPORTS: The minutes of the October 10 meeting were approved as published in the AARC/OVER. There were several comments about the rapid delivery of this issue, many got it the second day after it was mailed! Bob, WA5MUM, Treasurer, reported that we have \$738.92 in the postal account and \$1420 in our checking account. Rick, K5FNI, AARC/OVER Editor, has extra AARC/OVERs. Ed, K3AHS, Technical Committee Chairman, reports that he has heard some intermodulation interference on the 146.78 repeater. It sounds like some digital paging tones. No other problems have been reported or noted. Darrell, W5CDY, the club Activities Manager, thanked all those who helped at the Manchaca Swapfest. We had more tailgating space than in the last few swapfests, we hope we can keep this space available. There will be no Tuesday meeting in January, instead there will be the annual Bar-B-Que on Saturday, January the 20th at the Zilker Park Clubhouse. We will have more details next month.

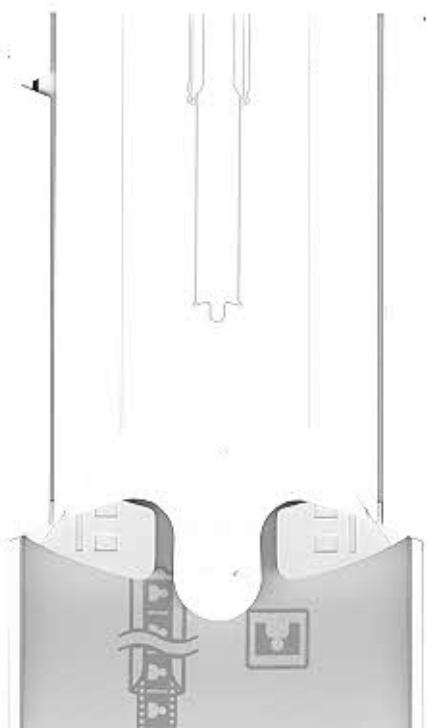
NEW MEMBERS: Two new members were elected: Lloyd Crawford, N5GDB, and Doug Lindsay, KB3GV.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe, W5EBJ, representing the nominating committee, presented a list of proposed candidates for officers for the coming year. These are: President - Mike Kellam, AA5JP; Vice-President - Stuart Rohre, K5KVH; Treasurer - Amado Ramirez, N5PCP; Secretary - Joe Canfield, N5HPC; and Activities Manager - Darrell Dawson, W5CDY. Dave, W5DN, reminded everyone that nominations are not limited to these persons. The floor will be open for other nominations, however, please be sure that your nominee is willing to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mel Fenrich, WA5TXN became a silent key about two weeks ago. Dave, W5DN, says the ARO still needs volunteers for the Austin Marathon. Pete, K5GM, reported on his visit to ARRL Headquarters and the renovated W1AW station. There is a radio museum, five commercial grade transmitters for the code practice and bulletin broadcasts, and three stations for visitors to operate. It was reported that Trey, WN4KKN, has apparently won the CW Sweepstakes while operating from the Rockwall DX station. Rick, K5FNI, corrected some earlier information that Ray Redwood's book "QTC", is available in bookstores. It is only available from him at this time. The number to call to get one is 442-1311 to obtain a copy. (Ray is KA5HCX.)

PROGRAM: Our President, Dave, W5DN, introduced our guest speaker, Rita Luedecke, representing the U.S. Postal Service. A short video on automation in the Post Office was shown, then she fielded many questions for the next 30 minutes. No, she didn't promise overnight delivery for our newsletter and personal mail, but she did give an insight into their problems (Volume) and actions being taken to handle the work-load. Respectfully Submitted: Joe Canfield, N5HPC AARC Secretary



\*\*\*\*\* Field Day '89 Revisited \*\*\*\*\*

The results of Field Day '89 were published in the November issue of QST- too late to get it into the November AARC-OVER and too early to remember to announce it at the November meeting (Actually, I can't believe I forgot to announce it either).

Anyway, W5KA placed #40 in the nation out of 535 in class 2A-not too shabby at all. Having beams on the phone and cw stations is undoubtedly the biggest reason we improved our ranking 20+ places in the standings. So congratulations to all who participated in Field Day '89 and helped achieve this milestone- or at least a high water mark in recent history. Plans for Field Day '90 are underway, with priorities assigned to getting both beams in the air again, getting computer logging and duping on line (the K1EA software was a little iffy this time) and getting the phone station on 75 meters in the wee hours to keep the qso rate up (a missed opportunity this year). I'll keep you posted as plans develop, so be thinking about what you can do and volunteer to do so (February is NOT too early to volunteer).

thanks and 73, Darrell WD5CDY

\*\*\*\*\* 1990 BANQUET \*\*\*\*\*

The annual AARC banquet will be held this year on Saturday, January 20, 1990 in the Zilker Park Clubhouse starting a 7:00 PM. The barbecue dinner will cost \$5.85 per plate. The treasurer asks you to please write separate checks for membership and banquet fees to help him ease the bookkeeping headaches.

\*\*\*\*\* WHITE ELEPHANT \*\*\*\*\*

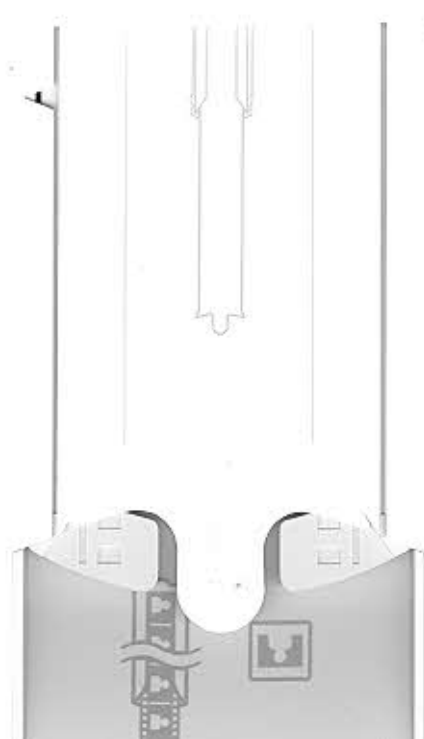
In addition to the door prize this year at the banquet, we will be having white elephant prizes. Start looking through your storage caverns for the proper item to bring. The effort will be voluntary. Details at the December meeting.

\*\*\*\*\* 1990 MEMBERSHIP \*\*\*\*\*

Dues are payable in the sum of \$6 for 1990. Please fill out the info card that accompanies this issue of the AARCOVER and either mail it in AS SOON AS YOU CAN or bring it to the December meeting or the January banquet.

\*\*\*\*\* CQ TSN \*\*\*\*\*

The Texas Slow Net invites you to join us every night at 0200Z (8 p.m. local) on 3745 kHz. Now is your chance to use that code you had so much trouble learning. The net runs about 8 words per minute. You can make new friends, too. Hope to see you soon. Tom Senne, N5KCL, TSN Net Manager

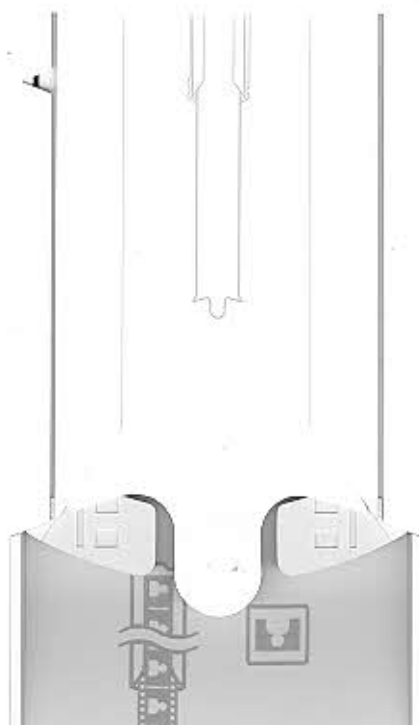


These two hams were voted into the Austin Amateur Radio Club at the November (1989) meeting: Lloyd Crawford, N5GDB, became interested in radio as a boy near Farmington, New Mexico. He built his first receiver, a 115 VAC 3-tube rig, when he was eleven. Unfortunately, there was no electricity to his parents' farm, so he had to take it into town to test it. Even more unfortunately, it had been very difficult to read those resistor color codes by firelight. A local ham helped him get it working, and a few months later his father bought an electric generator. Lloyd joined the Navy, where he was a radioman and could copy the code at 18 wpm. At one point he helped a missionary friend learn the code. Finally he became licensed himself as KNSOVE in 1957. Later he held the calls K5OVE and WA6PCG. In Albuquerque Lloyd was a member of the Caravan ARC. Lloyd's employer had 50 surplus VHF wideband FM rigs, and their availability led many in the club convert from 10 meter to 2 meter mobile operation. In San Diego, and later in the San Francisco Bay Area, he operated with that new digital mode called RTTY. Lloyd has lived in Austin since 1982. He is an electrical engineer, employed by Lockheed, and he holds a commercial license as well as his ham license. His favorite mode is 2 meters.

Doug Lindsay, KB3GB, is a dual citizen of New York state (summer) and Texas (winter). He is in the apartment business in Cooperstown, NY, a town with a large summertime tourism industry due to its baseball history. He chose to come to Austin for its music, its climate, and the presence of the University. Doug became licensed in 1963...he had a neighbor then who was a ham. He has recently purchased a home in Pflugerville. Currently, his ham shack is located in a travel trailer in the back yard, but it may get moved indoors someday. He enjoys 2M FM and SSB DX'ing on HF. ... N5KOB, Miles Abernathy

\*\*\*\*\* THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP \*\*\*\*\*

Recently, on a very slow day, I got to fiddle with a database of all the licensed amateurs whose zip codes begin with 787. It turns out that the most common last name on the list was Smith, with 9 licensed Smith's. Next came Johnson (8); Davis (6); Baker, Green, Harrell, Inks, and Williams (5 each); and Brown, Burton, Contreras, Harrison, Jackson, Lewis, Morrow, Pickens, Ruiz, Steinbach, Thomas, Thompson, and Watson (4 each). In alphabetical order, the last names range from Aanstoos to Zuercher. First names? We have 62 James's, 55 Robert's, 43 John's, 39 Charles's, 38 William's, 35 David's, 25 Michael's, 23 Richard's, and 18 each of Donald, George, and Thomas. Among the women's first names, we have 5 Mary's, 4 each Karen and Patricia, and 3 each Barbara, Donna, and Linda. License class? We have 156 Novices, 266 Technicians, 278 Generals, 272 Advanced, and 128 Extras. Zip codes? If you live in 78759, you are one of 107 hams. 78745 has 89, followed by 78758 with 83, 78750 with 78, 78731 with 77, 78746 with 65, 78753 with 60, and 78704 with 54 operators each. Birthdays? The list contains one person born in the 1890's, 23 born in the 1900's, 67 in the 10's, 122 in the 20's, 173 in the 30's, 339 in the 40's, 275 in the 50's, 86 in the 60's, and only 16 in the 70's. No local amateurs were born in the 80's. Boy, it's amazing what trivia you can get out of a computer! Oh, by the way, there are 1102 of us total in zip 787. ... N5KOB.



The ARRL said the current resurgence in the debate about the creation of a codeless amateur license is interesting, given the fact that it is a subject that has been repeatedly considered over a span of years.

In 1974, in Docket 20282, the FCC considered the possibility of a codeless amateur license which the League indicated it could support. The "Basic Amateur" license class was to have included Novice theory and a "code recognition" but not a code text copying requirement. Five years later the FCC closed the matter without action stating they required current amateur thinking on the issue in a separate proceeding.

1978's Docket 78-250 proposed a new class of amateur operator license without a Morse code proficiency requirement which would be restricted to handicapped persons. It too was dropped when handicapped amateurs generally did not desire special treatment in the substance of amateur examinations. Rather, they merely asked that examiners take into account their specific needs in procedural aspects of examination administration. The FCC adopted this position and that policy continues to this day. (See 97.509)

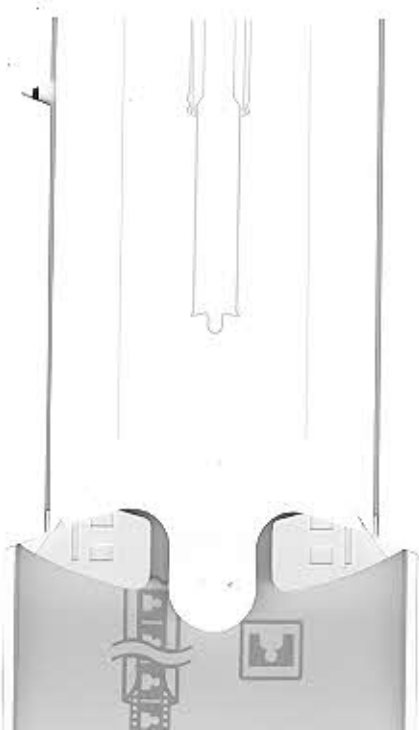
Prior to the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference, Article 41 of the international radio regulations did not require Morse code knowledge if the amateur operation was exclusively above 144 MHz. The ARRL said the United States WARC-79 delegation disregarded the recommendation of the FCC convened Advisory Committee for Amateur Radio (ACAR) and other public comments which suggested no changes to Article 41.

Surprisingly, the United States WARC delegation proposed to drop the international requirement of Morse code proficiency for operation below 144 MHz in favor of a 'recommendation' that the various countries of the world have such a requirement. The U.S. proposal was defeated by the WARC conferees. The ITU Radio Regulations were ultimately changed, however, to require Morse code knowledge for amateur operation on frequencies below 30 MHz, instead of 144 MHz. Only the 50-54 MHz band was affected by the action.

The League said that event was received extremely negatively by the amateur radio community at a time when the FCC was actively considering a codeless amateur license in the United States. "...it is not surprising that there existed a strong distrust of the Commission on the subject."

The early 1983 release of Docket 83-28 coincided with fiscal and manpower problems at the FCC. The Commission's examination system "...was in great disrepute, and frankly in disarray," the ARRL said. Even so, the FCC proposed on its own initiative two codeless license alternatives: (1.) the elimination of the Morse code examination element from the Novice class license or (2.) the creation of an

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entirely new class of license involving a written examination aimed primarily at digital communication techniques.

Without referring to Dick Bash/KL7IHP by name, the ARRL discussed the negative aspects of "at least one firm" publishing study aids which included the exact questions contained in the FCC license exams. The perception was, according to the League, that the Morse code test was the only portion of the amateur radio examination that meant anything at all.

To solve the written examination problem, the Congress, in 1982, enacted Public Law 97-259 to allow the Commission to utilize volunteer examiners in the Amateur Service. The eventual result was a question pool system from which examiners would draw certain questions according to a formula to prepare their written examinations. To eliminate applicants from "shopping" for easier examinations, the VEC's ultimately agreed among themselves that they would all use exactly the same answers and multiple choice answer formats verbatim.

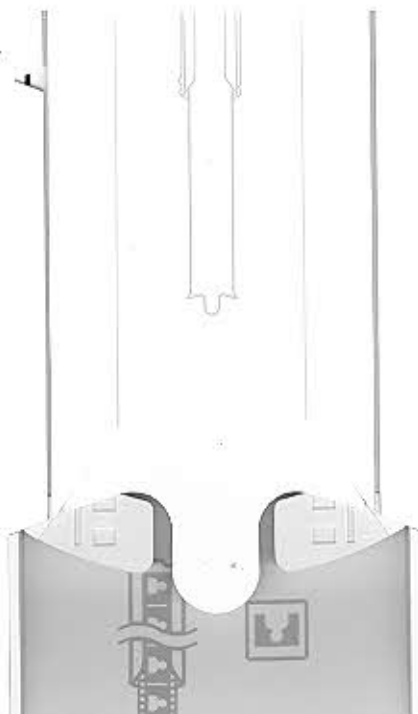
The ARRL said the volunteer examiner system was not yet in place in 1983 and "...it was not clear whether a private sector examination plan was feasible, much less sufficiently secure to prevent cheating." For this (and other) reasons, the amateur community thus rejected the Commission's 1983 codeless license proposal by a ratio of twenty to one. The Commission terminated the proceeding without action in December of 1983. WSYI Report of 9/15/89

\*\*\*\*\* TV BROADCASTERS TAKE AIM \*\*\*\*\*

FCC "permissiveness" towards new services threatens the nation's "...free, local and universal television system," according to the Association of Maximum Service Telecasters (AMST). AMST is one of the most influential lobbying forces at the FCC. It is a trade organization that represents TV stations that run maximum power. The association petitioned the Commission on Oct. 4, 1989 to launch an inquiry into the cumulative effects on picture quality of so-called "alien" non-broadcast spectrum users.

The petition focuses strongly on preventing any more new kinds of transmissions. It appears to give only passing attention to TVI immunity standards for receivers; in fact, only one sentence out of the 61-page petition directly addresses this fundamental issue. That sentence suggests that the FCC "...mandate new regulations affecting television receiver specification in light of new evidence on consumer tolerances for interference." AMST says that consumers are expecting higher levels of picture and audio clarity and "have become, and will continue to become, less tolerant of off-the-air television broadcasts having an inferior picture and sound."

Among AMST's proposed solutions are establishment of an interference Ombudsman or Interference Board at the FCC, and requiring submission of a TV Interference Impact Statement before adoption of any new service. AMST also requests interim relief "...to prevent interference harm to the public's television service" while the FCC considers the petition.



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owards that end, AMST suggests a freeze on interfering spectrum uses. According to reports, the AMST petition is receiving a general welcome among the FCC commissioners. Certainly, if the AMST measures are adopted, limits on new amateur bands and/or modes, and limits on innovative new services are possible. At presstime [for the Nov. 1 ssual it had not been granted an RM number. ... W5YI Report

\*\*\*\*\* QUICK AND SIMPLE CODE PRACTICE OSCILLATOR \*\*\*\*\*

Recently when a friend needed a code practice oscillator, I threw together the 555 circuit from the Handbook. Frankly, I've heard better code from an electric buzzer! So I went back to my favorite CPO circuit, which uses only 6 parts: an NPN and a PNP transistors, a .01 and a 10 mfd. capacitor, a 100K resistor and a loudspeaker of any size. It's simple enough to wire up without any support, but looks nicer on a 1/2" by 1" piece of perf. board. Power can be anything from 3 to 9 volts. The tone is better with the higher voltage. Earphones can be substituted for the loudspeaker for privacy. Almost any transistors will work, even those leaky old germaniums from a junked AM receiver. An audio output type is best for the PNP. The 100K resistor may be replaced with a 500K pot for pitch control. If so, a 1K resistor should be used in series with it to protect the NPN transistor. The CPO will work without the 10 mfd. capacitor, but some batteries will give a weaker and higher tone without it.

73,

Curt, W4QBU  
*Curt*

