

The AARCOVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

May 1990

MEETING

May 8, 1990, 7:45 P.M. (special time)

Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop

QUICKIE SKYWARN CLASS



Mr. Louis Withrow, Chief Meteorologist with the Austin Weather Bureau, will present a SKYWARN class in one hour.

The meeting will begin at 7:45, so that we can begin our program on SKYWARN promptly at 8:00. If there are any announcements or other business, please be early. (This will be a joint class with ARO.)

If you have not become a certified weather observer before, take this opportunity to do so, to enhance your contribution in case of severe weather in Austin.

HAM AD

WANTED: Any old Hallicrafter or Echophone gear, parts, manuals, etc. DEAD OR ALIVE!

Chuck Dachis - WD5EOG - The Hallicrafter Collector - 512-443-5027

NEWSLINE DEFENSE FUND

Newsline, the Amateur Radio news program that is retransmitted locally on 146.94 after the Sunday evening



Swapfest, is in financial trouble due to legal difficulties. They may have to sell all assets to meet certain court judgments and need our donations to stay on the air. Mail yours to Westlink Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 406, Glenview, Illinois, 60025.

WA5RON, Ron Johnson

CENTRAL TX DX NET CHANGE

The Central Texas DX Net will now be meeting on Mondays at 2100CDT on the 147.08 MHz repeater. This will be in effect at least until football season starts. A hearty welcome to all who are interested in discussing DX to join in the fun.

NT5C, John Warren & WD5N, Dave Harper

SPRING '90 AARC / MANCHACA SWAPFEST & GULLY WASHER

It was a cool and "humid" morning. Not quite 6:00 AM and a hundred plus people were scrambling to get tables, put stuff on tables, buy stuff off of tables, and drive cars around all of the people, stuff and tables. What it was, was Manchaca—and it was gonna be a sellout.

The weather (I thought anyway) was fairly cooperative. It allowed us until around 7:00 AM to get most everyone's stuff in the pavilion. Then it rained like he** for 20 or 30 minutes and cleared up some to allow the swapfest to get into full swing. Stuff got bought, stuff got sold and stuff got wet, but that's Manchaca.

Unfortunately, the remote base setup for talk in did not work with the .78 repeater because of the long carrier hang time after the courtesy tone. This is adjustable and will be turned off for the fall swapfest. Maybe we will even get the system tested prior to needing it next time. Thanks go to Joe, N5HPC, for sticking around his car to perform talk in duty for us.

Stuff got bought, stuff got sold and stuff got wet, but that's Manchaca.

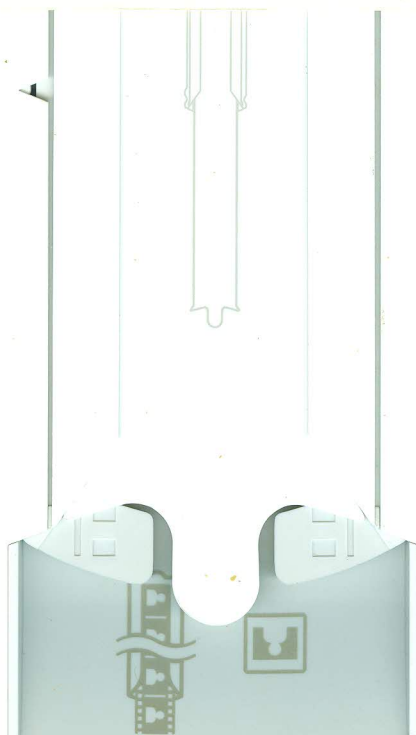
Parking went fairly well considering the number of early arrivals. There were a number of people who parked in the tailgate area (you know who you are and shame on you) forcing several tailgaters into the muddy dirt and gravel parking area. Also, the grass parking area could



not be opened immediately, adding to the parking problem. Thanks go to Dave, KG5ND, who was stationed at the entrance to the grass lot (in full rain gear no less) and directed traffic into it. Also, THE AREA BEHIND THE CAFE IS OFF LIMITS TO SWAPFEST PARKING—NO EXCEPTIONS. This is a reserved area for the firemen and cars parked there impede their ability to respond to a fire. Enough said about parking.

In all, the Spring '90 AARC/Manchaca Swapfest & Gully Washer was as much fun as ever. I can hardly wait for the fall swapfest. Of course, it really rains at that one.

WD5CDY, Darrell



MINUTES

Meeting of April 10, 1990:

Mike Kellam, AA5JP and President, called the regular meeting of the AARC to order at 8:00PM in Luby's on North Loop.

VISITORS: Richard, KA5SSX; and several without calls including two who read about the meeting in the newsletter and Bruce who came with Jeff, N5MNW.



OFFICER'S REPORTS: The minutes of the March 13 meeting were accepted as printed in the AARCOVER. Rick, K5FNI and AARCOVER Editor, offered extra newsletters to those needing copies. Rick also pleaded the Secretary's case for help in mailing the AARCOVER. Rick needs articles for every issue, you may give them to him directly or leave on the Amateur Radio Section of the "Boardwalk Bulletin Board". Amado Ramirez, N5PCP and Treasurer, reported a current checking account balance of \$1836.72 in the checking account. Darrell, WD5CDY, Activities Manager and an extraordinarily astute organizer, announced a 9:30 AM starting time for this coming weekend's Manchaca Swapfest. He wisely changed his mind and the gates will open

at the usual time of 6 AM. Field Day this year is on June 23 and 24. Darrell still does not have a volunteer for the CW Captain.

NEW MEMBERS: Johnny, WB5WBZ, was elected a new member.

BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jeanna, KG5QV, thanked the 45 plus volunteers who helped at the Capitol 10000. There is another event coming up on Sunday, April 22. This is a 63 mile (100 Kilometer) bicycle race from the Circle C Ranch in South Austin through a loop to Buda, Kyle, and back. She needs a dozen operators who can be mobile. The ARO is also looking for another volunteer to share duties for the Sunday evening Swapnet on 146.94 MHz.

It was announced that Victor, UT2BIG, a ham from Lithuania and a well known contester will be in Austin this Sunday. There will be a party for him at the home of Curt, WR5J. Everyone is welcome. Stu, K5KVH, announced that the May meeting will be a one evening mini-course in weather spotting and reporting. This course will be by the new head of the

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AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE PLATES

I'm sure that most of you know that you are entitled to obtain Amateur Radio license plates for a passenger car or a truck with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity not exceeding 2,000 pounds, provided that: (a) You have an unrevoked and unexpired Amateur Radio license. (b) You are the owner of record of the vehicle. (c) You have an amateur radio transmitting and receiving set which is regularly operated in the vehicle.

Do you know that you may now get Amateur Radio license plates for any number of vehicles as described above?

Yep...thanks to the passage of House Bill 2409 which went into effect September 1, 1989 you can do this. I now have three such vehicles, all with the identical call letter plates on them and I'd like to share with you the procedure that I found best to follow to get the additional plates.

1. Obtain State Department of Highways and Public Transportation Form 53, Application for Mobile Amateur Radio Operator License Plates. You can get these forms from one of the locations where the Highway Department accepts

vehicle title applications or by writing to:

State Department of Highways and Public Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles
Special Plates Section - Wm. D. Pool,
Supervisor
Austin, Texas 78779-0001

You will need to fill out one of these forms for each vehicle and have it notarized.

2. Include with these forms a letter requesting Duplicate Amateur Radio license plates, and \$2.00 for each vehicle that you are requesting plates for.



3. Make a xerographic reproduction of your Vehicle Title and the latest Vehicle Registration Receipt on one sheet of paper for each vehicle.

4. Make a xerographic reproduction of your current valid and unexpired FCC Amateur Radio License.

5. Mail the forms, letter of request, title / registration receipt copy(s), ham license copy, and your check to the same address as shown above.

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The AARCOVER

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, BULLETIN

OFFICERS

President	Mike Kellam, AA5JP	836-8223	919
Vice President	Stuart Rohre, K5KVH	255-3932	918
Treasurer	Amado Ramirez, N5PCP	280-1879	916
Secretary	Joe Canfield, N5HPC	258-4761	917
Activity Mgr.	Darrell Dawson, WD5CDY	258-1433	915

COMMITTEES

Technical	Ed Golla, K3AHS	255-4818	111
Emergency Coord.	[position vacant]		
W5KA 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 #.)

BULLETIN

Contributions of articles, cartoons, etc. should be addressed to 1809 W. Saint Johns Ave., Austin, TX 78757-2238. Phone numbers for editor: home 454-1670/ work 465-6338.

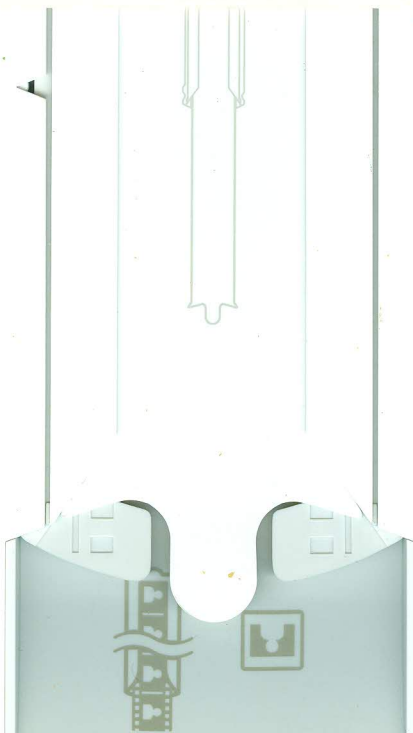
The deadline for articles is twelve days before the FIRST TUESDAY of each month. Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles appearing in the AARCOVER, provided credit is given to AARC-OVER and author.

Commercial ads are accepted \$15/full page, 1/2 page \$10. Members may advertise ham-related For Sale or Wanted ads free if space is available.

RE-BROADCAST OF SPACE COMMUNICATIONS

WA3NAN, the Goddard Space Flight Club retransmits the audio from the

Shuttle operations and communications. Listen on the prime frequency of 14.295, as well as on 3.860, 7.185, 21.395, 28.650. WA5RON, Ron Johnson



License Plates continued...

If you are requesting ham plates for the first time for a vehicle, or if you are replacing ham plates because they are six years old or older (you are REQUIRED to replace them after 8 years because of deterioration of the reflective paint after that time), just request Form 53 and follow its instructions. Yes, you do have to fill out the form all over again, get it notarized and pay the \$2.00 just to get replacement plates.

The copy of the amateur radio license and the vehicle registration receipt (title copy is required) are not required, but inclusion will speed up the process.

If you have any questions, you may call Linda Mohr at (512) 465-3639. She is in Mr. Pool's Special Plates Section. I would suggest that you limit your questions only to Linda. There are not many other people in the Highway Department that have any knowledge of this change and application forms to accommodate multiple ham plates haven't even been designed yet.

One additional point...you will be required to retain a copy of the Highway Department's letter approving the duplicate license plates in each vehicle displaying the duplicate plates. At present, the duplicate registration information cannot be retrieved from the Highway

Department's automated record-keeping system. If you get stopped by a law enforcement officer and he runs a check on your call letter plates, the system will come back with the information on the FIRST vehicle that you registered with ham plates. If you happen to be driving one of your vehicles with the duplicate plates on it, that officer is likely to start getting very excited and you want to be able to quickly show him the letter authorizing your duplicate plates so as not to compound any difficulties that you might already be experiencing.

W5EBJ, Joe Makeever

**COMMENTS SOLICITED ON
EXPERIMENTAL
AARCOVER STYLE**

This issue of the AARCOVER is being done as an experiment in style to see how easy it is to do in a desktop publishing package. It will be clearer, I think, but we give up some room for text in the process. Leave comments with the officers at the May meeting as to how you like it.

K5FNI, editor



STEALTH MOBILE BEAM ANTENNAS COMING

An article in the March 28 (1990) Wall St. Journal describes a new kind of FM antenna that is available now in Europe. Using "technology originally developed for military space radar", the new antennas are designed to improve the sound of expensive automotive sound systems in downtown areas subject to multipath distortion.

The new system, invented by Harold Bochmann and sold by Blaupunkt, involves the use of four foil antennas located inside the car's bumpers. A special circuit permits the four antennas to function as a single directional antenna, which receives only the most direct signal.

The antenna system costs about \$150 more than a conventional whip antenna, not bad if you are going to lay out \$2000 for the rest of your sound system. General Motors is studying the system for possible use in its cars. Now if you could just hook up a 2-meter rig to it, and get a readout of the direction to the transmitter, it might make a interesting addition to one's foxhunting gear.

N5KOB, Miles Abernathy

Minutes continued...

Austin office of the Weather Bureau.

PROGRAM: Stuart, K5KVH, Vice-President, program chairman, etc. introduces our guest speaker: Karl Focke. Karl is a Research Science Associate at UT's Applied Research Laboratory and a specialist in acoustics. He spent several weeks in the Arctic collecting data on noise generated by the ice. To obtain this data, they placed modified sonobuoys on the ice. They had to be modified to operate in the minus 40 degree cold. Batteries were placed in Igloo "Coolers" for insulation from the cold.

Karl talked about the various problems with antennas, loading coil components breaking, battery life, and the local wildlife. It seems that there were more polar bears than they thought possible and they are attracted to anything left on the ice. Several items were displayed that they had examined (with their teeth!). Karl had a number of slides, several of which were of the bears. One shows five bears at once.

Respectfully submitted by: Joe Canfield,
N5HPC, AARC Secretary.

