

The AARCOVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club
June 1990

MEETING

June 12, 1990, 8:00 P.M.

Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop

FIELD DAY 90

This month's program will be a final preparation work session to go over Field Day '90 plans. Come one, come all who are interested in participating or cheering on those who will participate in this annual exercise!

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



RETURN OF THE 147.15 REPEATER (ALMOST)

A newly restored repeater on 147.14 (plus .600) gives good coverage from Georgetown to South Texas. It was put up by a San Antonio club on the old KLRN tower near New Braunfels. Give it a try.

BRING HAM BOOKS TO NEXT MEETING!

David Martin, KB8GOU, is a young ham with some good ideas. In his letter in the June QST (p. 62), the 15 year old Technician speaks of the problem of attracting new people to our hobby. His first recommendation



is to make certain that local public libraries have recent books about ham radio.

I decided to see what the Austin Public Library system has to offer. The answer is, not much. The newest-looking book at the Main Library is a 4-year-old ARRL Handbook. David particularly mentions that public libraries should have "Tune in the World." The Austin Public Library has zero copies of that most-important publication for beginners. Not a single copy at any of its 18 branches! No license manuals, either.

You can help! You probably have some new-ish ham radio books gathering dust at home. Maybe even a "Tune

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VICTOR, LY2ZZ IN AUSTIN

Easter Sunday was an interesting and enjoyable day to remember for 30 or so Austin hams, plus assorted friends and family. Victor Peteraitis was the guest of honor at a party held at the QTH of Curt Black, WR5J. Victor is the station manager and chief op at the largest Lithuanian club station, LY2ZZ (formerly UP1BZZ. They often sign something like UP7A or UP9A during contests). His own callsign is LY2BIG (formerly UP2BIG) but he rarely uses that callsign, preferring to use the club call.

Anyone who has ever operated contests, or even dialed around the DX bands very often, has surely heard or worked this station - it is very often the biggest signal out of the USSR. Victor, age 35, is certainly a top notch operator also, as he is one of only 30 amateurs in the Soviet Union to achieve the honor, "Master of Sport, International Class." (Amateur radio in the USSR is called "Radiosport").

Victor is on a 2 month tour of the USA, primarily as the result of the generosity of American hams and clubs. He (like all Soviet citizens) is only allowed to take \$200 worth of currency

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out of his country, which wouldn't take him very far without the help of others! He has been visiting and talking at hamfests and club meetings. Donations have allowed him to buy a video camcorder (specially ordered from New York to use a recording format compatible with the European standard), which he uses constantly. Not only will this record cherished memories for him, but he says that without it no one in his country is going to believe all the things he has seen over here!

He has been very impressed by many things, of course. Obviously our modern rigs and computers (his government admits that their country is about 20 years behind in electronic technology) are impressive to him, but so is almost everything else that we take for granted. A visit to a supermarket amazed him, with all the varieties of every item to pick from, including a whole row of pet food! He says, "A dog has a wonderful life in America." Victor got married a year ago and now has twins ("poor filtering, now have 2 harmonics"), and was allowed to move

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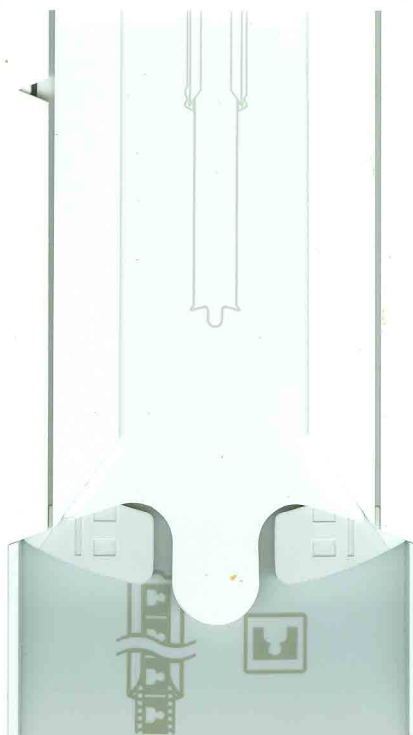
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The AARCOVER

LY2ZZ continued...

into a larger 1-room apartment than he had before, but he has been on the waiting list for a 3-room apartment for 13 years!

It has been go, go, go for Victor since coming to our country. After being here for about a week, he studied for one day and went in and passed all the exams to qualify for an Extra Class ham ticket! He is hoping his callsign will arrive before he has to return. He was in Dallas for a couple of days before coming here for a day. KSTSQ and a couple of other hams flew up to Dallas from the Valley, and flew Victor to Austin in a private jet. He was suitably awed.

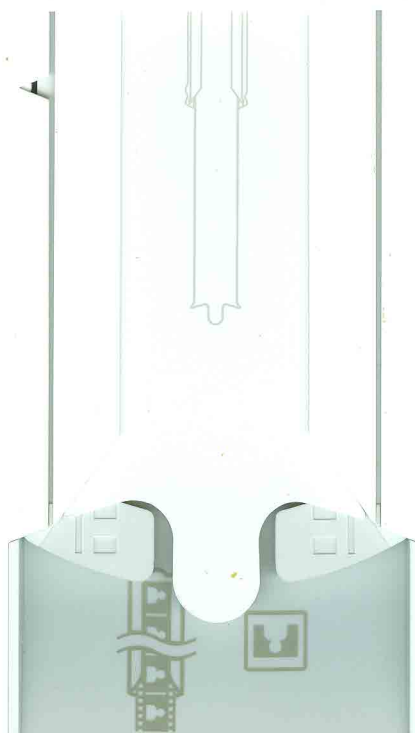
He had slides that he showed us, mostly of the club station, plus some of contest expeditions that his club took to operate in Armenia, and some slides of their version of Field Day, where the operators all setup very near each other (bad QRM!) and compete in two hour intervals, with a judge listening at each station to check for correct copy.

The club station (owned by the factory Victor works at, which mostly makes televisions) has ancient surplus tube equipment, plus homebrew gear, mostly tube-type but with some transistors. For antennas they have four

towers, from 120' to 140' tall, with monobanders for 10 through 40 meters (4 full-size elements on 40!).

The way they erect the antennas is quite ingenious. The towers are square, in 8-foot sections. At the base is a larger 12-foot section with one open side, and a motorized "elevator". The beam is installed on the tower when it is only a couple of sections tall, and then sections are added one at a time at the bottom, with the elevator raising the tower up to make room for adding another section below. There are two winches (two sets of guys) at each of the four guy points to feed out the guy wire as the tower goes up. With two men at the tower base and one at each guy anchor, it takes them about 3-1/2 hours to raise a 120' tower and beam, and only one hour to take it down! (They took down everything to carry to Armenia for the contests!) Victor says they are about to get a couple of free-standing 200' towers, and will be putting up a full-size 3-element 80 meter yagi!

It was very informative and interesting talking to Victor. Since much has been happening politically in Lithuania recently, he is often asked about what is going on over there, but he, like us, knows only what he sees on American
continued on next page



MINUTES

Meeting of May 8, 1990:

President Mike Kellam, AA5JP, called the regular meeting of the AARC to order early at 7:50 PM at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop. This was done to give more time to tonight's program.

VISITORS: Visitors included Mike, AA5KW, and Gwen, WB5SUL.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: The minutes of the April 10 meeting were accepted as printed in the AARCOVER. Treasurer Amado Ramirez, N5PCP, reported that the checking account now contained \$1585.03. Activities Manager Darrell, WD5CDY, reported a good attendance at Manchaca. Darrell thanked all who helped with parking and the other chores. Field Day will be next month, June 23 and 24. The AARCOVER Editor, Rick, K5FNI, has extra newsletters and FCC Form 610's. Rick NEEDS NEWS!

NEW MEMBERS: We have one new member, Jim KB5MES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There will be VEC exams this Saturday (May 12). The Arlington Hamcom-90 interferes with the normal June exam schedule. Mike, AA5JP, will conduct exams if

he can obtain sufficient help.

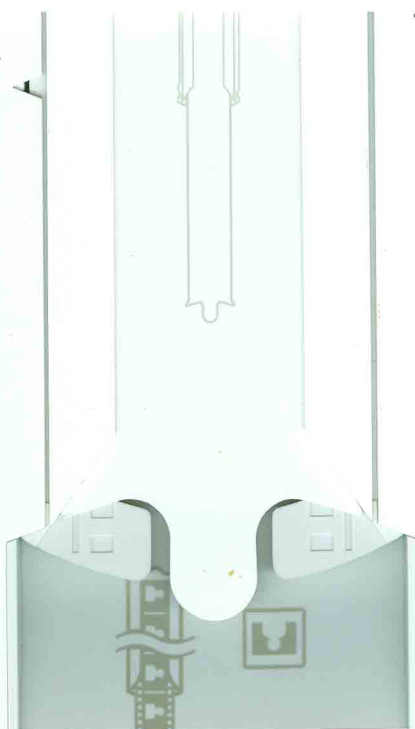
PROGRAM: The Vice-President, Stuart, K5KVH, introduced Louis Withrow, Meteorologist-In-Charge of the Austin office of the National Weather Service Office. Louis presented two films on weather spotting to prepare us for this Spring's storms. He accidentally picked up one wrong film - which also had no sound. This 30 minute film demonstrated many of the forms that tornadoes can take. Louis used these various scenes to explain how tornadoes are formed, when to expect them, and what type of information the weather office or law enforcement officials need when we report to them. A roster was passed around for those attending to sign.

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

LY2ZZ continued...

television! We are very grateful to Pete Nance, N5TR, who coordinated Victor's Texas itinerary, and to Curt and Pete for hosting the fine party, and to N4ZC for being his primary American host.

WD5N, Dave



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 Manager	Darrell Dawson, WD5CDY	258-1433	915

COMMITTEES

Technical	Ed Golla, K3AHS	255-4818	111
Emergency Coord.	Joe Fisher, K5EJL	926-4689	
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 AARC-OVER, provided credit is given to AARCOVER and author.

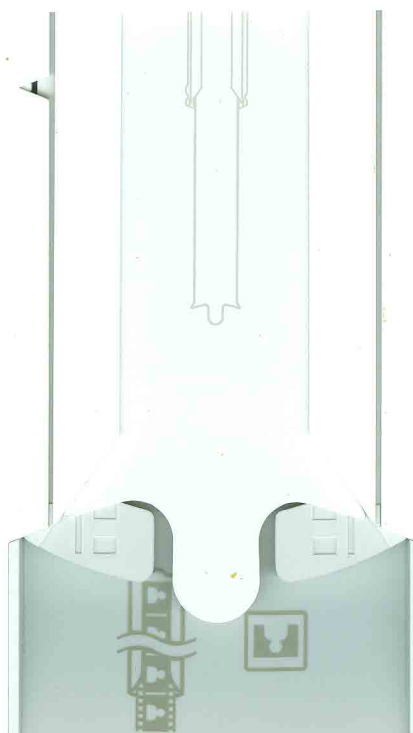
Commercial ads are accepted \$15 / full page, 1/2 page \$10. Members may advertise ham-related For Sale or Wanted ads free if space is available.

Ham Books continued...

in the World" and a license manual or two. Bring them to the next meeting! We will collect books (no magazines) and donate them to the Austin Public Library in the name of the Austin Amateur Radio Club. If you can't

make the meeting, drop books off at any branch library...you can even place them with a note in the after-hours return slot. You will gain more shelf space for magazines at home, and help our hobby at the same time.

N5KOB, Miles



FCC FORUM AT DAYTON

FCC Personal Radio Branch chief John Johnston (W3BE) and analyst William Cross drove home the point at Dayton's FCC Forum that too many hams are filing too many petitions for the resources available. It was obvious that some of the petitions are repetitive or ill-researched and are unlikely to be granted, yet staff time is still required to study their implications and issue a decision.

"You have us outgunned," is how Cross put it. Amateurs still call and write asking for special call signs, even though the FCC has granted no special calls in 12 years. The FCC representatives read a list of 18 pending petitions asking for reallocations, phone band expansions, VE changes, rule waivers, and new or modified privileges.

"There are only four of us to do all of this [petition] work, plus all of the other work that is assigned our branch," Cross said. "Therefore, I ask that you do the research necessary before you shoot a petition off to us. And don't be surprised if many months go by before you know the disposition of your idea."

Another usurper of staff time is the incessant demand from hams for Commission attention to problems

during contests. Cross said, "Contests began as soon as the third license was issued. We can measure contests easily. Monday morning, watch the telephone lines. If you had no idea that there was a contest on that weekend, you will find out that morning."

de W5YI Report, May 15, 1990

HAM AD

FOR SALE: Drake twins, T4XB transmitter + AC4 power supply, R4A receiver, manuals. These are hybrid transistor / tube units; transceive from either VFO. Crystals for WARC bands included.

Also, MFJ 300 watt 160-10 meter tuner, several 100 foot sections of Belden RG-8 (foam) with UHF connectors. Richard Matzner, W5HA. 467-8853 (H), 471-5062 (W).

AARCOVER SUPPORTERS

Broadcast Technical Services (VHF & UHF antennas) 800-874-2880
Stationery Sales & Services (printing) 453-5471

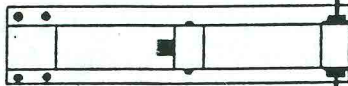


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Back in the early 1970's Joe Fisher, K5EJL, asked his friend Gene Vitale, a non ham, to create a logo for the Austin Amateur Radio Club. Actually, they worked a deal where K5EJL fixed Vitale's TV set, and Vitale created the logo. Vitale worked (and still works) as a graphic artist for the State of Texas. Using an existing image of the capitol domè, and a Hy-Gain advertisement from QST, Vitale created the now-familiar image of the State capitol dome with a beam antenna.

The logo has the letters ARC at the bottom, and you may have wondered what happened to the other A. The answer is that the dome is cut out in the shape of an A, giving the full initials AARC.

N5KOB, Miles

HAM AD

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

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

