

# The AARCOVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club  
September 1990

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## NOVICE CLASSES !

### PROGRAM

September 11, 1990, 8:00 P.M.

Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop, about a block west of Burnet Road, in the back room.



Ed Golla, K3AHS, will tell us HOW TO USE THE FEATURES OF THE .78 REPEATER. Everything you need to know to get weather reports, call emergency services and send and receive voice recorded messages through the repeater controller.



NO SMOKING PLEASE during the Club meeting / program. The AARC has a no-smoking policy.

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### SERVICE & PRODUCT ROSTER

Do you provide a business service or product that your fellow hams might want to know about? Auto mechanic, lawyer, carpenter, carpeting, CPA? I am compiling a list of local hams, arranged in alphabetical order by product or service ("Aardvark Trainers" first, "Zoological Supplies" last), for distribution to AARC members. If you would like to be included, please mail me a card with the following information: Your name & call, product or service, business phone. Thank you.

de Miles Abernathy, N5KOB, 3216 Park Hills Drive, Austin 78746

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#### NORTH:

Classes for prospective ham radio operators will be offered at the Round Rock High School campus, with registration starting September 12. Classes will be taught by Wayne Wright, W5XD, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for five weeks, 7 to 8:30 pm, beginning October 2. The tuition of \$30 includes *Tune in the World* book and code tape. You do not need to be a Round Rock resident to take the class.

If you would like more information about the class, or would like to volunteer to help teach it, you can call Wayne at 255-4557 (early evenings, because he has a new baby). For registration information call Round Rock Continuing Education at 255-3450. You can register by mail for the "Amateur Radio License Class" to Round Rock Community Schools, 300 Lake Creek Drive, Round Rock 78681.

#### SOUTH:

Novice classes are scheduled at Becker Community School depending upon number enrolled. Scheduled dates are 9/11-10/18 and 10/30-12/6. Claude Green, WD5JCB will be teaching. Call Becker Community School at 442-0584 for registration information. Tuition is \$21.

Please tell anyone who may be interested. Many folks find an organized class to be the quickest way to become a ham. Remember, classes will only be held if there is sufficient enrollment.

de AASJP and N5KOB

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## HAM RADIO MORALS AND INTEGRITY

First, this will be a sincere effort not to come off sounding "negative". It is with increasing alarm and concern that we listen in on the various ham bands and hear what we hear. It appears that there are more and more "groups" that gather for the purpose of promoting filth, profanity, obscenities, innuendos, vulgar jokes and stories, and whatever else that flies in the face of what is decent and acceptable in the presence of one's mother or the minister. What is more alarming is the obvious fact that a lot of these are the "old-timers" .... they hold one-by-two and one-by-three calls! They seem to follow the old "birds of a feather flock together" rule.

That's the "negative" statement. Now, let's get to the "positive" side of the issue. What can be done about the stated problem? and it is certainly a problem!

In an almost unconscious effort, I find myself calling hams in the areas of frequencies where the novices and technicians can now operate in the high frequency (HF) bands. My motivation is to afford the new hams a chance to talk with an old geezer that has been around for a while. In as subtle as possible manner, I get them to talk about things other than ham radio...and even mention that there are so many things of interest to talk about on ham radio. Then, as I sign with them, I ask if I might enlist their help in promoting "clean" ham radio, and explain what I mean regarding the unnecessary use of "every day" filth and profanities on our ham bands. Without exception, I find that they identify with what I am referring to, and enthusiastically state that they will comply and promote this idea.

There have been occasions that I have listened

to the drivel as long as I can stand it and check into one of the offensive groups. I first identify myself, then make a statement something like, "Fellows, don't you think we can do without all the "F", "D" and "H" words, all the suggestive innuendos, and communicate on a little higher level?" I have learned that in all cases this is met with belligerent and very caustic comments from the whole "flock" ... and their main excuse for such is, "You hear it at the movies and on TV....Why not on the ham bands?"

Well, dear fellow hams, if you wish to be a "conversational cripple" and resort to the crutch of profanity and filth, that puts you in a class that most of us refuse to stoop to. If we allow the lowest common denominator of social behavior to dictate our actions and conversation, that does not say much for us as an individual (much less as a group), does it? There are thousands of jokes and funny things to talk about without resorting to lewd and unseemly trash and garbage. This goes for in person, as well as on the ham bands.

Yours for "cleaner" ham radio, Hal, W5MDL.

## BUDDY HOLLY SPECIAL EVENT

Lubbock area hams will operate KG5BL as a special event station for 24 hours, beginning at 1300 UTC on September 8. Operation on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, phone and CW, is planned. For details see the September issue of QST, page 82.

## KD6OY

Garry Shandling is an amateur radio operator.

## MINUTES

Meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club for August 10, 1990.

Vice-President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Our President, Mike, AA5JP once again was in Colorado trying to keep cool.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:** The minutes of the July 10th meeting were accepted as printed in the AARCOVER. A number of members, including the Secretary, still had not received their newsletter. The AARC Treasurer, Amado, N5PCP, also escaped to parts unknown. However, Amado did send us a budget report noting that we had \$1612.88 in the checking account. Again, we remind you that Amado has set up an excellent and detailed accounting system. He will usually have a copy at each meeting for review. Rick, K5FNI, the Editor of The AARCOVER requested articles and a volunteer to take the printed AARCOVERs to the bulk mailing area at the main post office. Darrell, WD5CDY, our Activities Manager noted that the next Manchaca Swapfest will be on October 13. Darrell wishes it would start at 10:30 AM rather than at 7:00 AM!

**VISITORS:** Jeff, N5MNV, brought his wife. We also welcomed Todd who is working on his license.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We elected Richard Dyer, KA5SFC; Duane Calvin, KR2HV; and Jack Bryant, N5RBI, all of Austin, as new members.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Stu announced that Joe Fisher, K5EJL has agreed to be the Austin & Travis County emergency coordinator. Joe, W5EBJ, reported that about 890 people registered for SummerFest. The two exam sessions were well attended with a number of upgrades

and new licenses. About 100 persons attended the Saturday evening barbecue. Both grand prizes and the early registration prize were won by hams from San Antonio.

**PROGRAM:** Vice-President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, continued his antenna program by presenting guidelines for home built quad and loop antennas. In addition Stu discussed and illustrated several types of matching methods. The program ended with a short news video prepared by Television Channel 24 about the June Field Day.

Respectfully submitted by: Joe Canfield  
N5HPC, AARC Secretary

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## NEW SW STATION PROPOSED

Radio Miami International may soon be a reality on the shortwave bands, if the FCC gives the go-ahead. The station has proposed to operate with 10 kW in the 49, 31 and 25 meter bands, with signals aimed at the Caribbean. Current FCC rules require that commercial SW stations operate with a minimum of 50 kW, but the station management counters that 10 kW is enough to cover the Caribbean basin. A corner reflector antenna will be used.

de N5KOB

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## AARCOVER SUPPORTERS

Committee to Elect Tom Comstock Director.  
Broadcast Technical Services (quality VHF & UHF antennas) 800-874-2880.  
Stationery Sales & Services (printing, copying, rubber stamps) 453-5471.

## SCOUT JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

Scouts all over the world will be having their 32nd annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) during the third full weekend of October. Beginning at about 0000 local time Saturday, October 20, and running until about 2400 local time Sunday, October 21, hams and scouts will exchange on-air pleasantries including name, QTH, rank, hobbies, etc.

Everyone is invited to participate, including past and present Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Webelos, Girl Guides, Explorers, Venturers, Campfire Girls, and non-scouting amateurs. Close to half a million participants worldwide are expected.

Phone calling frequencies are 3.940, 7.290, 14.290, 21.360, and 28.350 MHz, and you should QSY to a clear frequency as soon as contact is established. Acceptable modes include phone, CW, SSTV, FSTV, AMTOR, RTTY, EME, and satellite. JOTA is not a contest, it's just a fun weekend, and anyone who takes part is eligible for a Certificate of Participation. Further information is available for a SASE to JOTA Coordinator, POB 152079, Irving TX 75215.

The best way to enjoy the Jamboree on the Air is to invite a scout troop over to visit your shack during the event and let them get on the air. If you don't know a scoutmaster in your neighborhood, you can call the Boy Scouts at 926-6363 or the Girl Scouts at 453-7391. If you are willing to have a local TV film crew visit, please let me know.

de Miles, N5KOB, 327-1310

## ARRL SUMMERFEST VOLUNTEER EXAM RESULTS

License exams were given by ARRL examiners on 8/4/90 at SummerFest with the following upgrades or licenses:

### Novices:

Joyce E. Shirley William R. Loesch  
Barney R. Loesch William E. Pierson

### Technician:

Ivan L. Carwell, Jr.  
Norman W. Williams  
Diane H. Bennett KA5JRA  
Mark K. Voisnet-Anderson KB5MST  
Richard D. Dyer KA5SFC  
Diane C. Vrenios



### General:

Joseph C. Smith WD5EYR

### Advanced:

Bob Carwell N5NCW  
David R. Nowak KA5EEQ  
Richard C. Sherman KA5PVT  
John D. Tran N5QWE  
James L. Bennett WB5IMB  
James A. Crabtree W6NEG

### Extra:

Robert G. Redoutey KF5KF

VE's were: Larry Gunter, Steve Runyon, Ben Menke, Gene Hinkle, Alex Vrenios, and Frank Sanders.

Congratulations are in order to all these folks and others who got credit toward various licenses. Thanks to the VE's who gave up valuable SummerFest time to provide a service to their fellow amateurs! [If you see these folks at the next club meeting, shake their hand! No results from the W5YI exams at press time...maybe next month -ed.]

**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 Jordaht, K5GM .....	454-7889 .....	913

(Numbers after the call signs are phone # and autodial # on the 146.78 repeater.)

**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. Material received after that will be saved for the following month. Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the AARCOVER, provided credit is given to The AARCOVER and a copy of your publication is mailed to the author. The AARCOVER editor would appreciate receiving a copy of your publication, also.

Commercial ads are cheerfully accepted, at only \$10 for a full page, \$6 for a half page. Members may advertise ham-related For Sale or Wanted ads free if space is available.

**BYE BYE EBS?**

The Emergency Broadcast System, formerly known as Conelrad, may be on the way out. One candidate to replace it is Radio Data System (RDS), an automated system utilizing a 57 kHz digital subcarrier. RDS is automatic, unlike EBS which is activated at the discretion of the disk jockey at each station.

According to Radio World magazine, the first trials will be in Jefferson County, Texas. This southeast-Texas county has hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and 18 chemical plants. Equip-

ment will be installed in 6 FM, 3 AM and 3 TV stations, and at 3 cable companies. Similar systems have been proposed for San Francisco and Colorado.

With RDS, one FM station in each area will receive the initial warning from emergency authorities, then broadcast it to all the other stations. Because typed text will be used, there should be less chance for confusion than with messages verbally relayed. The warning text might then scroll across home TV screens.

de N5KOB

## CONSTRUCTING LOW-NOISE RS-232 CABLES

Digital devices have become quite common in the shack for use on Packet, RTTY, and AMTOR. They are not without their problems, however. They can be prodigious radiators of electrical noise which seriously compromises the operation of nearby HF gear. This takes the form of "hash" buzzing, or loud "birdies" at regular intervals across the dial. It may be particularly severe if you are using class A (business environment) equipment or worse yet, a terminal built before FCC noise emission regulations went into effect.

Fortunately, something can be done about it. Most digital devices radiate the majority of their noise out the RS-232 port so a good, noise-proof cable may go a long way toward solving the problem. To build such a cable, you will need good quality shielded wire, RFI-proof hoods, some conductive metal tape, and of course connectors.

Shielded wire usually offers 100% coverage via aluminum foil with a drain wire. The more expensive variety uses wire braid, like co-ax. RFI-proof hoods have a bright, metallic appearance and will conduct electricity. If in doubt, test with an ohm meter. Copper tape designed for RFI suppression is available, but it tends to be high-priced. An inexpensive alternative is burglar alarm tape (for use on windows). All these are available at Radio Shack.

After attaching the necessary data and signal wires to the connector, wrap several turns of metal tape one on top of the other around the

wire where it will enter the hood. Build up a layer of tape thick enough that, when the hood is assembled, it will clamp down tightly on the tape and make good contact. If you are using a 25-pin connector, run a short piece of wire from pin 1 (chassis ground), strip the end, and twist it together with the drain wire. (Nine-pin connectors, such as are used on the IBM AT, have no chassis ground pin.) Peel back about 1/2 inch of tape, lay the drain wire (or drain wire/pin 1 connection) across the tape layer, and wrap the loose end of the tape back down over the drain wire. Assemble the hood. Repeat the procedure at the other end. You now have a cable with a continuous, end-to-end shield. Install the cable and tie at least one device to your station ground.

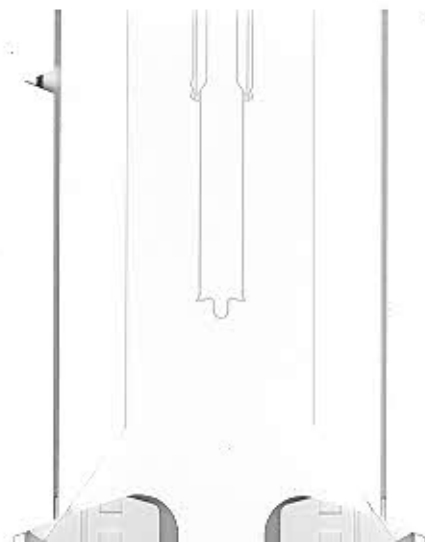
Using this technique I have been able to eliminate loud "hash" that wiped out half of the 20-meter band. All that is left are a few minor "birdies" that are easily notched out or worked around. My thanks to Keith Logan, engineer at AMSI, for the metal tape trick.

de James, KB5FIO

## GAUGE FINE WIRE SIMPLY

As an alternative to using a micrometer or dial caliper, close-wind 10-20 turns of the wire (how many turns doesn't matter as long as you know the number) on a pencil and measure the length of the winding. Calculate the number of turns per inch and check "The 1990 ARRL Handbook" Copper Wire Table for the wire gauge that matches this turns-per-inch figure.

de Zack Lau, KH6CP, ARRL Laboratory Engineer, September, 1990 "QST"



**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL  
ARRL MEMBERS**

This fall, we members of the West Gulf Division must choose a person to represent us on the Board of Directors of the League. It is particularly important this year that we elect a person who has the knowledge, experience, and leadership ability to do the job. These are critical times for the future of amateur radio. The League needs Directors who can meet the challenges of these rapidly changing times. The only way to make sure that the right person is elected is for each member of the division to carefully study the record of the candidates and

**VOTE**

The job of Director is demanding. It requires a person who knows the issues, knows how to work with others, and who is a proven leader. The candidate this year who has those qualities is

**TOM COMSTOCK, N5TC**

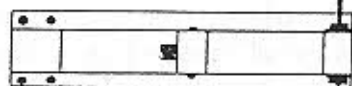
For 15 years, Tom has served amateur radio at the national, division, and section levels. He is committed to excellence in amateur radio. His years as a Vice Director, volunteer examiner, teacher, emergency communicator, traffic handler, Section Official, and his daily on-the-air involvement in all phases of amateur radio have given him the experience required to do the job. Don't let someone else make your decisions for you:

**VOTE****ELECT TOM COMSTOCK,  
N5TC****DIRECTOR  
WEST GULF DIVISION**

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