



The AARCOVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club
December 1990

DESTROY YOUR ROSTER

MEETING

Tuesday, December 11, at 7:55 PM. Please note that the club meeting will start about 5 minutes early in order to get everything done. Come even earlier, eat dinner with everybody, and decide who you want to vote for!

Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop (in the back room).

Double-Barrel Meeting:

Elections—See the New Business section of the Minutes (page 4) for the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates. You must be a member to vote.

"The Wonderful Art of QSLing" talk by John Warren, NT5C, learned through the years as a SWL in Great Britain and now as a successful DX operator. John has served as president of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club and net control station of the Thursday DX Net on 147.08 MHz. He beams an outstanding signal from his hilltop location, and has worked many countries without a beam, as well. Learn how he gets the cards to prove it.

The club's No Smoking policy at meetings and programs will remain in effect at least through December.



Please remove, rip, or tear the outer cover off your new AARC/ARO roster. Your roster now has a new labeled cover with repeater instructions on the back side. Now, fill out the form on the old cover and mail it to the AARC or bring it to a meeting. It will be given to our Austin Emergency Coordinator, Joe Fisher, K5EJL, and used to develop a database of hams and equipment available for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Thanks!

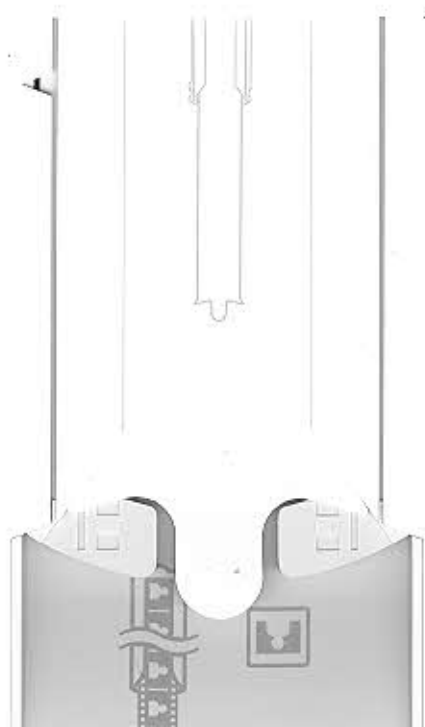


RSGB PROBLEMS

The December 8 Annual General Meeting of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) ought to be a hum dinger. It seems the organization has recently lost about 1/3 of its capital due to (alleged) mismanagement, and faces the possibility of bankruptcy. Since all repeaters in G-land are licensed to the RSGB, the implications are significant.

At least one member, Mick (G8VHB @ GB7WRG.GBR.EU) is fuming mad! He wrote a letter to the Auditor, and the reply he received was very candid. According to the Auditor, it "is quite correct" that the accounting procedures of the RSGB have been in a chaotic state. One of the members of the Auditor's staff "is trying every-

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EDITOR & PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR NEEDED

At the request of Rick, K5FNI, we are soliciting volunteers for the post of AARCOVER Editor. For the past three years Rick has been the AARCOVER editor. During this time, the AARCOVER has always been a first rate club newsletter. We have received many compliments from visitors and other readers, in addition to those from the AARC members. All of us in the AARC wish to express our sincere thanks to Rick for his service to our club. We can further express our thanks by encouraging a successor to assume the responsibility of the newsletter.

We would like to add a **Publications Coordinator** to the AARCOVER staff. The Publications Coordinator would get the copy to the printer, pick up the finished product and coordinate label application and mailing. Additionally, the Publications Coordinator would be responsible for the publication of the club Roster in April. In the past, these duties have been assumed by the club Secretary and various other volunteers.

This item will be presented at the December meeting. Anyone interested in performing any of these services for the club during the next year, please contact Mike, AA5JP, Stuart, K5KVH, or Rick, K5FNI.

de Mike, AA5JP

IMPORTANT

Please fill in the Membership Renewal Card and bring to the December meeting, or mail in ASAP. Family memberships should list all family members on the back.

HAM EXAMS

Here are the results of ARRL/VEC exam held November 10, 1990, at the Texas School for the Blind.

NAME	CALL	UPGRADE
Todd A. Bostic	KB5TUQ	Technician
George M. Calhoun	KB5NVO	Technician
Gary M. Cobus	-	Technician
Daniel F. Cronch	KB5NXD	Technician
Ralph J. Hach	KB5NVN	Technician
Nathan E. Howard	-	Technician
Ray F. Irwin	-	Technician
Michael E. Sanders	-	Technician
William K. Fennell	N5MWI	General
James M. Loveland	-	General
H. P. Ramachandran	KB5LQD	General
Edwin J. Bailen	N5KZW	Advanced

There were a total of 18 candidates taking exams.

The VE examiners were:

NAME	CALL
Steve Runyon	WQ5G
Alex Vrenios	KX9I
Gene Hinkle	K5PA
John Bogard	KF5RX
Bob Redouty	KF5KF
Larry Gunter	WB5BEK

Barry Davis, AA5GN, also assisted in administering these exams and was a great help.

The next ARRL/VEC exam will be given at the Texas School for the Blind, 1100 W 45th Street at 10:30 am on January 12, 1991.


NOTE: THE COST FOR EXAMS INCREASES TO \$5.25 FOR 1991.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming exam, please contact me at 473-3526 (work) or 345-7281 (home).

de Larry Gunter, WB5BEK

MINUTES

Meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club on November 13, 1990: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President Mike Kellam, AA5JP.

 **OFFICER REPORTS:** The minutes were accepted as printed in the AARCOVER by those who had received their copy. This did not include the Secretary who had mailed them the previous Tuesday! The AARCOVER Editor, Rick Herndon, K5FNI, asked for articles and submissions for the newsletter. The Editor was complimented on the appearance and contents of the newsletter. Mike, AA5JP, also called attention to the calendar on the front cover. [Miles Abernathy deserves credit for the improvements in the AARCOVER layout, graphics and the increased size and information found in the front page calendar-Ed.] Treasurer Amado Ramirez, N5PCP, reported that we collected \$229 at the Manchaca Swapfest. We collected from 54 tailgaters, 51 tables, one chair, and one fellow on the floor. Our only chargeable expense is the rental of the facility for \$100.00. The rosters were mailed and 16 have been returned because of bad addresses. Please give the club your new address when you move as this adds up during the year. Our checking account now has a balance of \$977.59 with the AARCOVER printing bill of about \$144 to be paid out of that. The Secretary, Joe Canfield, N5HPC, pointed out that the outer cover of the roster has a form to be filled out and returned to the club. This data will be used to develop a list of persons and equipment available for the Amateur Emergency Radio Service. Ed Golla, K3AHS, the Technical Committee Chairman, says that the repeater equipment seems to be working very well. No one disputed him. Darrell Dawson, WD5CDY, the Activities Manager, reported that our Field Day efforts paid

off. The club station, W5KA, made 1185 contacts that with bonus points, placed us #17 out of about 250 stations in Class IA. Darrell also announced that the January Banquet will be on Saturday, January 19th.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Joe Makeever, W5EBJ, gave the following list of nominees for club officers: President: Mike Kellam, AA5JP; Vice-President: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH; Activities Manager: Gary Pickens, WX5Z; Secretary: Joe Canfield, N5HPC; Treasurer: Amado Ramirez, Jr., N5PCP.

Other members of the nominating committee included Dave Harper, WD5N and Mickie Inks, K5IOJ. The committee reminded the members that the floor will be open for additional nominations during the election. Please be sure that those you nominate are willing to serve. Joe, W5EBJ, also reported as a member of the Summerfest committee and presented the Club with a check for \$900.00, the Club's share of the net proceeds as a sponsor of the Summerfest event last August.

NEW MEMBERS: We have two new members: Jennifer Matyear and Dave Effland who are waiting for their call signs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Pete Jordahl, K5GM, reminded all that the next AARCOVER will contain a member information card. This is a

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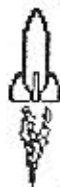
AARCOVER SUPPORTERS

Stationery Sales & Services (printing, copying, rubber stamps) 453-5471.

NEWEST OSCAR

COMSTOCK DECLARED
WINNER

The launch of RS-14/RUDAK-2 was scheduled for November 29, 1990, plus or minus one day. The RUDAK-2 transponder was to be turned on three days after launch. The CW telemetry beacon (at 20 wpm) is set for a downlink frequency of 145.822 or 145.948 MHz SSB. After all systems are working properly on the RUDAK-2 transponder, PSK/BBS/MODE B operations will begin on this exciting new OSCAR. Check the AMSAT HF nets for more up-to-date information, or tune in to 146.94 MHz on Sunday evenings at 9 pm.



de AMSAT News Service

After counting ballots at a November 20 meeting, the ARRL Committee of Tellers reported that current W.G. Div. Vice Director Tom Comstock, N5TC, was elected the new West Gulf Division Director. The vote was 2641 votes for N5TC, and 1234 votes for W5SOQ. Tom's term of office is 2 years, beginning January 1, 1991. You can contact him at 1700 Dominik, College Station, 77840, telephone (409) 693-1181.

de ARRL Bulletin and QST

CONTROL OF HAM RADIO

There are a growing number of hams who have radio equipment that is capable of being controlled by computer. A group of folks have gotten together on the HAM and SHORTWAVE areas of telephone BBS (bulletin boards for computers) "echoes" (areas for messages having to do with particular topics which are "echoed" across the country at night when the BBS is not busy with other tasks) to approach this topic. This is good from a couple of areas: one is that everyone does not have to reinvent the wheel for their own computer and controllable gear. The conversations stimulate ideas that may lead to better end results than if the individuals writing the programs served only their own needs and ideas.



If you have equipment like this and are interested

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Minutes continued

convenient way to update the club of your upgrades, call sign change, phone number change, etc. Please fill out and return by mail or in person. Joe, W5EBJ, reports that the Texas VHF-FM Society has printed a new directory to be mailed in early December. Joe Fisher, K5EJL, reported that the ARO's 146.94 repeater will be used during an emergency drill by the Austin Police Department. There will be amateur television of the exercise during the exercise. Hal Henegar, W5MDL, sent a letter complementing the new roster. The W5YI VEC Exams will be on December 8th at the School for the Blind.

PROGRAM: Stuart, K5KVH, presented two guests. Bill Wilcox represented MEDICO, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical help to those in South and Central America countries unable to get or afford a doctor. Each year, they organize visits to countries such as Honduras. Mr. Wilcox is a retired mining engi-

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OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, BULLETIN

OFFICERS

President	Mike Kellam, AA5JP	836-7688	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	119
W5KA Trustee	Joe Fisher, K5EJL	926-4689	119
Editor	Rick Herndon, K5FN1	454-1670	914
Labels & Roster	Pete Jordahl, K5GM	454-7889	913
Publications Coord.	<i>your name here</i>	<i>555-1212</i>	<i>910</i>

(Numbers after the call signs are phone # and autodial # on the 146.78 MHz 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 \$15 for a full page, \$10 for a half page. Members may advertise ham-related For Sale or Wanted ads free if space is available.

RSGB from page 3

thing he can to bring things into a proper order but I think it is fair to say that he has experienced difficulties, some of which relate to existing RSGB staff...."

Lets hope the Society survives their troubles and remains strong enough to help in the fight for Amateur rights at WARC '92.

de N5KOB

COMMUNICATIONS
QUARTERLY

A new, high-quality ham radio magazine is coming, to help fill the void left by the demise of *Ham Radio*.

According to Editor Terry Northup, we should see **more than** 100 pages of technical articles per issue. These articles cover the gamut, including

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HAM GETS SQUASHED

Did anyone catch the call plates in the NBC mini-series "LA Earthquake"? Call plates for KE6HK were clearly shown on a car crushed under a pile of rubble near the [movie] Los Angeles Emergency Operations Center. This callsign is assigned to Frank Lewis, KE6HK, Westwood, CA. In real life he's probably part of the crew, and his movie counterpart was probably inside the EOC helping with the disaster.

de Gary, N8EMR, et al

DXCC ON OSCAR 0

The first DXCC on the Earth's Original Satellite (OSCAR 0) has been achieved. On October 27, 1990, Dave Blaschke, W5UN, of Manvel, Texas, worked VS6BI to complete the world's first two-meter DXCC. Each of his contacts on two-meters was done by bouncing his signal off the moon (a.k.a. OSCAR 0). An article describing Dave's station can be found in January 1989 QST (p. 15).

Dave's station (1.5KW transmit power and 32.5 dBi antenna gain) helped AMSAT recover DO-17, which suffered from a receiver de-sensing problem last spring. AMSAT Congratulates Dave on this monumental accomplishment.

de AMSAT News Service & Ray Soifer, W2RS

Radio Control from p. 5

in hearing more about controlling your equipment for shortwave listening (SWL) or ham uses, I will be the one standing up at the December meeting giving the AARCOVER report, so see me after the meeting and we can discuss this further. de Rick Herndon, K5FNI

HAM BALLOON

Houston-area hams expect to launch a balloon with 2-meter beacon on the morning of December 8. The radio frequency will be 147.435 MHz. Transmissions will be in CW, in the form, "TEMP DE WB5HLZ", long external-temperature tone, "ALTITUDE DE WB5HLZ", long pressure tone, then repeat. The time in seconds to repeat this is Period.



To decode the telemetry, here are approximate formulas:

Electronics Temp (°F) = (3.205 x Period) - 352.7

External Temp (°F) = 460 - (0.1934 x tone freq. in Hz)

Pressure (inches of Hg, uncorrected) = (0.03037 x tone freq in Hz) - 29.21

True pressure = Uncorrected Pressure x (0.984 + (0.0002 x Electronics temperature))

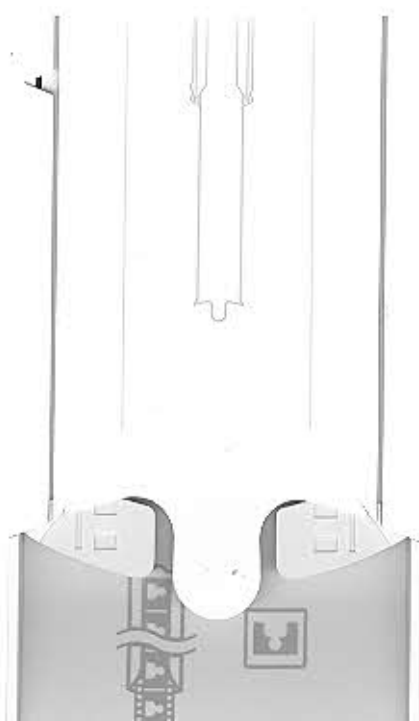
For up-to-date information check the 40-meter ATV net the day of launch.

de Ron, WA5RON

Magazine from p. 6

computer / radio interfaces, GHz communications, test equipment, and more.

You can subscribe at (800) 457-7373. The charter subscription provides for an initial cost of \$24.95 with the premier issue being free. The regular rate will be \$29.95.



MEDICO NEEDS HAM HELP

William R. Wilcox gave a brief talk at the November meeting about the work of MEDICO (Medical Eye and Dental International Care Organization), a private agency providing medical care to people in Central and South America. MEDICO coordinates the work of doctors and nurses who take leave from their regular jobs to care for people with medical problems, people who would have no chance of ever paying for treatment. It has provided free medical care to 40,000 persons in Honduras in the last 3 years. The organization is not affiliated with any government or religion, and everyone who works with it is a volunteer who pays his/her own expenses.

MEDICO needs help in providing communications between its people in the field and those back in the United States. Communications, for example, like, "Please send more penicillin and disinfectant with the next volunteer," and "Please tell the American family that the little girl will be on Flight 317." These communications are currently handled by telephone, which is very expensive out of some countries.

Fortunately, most of the countries that MEDICO serves already have third-party agreements with the U.S., so this kind of traffic handling is both legal and proper. If you would like further information or wish to assist, you can call Bill at home at 267-9248, or write MEDICO at 13809 Research Blvd., Suite 441, Austin TX 78750. This is an example of the highest and best use of amateur radio.

de Miles, N5KOB

This issue is being mailed free to some non-members. We hope you will join, only \$6 a year.

MINIMAL HAM OPERATION ON SHUTTLE COLUMBIA

The Columbia space shuttle, STS-35, is/was expected to have little ham radio activity in spite of the presence on board of Ron Parise, WA4SIR. The time for Ron's in-person QSOs is restricted to the two hours before and the two hours after his 8-hour sleep periods. Since these have already been planned out well in advance, he was able to determine where the shuttle will be during these intervals. Unfortunately, it won't be near the continental US. That's the reason for the inability to schedule real-time QSOs with schools (or other sites) in the US. The packet robot may be active during these times.

de Phil Karn

Minutes continued

neer who helped organize MEDICO. He presented a case for volunteers to provide communication skills, services, and equipment. They presently use international long distance telephone for this purpose but it is very expensive and they have little cash. They may be contacted at 512-250-3955 in Austin.

Robert Logan, NZ5A, then presented "QRP Fun". Bob has long been active in the QRP contests and compiled quite a list of awards and First Place Certificates using 1 to 2 watts. He shared many of these events with those present. The program ended with a display of some home built QRP equipment.

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

