



# The AARCOVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club  
January 1991

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## BANQUET

Saturday, January 19, at 7:00 PM.

Zilker Clubhouse (far NW side of Zilker, on top of hill)

The Annual AARC Banquet replaces the January meeting. Have you bought your ticket yet? See the article on the back page of this issue of The AARCOVER.



The only (indoor) smoking permitted at the Banquet will be the BBQ.

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## FINAL 220 DECISION

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has denied the ARRL petition for review of the FCC order reallocating 220 to 222 mhz to the Land Mobile Service. This was the last recourse for the amateur radio service in this matter. The court concluded that by law it had to give great deference to the views of the Commission, and it could not say that the Commission did not arrive at a reasoned decision about the best way to advance the public convenience, interest, or necessity.

ARRL Bulletin 50, Dec. 5, 1990, & Newslines

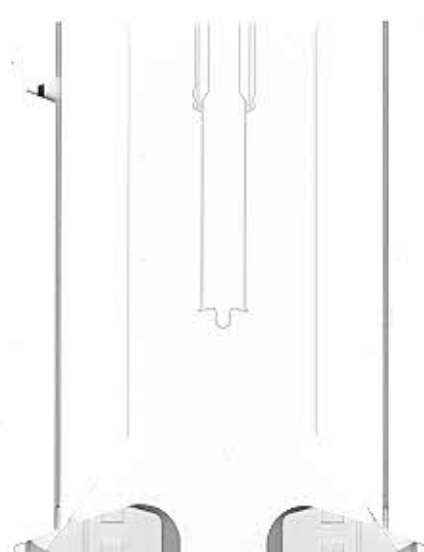
## NO-CODE LICENSE APPROVED BY FCC

The FCC has revised the examination requirement for the Technician Class operator license, thereby creating a new codeless class of amateur operator license. After these revisions become effective [perhaps in February 1991], an examinee will not be required to prove that he or she can send and receive texts in Morse code telegraph signals to qualify for a Technician Class amateur operator license.

The FCC noted that offering a codeless class of license that authorizes control operator privileges at stations which transmit exclusively above 30 MHz, provides an entry level opportunity to otherwise qualified persons who find telegraphy a barrier to pursuing the purposes of the amateur service.

Therefore, on December 13 the FCC established the Technician Class as the codeless class of license. This license includes all amateur privileges above 30 MHz. The Commission also amended the rules to grandfather frequency privileges below 30 MHz to current Technician Class licensees. These changes are included in PR Docket 90-55.

*continued on page 5*



## FCC EASES CODE REQUIREMENT FOR HANDICAPPED

On December 13 the FCC amended its rules to make the amateur service more accessible to amateur operator licensees who, because of severe handicaps, are incapable of passing the higher speed Morse code examinations. However, the FCC declined to provide a list of disabilities. Instead, the judgement of a physician will be relied on to establish that a person is severely handicapped and cannot pass a telegraphy examination.

On August 1, 1990, the FCC proposed exempting from the 13 and 20 words per minute (wpm) telegraphy examinations amateur operator licensees who are incapable of passing those examinations due to severe handicaps. Because of international requirements, however, no exemptions would be granted from the 5 wpm telegraphy examination.

The rules adopted (PR Docket 90-356) require a physician's certification and a release permitting disclosure to the FCC of medical information pertaining to the handicap. The Commission said that the term "physician" would be limited to practitioners with full medical privileges, that is, doctors of osteopathy or doctors of medicine.

de Jon Bloom, KE3Z, of the ARRL

## HAM AD

For Sale - Yaesu FT208R 2 meter HT with manual and 2 new nicads. Mint condition. \$300: call Don N9AMB - 345-6468 evenings.

## EDITORIAL

This is my last issue as editor of the AARCOVER. I have enjoyed serving as this publication's editor for the last three years and two months. I will continue to support the club with input for the next editor.

I think Dwight West (call pending) will make a good editor. He will be taking computer input on his telephone bulletin board (Mind's Eye) at 323-9111 and voice input at 323-6915. I hope everyone will work with him to see that we continue to have a publication that reflects well on all of us as members and radio amateurs in the Austin area community. Keep up the original works and keep looking at all the publications you read for tidbits to share with your fellow amateurs.

I heartily approve of the proposal of a Publications Coordinator to guide the efforts of the many volunteers who see that the finished product is printed, labels attached, grouped by ZIP code, bagged and sent to the Post Office. Anyone volunteering for this office should realize that he or she is not expected to do all the work, but to coordinate the other volunteers' efforts.

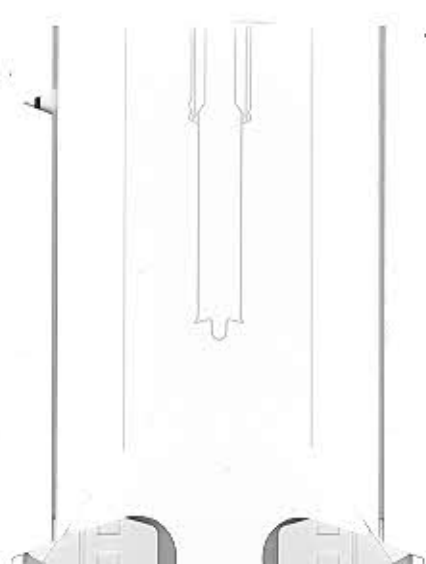
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de Rick, K5FNI

## MARS TRAFFIC

You can hear MARS phone patches between Saudi Arabia and the US on 13.825 MHz USB.


de Allan Courtney via GENIE



## MINUTES

Meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club on December 11, 1990: President Mike Kellam, AA5JP, called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:55 PM.

**VISITORS:** This evening's guests included Ronnie Hughes, N5CSE, John Crittendon, WD5DAX; and Dwight West who passed his Technician exam last Saturday.

 **OFFICER REPORTS:** The minutes were accepted as printed in the December AARCOVER. Amado Ramirez, N5PCP and AARC Treasurer, reported that the checking account now contained \$1540.14 after paying all current bills. Amado also asked those who have paid without returning the preprinted card sent in the last AARCOVER to review this card, verify and correct as needed the information on it. Then return it to any officer or mail to the club post office box. The Technical Committee Chairman, Ed Golla, K3AHS, was not present. Mike, AA5JP asked if there were any known repeater problems, none were reported. Darrell Dawson, WD5CDY, the Activities Manager, reported that our banquet will be on Saturday, January 19th at 7PM. Tickets will be \$6.00 per person. [See back page for details]. The AARCOVER Editor, Rick, K5FNI, has rosters for new members and those who did not get theirs. Sorry, no extra newsletters this month. Rick once again asked for someone to volunteer for the Editor's position. He claims that three years is enough! [Dwight West took up the torch, his term starts with the February issue.]

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

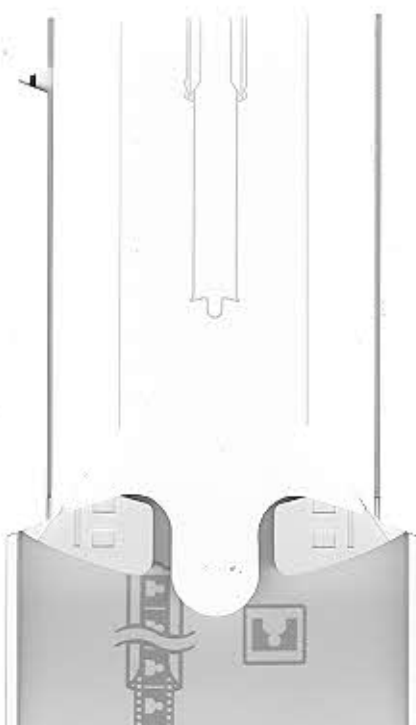
**NEW BUSINESS:** Mike Kellam, AA5JP, wants to appoint a Publications Coordinator to help coordinate the editing, printing, and mailing of

the newsletters and roster. Mike asked for a motion to establish such a position. The motion was made by Rick, K5FNI, seconded and passed with little opposition. Mike will be looking for volunteers. President Mike Kellam, AA5JP, presented the next item of new business, the election of officers for 1991. Last month, a committee consisting of Joe Makeever, W5EBJ; Dave Harper, WD5N; and Mickie Inks, K5IOJ, submitted a list of nominees who have agreed to serve, if elected, as club officers. Mike called for nominations from the floor for each office. There were none. Joe Makeever, W5EBJ, made a motion that these nominees be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote. The officers for 1991 are:

President: .....Mike Kellam, AA5JP  
 Vice-President: .....Stuart Rohre, K5KVH  
 Treasurer: .....Amado Ramirez, Jr., N5PCP  
 Activities Manager: ..Gary Pickens, WX5Z  
 Secretary: .....Joe Canfield, N5HPC  
 Activities Manager: ..Gary Pickens, WX5Z

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next ARRL VEC Exams will be on January 12th at the School for the Blind. The Secretary, Joe Canfield, N5HPC, asked each member to remove the cover from this year's roster, and to please fill the Amateur Radio Emergency Service signup form on the back cover. This is a listing of what you can do and equipment you can supply if called upon during an emergency or disaster. This information will be compiled by our new Emergency Coordinator, Joe Fisher, K5EJL. It can be handed to any club officer or Joe Fisher; or it can be mailed to the club box, the ARRL or Joe Fisher's home. Roy Albright, N5RA, and Mike Nolan, a new ham, have become silent keys.

**PROGRAM:** Our Vice President, Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, introduced John Warren, NT5C. John came to Ham Radio via an interest in SWL



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**EXAM RESULTS    SPACE SHUTTLE UPDATES**

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Here are the results of the examinations that were held Saturday December 8, 1990. There were a total of twelve applicants, with six obtaining upgrades, or a new license.

Robert Moore ..... Novice  
 Samuel Ingram ..... Technician  
 Dwight West ..... Technician  
 Timothy Wooton ..... Technician  
 James Lanier ..... N5PFB ..... Advanced  
 Thomas Wildman WA7OGR ..... Extra

Congratulations to the above people. I would like to thank the following VE's for the help: Mike Kellam, Huck Huckabee, and Joe Bogard.

A reminder, the next exams will be January 12, 1991, and the next W5YI exams will be February 9, 1991. The exam fee for 1991 will be \$5.25.

de Bill, KF5NB

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### *Minutes from page 4*

(shortwave listening). Once John got his amateur ticket, he may have set some kind of record in amassing DX contacts in the first year. John presented a program on "The Fine Art of QSLing" or how to get your QSL card after you get the contact. He divides QSLing into two categories: casual and serious. Giving personal experiences (both successes and failures) in each of these groups, NT5C presented a program that was both informative and enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted by: Joe Canfield N5HPC,  
 AARC Secretary.

NASA maintains a dial-up BBS with space shuttle info. They call it Spacelink. Information on the BBS includes Shuttle Status, Payload Status, Launch Advisories, Headline News, etc. It's geared toward schoolteachers and has a lot of classroom activities and the like, but there are a lot of other neat things to be found. They have some programs for Apple IIs, Macs, and MS-DOS machines. They also have some GIF files from Voyager and Hubble. The Hubble shot of Saturn is great!

The phone number is 205-895-0028. There is a short registration to go thru and you're on. Its a menu driven system, and they have X- and Y-modem download. Have fun!

de Bob Perschau Jr., KA9ART

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### *No-Code from page 2*

an alternate entry level operator license opportunity to persons who desire to pursue the purpose of the amateur service and who can pass a telegraphy requirement in place of the more comprehensive written examination requirement for the codeless Technician Class operator license.

New codeless Technicians will be able to upgrade to the current Novice/Technician HF privileges by passing the 5 wpm test.

de Jon Bloom, KE3Z, et al

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There are 5756 FM and 4979 AM commercial stations in the United States.

## 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 .....	Gary Pickens, WX5Z .....	454-3230 .....	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
<i>Outgoing Editor</i> .....	<i>Rick Herndon, K5FNI</i> .....	<i>454-1670</i> .....	<i>914</i>
<i>Incoming Editor</i> .....	<i>Dwight West, N5xxx</i> .....	<i>323-6915</i> .....	<i>914</i>
Labels & Roster .....	Pete Jordahl, K5GM .....	454-7889 .....	913
Publications Coord. ....	<i>your name here</i> .....	<i>555-1212</i> .....	<i>???</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 Dwight West, 2015B Payne Avenue, Austin, Texas 78757. Phone number for the editor is 323-6915.

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.

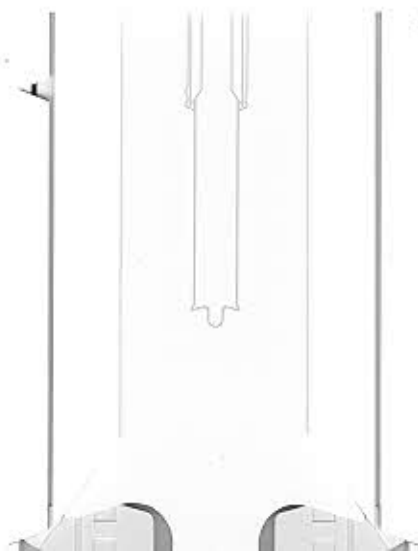
Commercial ads are cheerfully accepted, at only \$15 for a full page, \$10 for a half page. Members may advertise ham-related For Sale or Wanted ads free if space is available.

## TAKING THE SEX OUT OF HAM RADIO

If you want a WAZ certificate with the words, "he is authorized to include the letters WAZ...originating from his station," you had

better hurry up and send in your application. According to the WAZ award manager, K1MEM, when the current stock of certificates is used up, they will start issuing a new version that eliminates the gender-specific language.

de Derek, AA5BT, G3NMX; and Miles, N5KOB  
University of Texas ARC



## AMSAT MEETS WITH FCC

Directors and technical personnel from AMSAT spent several hours with FCC staff in Washington recently. They made a presentation on the accomplishments of the amateur space program to Commissioner James Quello's top advisor and to the chiefs of the Personal Radio Branch and the Private Radio Bureau. Such a visit is timely, given the FCC's consideration of changes to amateur microwave spectrum.

AMSAT director Bob McGwier/N4HY said the FCC personnel were surprised to learn about all that was being done in Amateur Radio Technical development. Apparently, the FCC was so impressed with the AMSAT presentation that the time allotted to it was lengthened considerably.

FCC officials immediately scheduled a public program with AMSAT representatives on amateur satellite communications, to be held at Commission headquarters in Washington on January 11, 1991.

"There are now more than 30 satellites to have been launched into the Amateur Satellite Service, 17 of them by AMSATs in the US, UK, and DL, two from Japan and the rest from USSR," N4HY said.

"They did not know that Amateur Radio had pioneered store and forward satellites and had the first store and forward satellite in orbit in the UOSAT-11 Digital Communications Experiment which was built by people in TAPR and AMSAT-North America.

"They did not know that almost every agency in the US government that tracks satellites for any reason uses our software and that it is the world-

wide de facto standard. We make \$125,000 per year toward technical projects with this.

"They did not know that we did the first test of SARSAT/COSPA (satellite search and rescue beacon satellite) through OSCAR 6. They did not know we had launched two satellites with communications transponders into elliptical orbits. They did not know that these were the most efficient linear communications transponders of any satellite in orbit anywhere. I could go on and on."

One FCC staff member told the AMSAT group, "We thought that all that went on in amateur radio was people fighting each other on 14.313 and sending their congressmen after special call signs."

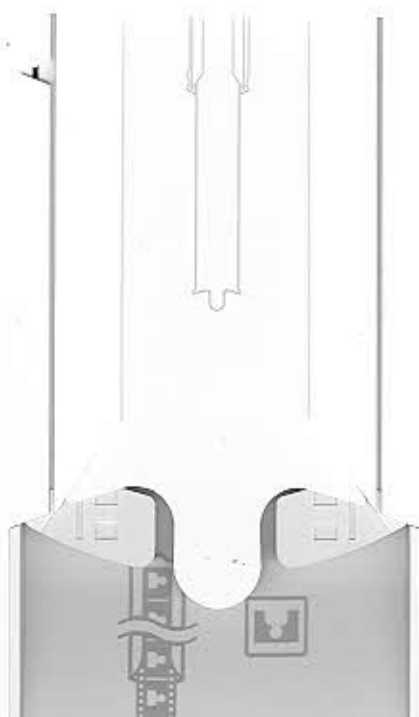
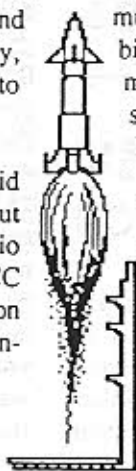
"This is through no fault of theirs," N4HY observed. "It is incumbent on the users of the spectrum to come and tell what you are doing with the spectrum and your accomplishments."

de W5YI Report, Dec. 15, 1990

## AARCOVER INDEX AVAILABLE

An index to the 1990 volume of your club's newsletter is available from local ham-radio dial-up bulletin boards. Check the Antenna Farm (444-1052) or Mind's Eye (323-9111) for this text document, titled AARCINDX.90. It lists a total of 119 articles. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Radio Shack reportedly intends to discontinue its popular DX-440 shortwave receiver Jan. 1991.



**Every Week Events**

SwapNet...Sundays, 9 pm, 146.94 MHz  
 LunchNet...Thursdays, BurgerTex on  
 Airport Blvd.  
 QCWA Net...Thursdays, 8:15 pm,  
 147.18 MHz.  
 DX Net...Thursdays, 9 pm, 147.08  
 MHz.  
 Breakfast...Saturdays, Simon David  
 dell @ Arboretum.

## FCC REFUSES PART 15 RECONSIDERATION

The Commission has denied an ARRL petition to reverse parts of the new Part 15 rules. Part 15 governs nonlicensed RF devices. ARRL believed that such devices have potential to cause interference to and receive interference from amateur stations, particularly under the changed rules.

The full text of the FCC's decision was not available at press time. In a news release, the Commission said that it found no merit in ARRL's requests that emission limits for Part 15 devices in amateur bands be reduced or that the amateur bands be declared "restricted" to Part 15 devices. Numerous other bands have been declared restricted.

In an action sure to raise questions about the FCC's alleged "pro-consumer" philosophy, the agency said it also found no merit in ARRL's request that manufacturers of electronic products be required to provide interference resolution information consumers.

de W5YI REPORT, Dec. 15, 1990

## BANQUET INFORMATION

The annual AARC Club banquet will be held on January 19 at 7 pm, at the Zilker Clubhouse. Because last year's food was so good, we will have the same Manchaca folks preparing BBQ again this year. There will be some excellent door prizes. Talk in on the 146.78 MHz repeater.

Banquet cost is \$6 per person. Please fill in the form below, or a facsimile, and send with your check (payable to Austin Amateur Radio Club) to AARC Banquet, P.O. Box 13473, Austin, Texas 78711. Please write the word "Banquet" and your callsign on the front of the check. (Any checks not including "Banquet" and your callsign may be used by the club officers to purchase extra helpings for themselves.) **Deadline for mailing your check is January 9. Your ticket(s) will be waiting for you at the door when you arrive for the Banquet.**

The Banquet will be held at the Zilker Clubhouse, located on the western edge of Zilker Park, same place as in years past. To get there from MoPac expressway, take the Rollingwood exit, get on the northbound access road, turn west (left) under the overpass onto Rollingwood Drive westbound, go 0.3 miles, and take a narrow semi-paved road on the right. This road goes to the top of a hill, where the Clubhouse is. Really nice view of Austin, too!

### AARC Banquet Ticket Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_ No. of tix \_\_\_\_\_

