

K5EJL on the New Amateur Radio Emergency Corps

Joe Fisher, K5EJL, will speak on the new Amateur Radio Emergency Corps at the AARC meeting, March 12 at 8 p.m. The meeting will be at Luby's Cafeteria, on North Loop, a block west of Burnet Road.

Fisher is our new Emergency Coordinator and was first licensed in 1956. He is a charter member of the Austin Amateur Television Club.

Until the Tobacco Institute offers a substantial bribe, there will be no smoking at AARC events.

FINAL ISSUE?

If the cover of this AARC Over has "FINAL ISSUE" on it, you need to act fast! Your membership has lapsed, and you won't get any more AARC Overs unless you renew soon. To do so, please send only \$6 (or \$10, family) to Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc, POB 13473, Austin, Texas 78711.

Enclose either your membership renewal card, or a sheet of paper, indicating any of these things that have changed in the last year: Name, call, address, telephone numbers (home and work, if you want them to appear in the next roster — otherwise don't tell us), license class and whether or not you are a current member of the ARRL. Be sure to write your call on your check. Much is happening in amateur radio. Send in your renewal today so you can keep up with our exciting hobby!

Interview with South Texas Section Manager Art Ross

In the process of researching an article for 73 Magazine about the Amateur Auxiliary, Mason West conducted this on-the-record interview with Art Ross. Ross is Section Manager for the South Texas section, which includes Austin.

Much of this conversation centers around a form that the ARRL calls FSD-23. According to ARRL rules, an Official Observer (OO) should file an FSD-23 monthly with their Official Observer Coordinator (OOC). The form contains the summaries of observations made during the month by the OO. The OOC relays these forms to ARRL Headquarters where they are compiled on a computer and used to identify repeat violators of on-the-air regulations. The regular dispatches of FSD-23 forms from OO to OOC to ARRL Headquarters is one of the fundamental processes of the Official Observer program.

FSD-23s also allow OOs to request new supplies from headquarters; if for some reason the forms do not reach headquarters, these requests cannot be honored.

During the year 1990, fewer than 24% of OOs nationwide filed reports that reached ARRL.

West: Do you let your appointees run their own show?

Ross: Yes. If an argument or a glitch comes up, I get into it. But since I'm careful to pick qualified people, I don't have many glitches. I have a misunderstanding from time to time, but that occurs with editors or man and wife or between two friends or anything else.

West: How is Ric Hoffman (the OOC) doing?

Ross: Ric is exceptionally well qualified. He works with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He also works very closely with the FCC and their monitoring station at Kingsville. His main gift is picking OOs that know what they're doing. That is his main job; he doesn't have to do any OO work unless he feels like it.

West: Luck Hurder, the Deputy Field Manager at ARRL Headquarters, doesn't have any record of reports coming in from Ric. Should Ric be filing reports with headquarters?

Ross: If Ric makes observations he files them. I'll have to check his job description here. If he's supposed to file reports and he isn't, I'll have to get on him. The OOs are supposed to send in their observation reports, the good guy stuff as well as the bad.

West: An OO in San Antonio, Don Abell, KC5TK, sent in all the forms he had. He indicated he needed more forms for nine months running and never received any more.

Ross: Holy cow. Well, I'll have to find out from Ric what happened. I thought that had already been taken care of. I mean that's the last I heard, when I got hold of Ric and told him to send him some. And I know he reported it to Luck Hurder, and I thought Luck had sent him some but he didn't either. I guess they're stingy with them.

West: He was sending in monthly forms for about 18 months but they never showed up on Hurder's computer. So I'm trying to find out if Ric's not sending them on or if they're getting lost in the shuffle at headquarters.

Ross: I can't explain that, other than that somebody goofed. I'll check with Mr Hoffman and see if he has any idea what's going on. Don't hesitate to yell at me if you think I'm goofin', because, after all, a fellow has to be kept on his toes once in a while. I'm going to look into Brother Abell there and see what's cooking. I won't call him, I'll call Ric. If you talk to him again, tell him if he doesn't get any pretty soon, write me a note and I'll send him a requisition especially for him. I just need to know the number of the form he needs.

West: Ric Hoffman says he was on duty with the Coast Guard Auxiliary for two months and never read Abell's complaints about the forms not reaching ARRL.



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Headquarters. It occurs to me that two months is a rather extended piece of extended duty for the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Ross: Well, there's a war on, you know. The Coast Guard goes under the Navy in the time of war. It can be put there right fast. What is your reason for digging into this? It seems to me your getting down to writing about something more than OOs or whatever.

West: I've been up front about this from the start that things don't seem to be operating as they should.

Ross: Well how long have you been a ham?

West: I've been a ham for about a week.

Ross: So really you don't have a lot of experience with what you're talking about.

West: Yes and no. Because you don't have to be a ham to understand that there are supposed to be monthly reports filed from OOs. Is that not the case?

Ross: Well, may I point out that they are volunteers and they can volunteer in and they can volunteer out. They can do what they want when they want to. They're not under any strict regulations or hours. The reason I'm asking is that I was an air traffic controller and I had to do a lot of dealing with the press. I found out that very few of them knew about aviation but they knew a lot about asking questions. And what they put in the paper wasn't anything like what I told them. So that's the reason I'm asking what are your qualifications. Why are you asking questions like this with only a week or so as a ham?

West: Well, because there are 13 OOs in the South Texas section. These people are under obligation to file monthly reports in order to maintain their appointment, and none of their reports have ever reached headquarters. Not ever.

Ross: Well they're not obligated to file them every month. There's a difference here. It's a volunteer thing, no money is involved, nobody's life is at stake, so they report when and if they feel like it.

West: I understand this is a hobby. On the other hand, people are concerned about the state of the bands.

Ross: The OO can't do anything about the state of the bands except report them to the people they catch.

West: How can they even report if the forms are not even being passed on according to the established procedure.

Ross: Let's get a couple of things straight. The OOs send notices to people that they hear. They can do this as they choose. Then there is another group, which is appointed out of headquarters which has to make reports of a certain type that I have nothing to do with. I'm trying to figure out if you're talking about the OOs or the AIRS. That's a special group that's part of the FCC Field Auxiliary, but they're a little bit more. They're given special as-

signments. They're given certain frequencies and certain times and are to make reports accordingly. And these people get assignments that they accept or don't accept at the time that they're asked. So I think you're getting confused about which one you're looking at.

West: In your monthly report in QST you write that you need more monthly observers. But nevertheless the monthly reports that the OOs do are just sitting there in a file in Ric Hoffman's office. Ric Hoffman told me that he had sent no forms of any OO in the South Texas division to ARRL headquarters. What is your reaction?

Ross: What difference does my reaction make?

West: It makes a lot because you're an elected official of the ARRL.

Ross: It makes a lot to you. Well, you just don't have to vote for me next time. I mean as far as my reaction is concerned, I have every faith in the world in Ric, so if he says it's all right, then it's all right with me. We talk from time to time...

West: Is that your position? That they don't have to vote for you?

Ross: They don't have to vote for me if they don't like the job I'm doing. If somebody runs against me, and they want to vote for the other guy...

West: Are there any of your other appointees who are away from their duties for as long as two months at a time?

Ross: I'll tell you this. You're just too damned snoopy. You don't know enough about amateur radio to know which end is up. And you're trying to pick the hell out of things, and I'm just a little bit disgusted with you. So I'm gonna hang up. Goodbye. And if you want to write that up, go right ahead. It's a free press.

Publications Coordinator

The AARC is looking for a point of light, a volunteer to provide valuable assistance in the preparation of AARC publications. Contact any club officer to become a lead player in your club's productions.

Weekly Events

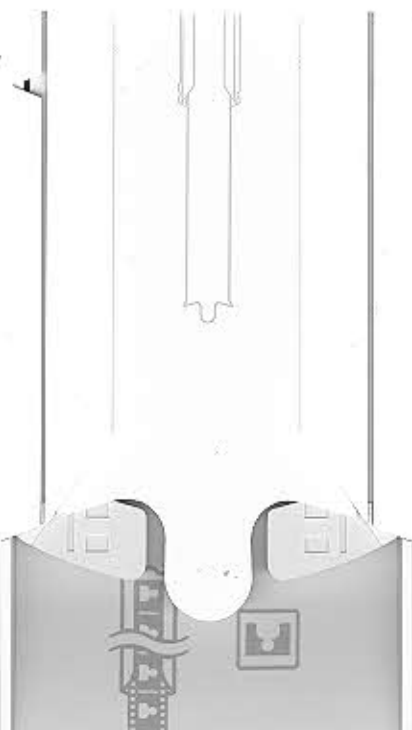
SwapNet, Sunday, 9 pm, 146.94 MHz. Immediately followed by **Newsline**.

LunchNet, Thursday at Burger Tex, 5420 Airport Blvd.

Quarter Century Wireless Association Net, Thursday, 8:15 pm, 147.18 MHz.

DX Net, Thursday, 9 pm, 147.08 MHz.

Saturday Breakfast, Simon David Deli at the Arboretum.



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The AARC Over: Monthly Newsletter of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

Officers

Mike Kellam, AA5JP, President.....	836-7688, 919
Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, Vice President.....	255-3932, 918
Amado Ramirez, N5PCP, Treasurer.....	280-1879, 916
Joe Canfield, N5HPC, Secretary.....	258-4761, 917
Gary Pickens, WX5Z, Activity Manager.....	454-3230, 915

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Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical.....	255-4818, 111
Joe Fisher, K5EJL, Emergency Coordinator.....	926-4689, 119
Joe Fisher, K5EJL, W5KA Trustee.....	926-4689, 119
Mason West, N5RYL, Editor.....	323-6915, 914
Pete Jordahl, K5GM, Labels and Roster.....	454-7889, 913

Numbers after the call signs are phone number and autodial number on the 146.78 MHz repeater.

Address submissions to Mason West, Box 9705, Austin, Texas 78766. Submissions are also accepted through the Mind's Eye BBS at 323-9111.

Deadline for the April issue is March 21. Late material will be saved for the following month.

We grant permission to reprint AARC Over articles provided that you credit the author, reference AARC Over as your source, and mail two copies to the editor (we will forward one copy on to the article's author).

We cheerfully accept commercial ads for only \$15 for a full page or \$10 for a half page. Members may advertise ham-related For Sale or Wanted ads free if space is available.

From the Editor

My long awaited ticket arrived to christen me as N5RYL not long after the last issue of the AARC Over, so now I've had almost a month to get the feel of the new hobby. The hospitality of the ham community tells me I've joined a fraternity characterized by warmth, a grand tradition of community service, and a fun outlook on the art and science of radio.

I have found few exceptions to this openness. The hams who tried to convince me I had punched into a repeater somewhere near El Paso the first night I used my HT were having a good natured tease, and their humor was taken in the spirit it was intended. But I've also met frequency cliques who intimidate newcomers away by accusing them of malicious QRM; fortunately these sorts are outnumbered by thousands of gracious hams.

The silver lining in these experiences was the idea for an article about the Amateur Auxiliary, and that led me to a cabal in an unlikely quarter.

Writing the article, I discovered that South Texas's Amateur Auxiliary was a sleeping giant angered by my attempt to rouse it. Section Manager Art Ross pointed out that as a new ham, there was no way that I could know what I was talking about. Yet with the desperate need for more activity on the air to preserve our privileges (Remember 220? Remember 11 meters?), new hams (and hence their favorable first impressions) are vital to amateur radio.

Deputy Field Manager Luck Hurder explained that it is ARRL's duty to support elected officials without question, as their rule is the will of ARRL members. It is up to ARRL members, through their local clubs, to examine the performance of those we elect - no one else, not ARRL and not QST, will do it. For this reason I have included, despite its length, the text of my interview with Ross. If I have fanned a spark of controversy, I will gladly accept your calls and letters to the editor.

Ten years ago in the March, 1981, *AARC Over*, it was noted that: "Many of us drove down to San Antonio for the Texas VHF-FM Society on February 7th and 8th. Many of us met for breakfast at New Braunfels on Saturday and the restaurant became quite busy. We attended some of the convention, but many of us drove around to the local Amateur Radio stores." And the *AARC Over* calendar noted that the FCC would soon be in Austin to give exams. "Send your forms in early."

Operating Aids Available from The AARC Over

Operating Aid	Number of Sheets
10-10 Information and Awards	4
AARC 1991 Budget	2
AARC 291 Minutes of Meeting	Free
Blank Schedule, 24 hours by 7 days	1
Custom Station Log Sheet	1
Radiogram 2 per sheet	1
Squelch Modification for TS-940S Transceiver	3
States listed by Call zone	1

To order operating aids, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a list of the desired titles to: Mason West, Box 9705, Austin, Texas 78766. Include printing charges of 5 cents per sheet.

N5OWD's Special Event Sweeps the World

On the weekend of February 9 and 10, Ron Hawkins, N5OWD, celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Armadillo BBS with a special event. The Armadillo is Hawkins's telephone-based computer bulletin board system that offers a wide variety of files and messages, many



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related to ham radio. The BBS is in Austin, Texas, and is available to the public for free at (512)837-2003.

Hawkins had a fun but very busy weekend logging nearly 400 contacts — not a new record, but then Hawkins and his guest operators took the time to have real conversations. "Some people asked what a BBS is," Hawkins said. Many hams have computers and are familiar with the land line sister to packet radio, he explained, but there was a lot of curiosity about our celebration. "We took time to chat with people and explain about BBSs and about the Armadillo BBS."

Beginning the event Saturday at 1400 UTC (8 a.m. CST), NSOWD delighted in successive pile ups. In the morning, heavy propagation to the east brought DX stations from Great Britain and Yugoslavia. Many Canadian stations called in throughout the day, and all domestic call zones were well represented.

Hawkins operated his Yaesu 757 until 2300 UTC (4 p.m.), and then again the same schedule again on Sunday. This was mostly in the 10 meter novice phone band, but some local contacts were made on 2 meters, mostly on 144.34 simplex.

As the day progressed, Hawkins slowly turned his Cruscraft A4S multi-band HF beam (up 60 feet) westward, sweeping the country for certificate collectors. If someone came in from the east late in the day when he was already pointing westward, he would switch over to his omnidirectional, ground mounted vertical antenna to make stronger contact.

One of Hawkins's amateur television accomplices, Bill Wehling, KF5NB, was on his way home from his bi-monthly chore as volunteer examiner when he found NSOWD on the ten meter band. Wehling contacted the special event station from his mobile rig and then came by Hawkins's shack to operate, giving Hawkins a needed break. Another relief operator was Waco ham Jerry Meek, NSALS, who designed the certificate commemorating the event. Charles Jennings, Armadillo co-sysop, was on hand during the event to keep an eye on the celebrated bulletin board.

Hawkins said his most interesting contact was with a station in South Carolina whose Atari BBS has also been on the air for ten years. The two sysops spent 15 minutes comparing notes on the BBS world.

ARRL Announces VEC Program Improvements

Just in time to welcome newcomers to Amateur Radio via the code-free Technician license, ARRL has announced major improvements in its Volunteer Examiner (VE) program. The changes, most of which take effect immediately, will make examinations more convenient for potential amateurs and present hams wishing to upgrade.

The new ARRL program offers greater flexibility and support for Volunteer Examiners who participate through the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC)

To make it possible for VEs to schedule examination sessions more frequently and to provide more publicity in their local areas, the League will now permit its VE teams to retain up to \$4.00 of the \$5.25 exam fee to offset expenses incurred locally.

The services the League has traditionally provided to its VE teams free of charge will continue to be available on that basis.

VEs may now telephone the ARRL VEC via a toll-free number: 1-800-9-ARRL-VEC (1-800-927-7583). The toll-free service is available in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The service can even be accessed from some foreign countries; VE teams overseas should contact the ARRL VEC for information on how to access the number from their locations.

VEs who have been active in other VEC programs and whose accreditation in another program is current are now able to apply for "instant accreditation" as ARRL Volunteer Examiners.

By April 1, VE teams who prefer to use their own computers to generate exams will be able to do so. Teams that prefer a multiple-choice format for Morse code exams will be able to use that format, at their option.

"As a result of the code-free Technician license, the demands on Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiners will be very heavy in the coming months," says ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We want to give our VEs the best support we can during this critical period. We also want to make sure that anyone seeking an opportunity to take an exam won't have far to look."

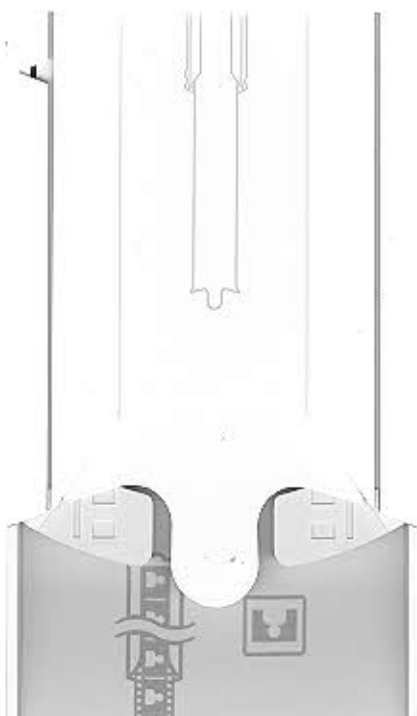
Ball Lightning Afternoon

It was after classes and I was grading some papers before heading home. In the tropics, you can count on the daily late afternoon rainstorm except in the wet monsoon season, when it rains twice a day!

My tasks took a little longer and the sudden crack of lightning announced the imminent downpour. The thunder and lightning are concentrated before these tropical deluges. If you haven't gotten to a dry spot, there is not a chance to escape a soaking if you are out in one.

Knowing this and that the rain only lasts an hour or so, I elected wait it out in the Radio I classroom. This room was next to the main electrical feeders to the trade school. A steel I-beam ran over the middle of the room. Fitted upon its flange was a wood strip carrying the wiring for lights and outlets.

As I sat at the teaching desk, a simultaneous flash and crack startled me to look up at the beam. Leisurely rolling



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atop the wires on the beam was a ball of plasma with little sparks flashing out to the sides of the white-hot mass.

It was an eerie but beautiful sight! My second thought was it was also dangerous to be taller than the student and teacher desks, so I dropped to the floor, twisted around and watched my incandescent visitor.

Oblivious to my awed presence, it slowly rolled to the edge of the room. The beam continued above a partition to the hall. The ball rolled upon it and traveled unhurriedly into the hall.

Overcoming my initial trepidation with curiosity, I followed at a discreet and low profile. In the hall the first beam joined another at right angles. As if it knew the route like a train on automatic switches, the ball rolled on around the angle and continued on the second I-beam into the Radio-TV classroom.

The colonial-era building consisted of steel frame, stucco walls, and red tile roof. Up on the roof peaks was an aged set of lightning rods, which was connected at the building corners to huge, stranded ground leads that would have carried current for several California kilowatts if such were desired.

Watching the ball of plasma roll on, I remembered such a download outside the metal frame Radio-TV classroom windows at the far corner. Majestically, the ball rolled across the room on the beam and got to the window. There was a flash and it was gone—apparently out the window and down the bare cable to the earth rod.

The rain drummed on the tiles like machine-gun fire, but all else was silent, or was that my heart I heard?

(The equatorial tropics is a fascinating world for thunderstorm observation. The frequent rains have leached the conducting salts from the earth, thus power companies there are elated if they can get earth rod resistance down to ten or twenty ohms, using up to five rods in parallel. Lightning-induced surges on power lines caused arcing at AC plugs at the author's tropical QTH on more than one occasion. Another time, a single pendant bulb was left on and it exploded before a storm! Natives caution one not to stand between an open window and a silver-backed mirror as a storm starts. If your tropical DX says he has to quickly QRT because of weather, it is not the static in the headphones he is worrying about!)

de Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, ex-9M2SM

QUA: Random Receptions

As we head to press, the Discovery Space Shuttle heads for repairs — it's not clear when STS-37 will fly. When it does, five hams will be aboard: Ken Cameron, KB5AWP; Jay Apt, N5QWL; Lynda Godwin, N5RAX; Steve Nagel, N5RAW; and Jerry Ross, who passed novice but hasn't yet received his ticket (sound familiar?). The SAREX 91 mission will also be aboard. Amateur opera-

tions planned include FM voice, FM packet, SSTV, maybe one-way (ground to air) fast scan TV. Check the 42 Net's ham radio message area for latest skeds; 42 Ham is available on BBSs Antenna Farm, Armadillo BBS, or Mind's Eye.

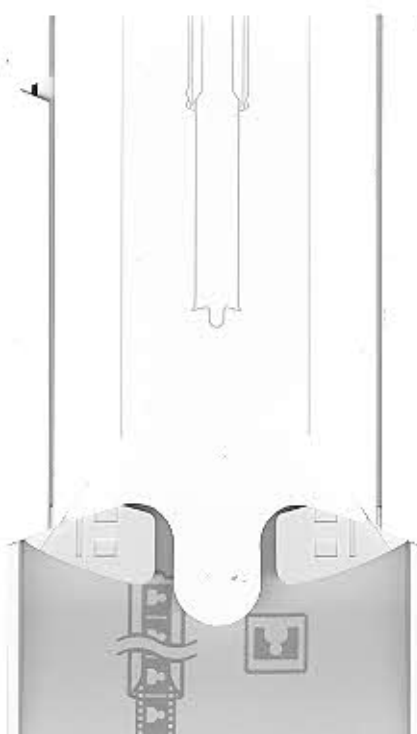
The Austin Repeater Organization will provide communication services for the Capitol 10K footrace on April 7. Volunteers are needed.

The FCC's Norfolk, Virginia, Field Office cited ten ham operators for allowing their packet bulletin boards to relay messages furthering the business of The Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East. The messages contained a 1-900- phone number that automatically charges a fee for the organization to callers' phone bills. "War protestors," one ham told us, "were attempting to use the non-commercial airwaves of the amateur bands to further the financial standing of their political group, and now that they have been ordered to cease and desist, they are crying 'Censorship!'" The non-commercial rule, 97.113(a), predates the existence of digipeaters and the existing networks. Many hams are worried that the FCC action will bring an end to the elaborate message relay system that is the PBBS world's strongest suit. Certainly the FCC has identified a weakness in the system, as the volume of the mail passing through PBBSs, digipeaters and other relays prohibits an amateur from monitoring the information for which he is responsible.

The FCC has been asked to crack down on amateur radio operators who are in technical violation of Section 605 of the Federal Communications Act, ECPA, etc. concerning communication of sensitive frequencies used by allied military forces or Operation Desert Storm communication, or making specific references to communications overheard. This regulation applies, of course, to announcing frequencies on the airwaves and posting them on computer bulletin boards.

A reciprocal operating agreement has been signed between Thailand and the United States. The agreement became effective December 15, 1990, after more than two years of negotiations. Information on applying for an operating permit in Thailand is available from ARRL headquarters.

The Desert Storm Message Express computer bulletin board is now providing message service to soldiers deployed in Operation Desert Storm. The 24-hour BBS is operated by the Fort Lewis HF/MARS Station, AAA0USA, and the Fort Lewis Amateur Radio Activity, W2USA, Fort Lewis, Washington, permitting family members to send messages to their loved ones using the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). Only APO ADDRESSES can be sent to Desert Storm at this time. Please check with the BBS about FPO messages and when they can be sent. The Desert Storm Message Express can be reached toll-free at 800-955-1249, 2400 Baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.



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42 Net, a computer message network, is looking for a few good computer BBS operators to join its network of sysops and ham radio enthusiasts. Member BBSs are in Austin and Waco, Denver and Fort Collins, and Hawaii. 42 Net is also sponsoring a Non-Technical round table on 40 meters for the purposes of discussing an eclectic range of topics; all are invited. Instead of our rigs and antennas, this small net is reserved for the myriad other topics that may cross our minds. Anything goes that does not directly involve the orderly movement of electrons or the flow of computing logic. For more information send an SASE to Mason West, Box 9705, Austin, TX 78766.

The ARRL Board of directors adopted a resolution expressing its deep concern for radio amateurs and ARRL members in harm's way in the Middle East, and amended the ARRL Bylaws to ensure that service in connection with operation Desert Storm does not affect any League member's membership continuity. Also, the Board created a volunteer position for engineers to serve in an advisory capacity, similar to that of Volunteer Counsel, to assist amateurs with such matters as antenna support structures, and they recognized members of the Johnson Space Flight Center ARC for efforts in keeping SAREX manifested on NASA shuttle flights. The Goddard ARC was recognized for its shuttle related educational efforts.

ARRL's Contest Branch reports they received a call from a six year old ham. That's not unusual, except he was inquiring about how to send in logs for the Novice roundup - it seems he made several hundred contacts - all on CW. He has worked 123 countries so far - all on CW. Of course it doesn't hurt that his dad is an avid DXer, and that his "older" brother (at the ripe old age of SEVEN) is also a ham.

As of December 31, 1990, the number of licensed radio amateurs in the United States has increased to 500,243. Meanwhile, ARRL membership has been dropping.

Thanks to Luck Hurder and ARRL news staff for making much of the material in this month's QUA available.

Minutes of February Meeting

Visitors included Eddie Greene, Ken Nordhauser, Sam Lawhon, WD5TVV, and Gerald Clough, WB5JEO. The AARC Over editor reminded those who have volunteered to write articles to submit them in time. Treasurer Amado Ramirez praised the January banquet and thanked Darrell, WD5CDY, for fine job as activities manager. The checking account, Ramirez reported, now contains \$2,926.35. Technical Committee Chairman Ed Golla said he knew of no problems with the repeater. Someone asked about an inventory of various pieces of club equipment. President Kellam noted that the inventory was being prepared. Much of it is insured and therefore listed on the policy. New Activities Manager Gary Pickens started

his term by announcing the upcoming Manchaca Swapfest on Saturday, April 20. The following applied and were approved for membership: John Crittenden, WD5DAX; Jeff Day, WA5EKH; Ronnie Hughes, N5CSE; Mason West, N5RYL; and Richard Carroll, N5RNJ. No old business. New business included the new budget, adopted after short discussion. For announcements, Joe Fisher, K5EJL, asked for everyone to fill in the ARES application attached to the roster. Stuart, K5KVH, introduced Marcos Barnes, W5CN, Special Projects Engineer for the Lower Colorado River Authority who spoke on "Electric and Magnetic Fields, Is There a Health Risk?"

de Joe Canfield N5HPC, AARC Secretary.

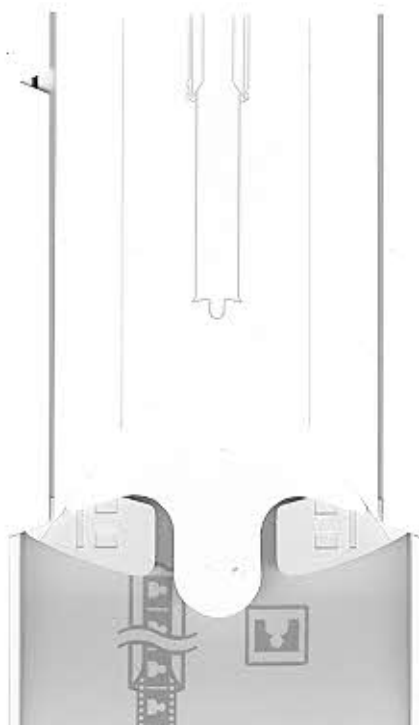
More Low Frequency Broadcasts and Beacons

We regret our oversight in failing to credit Rick Herndon, K5FNI, with authorship of last month's article, "Low Frequency and Medium Frequency Tuning." While we're on the subject, George Luce, K15GL (ex WASSPN), reports that a good source of information for this part of the radio spectrum is the Long Wave Club of America, Levittown, Pennsylvania, and also The Beacon Guide by Ken Stryker.

K15GL provides this information about the signals reported last month by K5FNI. A number of them are Texas low frequency aeronautical and marine beacons.

kHz	Call	Notes
206	GLS	Galveston, weather, 1000 watts, continuous. Listen for MCW ID. "G," Galveston, Marine beacon.
296		Gray AFB, Killen.
323	GR	Georgetown, Aero beacon.
332	GUO	Robert Mueller Airport
353	AU	Meacham Field, Ft Worth, TX Aero and continuous weather
365	FT	Giddings, Aero beacon.
385	GYB	Rockport, Aero beacon
391	RKP	Corsicana, Aero beacon
396	CRS	Robstown, Aero beacon
400	ROB	Marble Falls, Aero beacon
403	MFS	Unidentified, probably a ship. This is a marine distress frequency.
500	KLC	Port Lavaca, Aero beacon.
515	PKV	

K15GL sends his compliments on K5FNI's DXing - identifications were quite good. He says that the confusion on some of the frequencies may come from the method of generating the CW signal, which may be two discrete carriers spaced 1020 Hz apart. With a narrow band receiver, you may find one continuous carrier and one keyed carrier. He is uncertain whether the beacon frequency is the continuous carrier or half way between the two frequencies. In any case there are lots of interesting things from about 10 kHz up to 530 kHz. You should find Omega, Aero, Marine, "Gwen," foreign and domestic broadcasts, and even WWV at 60 kHz (but look



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for harmonics on 180 kHz), light dimmer racket, ITV from everybody's TV horizontal oscillator, etc.

de George Luce, K15GL, and Rick Herndon, K5FNI

Classified Ads

Heath VF7401 2 meter XCVR, w/AC PS, MIC, antenna, manual, miscellaneous cables & spares, \$120. RTTY DEMODULATOR, w/separate Baudot/ASCII conv & ASCII disp. homebrew, w/docum. \$100. CP/M COMPUTER, "Big Board II", w/(2) 5" & (2) 8" & (1) spare 5" drives, w/keyboard, monitor, modem, documentation, and programs; Runs CP/M & ZCPR/P2DOS; \$250. George Luce, K15GL, 452-5390, 7-9 PM

Professional writer, computer expert, and tutor for hire. Mason West, 323-6915.

WANTED - Plans for building or equipment to purchase - Audio meter capable of SINAD, audio distortion, and audio output measurements with dB scales. Add-on circuitry to existing audio voltmeter okay. Rick Herndon K5FNI 454-1670 [W465-6338] Bastrop County Swap Meet

Wanted: A used multi-mode modem for an XT. Please call Joe, WA5OKT, (512)794-9437

Camera Amateurs

[This is the first appearance of a regular column by The Austin Amateur Television Club. — Ed.]

The Austin Amateur Television Club is a group that is interested in promoting the technical, emergency and fellowship aspects of Amateur Television. We have been meeting monthly since the Fall of 1988. Originally we met at Luby's, and currently at The Sirloin Stockade at 8828 Research on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We thank our original publisher, Joe Fisher, K5EJL, for putting out our original publication, *Camera Amateurs*, for the last two years. For number of reasons, we thought that it would be worthwhile for more hams to be aware of the happenings in the ATV community. Each month this column will try to summarize current ATV news.

At the February meeting, we discussed a proposal to the Austin EMO office about the minimum equipment required for receiving of ATV signals.

Pat McGuire, WA8PLR, reported that the ATV repeater now has a new transmitter and is installed in the new relay rack. It should be ready for re-installation shortly. The horizontally polarized repeater, located near the Bee Caves Road and Loop 360 intersection, operates on 439.25 MHz input, and 426.25 MHz output.

New ham and guest Bob Moore, KB5OUD, introduced himself. He is interested in combining ATV and his skydiving hobby and has already used a helmet camera. We planned a trial run for the upcoming weekend.

Joe Fisher, K5EJL, led a discussion on how ATV, ARES and the Austin EOC work together during drills and emergencies, highlighting our activity with them last month.

Anyone interested in ATV should contact Bob, W8ZSX, at 261-6429; Pat, WA8PLR, 263-3759; or Jon, N5MHI, 335-0220. The next ATV Meeting will be March 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Sirloin Stockade, 8828 Research Blvd.

de Jon Penner, N5MHI

Ham License Examinations

Here are the results of the February 9, 1991, W5YI VEC exams:

Name	Call	Upgrade
Jason Robbins		Novice
Karl Thomason		Novice
David Boerner		Technician *
Henry Middlebrook		Technician *
George Thompson		Technician *
Alvin Seipple Jr.		Technician *
Robert Moore	KB5OUD	Technician +
George Calhoun	KB5NVO	Advanced
William Fennell	N5MWI	Advanced

* indicates New code free technician, + indicates technician plus. The new code free technician license went in effect on February 14, 1991. Congratulations to the above.

I would like to thank the VEs that came out to help: Les Lewis AA5AK, and Jim Huckabee AA5BU.

The next ARRL/VEC exam will be at the Texas School for the Blind, 1100 W 45th Street, at 11:00 am on March 9, 1991. Please arrive by 10:30 am and be prepared for the exams to last until 2 or 3 pm.

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

de Bill Wehling, KF5NB

Letters Invited

We will gladly print letters to the editor if anyone would like to write in; we reserve the right to edit letters because of space limitations, but will make all effort to preserve your intent. Send all letters and articles early, we run out of room well before the deadline to: Mason West, Box 9705, Austin, TX 78766.

