

AARC OVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

October 1991



ARES on the Air

The Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization is on the air. Led by Joe Fisher, K5EJL, the group currently has 43 members beginning the process of becoming "trained operators ready to serve the public when disaster strikes and regular communications fail." Meetings are Sundays at 6:30 PM on the 146.94 MHz repeater. ARES will work with with local public service organizations, such as police, fire departments, and emergency management offices. For more information, or to join, contact Joe Fisher at 926-4689.

Meeting

Tuesday, October 8, 1991, at 8 PM. Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop, about a block west of Burnet Road. We meet in the back room. Many folks come at 7 or 7:30 and have supper together.

This will be a **Show and Share Meeting**. Do you have a project that might interest other hams? Software, hardware, something you have adapted, built from kit, or created from scratch? QRP rig? Audio processor? Antenna?

We'll bring it along and tell us about it! What did you create? How did you get the idea? Are you satisfied with it? Future improvements?



One of the few prohibited show and shares is a cigarette-smoking demonstration, since all AARC functions are non-smoking.

NomCom Coming

A **Nominating Committee** will be announced at the October meeting. The committee is charged with recommending a slate of officers to serve in 1992. The committee will report at the November meeting and the election will be at the December meeting.

If you wish to be considered for a club office or if you have a prospective nominee in mind, **please** contact a committee member.

At the December election, nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Anyone planning to nominate someone for office should be certain to confer with that person in advance to see if he or she is willing to serve.

de Mike Kellam, AA5JP

Ham Balloons

Here is a preliminary schedule of some scheduled October ham radio balloon experiments in the Midwest. We in Austin are too far to receive VHF and UHF from the balloon flights, but we can get in on the HF. **All dates and times are subject to change.** This information is from Joe Mayenschein, WB9SBD article in *Smoke Signals*.

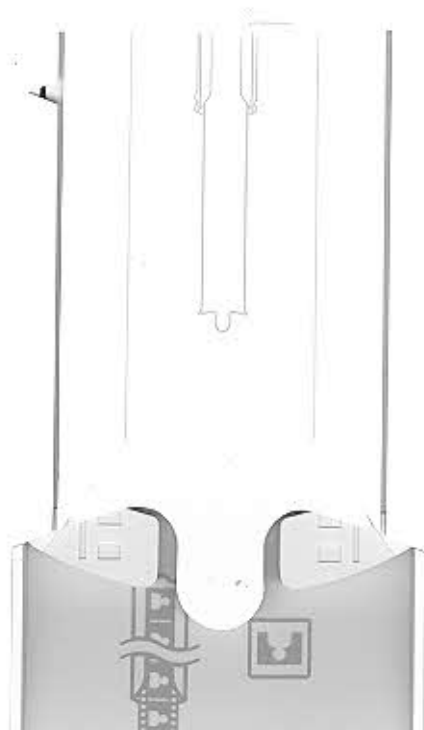
October 10 [sic], 0800 CDT: Balloon launch from Dayton, Ohio. Balloon will have a beacon on 28.321 MHz. Will carry color TV camera. Launch control on 7.155 MHz.

October 19, 0600 CDT: Balloon launch from Veedersburg, Indiana. Balloon will carry TV camera and ATV repeater. No information on any HF frequencies that might be used.

October 26: Rocktoon launch. A 50-ft. diameter balloon will hoist a 75-lb. rocket to 100,000 ft. Rocket then ignites, perhaps reaching 200 mile (!) altitude. No information at press time on launch location or time, frequencies or payload. Since this will go so high, we might be able to receive it on VHF, even receive ATV if it carries a camera.



de Miles Abernathy, N5KOB



Upgrade Your Ham Shack at Manchaca

The Fall '91 AARC / Manchaca Swapfest will be held on Saturday, October 12th, starting (?) at 7:00 AM, at the Manchaca Volunteer Fire Station in Manchaca, a few miles south of Austin. The fire station is located on FM 1626 one block west of Manchaca Rd. If you are going to be coming in on I-35, look for the FM 1626 exit (225B). If you are northbound on I-35, you will have to travel about a quarter mile back down the southbound feeder road after you cross over.



Talk-in may be on the 146.78 repeater (uncertain at press time). Of course, anyone operating mobile on their way to the swapfest is encouraged to monitor 78 and the other local repeaters and provide swapfest information and directions as necessary. Our Activities Manager, Gary Pickens, WX5Z, tel. 454-3230, is looking for volunteers to help direct traffic, operate a talk-in station and help with after-swapfest cleanup. Contact him if you can help, or to inquire about the availability of table and tailgate space. Happy swapfesting!

ARRL Video Download

The ARRL's newest video about ham radio, "Amateur Radio in Space", will be available for recording by folks who have TVRO satellite dishes. The program will be transmitted on October 20 at 1 PM Central time on the Westar 5 satellite, channel 4. If you are able to record the program, please notify our Vice President, Stu Rohre, 255-3932.



Jamboree Oct. 19-20

Coming in a few days is the annual Boy Scout Jamboree of the Air, an opportunity for Scouts the world over to meet with their counterparts, on the air. Our air. It's fun for them and us, it's good for Scouting, and it's a great Public Interest story opportunity for the local news media.

And, it's a chance for us hams to stop moaning about how we're misunderstood and being mistreated, and instead to do something about it.

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From the President

Chapter 7 of the FCC Rule Book, published by the ARRL, contains a section on Phone Patch and Autopatch guidelines. It is too lengthy to reproduce here. However, of the 11 specific guidelines, the following should be noted: "Phone patches or autopatches involving the business affairs of any party must not be conducted AT ANY TIME. The content of any patch should be such that it is clear to any listener that business communications are not involved. If you have any doubt as to the legality or advisability of a patch, DON'T MAKE IT."

Recently I heard a call on our club repeater's autopatch substantially as follows: "This is Dr. X calling. I can't talk business on the radio. Bring little Johnnie in to the office in the morning."

Today (September 20) I heard a call, again on the 146.78 repeater with the following: "Did you call me? My beeper just went off and it had this number" The voice at the other end did not know the caller and that was the end of the call.

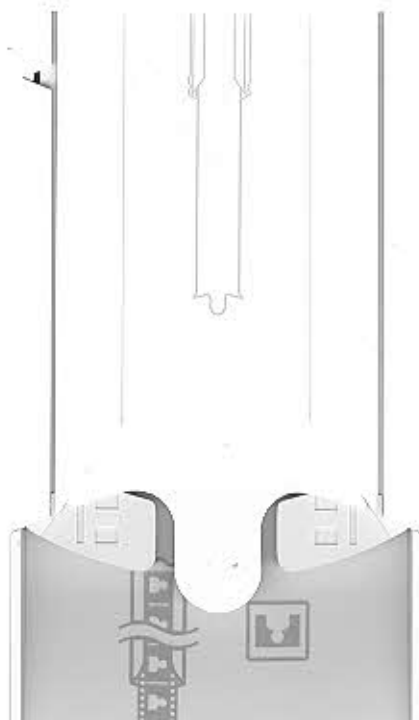
In both cases, a call sign was used but could not be recalled. We are investigating these instances and hope to speak to the party involved. Please note that there is little doubt that these calls were improper. Again, IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO THE LEGALITY OF THE CALL, DON'T MAKE IT.

Persons needing to answer beepers are presumed to be engaged in business communication. These persons should either invest in a cellular phone or a roll of quarters for times when only pay phones are available. IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD SUCH CALLS BE MADE ON THE AUTOPATCH.

Cooperation of all the membership is appreciated. In the event that any member should hear such a call, please try to get the name and call sign so that the person involved can be contacted. In this way, we may be able to avoid serious problems later on.

The FCC Rulebook further says: "As with any privilege, this one (the autopatch) can be abused, and the penalty for abuse could be the loss of the privilege for all amateurs."

Mike



Minutes

Here are the minutes of the September 10, 1991, meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club meeting: Vice-President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, started the meeting at 8:00 PM with a request for the visitors to introduce themselves.

VISITORS: Those visitors standing up included Tom, N5VPH; Keith, KB5PSM; Michael and Gary, who are both waiting for their calls; plus Sue who plans to take her exam soon.

MINUTES: The AARCOVER was mailed last Wednesday but so few had received it and read the minutes that approval was deferred until the October meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS: Our treasurer Amado Ramirez, N5PCP, reports a checking account balance of \$2,042.92.

Ed Golla, K3AHS, the Technical Committee Chairman reports no known problems with the W5KA (146.78 MHz) repeater. K5KVH reminded the membership that club announcements are put on the repeaters using the voice digitizer and that there are several special functions including a mailbox. Instructions for these are in the roster.

Stuart, K5KVH, recognized Miles, N5KOB, for his work on a fact sheet describing ham radio in Austin and the surrounding area.

Gary Pickens, WX5Z, reminded us that the next Manchaca swapmeet is coming on the 12th of October. He needs volunteers for helping with parking and cleanup. Gary has computed our Field Day score as 1,930 points.

Articles for the AARCOVER may be given to Joe, N5HPC, in ASCII on a floppy disk, by modem, or printed (if short).

Joe, N5HPC, has a number of ARRL brochures available plus application forms for Radio Operator auto license plates.

NEW MEMBERS: We elected 10 new members: Charles Eichenbaum, WB5HOI; Leon Glaze, KB4BGD; Charlie, N5UMW, and Katy Porter, Phil Riba, KA5PVH; David Heath, WC5B; David Lee, N5TLZ; J.M. "Huck" Huckabee, AA5BU; plus Mark Goldstein and Ben Pierson who are waiting for their call signs.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ron Clayton, N5SYZ, asked everyone to look for a friend's stolen car, a lovingly rebuilt two-door 1947 Ford sedan, metallic gray, license BJJ-37Y. Call the police if spotted and then please call Ron at 832-8345.

Dave, KG5ND, has available, a few copies of the latest (Version 5) Packet Cluster manuals. Dave also noted that the W5 incoming QSL Bureau has moved from Oklahoma to Midland. Also, see the cluster for information on a DXer's Bash near Lake Buchanan on the afternoon of October 12th and 13th.

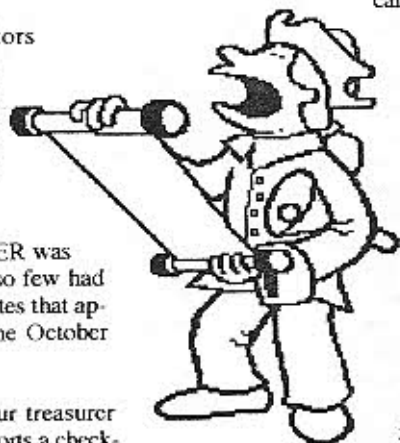
Larry, WB5BEK, reports 19 persons either passed exams or upgraded at the ARRL exams last Saturday. This included 10 new no-code licenses and one Novice. The next exams will be on November 2nd at Murchison Middle School.

Pete, K5GM, reminded all of the need to have everyone fill out the Amateur Radio Emergency Service application form (see Pete, the secretary, or the cover of your roster for the forms). We also now have a weekly Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net on Sunday evenings at 6:30 on the 146.940 repeater.

Joe, W5EJB, announced the first meeting of the Fall for the UT Amateur Radio Club. It will be at 7:00 PM in Welch Hall, Room 2.308.

The ARO's No-Code Class started last Saturday with 10 to 15 persons attending.

PROGRAM: Stuart, K5KVH, introduced our speaker, Gene Preston, K5GP. Gene is Manager of System Analysis for the Austin Electric Utility. Gene presented a program on two subjects: Power line noise and



Resist the Urge

The following is excerpted from the book *Transmitter Hunting, Radio Direction Finding Simplified* by KOOV and WB6UZZ. Here is a small portion of chapter 21, which has a wealth of information on how to deal with repeater pirates and jammers:

"...At any stage in the war against jamming, *do not respond* must still be the watchword.

"Think about how the typical repeater user (yourself?) reacts to deliberate interference. There's an immediate urge to sternly tell the offender to knock it off, just as you would discipline a foul-mouthed child. But the jammer isn't your child. He doesn't respect your authority. He came on the radio to get a reaction from someone, and he got it. Why should he stop now? Why shouldn't he say more and see what other reactions ensue?

"So again we restate the most important rule in combatting jamming: **DO NOT RESPOND!** No matter how much anger wells up in you, don't express it on the air. Go to the telephone to complete your QSO. Listen



for your contact on the input of the repeater if there's no QRM there. Stand by and try again later. But *never* react verbally.

"If this prohibition on response is to work, it must be absolute. Don't say, 'Somebody threw a carrier on you on that last transmission, Ted.' Don't come back with, 'That jammer's back again, George, but you covered him up fine.' Don't even say, 'Let's go to five-two simplex to get away from those tones.'"

"In short, don't acknowledge the clod's presence. So talk through, change frequency, or QRT, but don't mention the malicious interference. Let him go away wondering if his transmitter is working.

"So we say again, resist the urge and ignore the transmissions of illegal operators. Don't talk to them, and don't talk about them. If you say anything at all, you are playing the jammer's game with him, and on his terms. You are doing what he wants. Ignore, and the game must end. To sum it all up: Never wrestle with a pig, because you both get dirty and the pig likes it."

Minutes continued

Lightning. He discussed common causes of power line noise and gave hints on locating the sources. The utility department has recently performed an analysis of the effectiveness of various types of electrical ground systems. Gene revealed the results of some of their studies and the effect of heavy electrical current discharges through these ground systems (read: direct lightning strike!). For example: Consider a 20,000 ampere current discharge through a 0.1 ohm ground (almost an impossibly good value). This current will elevate the voltage at the ground system to 2,000 volts above ground. A handout summarized these noise location hints and ground system examples. Thanks, Gene, for an interesting program.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Canfield, N5HPC, AARC Secretary.

QUA

Dave Harper, W5SN, a former president of the AARC, had an HF triband beam antenna stolen from his backyard in September. If you come across such an antenna with one trap different from all the others, let him know at 454-9205.

As reported in the September QST, the ARRL Board has directed the ARRL staff to produce a book or booklet on correct operating procedures. Good gift for new hams.

In response to the news that the voice on WWV has been changed after all these years, Derek, AA5BT, a member of the University of Texas ARC, responds: "It doesn't surprise me a bit — it's such a boring job that I would have expected an even faster turnover among the readers."

Ham Exam Results

The following individuals obtained or upgraded their license at the ARRL / VEC exams held September 7, 1991, at Murchison Middle School.

| NAME | CALL | UPGRADE |
|---------------------|--------|-------------|
| Charles Clement | - | Extra |
| Anthony Eck | WA5UJI | Extra |
| Tony Economopoulos | NSOWG | Advanced |
| Stephen Wehring | WD5HNI | Advanced |
| Keith Baker | KB5PSM | General |
| Robert Batey | NSPLJ | General |
| Louisa Preston | KB5LBN | Technician+ |
| James Turner | KB5OVL | Technician+ |
| Parker Blevins | - | Technician |
| James Brush II | - | Technician |
| Lloyd Goehring, Sr. | - | Technician |
| Paul Goehring | - | Technician |
| Bryan Jordan | - | Technician |
| Harry Kelton, Jr. | - | Technician |
| Jon Nials | - | Technician |
| Milly Nunis | - | Technician |
| Sandra Roberts | - | Technician |
| Jerry Self | - | Technician |
| Roy Moore | - | Novice |

A total of 31 candidates took exams. Besides the above upgrades, seven candidates passed one or more exam elements, but did not upgrade their license.

I would like to thank the following VE examiners for administering these exams in my absence, especially Joe Makeever, W5EBJ for fulfilling the role of ARRL / VEC liaison for this session.

VE EXAMINERS

Joe Makeever, W5EBJ
Gene Hinkle, K5PA
Roy Miller, W5FOZ
Barry Davis, AA5GN
Bob Redouty, KF5KF
Steve Runyon, WQ5G

The next ARRL / VEC exams will be November 2 at Murchison Middle School, 3700 North Hills Drive. Please arrive by 8:30 AM, and be prepared to stay several hours. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming exams, please contact me at 473-3526 (work) or 345-7281 (home).

de Larry Gunter, W5BEK

The AARCOVER

Monthly Newsletter of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

Officers

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

Committees & Positions

Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical 255-4818, 111
Joe Fisher, K5EJL, Emerg Coord'tor 926-4689, 119
<your name here>, AARCOVER Editor 555-1212, 914
Pete Jordahl, K5GM, Labels & Roster ... 454-7889, 913
<your name here>, Public Info Officer .. 555-1212

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

The AARCOVER has a circulation of about 400. Viewpoints expressed in The AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of the club or its members, directors, or officers.

Members are encouraged to submit material for publication. Submissions may be edited for format, style and suitability. Address articles, letters to the editor, etc. to The AARCOVER, POB 13473, Austin, Texas 78711, or transfer by modem to Joe Canfield, 258-4761. Deadline for the next issue is the 15th of this month. Late material will be saved for next month.

We grant permission to reprint AARCOVER articles provided that you credit the author, reference AARCOVER as your source, and mail a copy to the Austin ARC. (We will forward it on to the article's author.)

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., maintains a repeater with open autopatch and emergency power on 146.78 MHz, and an emergency station at the American Red Cross Building. Membership dues are \$6 per calendar year (\$10 for a family), pro-rated for those joining during the year. Membership for the rest of 1991 is only \$1.50 (\$2.50 family). Please contact an officer if you would like to join, or come to the meeting.

Anyone having equipment suitable for use by a school amateur radio club, or knowing of a club needing such equipment, please contact the AARC VP or secretary.

Jamboree from page 3

Get a committee together from your local club or whatever, and contact your local Scout leader to organize a Field-Day style QSO party at the Scout Hall or somewhere in the great outdoors. Wire antennas out the windows, in the trees, you name it.

Or, divide the interested kids into small groups to go to the shacks of individual hams.

Then call the local media—newspaper and TV. Give them the opportunity to cover this important local event. It's a welcome change for them—a human interest story is always a nice diversion from the usual rape, murder, fire, theft, bang bang, and they'll be happy to come out and shoot some pictures.

Then, on the appointed day, Oct 19 and/or 20, let the QSO party begin! Contacts between as many Scouts as possible. The hot SSB freqs are 3840, 3940, 7090, 14135, 14290, 21360, and 28990 KHz.

I've used the word OPPORTUNITY a lot in this little message. That's because it is a major opportunity, and I hope this little blurb will help us all want to take advantage of it and use it to its full capacity. See you, and your young friends, on 20!

de Pete Snidal, VE7EKF via Packet & Pete, K5GM



HE SAY: "HAVE-YOU-GOT-ONE-CENTURY-WIRELESS-CHAPTER?"

ATV Club**Camera Amateurs**

The Austin Amateur Television Club met on September 17, 1991 at the Sirloin Stockade. Everyone was reminded that dues are due before the election of officers at the November meeting.



The ATV repeater was moved from Bob W8ZSX's house back to the permanent site Sunday evening. Wednesday Bob will test the newly rebuilt machine. Many of the repeater's sub-assemblies were donated or loaned to the club by current members.

Jon, N5MHI, had contacted some of our founding members who live in the Temple area to inform them of the increasing ATV activity in the Austin area. Charlie, N5TD, and Bob, W7KPW, can both be reached on the packet bbs TBOX.

Joe, K5EJL, discussed different scenarios for ARES call-up procedures and thanked all of those who were checking into the Sunday night ARES 2m nets. Bob, W8ZSX, noted that on Loop 360 near Bee Caves Road, there is a State of Texas sign that says "Texas Commission on Emergency Communications". Joe said he would try to find out its purpose.

There was continued discussion on 1296 MHz ATV repeater coordination and selection of a frequency pair to use. It was noted that 3M had coordinated a 1296 pair and Bob, W8ZSX, agreed to contact them to possibly co-sponsor a repeater.

The next club meeting will be the usual third Tuesday, October 15, at the Sirloin Stockade, 8828 Research. For more information please contact Jon Penner, N5MHI, at 335-0220.

Via the Bureau

The new address of the incoming bureau for QSL cards for hams with "5" calls is ARRL W5 QSL Bureau, POB 50625, Midland, Texas 79710. The Bureau Manager is Les, WF5E. Send him a SASE, or ask your local DX'er, for more information on how to get those QSL cards that foreign stations send you.

The Right to Bear...Radios

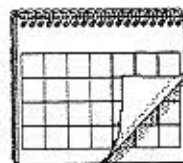
As we watched the drama unfold on the streets of Moscow in August, you couldn't help but notice that this struggle against an attempt at totalitarian suppression was being waged not with guns, but with words and ideas. The words stood up pretty effectively to the tanks. I don't know about the rest of you, but my heart was in Moscow during those days. Through the radio in my study I met a lot of Russian radio amateurs, and as the friendships deepened I finally had a chance to spend some time with several of them there in their homes. That was an eye-opening experience that has given me a strong emotional tie to the Russian people. Today I count quite a number of them among my best friends. I'm sure the same is true for many of you, too.

One morning during the coup I saw on CNN coverage of the station (R3A) that a bunch of the Russian hams had set up in the Russian parliament building. Quite visible in those scenes was the old FT-101 that I'm certain was dragged over from the Moscow University Radio Club. Next to it was a lot of the typical homebrew equipment those guys put together from whatever scrap they could scrounge. After the KGB seized all of the broadcast stations, shut down the independent press, and isolated Boris Yeltsin inside the Russian White House, there were the Russian hams setting up their own station to get Yeltsin's words out to rally the people against this coup. And rally they did! It seems to me that we've got some real heroes in our ranks over there.

Just pondering the obvious power of amateur radio in this conflict, it occurs to me that so many of the 4th Amendment type arguments I hear against gun control in the U.S. are really much more applicable to the possession and use of radios today. The Russians as a whole have been a pretty well-armed people (shotguns only—rifles are very carefully controlled). But they were not trying to wage war against the tanks with those guns. Instead, it was the individual people pulling together to show mass support for democracy that was the undoing of the Communist "Emergency Committee." And one of the most effective weapons I see them using in pulling together that show of mass support was amateur radio equipment.

de Bruce B. Sawyer, AA6KX

- Oct. 5 Ham exams @ Murchison Middle School
- Oct. 5 PC Users Group swapfest, Manchaca
- Oct. 5 Transmitter Hunt (7 PM, 146.52 MHz)
- Oct. 8 Austin Amateur Radio Club Meeting
- Oct. 10? Dayton ham balloon, 7.155 MHz
- Oct. 12 Manchaca Swapfest
- Oct. 12 ARO Transmitter Hunt
- Oct. 12-13 DX'ers Bash, Lake Buchanan
- Oct. 15 Austin Amateur TV Club meeting
- Oct. 19 Indiana ham balloon launch
- Oct. 19-20 Jamboree on the Air
- Oct. 19-20 Simulated Emergency Test
- Oct. 20 "Am. Radio in Space" download, 1 PM
- Oct. 26 Ham rocket / balloon launch
- Oct. 26-27 Texoma Hamarama
- Oct. 26-27 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, phone
- Nov. 2 Ham exams @ Murchison, 8:30 AM
- Nov. 2-4 Sweepstakes, cw
- Nov. 5 Austin Repeater Organization Meeting
- Nov. 9-10 Houston Ham Convention w/ Musa
- Nov. 12 Austin Amateur Radio Club Meeting
- Nov. 16-18 Sweepstakes, phone
- Nov. 19 Austin Amateur TV Club meeting
- Dec. 6-8 160 meter contest
- Dec. 10 Austin Amateur Radio Club Meeting
- Dec. 14-15 10 meter contest
- Jan. 2 Soviet Space Exhibit ends (Fort Worth)
- Jan. 14 NO AARC MEETING (Banquet instead)
- Jan. 18? AARC Banquet @ Zilker Clubhouse
- Jan. 25 San Antonio Hamfest / Swapmeet
- Feb. 1-8 16th Winter Ham Colloquium, Aspen
- Mar. 7 3M Skywarn class



Weekly Events

- AMSAT Net...Sundays, 6 PM, 224.14 MHz
- ARES Net...Sundays, 6:30 PM, 146.94 MHz
- SwapNet & Newline...Sundays, 9 PM, 146.94 MHz
- LunchNet...Thursdays, BurgerTex on Airport Blvd.
- QCWA Net...Thursdays, 8:15 PM, 147.18 MHz
- Breakfast...Saturdays, Simon David deli.
- WeatherNet...as needed, 146.94 MHz

