



# AARC OVER

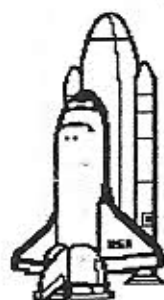
## Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

### December 1991

### Meeting

8:00 PM, Tuesday, December 10, 1991.

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



#### Topics:

- 1) Elections
- 2) New ARRL video, "Hams in Space." Features Bill Pasternak and Roy Neal.

As usual, all AARC functions are non-smoking. The meeting begins officially at 8, but lots of folks come early and have dinner together.

### Exam Answers

You can call the FCC's Licensing Division AFTER HOURS at 717-337-1212 and use your Touch Tone™ phone to find out the latest call signs as of the first of the month.

Maximum reimbursement for volunteer examiner performed amateur radio tests will be \$5.44 starting January 1, 1992.

A hint from a VE on copying 20 wpm on paper: Take a 8 1/2 by 11 and fold it lengthwise, only copy in the 4 inch line remaining, because at 20 you don't have time to sweep a whole sheet of paper. Or, if your local examiners will permit, use a laptop computer to copy.

### No-Code Ham Class!

Tell your friends! Tell your spouse! Tell your kids! The Austin Repeater Organization is planning to hold another series of classes for non-hams, starting in January. Last time this class was given, EVERY person who attended the eight sessions passed the license exam!

The location will be the same as last time, Murchison Middle School, 3700 North Hills Drive, in northwest Austin. This is the same place where ham exams are given...take the Far West Blvd. exit off MoPac, left on Hart, right on North Hills.

Classes will be from 8:30 to noon on eight Saturday mornings, starting on January 11. Tuition is \$3, which works out to about 40 cents per session. Call Charles Eichenbaum, WDSHO1, at 476-6195 (work) or 263-3435 (home) for up-to-the-minute information.

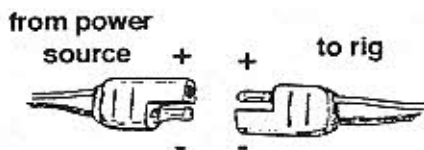


## Travis Co. ARES Meets

The first meeting of Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) was attended by a good-sized crowd of about 20 persons. Among the items discussed:

1) In addition to the existing net at 6:30 PM on Sundays on the 146.94 MHz repeater, ARES will also meet 2 hours later (8:30 PM) on the 146.78 machine with a different person acting as Net Control. Some interest was expressed in 440 operation or linking.

2) The question of 12 volt DC power connectors was discussed. Ron Johnson, WA5RON, showed the automotive connectors which are used by cave rescue groups.

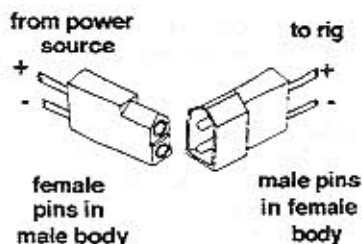


**WA5RON 12 VDC Connectors**

Alternatively, the ARRL Field Services Division recommends Molex 1545 (Radio Shack 274-222) connectors. Assemble them with female pins in male bodies and vice versa, pointed side positive, male bodies wired to power sources.

Conclusion: Best to have adapters for everything, including auto battery clips, spade lugs, cigarette lighter plugs, and whatever "standard" connector YOU already use.

3) An updated (Oct. 29, 1991) telephone tree list was distributed. Dave, KG5ND, will maintain the list and post future updates on the Packet Cluster (144.95 MHz) and Antenna Farm BBS (444-1052), as well as announce them during the weekly net. We discussed radio signalling



**Molex 1545 (Radio Shack 274-222)**

**ARRL Standard 12 VDC Connectors**

systems (e.g., DTMF, LiTZ, PL subaudible) as an alternative to the telephone tree.

4) When the ARES net is activated, members may need to congregate at a pre-arranged staging area. We decided upon two such areas: "Far North" (HEB parking lot at FM 1825 and I-35, the Pflugerville exit) and "South" (HEB at Wm. Cannon and I-35). Members should be on the lookout for potential staging areas east and west of town. The best locations are the parking lots of 24-hour supermarkets (easy to find, you can buy provisions).

5) In general, ARES members can get practice either by helping with someone else's event (e.g., a bicycle race), or by participating in a scripted emergency. The City of Austin is expected to hold a simulated (scripted) emergency in May, 1992...ARES may participate.

6) We need to map the coverage of area repeaters.

Travis Co. ARES needs more members. If you would like further information about ARES, please contact Joe Fisher, K5EJL, at 926-4689.

de Miles Abernathy, N5KOB

## Minutes

Here are the minutes of the Austin Amateur Radio Club meeting for November 12, 1991:

The meeting began at 8:00 PM with Vice-President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, asking all visitors to introduce themselves.

### VISITORS:

The Secretary apologizes for not getting all of the visitors' names and calls. Those recorded included Ron, N5QMB; K.M., AA5BU; N5WQO; and John, who has not yet received his license.

### MINUTES:

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The AARCOVER was mailed earlier this month in an effort to get it to the members before the meeting. Many still had not received their copy.

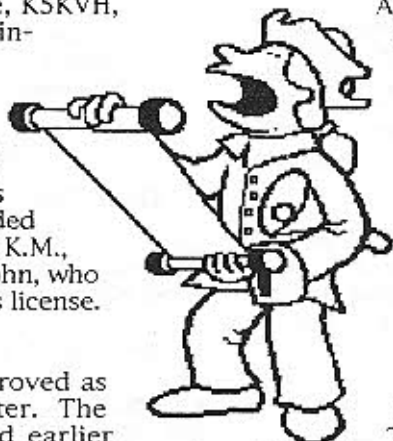
### OFFICER REPORTS:

N5PCP, Amado Ramirez, the AARC Treasurer, reports a checking account balance of \$1,853.28. Amado also reported that we netted \$188.00 from the Manchaca Swapfest.

Vice-President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reminded us that the membership renewal cards will be mailed out with the next AARCOVERS. He asks that these be completed and returned with the 1992 dues in order for us to update our records. Please let us know of address and telephone number changes. Third class mail, which includes our newsletter, is not forwarded by the Postal Service.

Stuart also reported that our President, Mike Kellam, AA5JP, called late this afternoon from Colorado. He had planned to be here but did not get started yesterday as planned. Mike and his family had

been in the process of moving themselves and a business to Estes Park, Colorado. They recently determined that they, the business, and the winters were better in Austin. Welcome back Mike!



Articles for the AARCOVER should be transferred to the AARC Secretary, in ASCII either on a floppy disk or by modem, or (if short) on paper.

### NEW MEMBERS:

The new members included: George, W5VZL; Jack, N5TLW; Gayland, N5DOX. A recent new member, Millie, has received the call N5WQG.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS: None.

### OFFICER ELECTIONS:

The election of new officers will be at the next meeting (December 10th). A nominating committee chaired by Jim Bennett, W5IMB, reported the following nominations:

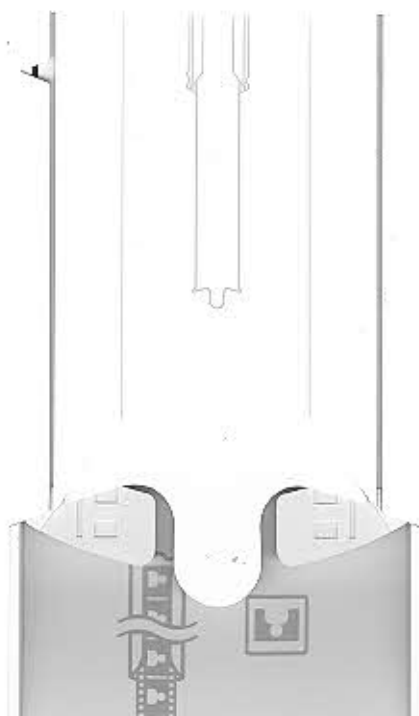
- President: Jim Neely, WA5LHS
- Vice-President: None
- Secretary: None
- Treasurer: Pat Neff, NJ7R
- Activities Manager: Gary Pickens, WX5Z

All members are reminded that any member may be nominated from the floor at the election. The members of the above slate are only nominees, not elected officers. But, please be sure that your nominee is willing and able to serve.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Joe Makeever, W5EBJ, representing the Summerfest Committee, presented the club with its proceedings from the August Summerfest 1991. A check for \$700.00 was presented to Stuart, K5KVH.

Joe also announced that the 1992 Austin Summerfest will again be at the Wyndham



Southpark, on August 7, 8, and 9th. There will be more swapfest room than we had last August. This meeting will also be the 1992 Texas State ARRL Convention.

Stuart announced that there will be a program after next month's election. We will have the new video that was recently distributed via a satellite link, "Hams In Space".

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK, gave the results of the last ARRL VEC exam. 29 people took exams. Larry thanked W5EBJ, W5FOZ, KX9I, W5FIT, K5PA, AA5GM, KF5RX, and W4QBU. The next W5YI exams will be December 7, and the next ARRL exams will be January 11, 1992.

#### PROGRAM:

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK introduced a video tape produced earlier this year by the Electric Power Research Institute. This tape was on the state of the art in using solar cells, both as the sole source of power in remote locations and for supplemental power for those connected to commercial power. One of the installations shown was the 3M system which can be seen on a parking garage near the intersection of FM 2222 and 620.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joe Canfield N5HPC, AARC Secretary.

## ARES Exercise

The Travis County chapter of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will cooperate with ARES of Hays, Comal, and Guadalupe counties in a "tabletop" emergency exercise from 9 to 11 AM on Saturday, December 7. No vehicles will be dispatched. All message traffic should begin with, "Test Message," and end with, "There is no actual emergency." The local 146.78 MHz repeater will be used, along with other repeaters on 147.00, 147.10, and 147.14 MHz. Hint: Study the "ARRL Numbered Radiograms" in the Operating Manual (appendix) ahead of time.

## Repeater Etiquette

The following is reprinted with permission from the ARRL Repeater Directory.

- 1) Monitor the repeater to become familiar with any peculiarities in its operation.
- 2) To initiate a contact, simply indicate that you are on frequency. Various geographical areas have different practices on making yourself heard, but, generally, "This is W1AW monitoring" will suffice.
- 3) Identify legally; you must identify at the end of a transmission or series of transmissions and at least once each 10 minutes during the communication. (AARC policy also states that you identify yourself initially whenever using the repeater — this includes accessing any of the repeater's functions with your tone pad.)
- 4) Pause between transmissions. This allows other hams to use the repeater (someone may have an emergency). On most repeaters a pause is necessary to reset the timer.
- 5) Keep transmissions short and thoughtful. Your monologue may prevent someone with an emergency from using the repeater. If your monologue is long enough, you may time out the repeater. Your transmissions are being heard by many listeners including non-hams with "public service band" monitors or scanners; don't give a bad impression of our service. (Ed note: Children are also in our audience; keep it clean.)
- 6) Use simplex whenever possible. If you can complete your QSO on a direct frequency, there is no need to tie up the repeater and prevent others from using it.
- 7) Use the minimum amount of power necessary to maintain communications. This FCC regulation [97.67(a)] minimizes

*continued on next page*

## Repeater Notes from previous page

the possibility of accessing distant repeaters on the same frequency.

8) Don't break into a contact unless you have something to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.

9) Repeaters are intended primarily to facilitate mobile operation. During the commuter rush hours, base stations should relinquish the repeater to mobile stations; some repeater groups have rules that specifically address this practice.

10) Many repeaters are equipped with autopatch facilities which, when properly accessed, connect the repeater to the telephone system to provide a public service. The FCC forbids using an autopatch for anything that could be construed as business communications. Nor should an autopatch be used to avoid a toll call. Do not use an autopatch where regular telephone service is available. Autopatch privileges that are abused may be rescinded.

11) All repeaters are assembled and maintained at considerable expense and inconvenience. Usually an individual or a group is responsible, and those who are regular users of a repeater should support the efforts of keeping the repeater on the air.

de Jon Penner, NSMHI



## The AARCOVER

Monthly Newsletter of the Austin Amateur Radio Club.

### Officers s

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

### Committees & Positions

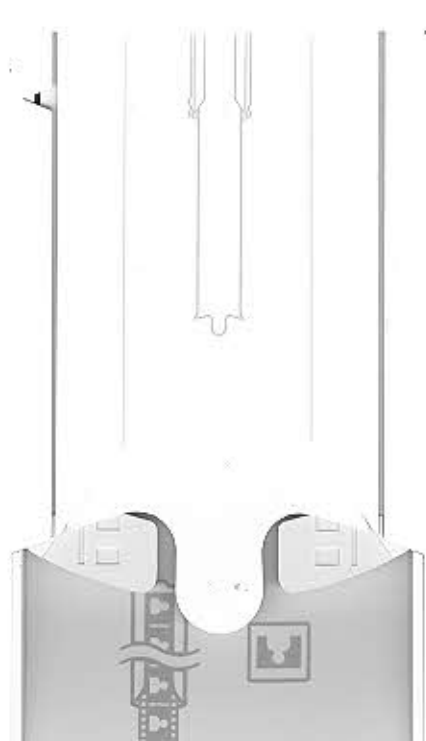
Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical .....	255-4818
Joe Fisher, K5EJL, Emerg Coord'tor .....	926-4689
<your name here>, AARCOVER Editor ..	555-1212
Pete Jordahl, K5GM, Labels & Roster .....	454-7889
<your name here>, Public Info Officer .....	555-1212

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 and the AARCOVER.

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 the club, or come to the next meeting.



## Ham Exam Results

Here are the results of the ARRL / VEC exam session of November 2, 1991, at Murchison Middle School. These persons obtained or upgraded their license:

NAME	CALL	UPGRADE
Horace G. Hinson III	.N5NCP	Advanced
Frank Hinkle	.....N5SZD	.....General
Donald W. Coe	.....	.....Tech+
Mary L. Dahm	.....	.....Tech+
John E. Forbis	.....KB5KPF	.....Tech+
Roy N. Moore	.....	.....Tech+
Aubrey D. Ogden	.....	.....Tech+
Robert B. Rowen	.....	.....Tech+
Warren R. Anderson	.....	.....Tech
James D. Bakner	.....	.....Tech
Jill H. Ellsworth	.....	.....Tech
Frank T. Grubbs	.....	.....Tech
David R. Hahn	.....	.....Tech
Camille S. Lockridge	.....	.....Tech
William S. McIlvain	.....	.....Tech
Thomas L. Riley	.....	.....Tech
Jess H. Strahon	.....	.....Tech
Pamela C. Walker	.....	.....Tech
Wm. E. Montgomery	.....	.....Novice
Douglas E. Sederholm	.....	.....Novice
David E. Walton	.....	.....Novice

A total of 29 candidates took exams. Besides the above upgrades, four candidates passed one or more exam elements but did not upgrade their license.

### VE Examiners:

Joe Makeever	.....W5EBJ
Gene Hinkle	.....K5PA
Roy Miller	.....W5FOZ
Barry Davis	.....AA5GN
Alex Vrenios	.....KX9I
John Bogard	.....KF5RX
Sanford Musgrove	.....W5FIT
Larry Gunter	.....W5BEK

Special thanks also to Curt Goodson, W4QBU for stopping by and helping out during the session.

Next ARRL exam session will be January 11...be there at 8:30 AM.

## ATV Club

### Camera Amateurs

The Austin Amateur Television Club met on November 19, 1991 at the Sirloin Stockade, 8828 Research. This was the annual election and dues-due meeting.



Next year's officers are President Bob Templin W8ZSX, Vice President Joe Fisher K5EJL, Treasurer Pat McGuire WA8PLR, Secretary Jon Penner N5MHI.

Bob - ZSX visited the Texas Advisory Commission on Emergency Communications and determined that it is just another bureaucracy (quite large) created to charge off 911 costs via the local phone companies.

Joe - EJL reported that Hays County was to have an emergency exercise Dec. 7.

Bob - ZSX brought in a plethora of RX / TX transverters he built using the WA8LNC boards. He had devices for 902, 1296, 2304, 3 GHz and 10 GHz. They are capable of supporting ATV, SSB and other modes too.

The repeater is waiting for the replacement 7/8" hardline to be installed.

The next club meeting will be the usual third Tuesday, December 17th, at the Sirloin Stockade, 8828 Research Blvd.

There is usually some ATV activity Monday evenings from around 9 PM-10 PM with 2 meter SSB coordination on 144.20 then moving to 144.26. For more info on ATV contact W8ZSX, WA8PLR or N5MHI.

de Jon Penner, N5MHI, 335-0220.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming exams, please contact me at 473-3526 (work) or 345-7281 (home).  
de Larry Gunter, W5BEK

## Cutesie Calls

I have a serious problem with cutesie callsign phonetics, like "Need 5 Kegs of Beer." My primary dislike for them is that they require conscious deciphering and inhibit efficient and professional style in communications. Some unofficial phonetics completely obscure the numeric



component of the call, which increases the difficulty in parsing the call. I'm all for enjoying the radio and bantering back and forth, but I put cutesie callsign phonetics over in the "handle" and CB bin.

The second problem is that cutesie calls are all too prone to sexism in this male-dominated hobby. For example, some hams use

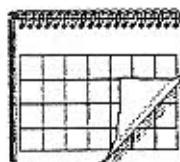
*...almost as if we are a guild of all male truck drivers....*

phonetics like "Nuzzling Five Kinky Old Broads." I REALLY hate to come off stuffy, but I strongly feel sexual innuendoes have no place in amateur radio communications. I liken this to standing in the hall telling loud jokes that place women in subservient positions. I seriously doubt any educated woman ham operator (ignoring for now the dated use of YL) would enjoy having a conversation with some guy looking for "kinky old BROADS."

With some QSL samples and cartoons I've seen around amateur radio, it is almost as if we are a guild of all male truck drivers. No wonder some women don't feel at home with amateur radio...it comes off as a good ol' white boys hobby.

de Bill Chiles, Carnegie Mellon University (Miles, N5KOB, gave permission for his callsign to be substituted in this article for those of the true culprits)

- Dec. 6-8...ARRL 160 meter contest  
 Dec. 7...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison  
 Dec. 7...ARES Exercise, 9 AM, 146.78  
 Dec. 7...Transmitter Hunt, 7 PM  
 Dec. 7...ZRO test on OSCAR 13—WASZIB  
 Dec. 10...Austin Am. Radio Club Meeting  
 Dec. 14-15...ARRL 10 meter contest  
 Dec. 31...Straight Key Night  
 Jan. 2...Soviet Space Exhibit ends (Ft. Worth)  
 Jan 4-5...ARRL RTTY Roundup  
 Jan. 7...Austin Rptr Organiz meeting  
 Jan. 11...No-Code License Class begins—Chas., WB5HO1, 263-3435  
 Jan. 11...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison  
 Jan. 14...NO AARC MEETING (Banquet instead)  
 Jan. 18...AARC Banquet @ Zilker Clubhouse  
 Jan. 25...San Antonio Hamfest / Swapmeet  
 Jan 25...Novice Roundup (until Feb. 2)  
 Feb. 1-8...16th Winter Ham Colloquium, Aspen  
 Mar. 7...3M Skywarn class  
 June 27-28...Field Day 92  
 [S.E.S. signifies Special Event Station]  
 Calendar updates to Miles @ 327-1310.



## Weekly Events

- AMSAT Net...Sundays, 6 PM, 224.14 MHz  
 ARES Net...Sundays, 6:30 PM, 146.94 MHz  
 ARES Net...Sundays, 8:30 PM, 146.78 MHz  
 SwapNet & Newslines...Sundays, 9 PM, 146.94 MHz  
 UT ARC Net...Tuesdays, 9:30 PM, 147.18 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

