

AARCOVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

April 1992



Meeting

Our April meeting will feature Jack Ward, N5TLW, speaking on the topic of "Safety and Amateur Radio." This is an important topic, since hams work with high voltages and are often found fiddling with antennas up on the roofs of houses. Jack has been a professional in the health and safety field in Austin for several years.



The club meeting officially begins at 8 PM on Tuesday, April 14. Most folks come earlier, say 7:00 or 7:30, and eat supper together. The location is the Luby's cafeteria on North Loop, a couple of blocks west of Burnet Road in north-central Austin. We meet in the back room, as far from the cash register as you can get.



Since cigarettes are reputed to kill more Americans each year than auto accidents, electrocution and lightning, tornadoes, falls, and AIDS combined, it would not be "safe" to smoke at the meeting.

Astronomy Net

The North American Astronomy Net meets Wednesday evenings at 2030 CST near 7245 kHz. Sessions typically last about half an hour. The net has had discussions on aurora, light pollution, CCD imaging, etc. Main net control station is James, NOKWA, in South Dakota.

(thanks to WA5RON)

Manchaca Swapfest

Mark your calendar for April 11, the date of the next Manchaca Swapfest. As usual, the event will take place at the Manchaca Volunteer Fire Dept. building, in "downtown" Manchaca. Trading starts before sunrise. If you can help direct traffic or clean up; or if you want a table, please call Gary, WX5Z, at 454-3230.

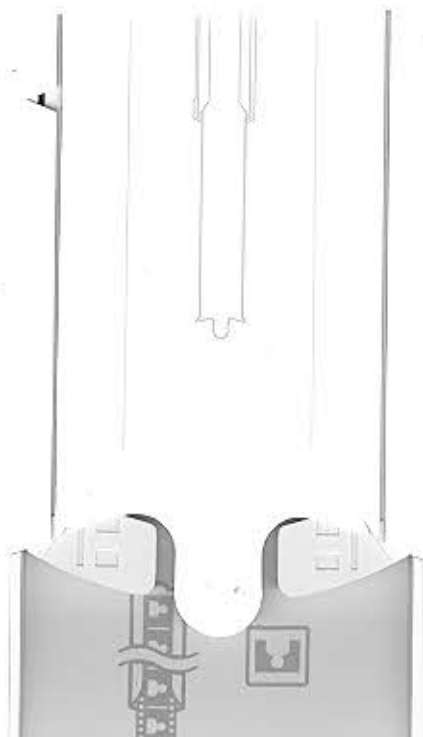
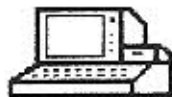


BBS Needed



The Amateur Radio News Service (ARNS) is an organization serving amateur radio club newsletter editors. It has been around for many years, and organizes the newsletter contests that the AARCOVER competes in every year.

Now ARNS is looking for a volunteer to set up a computer bulletin board system (BBS) so ARNS members can exchange information. The person does not need to be an editor nor a member of ARNS, they just have to be willing to set aside an area of their not-too-busy existing BBS, or create a new one just to serve ARNS. A BBS requires a computer, hard drive, modem, telephone line, software and some attention. If you would like more information on this worthwhile project, please call Miles, N5KOB, at 327-1310 evenings. Thank you.



Home Station Battery

This article is written to find out solutions others have found when using a battery as the station supply for home operation. I began wondering what protection of the charger would be necessary to prevent damage when it is left on while operating the station.

How do you keep your battery charger from burning out?

Theory: Since the voltage put out by the charger must be higher than the battery to be charged, it seemed obvious that, by theory, the charger would try to supply all the current needed by the transceiver. The situation would probably be worse if an electronic regulator were in use, because the transformer voltage would be high enough to allow the regulator to work while dropping the voltage to that needed by the battery being charged (13.8-14.2V under float / fast charge conditions for a lead-acid storage battery). The typical commercial charger would have no regulator, depending on a thermal breaker and the transformer impedance to bring the voltage down to that necessary to charge the battery and protect the supply transformer.

Practice: I have observed a station using a commercially available charger (10A / 2A) with no protection of the charger when the station is in operation. The battery serves as a filter for the charger, which is used in the 2A position. The station owner reports no hum has been reported on his output by other stations, even under strenuous contest operation with a 100W SSB solid-state rig.

Question: Has anyone out there designed and built an electronically regulated, fairly high current supply for such a station

Welcome?

The other day I had the opportunity to talk with a new ham who had recently attended his first Austin Amateur Radio Club meeting. He told me that he had enjoyed the presentation, but his other comments reminded me that we, as a club, could do a lot more to welcome our visitors.



If somebody asks about the club meetings, encourage them to come early and eat with the group. If you see somebody sitting alone, invite them to your table. Go up and introduce yourself to first-timers. If you are willing to Elmer somebody and get them off to a good start in ham radio, tell the club Secretary.

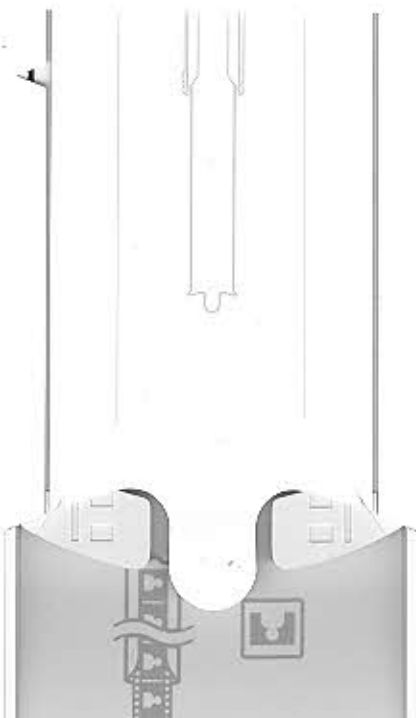
If you have other ideas for how to make the Club more "visitor friendly," please tell a club officer.

de Miles Abernathy, N5KOB

battery? I would be interested in exchanging ideas for such a supply and finding out what solutions were used and which ones were discarded along the way. [I'm looking at buying a Sam's battery capable of over 900 cranking amps, so current limiting and protection would seem to be prudent with such a current source around!] This battery is sealed, so out-gassing due to excessive charging current is something I'd like to avoid.

Contact: You may contact me at home (454-1670, answering machine) or after the ARES net on Sunday nights (146.94 MHz at 18:30 or 146.78 at 20:30).

de Richard Herndon, K5FNI



Minutes

Meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club for March 10, 1992. Jim Neely, WA5LHS, President, brought the March meeting to order by welcoming everyone to the meeting and asking our visitors to introduce themselves.

VISITORS: The visitors included Bruce, W3MJ; plus Stu, Steve, Bill, Jim, Paul, Ed, Ann, Arlene, and Cindy who are awaiting their call signs which are "in the mail".

MINUTES: The minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed in the AARCOVER.

OFFICER REPORTS: Acting Treasurer, Amado, N5PCP, reports that we have \$3,514.42 in the checking account. The Activities Director, Gary Pickens, WX5Z, reminded us of the Manchaca swapfest on April 11. He needs volunteers to help with parking, manning a club booth, and cleanup.

NEW MEMBERS: Bruce Sawtelle, W3NJ, was elected a new member.

NEW BUSINESS: Jim, WA5LHS, displayed a special service award from the NOAA Weather Bureau given to all the Austin Amateurs who assisted during the December flooding of 1991. We expect to post the certificate at the station in the local office. Pat Neff, NJ7R, has contacted Jim Neely and resigned as the new Treasurer. Jim went through a long discourse on how it takes volunteers to keep an organization running. Dave Marschall, KG5ND, succumbed to this rhetoric and volunteered to serve as treasurer. Before he realized what he had done, a motion was made to elect Dave by acclamation, seconded, and passed. Welcome aboard Dave!



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Hal, announced that the North Austin Civic Association has invited us to demonstrate amateur radio at Lanier High School on Saturday, April

...needs help resolving a TVI problem involving local ham...

25. Volunteers are needed, call Hal. Pete, K5GUM, needs help in performing tower maintenance at his home. Call Pete at 454-7889. More volunteers are needed for the Capitol 10,000. Call Mike, WA5VTV, at 331-5350. Joe, K5EJL, Travis County EC, reminds all ARES members of the March 31 meeting at 8:00 PM at Luby's. Rod, W0NDS, needs some help in resolving a TVI problem involving a local amateur. Everyone was reminded to pay their dues. The final date for getting in the roster is approaching.

PROGRAM: Joe Jarrett, K5FOG, described the goals, thoughts, and the effort involved in writing a magazine article for QST. His article on building a digital voice storage unit was published in the December 1991 issue. Joe has won an award for this effort.

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

Down in the Valley

Down in the valley,
the valley so low,
Work DX slowly
and skill you must show.
And if you get lucky,
connect on one call;
Maybe you worked just
a pirate, that's all.

de David Barton, AF6S, via ARNS

Dreams That Come True

QUA

Do you like DX? How about working a dozen countries in an hour or so? Or would you like to find some hams like yourself? Or some old timers who know the hobby well? And would you like to really get-out with low power and a simple antenna? There is a way and place: The 10 Meter Band!

The first few hours after sunrise and a few hours before dark, the 10 meter band is your pipeline to the world. A few watts (less than 25) with a simple antenna on a day with good propagation will open this gateway to excitement.

Listen to the CW beacon stations. Many operate at speeds that the new Novice operator can copy. Dozens of them can be heard. Most are running less than 5 watts into a ground plane antenna. It will surprise you how much DX activity goes on at less than 10 words per minute. And never forget, an Old Timer just loves to QRS (slow down) and be the first contact for a new Novice operator!

Your antenna can be simple: Try a bamboo fishing pole. A dry pole needs no insulator, a piece of wire taped to the pole is OK, and some more scrap wire will make a few radials. Ask an Old Timer to help you get it resonant and you're in business!

Tell people you are new on the air, ask them to be patient with you, and avoid the DX pileup...those guys are without mercy!

Ten meters is the band without equal, and it's just waiting for more hams to experience the fun it has to offer. Try it! It will be one of your great thrills in amateur radio.

de Huck Huckabee, AA5BU


J. M. "Huck" Huckabee is a member of the Austin Amateur Radio Club, 71 years of age, retired, on the air for about 52 years, is an accredited License Examiner with the

Looking for more CW practice than you can get from W1AW? Try NMN / NAM / NAR, transmitting 5-letter code groups evenings until midnight on 5870, 8090, 12135, and 16180 kHz. (thanks to Mike Allen, KB5RBW)

Scholarships: The Foundation for Amateur Radio offers 45 substantial scholarships to high school seniors who are licensed amateurs. For info, write (before May 31) to F.A.R., 6903 Rhode Island Ave., College Park MD 20740. (thanks to Jim, AB5EK)

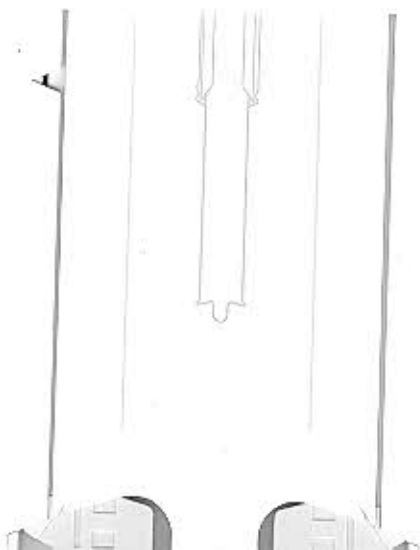
Stolen HT: A Kenwood TH27A handytalkie was stolen from Hondo, tel. 266-3499. The serial number 30300280 is located inside the battery cabinet.

Only two computers still exist that can read the tapes of the 1960 U.S. Census. One is in Japan, the other is in the Smithsonian.

Use the term "funnel cloud" on the WeatherNet, rather than "tornado." Some weather patterns look like tornadoes, but have no high winds and cause no damage. Of course, if you are watching houses being blown away, then the term "tornado" is appropriate. 

Watch for TandyVision in a Radio Shack near you. It is a free-standing kiosk "electronic catalog" with touch-screen computer and printer. It will list maybe 100,000 items that you can special order...replacement parts, ham gear, and items for the disabled. Tandy is testing the concept now.

ARRL and W5YI, and operates high-speed CW. Due to a hearing loss and his need to lip-read, Huck does not operate voice modes very much. He has held the calls W5KCI, D4AER, A5KCI, W4PPY, KF5ZR and now AA5BU. Look for more articles by Huck in future issues of the AARCOVER.



Big Exam Results

The following individuals obtained or upgraded their license at the ARRL / VEC exam mega-session on March 7, 1992:

NAME	CALL	UPGRADE
Ronnie D. Hughes	.....N5CSE	.....Extra
Thomas J. Rohrer	.....N5TUU	.....Extra
Joseph S. Eckols	.....N5ORB	Advanced
Chas. Eichenbaum	...WB5HOI	Advanced
Matthew A. Erickson	..N5NBZ	Advanced
Susan C. Johnson	.....	Advanced
Mark T. Johnson	.....	Advanced
Mike D. Allen	.....KB5RBW	...General
Robert B. Rowen	.....N5XUS	.....General
Greg D. Worthington	....	.....General
Michael J. Arendall	..N5WCC	Tech Plus
Mark D. Beamer, Sr.	.....	Tech Plus
Darryl W. Clutter	.....KB5QNO	Tech Plus
Edward W. Guinn, Jr.	....	Tech Plus
Jimmy D. Mercer	.....N5WDH	Tech Plus
Malcolm M. Scholl	.....	Tech Plus
Cynthia A. Serrano	.....	Tech Plus
Robert E. Suder, Jr.	.....	Tech Plus
Carol A. Thiel	.....N5TLY	..Tech Plus
Marion A. Watson	....KB5JUB	Tech Plus
Herbert L. Winter	.....	Tech Plus
Ronald B. Yokubaitis	KB5RBV	Tech Plus
Salvatore Manfredo	.....	Tech
Mike W. Bond	.....	Tech
Arthur B. Cantrell	.....	Tech
Carrol W. Doolen	.....	Tech
James W. Fielder	.....	Tech
Gary W. Gatliff	.....	Tech
Dawn M. Heikila	.....	Tech
Wayne S. Heikila	.....	Tech
Arthur J. Kellogg	.....	Tech
R. Weston Lusk IV	.....	Tech
Robert D. McMillen	.....	Tech
Cheryl A. Schmidt	.....	Tech
Steven R. Scott	.....	Tech
Shawn R. Smith	.....	Tech
Robert C. Smith	.....	Tech
Steven S. Sparks	.....	Tech
David L. Steinbach	.....	Tech
Sherry R. Trommer	.....	Tech
W. S. van Wisse, Jr.	.....	Tech
Christopher M. Wang	....	Tech
Anne B. Click	.....	Novice

"Soviet Ham Digest"

Subscriptions to this English-language publication of the Prometheus Amateur Association in Donetskaya oblast, Ukraine, are \$12 / yr. Remit c/o George Yankopolus, NA3O, 3 Glen Meadow Dr., Glen Mills, PA 19432. Visitors to Ukraine are welcome to the PAA's annual hamfest in September.

de Alex Ulyanich, RB5IJ via ARNS

A total of 56 candidates took exams. Besides the above upgrades, four candidates passed one or more exam elements but did not upgrade their license.

VE EXAMINERS

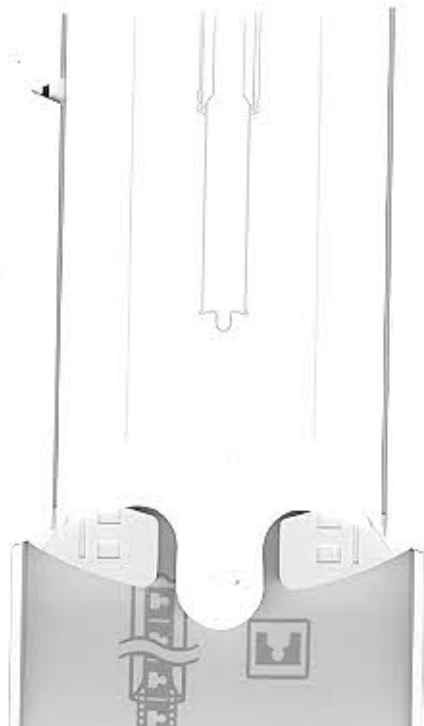
Gene Hinkle	.....K5PA
Joe Makeever	.....W5EBJ
Barry Davis	.....AA5GN
Steve Runyon	.....WQ5G
Bob Redouty	.....KF5KF
Roy Miller	.....W5FOZ
John Bogard	.....KF5RX
Jerry Shirar	.....WB5L
Huck Huckabee	.....AA5BU
Larry Gunter	.....WB5BEK

Special thanks also to Dan Owen, W5AHC, for stopping by and helping out during the session, and to Joe Makeever, W5EBJ, for generating the code exam tapes for this session. Thanks also to all of the patient candidates that took exams; we had a very large turnout and were having difficulty processing all the tests in a timely manner.

The next ARRL / VEC exam session will be Saturday, May 2, 1992 @ 9:00 AM (please arrive by 8:30 AM) at Murchison Middle School, 3700 North Hills Drive, in Austin.

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

de Larry Gunter, WB5BEK



The AARCOVER

The monthly newsletter of the Austin Amateur Radio Club.

Officers

Jim Neely, WA5LHS, President 442-4812
Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice Pres. 467-6825
Dave Marschall, KG5ND, Treasurer .834-1779
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. 926-4689
<vacant>, AARCOVER Editor
<vacant>, Public Info Officer

If you are able to help with a vacant position, please contact any club officer.

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...mail to AARCOVER, 3216 Park Hills Drive, Austin 78746, or call Miles at 327-1310 if it is in computer format. Submissions may be edited for format, style and suitability. Deadline for the next issue is the 21st 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 HF / VHF station at the American Red Cross Building. Membership dues are \$6 per calendar year (\$10 for a family). Dues for new members are pro-rated, so the cost for the rest of 1992 is only \$4.50 for an individual, or \$7.50 for a family. Please contact an officer if you would like to join the club, and come on down to the next meeting.

ATV Club

Camera Amateurs

The Austin Amateur Television Club met on March 17, 1992, at the Sirloin Stockade, 8828 Research.

The addition of a 23 cm input and eventual output to the ATV repeater was discussed and it was agreed to proceed ordering a mast mounted 23 cm FM receiver from T/D systems.



The new receiver would replace the one currently on 70 cm. This should virtually eliminate the in-band interference problems between the transmitter and receiver. Also to be ordered would be a new 70 cm transmitter that should solve the stability and color problems we have seen with the current transmitter.

In addition to ordering the receiver, the club can probably get a discount for a volume order that included orders for members 23 cm equipment. If anyone (not necessarily a current member) is interested in getting in on this order, contact Bob Templin, W8ZSX, at 261-6429.

Pat - PLR announced that the Capital 10K was approaching and discussed plans for ATV coverage; using a 439-1296 ATV repeater temporarily located on top of a downtown office building to improve coverage. There will be an equipment check 4/4 in the afternoon. Discussion about good camera operating techniques for race activities followed. If anyone is interested in helping with ATV coverage at the 10K, contact Pat McGuire at 263-3759.

The next club meeting will be the usual third Tuesday, April 21st.

There is usually some ATV activity Monday evenings from around 8:30 to 9:30 PM with 2 meter sideband coordination on 144.26 MHz. If you don't have SSB, give a call on FM and you should be heard.

de Jon Penner, N5MHI

G'Town Novice Class

That's right! The Williamson County Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a class for non-hams who want to get their Novice class licenses. It might also be appropriate for no-code Techs who want to learn Morse so they can gain additional world-band privileges.



The class is billed as being suitable for all ages. "Now You're Talking" is the text, and you should bring it to the first session. You can buy a copy at

Austin Amateur Radio Supply or Radio Shack.

The class begins April 12, and runs for eight consecutive Sundays. Time is 6 to 8 PM. Location is the Williamson Co. Criminal Justice Center. The CJC is located one block north of the square in Georgetown, behind the Ford dealership.

To register for the course, please call Joe, N5ORB. His Austin number, 838-1413, is answered until 3 PM. Alternatively, you can call John at 512-869-1446.

(thanks to Joe Makeever, W5EBJ)

Temple / Belton Swap

Here are all the known details, courtesy of Chuck Inks, W5KNA: Date—April 25, 1992. Time—Noon until 5 PM (sellers can set up starting at 9 AM). Location—In Belton, near Interstate 35.

Free admission, tables are \$5. Talk in on 146.82 MHz. A Star-Tec frequency counter will be grand prize of the drawing for which tickets are \$2 each, three for \$5.

For more information contact Bill, N5DOX, at 2014 S. 53rd St., Temple, Texas 71504; tel. 817-773-7054.

Calendar

Apr. 7...Austin Rptr Organiz meeting
Apr. 11...Manchaca Swapfest
Apr. 12...Harris Branch race (ARES)
Apr. 12...G'Town Novice Class begins
Apr. 14...Austin Amat. Radio Club
Apr. 14...222 MHz Sprint
Apr. 16...U.T. Amateur Radio Club
Apr. 21...Austin Amat. TV Club meeting
Apr. 22...432 MHz Sprint
Apr. 24-26...Dayton HamVention
Apr. 24-26...7290 Net Picnic, Fred'burg
Apr. 25...Scout Expo
Apr. 25...Temple / Belton Swapfest
Apr. 25...Lanier H.S. ham demo
Apr. 26...Harris Branch bike race (ARES)
May 1...902 MHz Sprint
May 2...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison
May 5...Austin Rptr Organiz meeting
May 7...1296 MHz Sprint
May 12...Austin Amat. Radio Club
May 14...2304 MHz Sprint
May 19...Austin Amat. TV Club meeting
Summer...ARO Kid's Novice Classes?
June 2...Austin Rptr Organiz meeting
June 5-7...HAM-COM, Arlington
June 9...Austin Amat. Radio Club meeting
June 13...Ham exams, 8:30 AM
June 16...Austin Amat. TV Club meeting
June 27-28...Field Day 92
July 11...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison
July 11...Tidelands Hamfest @ TX City
July 11-12...IARU HF World Championship
Aug. 7-9...Summerfest @ Austin
Aug. 20-23...ARRL Nat. Convention @ LA
Sep....ARO No-Code ham classes begin
Nov. 6-8...ARRL Hamfest @ Houston
Calendar updates to Miles @ 327-1310.

Weekly Events

AMSAT Net...Sundays, 5 PM, 224.14 MHz
ARES Net...Sundays, 6:30 PM, 146.94 MHz
ARES Net...Sundays, 8:30 PM, 146.78 MHz
SwapNet, NewsLine...Sun., 9 PM, 146.94
UT ARC Net...Tuesdays, 9:30 PM, 147.18
LunchNet...Thursdays @ BurgerTex
QCWA Net...Thursdays, 8:15 PM, 147.18
Breakfast...Saturdays, Simon David deli.
U.T. SwapNet...Saturdays, 9 PM, 145.21
WeatherNet...as needed, 146.94 MHz