



# AARCOVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

May 1992

## Next Meeting

The topic of our May club meeting will be RF Radiation Safety.

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 1992.



Time: Meeting starts at 8 PM, but most folks come to Luby's at 7:00 or 7:30 and have supper together.

Place: Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop, a block or two west of Burnet Road. We meet in the back room, as far from the cash register as we can get.

Speaker: Our presentation this month will be given by club member Joe Thiel, N5SMN. Joe is professionally involved in Health Physics (Radiation Safety), and currently does emergency planning for nuclear facilities. He was on the ANSI committee that wrote the U.S. safety standards for RF exposure.



All Austin Amateur Radio Club events are "non-smoking."

## QUA

If you mail in your registration to HAM-COM, be sure to write Austin Amateur Radio Club on the form. The club gets a rebate.

If you CONNECT through the Stanislaus ARC's digipeater to a packet station in Japan or New Zealand, you won't be the first. Find it on 28.103 MHz, LSB, in the direction of Modesto, California.

## Hams Join CROP Walk

Sunday, 29 March, at 2:30 PM, 9 hams of various license classes from both the ARO and the AARC gathered together at Huston-Tillotson College on East 7th St. They were there to provide communications for the 1992 CROP Walk for Hunger. By the time the walk began, we had gained three additional hams with HT's to walk the course.

The participating hams were Pete, K5GM (who "lent" his call for Net Control); Paula, KB5LGQ (who worked as Net Control with Pete); Wil, W5HNV; Vernon, W5DMY; Dan, W5AHC; Jeff, N5MNW; John, KF5OY; Gary, WX5Z; Nick, W5FUA; Norma, N5JNC; Sheryl, N5VBQ; and Jim, KB5EHP (who got everyone into this to begin with).



About 17,000 participants from area churches got pledges to walk the 5K and 10K courses, to raise money to feed the hungry around the world.

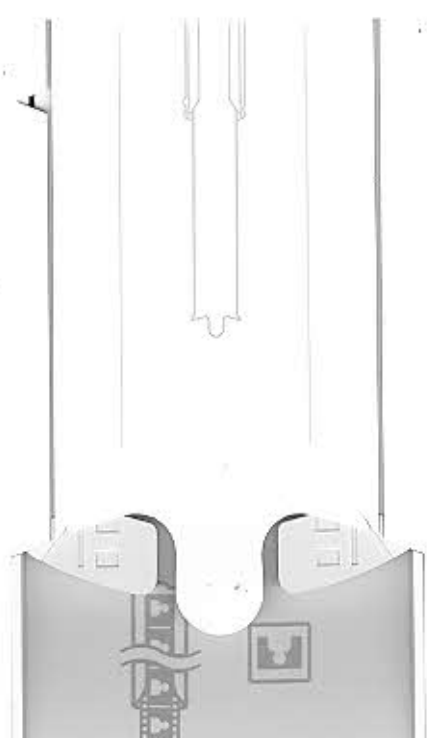


The Good Lord saw fit to keep the bad weather south of Austin. The start was hot, but it soon cooled off. Two or three ice cream trucks did a booming business on the back side of the 10K.

Thanks to all who helped, with special thanks to the ARO for letting us tie up the 146.94 machine and to all the hams who were patient and let us use it.

de Jim Coker, KB5EHP

Vanna White technical article contest ends May 21. See March AARCOVER.



Handwritten note: To/dep/K53RSX

## Home Station Battery: It Works Fine

*This is a reply to the Home Station Battery article by Rick Herndon, K5FNI, which appeared in last month's issue of the AARCOVER.*

I have used a "home station battery" to operate two 100-watt transceivers for around five years. One is a Kenwood, the other a Yaesu. This is somewhat different from using an AC supply in that the voltage is not as stable. It ranges from 12 to 15 volts, depending on the battery charge status. This does not present a problem of consequence.

A battery charger that will produce 30 - 50% of the current peak demand is suitable. Most rigs peak around 18 - 20 amps on transmit at full power, and 1 to 1-1/2 amps on receive. This means that a 6 amp charger is OK. The long-term average current demand over a period of continuous operation on SSB or CW may not exceed 5 amps. Other modes may require more, but around 10 amps should handle any condition.

The situation is best with a low-technology charger: One that feeds a simple rectifier with an RMS voltage of 12 - 13 volts, with a peak of about 16 volts. The rectifier will reduce the maximum output voltage by about a half volt.

When the battery voltage sags to around 12 volts (say, when you are transmitting), the rectifier will conduct over almost all of the voltage cycle and charge rate (amps) will be high. As battery voltage builds up (say, while you are receiving), conduction will become a smaller portion of the voltage waveform. The charging current becomes very small, maybe an amp, as the battery approaches full charge (15 volts or a little less). Under that condition the rectifier will usually make radio-frequency interference (RFI) at the rate of the voltage waveform. This is sometimes mistaken for

ripple. It can usually be solved by a disc-type capacitor across each rectifier...a value on the order of 0.05 MFd is usually sufficient.

If a problem is experienced with runaway charging current into a dead battery, add a series resistance. A piece of nichrome wire of 1/4 to 1/2 ohm resistance is OK.

Wash the battery well with tap water, make all the connections, and then wipe the terminals with a lightly-oiled cloth. Your set-up will remain trouble-free for years. Out-gassing is little or no problem on modern maintenance-free batteries. [But it can occur, so keep the battery storage area well ventilated to prevent an explosion: Ed.]

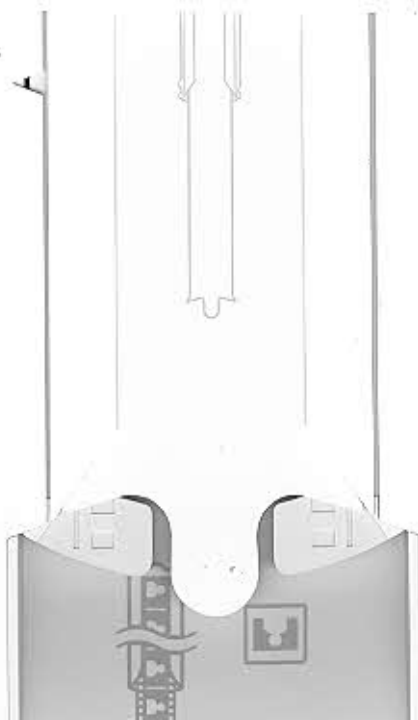
I use this system in a motor home with a 1-amp charger and a moderately-large deep-cycle battery. The same system is used in my home, with a typical automobile-type battery and a 4 amp charger. I've never been able to deplete the charge in either battery with the charger operating.

A battery and charger combination makes an excellent set-up. It is so good, in fact, that I have retired my Kenwood's A/C supply. Emergency power is always available, and you can even use jumper cables to get or give a boost with a car.

de J. M. "Huck" Huckabee, AA5BU

## QUA

Our own Ron Johnson, WA5RON, was recently featured on Channel 36 for his activities in MUFON, a group which investigates sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO's).



## Minutes of the April Club Meeting

Meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club for April 14, 1992. The meeting was brought to order at 8:00 PM by President Jim Neely, WA5LHS. Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for the visitors to introduce themselves.

---

*...install ground fault interrupters...*

---

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the AARCOVER. A number of members still had not received their newsletter despite being mailed almost two weeks ago.

**OFFICER REPORTS:** Our new Treasurer, Dave, KG5ND, announced that there is \$3,842.69 in the checking account and \$273.70 in the postal account. The Technical Committee Chairman, Ed, K3AHS, knew of no problems with the repeater. Gary, WX5Z, the Activities Director, thanked the many people who assisted at the Manchaca Swapfest, especially Charles, WD5HO1, for making the signs we used, and the several recently licensed members. There were over 85 tailgaters and 54 tables of gear this year. Joe, N5HPC, the Secretary, has forms for Amateur Radio License Plates and distributed the last few 1991 Rosters to new members. We plan to start work on the new roster in the next few days.

**NEW MEMBERS:** These include Jon Goins, N5UVX; Paul Parker, N5ZLX; Tom Rohrer, N5TUU; Tom Burke, N5XPM; Jonn Johnson, N5ZEJ; Seth & Susan Innis, N5OZD & N5QIX; Tom Yturri, N5YNA; Earline McGregor, N5CSG; Jim Greenwood, KI5XC; Deroy & Sallie Howard, AA5R & WD5EOK; Camille Lockridge, N5XUH; plus Stuart

Murphy, Steven Sparks, Cynde Serrano, and Richard Rice who are waiting for their calls.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mike Kellam, AA5JP, needs volunteers with equipment to set up a demonstration station at the Scout Exposition on Saturday, April 25. Hal Henegar, W5MDL, needs volunteers with equipment to set up a demonstration station at the North Austin Civic Association neighborhood day, also on Saturday, April 25. Bill, K5ARS, keeps AMSAT data on the "Thirst for Knowledge" bulletin board.

**PROGRAM:** Vice-President Rod Moag, W0NDS, introduced our guest speaker, Jack Ward, N5TLW. Jack is an engineer specializing in industrial and workplace safety. The topic tonight was safety and amateur radio. Jack discussed several topics, and asked for comments and experiences from others in the meeting. Several members contributed experiences (both good and bad) in the areas discussed. Topics included protection from lightning strikes, power line safety (in-stall ground fault interrupters), antenna and tower safety, and hazards when repairing equipment. Thanks to N5TLW for an excellent program.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Canfield, N5HPC, AARC Secretary.

## QUA

**Unconfirmed Rumor:** Reportedly, a \$200 sale was made at this Spring's Manchaca swapfest, at 3 AM.

The AARCOVER won a rating of Excellent in the Amateur Radio News Service 1991 ham bulletin contest. Over 100 club newsletters were entered.

## Electronic Component Sources

Here is my list of companies which will sell electronic components in small quantities. Most of these places I have bought from, a couple I haven't. Being a ham radio operator, I am most interested in RF components, and in particular, air variable capacitors, which tend to be scarce (and tend to be used or surplus even if I've otherwise labelled the seller as "NEW"). I apologize in advance for disparaging remarks about what happens when parts suppliers start selling computers, but anyone who has watched Jameco over the years will know just what I mean.

Ocean State Electronics, P.O. Box 1458, Westerly RI 02891

(800)-866-6626 (orders), (401)-596-3080, (401)-596-3590 (FAX)

Minimum \$5, S&H \$4, free catalog. Wide array of RF parts, especially air variables and B&W coils, plus kits for most QST projects since 1976. "Non cataloged items gladly ordered." Fast shipping, unless (like me) you don't pay attention to their request that you CALL about air variables and they hold your order for a couple of weeks while they see if they can scrounge up one that they've just gone out of stock on...

Radiokit, P.O.Box 973169, Pelham NH 03076

(603) 635-2235

No minimum (\$3 service charge if under \$20), many kits, lots of J. W. Miller chokes & coils, B&W coils, RF switches, Millen variable capacitors, lots of parts in general. Send \$1 for the catalog.

Circuit Specialists Inc., P. O. Box 3047, Scottsdale AZ 85271-3047

(800) 528-1417

No minimum with check or money order, \$15 otherwise. \$3 S&H. New electronics, good RF assortment, increasing infestation of computers.

Mouser Electronics, 2401 Highway 287, Mansfield TX 76063

Catalog Subscriptions: (800) 992-9943  
Sales & Service: (800) 34-MOUSER (800-346-6873)

Very complete catalog of brand-new components (though no air variables). Usually quick service, \$20 "minimum" (\$5 charge under \$20).

Digi-Key, P.O.Box 677, Thief River Falls, MN 56701-0677

1-800-DIGI-KEY

No minimum, \$5 handling under \$25, free and very complete catalog, very nice indeed. Prices aren't always the best, but rarely excessive. Weak on RF specialty parts (though they now have the ever-popular NE602N), but they do have blue LEDs.

Active Electronics, 11 Cummings Park, Woburn MA 01801

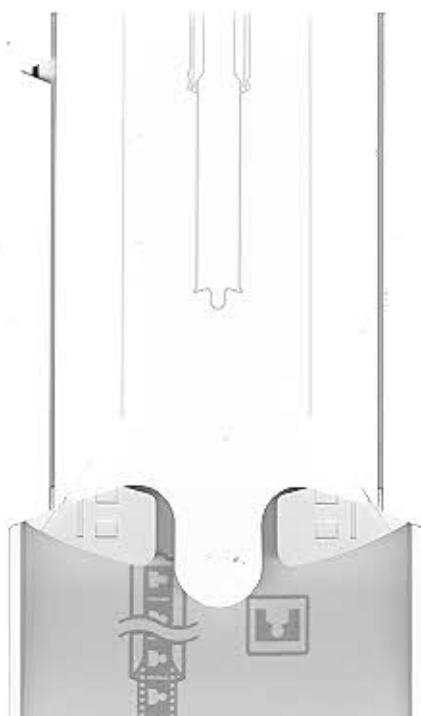
(800)-677-8899 (US), (800)-363-6592 (Canada)

\$25 minimum, \$5 S&H UPS, free catalog. They have 8 stores in the US (Santa Clara CA; Chicago IL; Baltimore MD; Woburn MA; Detroit MI; Mt. Laurel NJ; Long Island NY; Seattle WA) and 9 stores in Canada (Quebec City; Montreal (2); Ottawa; Mississauga; Winnipeg; Calgary; Edmonton; Vancouver BC). Lots of stuff, oriented more toward supplying last-minute requirements of companies than hobbyists, but perfectly happy to take your money in small doses (stores have no minimum order or shipping&handling). Some items in their catalog are subject to a \$25 per ITEM minimum, which is kind of a drag.

Newark Electronics

Newark Electronics, ATTENTION CATALOG DEPARTMENT, 4801 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago IL 60640-4496  
(312) 784-5100

*Continued on next page*



## Manchaca / Menchaca Report

The Spring Swap Meet at Manchaca was a great success. I would like to thank all the people who helped, especially: Joe, N5HPC, who helped to paint the tailgate area, put up signs, and direct parking; Charles, WB5HOI, who made the signs; and Stuart, K5KVH, and all the new hams who helped clean up. This was a real "team effort!"

Hams from Oklahoma, Louisiana, El Paso and Brownsville attended the swap meet. This is getting to be a major regional event, and we should all be proud that it is doing so well. Again, thanks to all who made the day a success!

de Gary Pickens, WX5Z

They have many branch offices...look in your local phone book for the closest. They have a \$25 minimum order; they are a Real Distributor, but accept small orders (over the minimum, of course). Their catalog currently has 1,248 pages; they are very complete (except, of course, for my favorite scarce item, the air-variable capacitor). Note that the catalog prices tend not to match reality all that often, so order by phone rather than by mail; prices tend to be higher than other places, but they have a lot of things that are hard to find from other outlets.

Arrow Electronics, Inc. Catalog requests to: Catalog Division, 1860 Smithtown Ave., Ronkonkoma NY 11779

(800) 93-ARROW

Minimum \$25; catalog cover price is \$25 but if you convince them you're with a company they'll probably send one free. They are a Real Distributor, but also didn't mind my placing a personal order.

*Continued on page 7*

## New Fraternity Members

Here are the results of the April 4, 1992 W5YI ham exams. Congratulations to the new and upgraded hams, and welcome to the ham fraternity!

Name	Call	Upgraded to
BOBETTE McMILLAN	—	TECH
JERRY PICKERING	—	TECH
SCOTT REVERT	—	TECH
DONALD BOUCHARD	—	TECH
GENE RICHARDSON	—	TECH
BRYON ZULAF	—	TECH
RONALD MORGAN	—	TECH
JAMES McELHANON	KA5NPZ	TECH +
SAMUEL MIHALIK	—	TECH +
ANNE CLARK	—	TECH +
DAVID WALTON	KB5QPS	TECH +

Special thanks to the VE's that helped with the exams: Huck Huckabee, Mike Kellam, and Gary Pickens. The next W5YI exam will be June 13. Note: This is the SECOND Saturday of the month, not the first, due to Ham-Com.



de Bill Wehling, KF5NB

*If you have any questions about upcoming W5YI exams, you can contact Bill at 272-8233.*



## Wink

On his antenna, a ham named Wink,  
Put a fluorescent light to blink.

He feigned indifference

To neighbors' inference

That TV and light winked in sync.

de David Barton, AF6S, via ARNS

**HUCK'S COUNTRY STORE****Old Timer Stories, or, Can A Crystal Radio Transmit?**

Papa and I went to the Dentist in 1928. By the time Mr. Scott finished working on my tooth, he had no other patients. His office was a dark, dingy upstairs room in a poor sector of town. My eyes landed on a telegraph key. Mr. Scott showed us the wires, batteries and two mirror-coated bulbs that he called "Vacuum Tubes"...one to transmit, the other to receive. But, alas, he could not get anyone to answer his long CQ's.

Mr. Miller built a radio station with a five-strand antenna between two wooden

---

*If you plug a microphone into the earphone jack of a receiver, will it work as a transmitter?*

---

towers on Magnolia Street. The station ran 50 watts and operated about two hours each night as WAML (named for W. A. Miller of Laurel, Mississippi). My Grandma lived on Pine Street just four blocks away, and I could hear the station on her crystal radio. Around 1931 a storm blew the towers down and ended WAML.

The Southern Railroad depot was about halfway between Grandma's house and Mr. Miller's radio station. Mr. Patrick, the railroad telegraph operator, ticket agent, express agent, janitor and other things, told me that if a carbon microphone was plugged into the earphone jack of some older radios, they would transmit. Finding an old telephone, I connected the mouthpiece to Grandma's crystal radio and started "transmitting." Somehow, I could never get it to work.

Around 1935 I graduated to a one-tube regenerative breadboard receiver. Almost

immediately I loaded the radio and its batteries into my bicycle basket and went mobile. Unfortunately, I found that it would not operate without a long antenna and a deep ground rod. My range of travel was limited to the amount of wire that I could find.

Surprisingly, with this radio I found that Mr. Patrick's carbon mic idea really worked! Very soon I was transmitting on the broadcast band! My DX record was from the road to our house...about 150 feet.

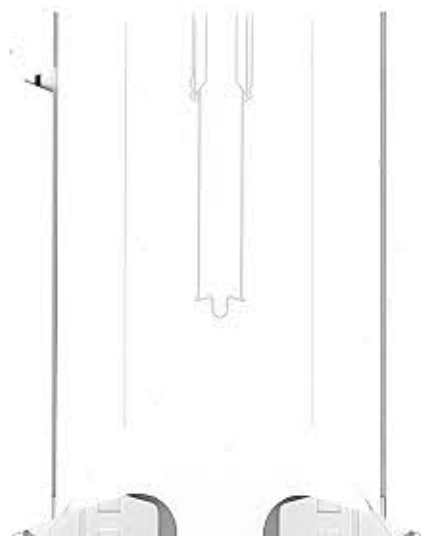
By 1940, as a late teen-ager, I hitch hiked to the Crescent City (New Orleans), went into the big Customs House building on Canal Street, passed the FCC exam and received a Class B license...W5KCI.

Getting my license was a thrill all right, but the biggest thrill of all was the day I first talked from my bicycle to the radio in our house: Bootlegging on the broadcast band a distance of about 20 feet!

My story is not unique; one of these days yours may be even more colorful! Amateur Radio is a great omnibus, with plenty of seats for all.

de Huck Huckabee, AA5BU

*J. M. "Huck" Huckabee is a member of the Austin Amateur Radio Club, 71 years of age, retired. He has been on the air for about 52 years, is an accredited License Examiner with the 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. Watch for more articles by Huck in future AARCOVER's.*



**Electronic Components from page 5**

MCM Electronics, 650 Congress Park Drive, Centerville OH 45459-4072  
(800) 543-4330

Minimum \$20 (\$25 for charges, and they don't take personal checks), handling \$1.95 + shipping. Oriented toward repair technicians, really heavy on VCR parts and somewhat overpriced doodads, lots of useful stuff not easily found elsewhere.

Fordham Radio Supply, 260 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge NH 11788-5134  
(800)695-4848

Tools for technicians. One or two items are not outrageously overpriced.

Jameco, 1355 Shoreway Road, Belmont CA 94002  
(415) 592-8097

\$30 minimum order (was \$50), >\$5 shipping & handling. Their recent catalog may have reversed a long trend of abandoning parts in favor of PC compatibles, or it may not; one can always hope.

IDR Microdevices, 2233 Branham Lane, San Jose CA 95124  
Orders:800-538-5000, Cust. Service:800-538-5001

\$10 minimum, \$5+ shipping. Mostly computers now, but they haven't yet decided to abandon components.

Johnson Shop Products, P.O.Box 160113, Cupertino CA 95016  
(408)257-8614 (408)996-3240

Catalog \$1. No minimum. Shipping charge is based on UPS; very small orders that can be sensibly shipped in a first-class letter, include money for first-class postage. New and some used electronic parts.

DC Electronics, P. O. Box 3203, Scottsdale AZ 85271-3203  
(800) 423-0070 (orders), (602) 945-7736

(stock/price checks)  
\$15 minimum charge order, no minimum for checks, \$3 min. shipping&handling.

Wide array of ICs, good assortment of electronic components.

Dick Smith Electronics USA, P.O. Box 468, Greenwood, IN 46142  
(317) 888-7265

The American branch of the Australian company. Some parts and kits, mostly new equipment of all stripes (audio, CB, and lots of ham equipment). Prices seemed high last time I checked.

EasyTech Inc., 2917 Bayview Drive, Fremont CA 94538-9932  
(800) 582-4044 (orders), (415) 770-2345 (customer Service)

Apparently a brand new company, "dedicated to serving the Electronic Enthusiast/ User." \$10 minimum.

International Components Corporation, 1803 NW Lincoln Way, Toledo OR 97391  
(800)325-0101 (US & Canada), (503) 336-4400 (FAX)

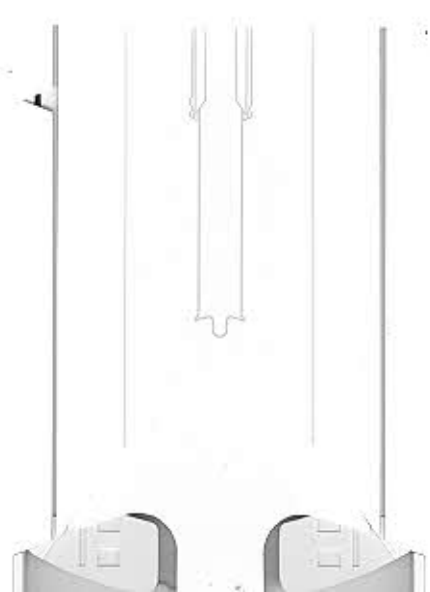
Cabinets&Enclosures; Capacitors; Diodes; ICs; Potentiometers; Resistors; Sockets; Transistors; Books. No minimum order, \$2 handling under \$25.

de John F. Woods, via Rick Herndon, KSFNI

## QUA

Need some heavy-duty braided ground strap for the shack? Try Radio Shack's "MegaCable" speaker wire, at 99 cents per foot (actually, two feet of conductor). Also, if you need to run coax underground, protect it inside cheap garden hose instead of direct-burial. (de N6ZUC and "The READOUT")

The Stanislaus (CA) Amateur Radio Association charges \$1 to participate in their fox hunts. Winner takes all. (de "The READOUT")



## Membership Way Up in Busy Travis Co. ARES

The Travis County chapter of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) held its customary 5th Tuesday meeting on March 31 at Luby's. Joe Fisher, K5EJL, showed a letter of appreciation from the Red Cross and noted that Skywarn 1993 will be on March 6 of next year.

Travis County ARES officers are: Joe Fisher, K5EJL, Emergency Coordinator; Pat McGuire, WA8PLR, Asst. Coordinator (City of Austin); Stu Rohre, K5KVH, Asst. Coordinator (Red Cross); and Rick Herndon, K5FNL, Operations Asst..

Joe told all those attending to learn the grid square of their home QTH. He is working on a plan for reporting severe weather to the National Weather Service (NWS) by grid squares, rather than by more vague ("...about halfway between Manchaca and Lockhart...") descriptions. He explained that the NWS is very interested in road closures, more so than in moderate wind and light hail.

Bumper stickers, signs, decals, patches, caps, and the like for Skywarn, ARES, etc. are available from The Sign Center, POB 4097, San Diego CA 92104, and from Caps Unlimited, POB 460118, Garland TX 75046.

Joe asked the group if basic training sessions in being net control would be helpful, and the consensus was "yes." He will see about holding them, perhaps on 4th Thursdays at the NWS office. Training materials are needed. Note: Due to crowded conditions and security concerns, do not go the NWS office without calling first. Jack Ward, N5TLW, volunteered a classroom that could accommodate 20-25 folks for training purposes.

Any standard sort of ham traffic may be passed during the Sunday ARES net ses-

sions. To hear how the "pros" handle traffic, listen in to the Central Texas Traffic Net, daily at 6:30 PM on 147.14 MHz and at 7:30 PM on 147.10 MHz.



Joe congratulated Chuck Inks, W5KNA, for his deft handling of a pirate on the ARES net when Chuck was Net Control. "Just ignore them" seems to work best.

The telephone alerting tree is being revised. The original list had 28 names, but ARES has now grown to 76 members.

Ron Johnson, WA5RON, showed pagers that we might use for alerting. Motorola has donated (via Jon Dahm, WB5PCV) 60 Motorola Spirit and Minotaur models to the Austin Repeater Organization, complete with chargers. They would need to be tested and re-crystalled for two meters. Ron offered to donate his tone encoder to the effort, but we would need several for greatest reliability. If you see one for sale, buy it. Some computers can make the tones, and the controller of the 146.78 repeater reportedly can convert TouchTones to pager tones.

Alan Schauer, N5ZFG, volunteered to prepare the Travis Co. ARES Operating Guide.

de Miles Abernathy, N5KOB

*For information on ARES please call Joe Fisher at 926-4689. Membership is free. The ARES nets meet weekly...see Calendar for schedule.*

## QUA

Highland Lakes Repeater Association swapfest. Sunday, May 31, from noon to 4. Twenty miles west of Burnet on Highway 29, at its intersection with Hwy 1431.

## QUA — Random Receptions

Hams in Orbit...Two more Shuttle missions with hams aboard and on the air are scheduled for this year. First, STS-50, launch date June 3, 13 day mission, 2M FM voice and packet and 2M SSTV. Then STS-47, launch date August 12, 7 day mission, 2M voice and packet.

Ham Hospitality...If you want to stay with a ham next time you travel overseas, or have a foreign ham stay with you here, send a business SASE to the ARRL for information on the International Travel Hosts Exchange.

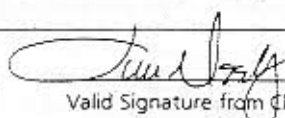
Dad told you to turn it down...One of the most frequent advertisers on a local rock and roll "oldies" station is the company that sells Miracle Ear hearing aids.

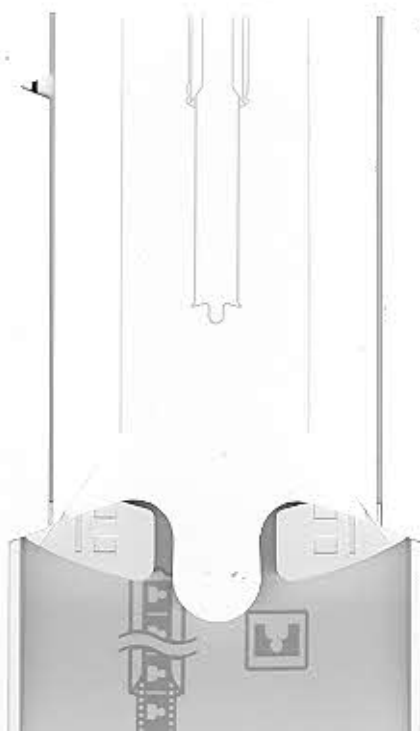
RTFM...The shop manual for the 1992 Toyota Camry states that you cannot operate a transmitter in the car exceeding 10 watts. KN4CO found out the hard way—the first time she keyed up her Kenwood transceiver, it fried the \$1,115 engine computer. (de WorldRadio magazine)

## Radioscan Magazine Offered at Discount Price

Here is a copy of a coupon received at the club's post office box, offering "active club members" bargain subscriptions to Radioscan magazine. The discount price is \$4.95 for a year's subscription, "a savings of 83.5% off the cover price."

The mailing address is: Radioscan Magazine, 8250 NW 27th St., Suite 301, Miami FL 33122. According to the advertisement, the offer ends May 31. (Your club does not get a kickback on this.)

<b>RADIOSCAN SAVINGS CERTIFICATE</b>	
<i>For Active Club Members Only</i>	
1-Year Subscription (12 Issues)	<b>\$4.95</b>
(Save 83.5% Off The Cover Price)	
Name of Club Member _____	Call Sign _____
Home Address _____	
Club Name <u>Asa New American Radio Club</u>	 Valid Signature from Club Officer
Offer expires May 31, 1992. Please send check or money order payable to Radioscan Magazine, 8250 NW 27 St., Suite 301, Miami, FL 33122. No billing or credit, please. THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED	



**AARC Information**

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

**Officers**

Jim Neely, WA5LHS, President ..... 442-4812  
 Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice Pres. .... 467-6825  
 Dave Marshall, 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, ARES 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 April 21, 1992 at the Sirloin Stockade 8828 Research.

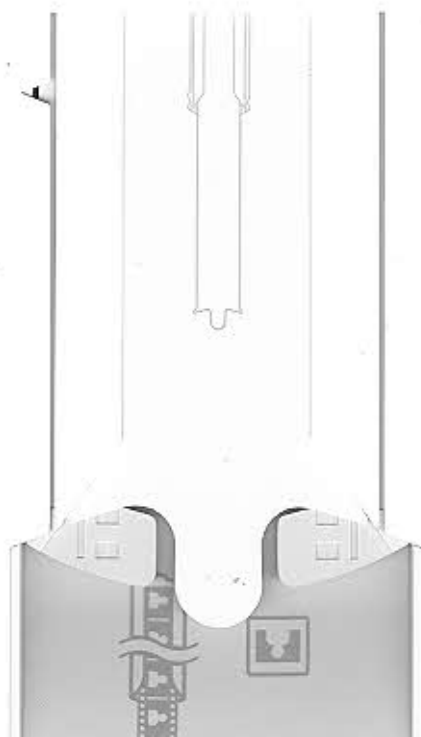
Pat, WA8PLR, reported on the ATV activity at the Capital 10K run. On Saturday, the day before the race (warm and sunny), half a dozen Amateurs showed up at Auditorium Shores to do preliminary signal testing and equipment testing. After trying direct video operations on 439.25 MHz, a 439 in / 1296 out repeater was setup on a building downtown with very favorable results. Sunday, the weather took a nose dive. It started raining about a half hour before the race started and continued throughout the morning. The moisture made a difference in the quality of the video signals received although acceptable results were had. Some of the remote video cameras were setup up by K5EJL, N5PSW, WB5SUR, N5MHI, WD5HLS and WA8PLR.

Henry, N5SHL and Alvin, WB5HZQ were the net control operators at Auditorium Shores, where they coordinated the remote video stations and sent the finished video to the EMS tent and Sheriff's comm van for use in assessing possible problems. Pat played a video tape at the meeting showing what was seen by the 439 / 1296 repeater.

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

The next club meeting will be the usual third Tuesday, May 19th at the above location. For more info on ATV please contact W8ZSX, WA8PLR or N5MHI.

de Jon Penner, N5MHI, 335-0220.



Guest Editorial

Death of Ham Radio?

Recently, some have said that our numbers just haven't grown enough in the last few years to make amateur radio seem viable in the 90's. I say to them...Wake up and smell the coffee!



I just spent about 4-1/2 hours at a testing site to take my Novice exam. The place was crammed with Tech Lite's, Techs, and all types of upgrades. A boy, around 10 - 12 years, was all smiles after passing his 20 wpm test.

I do not know how many people were tested that day, but I do know that they were running another test session the day after. Just for Novice tests. And the next session was scheduled for the next month.

The deal is, are you OT's ready for all the new hams? The influx of new people, of all ages, is going to have an impact on the hobby. Whether it will be a positive one is up to you.

de Otto Hoel (awaiting call)

Good Ole' Mode One

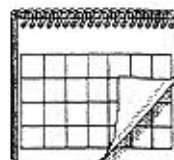


May 1992

Calendar

- May 5...Austin Rptr Organiz meeting
- May 7...1296 MHz Sprint
- May 12...Austin Amat. Radio Club meets
- May 14...2304 MHz Sprint
- May 19...Austin Amat. TV Club meeting
- May 23-24...50 MHz Sprint
- May 31...Highland Lakes Swapfest
- Summer...ARO Kid's Novice Classes?
- June 2...Austin Rptr Organiz meeting
- June 5-7...HAM-COM, Arlington
- June 6...HAM EXAMS NEXT WEEK!
- June 9...Austin Amat. Radio Club meeting
- June 13...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison
- June 13-15...VHF QSO Party
- 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. 1-3...UHF Contest
- Aug. 7-9...Summerfest @ Austin
- Aug. 8...Ham exams @ Wyndham
- Aug. 15-16...10 GHz Cumulative Contest
- Aug. 20-23...ARRL Nat. Conv. @ L.A.
- Sep...ARO No-Code ham classes begin
- Sep. 12-14...VHF QSO Party
- Nov. 6-8...ARRL Hamfest @ Houston

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, 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

Page 11

