



AARC OVER

Bulletin of the Austin Amateur Radio Club

July 1992

July Meeting

Wind Profiling Radar : What Is It. What Does it Do. What Does it Do to the Ham Bands? will be the topic at our next meeting.



This is the experimental system that uses signals in the 449 MHz range to look for upper level turbulence. Our guest speaker will be Bob Miller of Radian Corp., assisted by co-worker and club member Carolyn Hinkle, N5KRW.

The meeting date is Tuesday, July 14. While we officially start at 8 PM, most folks actually arrive at 7 or 7:30 and have supper together. We meet at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop, a block or two west of Burnet Road, in the back room as far from the cashier as possible. Visitors, ham or non-ham, are very welcome.



All AARC events are non-smoking (except for the electric generator at the Field Day site).

Summerfest Coming!

Austin's Own Ham Convention: That's Summerfest, held every August. Attendance last year topped 1,200. This year's QTH is the Wyndham Southpark hotel, at I-35 and Ben White Blvd., August 7 through 9. Technical presentations, swap area, dealers, ARRL officials, etc. There will be no mailing to Austin hams, so you will need to use the application form on p. 3.

Our own Rod Moag, WONDS, was invited by KNOW to record some Public Service Announcements for Amateur Radio Week, which preceded Field Day.

Bill, KF5NB, retiring as W5YI Volunteer Examiner. Replacement needed. See page 5.

Keep Up the Pressure!

Send QSL cards and letters urging our elected representatives to co-sponsor House Resolution 73 and Senate Bill 1372 (the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991") and help get them through

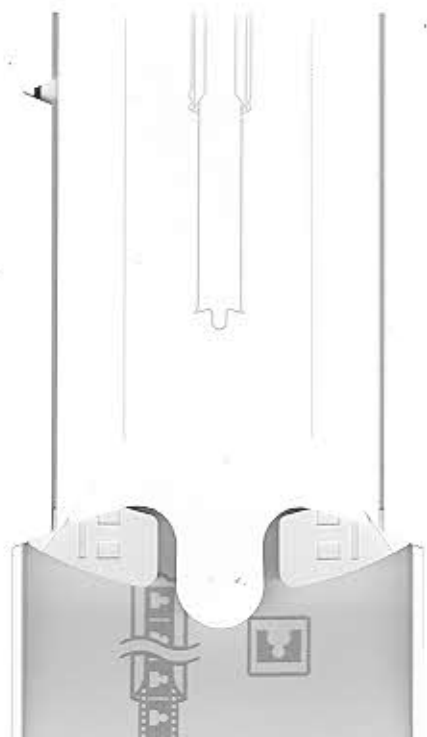


Committee and into law. Send to these folks: The Honorable Lloyd Bentzen and The Honorable Phil Gramm, both at U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510; and The Honorable J. J. Pickle, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515.

Points to mention: No private-sector opposition exists [the FCC is opposed], no tax or other money needed, spectrum is like national parks, hams provide communications during emergencies, non-controversial support for 1/2 million U.S. hams, amateur radio increases kids' interest in science, math, geography, languages, and history.

Send copies of your letters to Perry Williams, W1UED, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111, so he can follow up.

The Clean Air Petition was not available in time for last month's club meeting, but it has since arrived. The petition encourages the FCC to enforce the rules against profanity on the airwaves. If you miss the meeting you may be able to find a copy at Austin Amateur Radio Supply.



HUCK'S COUNTRY STORE**Slaying the Dragon**

Now that the Morse code requirement is behind us, let's look into the multiple-choice license examination. It indeed is filled with pitfalls and is a dragon in disguise. What lurks in the dark?

- Of the four possible answers to each question, three are wrong, but sound right. These three answers are called distractors, and are designed to test your genuine knowledge. A distractor may contain some essence of truth, but it also contains an untruth; therefore it is wrong!

You may try to pick the the right answer by luck, but the odds are 3 to 1 against you! Instead, turn the situation around by searching for the wrong answers, and you can make the odds 3 to 1 in your favor. Here is how: First, read answer A. In your mind, figure out why it is wrong. Do the same for answers B, C and D. The one that you cannot show to be wrong, must be right. You have used the distractors to advantage to help you find the right answer.

- It is never easy for the examiner to tell a person that their score is below passing. Hardest of all is when almost all of the answers are wrong, but moving the answers by one position would make them right. This is due to "poor housekeeping," putting the answers in the wrong position on the page, and I find it more often than you would imagine.

During the exam, use this checklist to help your thinking:

- 1) Read the question. Study the words and punctuation, and know what is required.
- 2) Find the incorrect answers first, then the correct one.

3) Be sure that your answers are posted to the right question number, not just to the next space on the paper.

4) After you have finished the exam, go over it again, posting the answers to another paper. Compare the two answer sheets.

The ham exam is an important milestone in your life. It deserves your most diligent attention. Follow these ideas and you may turn a would-be failure into a brand-new ham ticket!

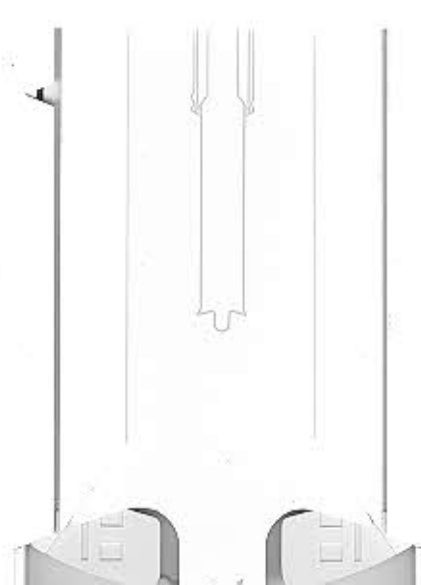
de J. M. "Huck" Huckabee, AA5BU

Huck is an accredited License Examiner with both the ARRL and W5YI, and he is active with both exam groups in Austin. He has been on the air since before World War 2, holding calls W5KCI, D4AER, A5KCI, W4PPY, KF5ZR and now AA5BU. Huck is 71 years old and operates mostly 40-meter CW "in the fast lane."

Stray Currents

The Austin ATV club, and perhaps some ARES members, will be involved in an emergency exercise at Robert Mueller Airport, Saturday night, July 18, from 9:30 PM until about midnight. Tune in the ARES nets on Sundays for updates.

Beginning August 1, disabled applicants for exemption from the 13 and 20 wpm Morse code requirements for amateur licenses must use the new FCC Form 610 dated March 1992. (de W1AW via Jim, AB5EK)





Minutes of the June AARC Meeting

Meeting of June 9, 1992:

The June meeting of the AARC was wrestled to order by President Jim Neely at 8:00 PM.

VISITORS: Robert and Bobbette McMillian introduced themselves as visitors.

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

OFFICER REPORTS: Treasurer Dave, KG5ND, reports there is \$3,548.33 in the checking account and \$226.38 in the postal account. No problems were reported by our Technical Committee Chairman, Ed, K3AHS. Activities Director, Gary, WX5Z, will present tonight's program on Field Day.

NEW MEMBERS: Four new members were voted in: Robert and Bobbette McMillian, KB5RST & KB5SOJ; Mark Murray, KAORLS; and Ron Van Beek, who is waiting for his call.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe Makeever, K5EBJ, discussed the Cooper-Gore Bill now in Congress. This bill protects the amateur radio spectrum against loss from reassignment without replacement. Joe urged us to write our Congressmen asking their support for this bill. Information from the ARRL supporting this bill and a

list of congressmen was handed out. The only opposition that has surfaced is the FCC, but in order for the bill to be brought to a vote, there must be a larger show of popular support. Many of the Central Texas Congressmen do not currently support this bill. Write and let them know you how you feel! You may call an officer for the name of our congressman or see a July QST, pages 45 and 46. Miles, N5KOB, announced the winner of the First Vanna White Technical Article Contest. This was Paul, KA5FY1, who wrote an article on using and charging auto batteries to run your ham rig. Since Vanna could not schedule a night out with Paul, even at the club's expense, she sent an autographed photo. This and a trophy were presented to him. Tough luck Paul!



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Joe, W5EBJ reminded us of the upcoming Summerfest. The dates are August 7, 8, and 9th. The swapfest area will be Much larger than last year, there will be ham exams, sessions on DX, Packet, other amateur related topics, and ladies programs.

PROGRAM: Tonight, the subject was Field Day. Our Activities Director, Gary, WX5Z, presented his list of needs. He worked on getting more volunteers and filled several of the vacant operating positions. We also saw video taken at previous Field Day events.

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

Stray Currents

Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) cost \$8 to \$20, and protect you from fatal shock if you (for example) have one hand holding your grounded HF rig and the other inside touches a 115 VAC connector. GFCI's are easy to install.

You've Always Wondered What It Is, Now You Can Even Go Inside: Temple & Belton hams will have their swap fest on September 26, inside the big flying saucer that is clearly visible from I-35 near Belton.



99 Bottles of Beer...

Early on the morning of March 28, 1992, three Nebraska hunters came across a wind profiler installation. Reportedly believing the facility to be a UFO, they fired several shotgun blasts at it. When the technician who was inside came out, he was taken hostage as a suspected alien. The arrival of his partner two hours later led to his release. The hunters fled and have not been apprehended. Damage is estimated at \$150,000. (de Dave, WA9POV, via Badger State Smoke Signals)[Did you notice the topic of our next meeting?]

Happy New Ham

I got into ham radio at the invitation of my car pool rider who promised free phone calls and nice conversation and no need to learn Morse code. The code always scared me because of the perceived time to learn it.

First I got the no-code license, and since then have passed the 5 wpm code, the General and the Advanced technical exams. Now I am studying for the Extra technical and my code is stuck at about 11 wpm.

I had no idea this was such an interesting hobby - fast scan TV; packet, global BBS's, OSCARs, spread spectrum, and of course 2 meters.

I intend to research the state of the art in antenna pointing and see if I can bring something to the party in that area, particularly with respect to OSCAR work.

Anyway I put my toe in the door and the hobby yanked me inside the room.

de Bill Holmes, N3KBD



Ham Exam Results

Here are the results of the exams given on June 13, 1992. We had 24 candidates, with 16 obtaining upgrades or new licenses. Three others obtained certificates for elements passed.

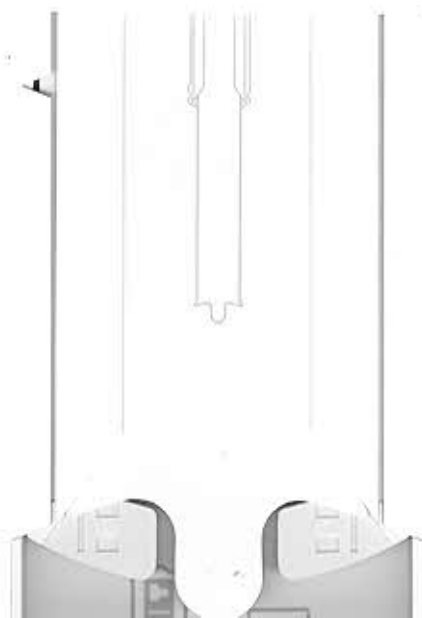
Name	Call	Up to
Scott Ogren	—	Tech
Eugene Van Zelfden ...	—	Tech
David Hawn	—	Tech
Tim Willis	—	Tech
Brian Stubbs	—	Tech
Bryan Novak	—	Tech
Arthur Tate	—	Tech
Larry Boverkemper	—	Tech
Rajendra Patel	—	Tech
Marilyn Eichenbaum .	—	Tech
Steven Sparks	KB5RSY	Tech+
John Johnson	N5ZEJ	Tech+
William Ward	—	Tech+
David Hassell	—	Tech+
Cynthia Serrano	KB5RUD	General
Penny Legner	—	Advanced

Congratulations to the above. I would also like to thank the VE's that came down and helped out with the exams: Al VanAllen, Gary Pickens, Wilber Williams, Joseph Theil, James Greenwood, and Thomas Rohrer.

The next exams will be on July 11, 1992, and the August exams will be given during Summerfest at the Summerfest site.

Final Note: This will be my last regular exam. It has been fun watching people enter the hobby, and upgrade to a higher class license. I have enjoyed working with all the VE's that have helped over the years. It's been almost 7 years since I started giving exams, and as the Eskimos say: "It's time to change the lead dog". So, if there is an Extra Class out there that would like to be the contact VE for the W5YI exams in Austin, please give me a call, and lets get together.

de Bill Wehling, KF5NB, 272-8233



AARC Information

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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, ARES Coord. 926-4689
 <vacant>, AARCOVER Editor
 <vacant>, Public Info Officer
 <vacant>, Official Greeter

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 \$3.00 for an individual, or \$5.00 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 June 16, 1992 at the Sirloin Stockade, 8828 Research Blvd.

The 1248 TD Systems FM ATV receiver for the repeater was picked up at HAMCOM. Bob, ZSX, brought it to the meeting for all to see. It will be mast mounted which virtually will eliminate feed line loss. RG59 will then be used to bring the signal down the tower. A Comet antenna was also ordered from Austin Amateur Radio Supply...it should be here next week. It will be vertically polarized on 1.2 GHz for receive only. The new receiver on 1.2 GHz will replace the current 439.25 MHz receiver. Repeater output will still be on 70 cm, which may be tuned in on cable-ready TV sets with an appropriate outside antenna.



Pat, PLR, showed off his new 1.2 GHz and 900 MHz amplifiers and explained some modifications he made to improve them.

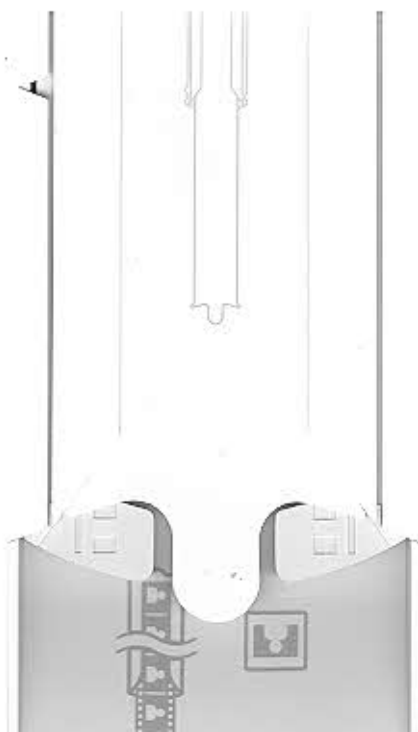
Plans for an upcoming emergency drill were discussed along with the equipment required for smooth operation.

The next club meeting will be the usual third Tuesday, July 21st at the Stockade.

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. For more info on ATV contact W8ZSX, WA8PLR or N5MHI.

de Jon Penner, N5MHI, 335-0220

Moonbounce, microwaves, satellites, and such will be discussed at the Central States VHF Society Conference, July 16-19 at the YO Hilton in Kerrville. (de Joe Canfield, N5HPC)



Guest Editorial

Your First VHF Rig
Should be a
Mobile

There is often so much RF interference here in Dallas from devices of every conceivable description that you need the higher power of a mobile rig to get through. Also, there are so many severe intermod areas here that you need the superior filtering capability that the full size rig usually has — helical filters, etc. In many areas of Dallas, HT's are simply unusable.

Also, if you are net control station for one of the NTS traffic nets, such as we have here every evening at 6:30, you really need to have the signal quality to overcome accidental or intentional QRM.

Then there's the matter of RACES and the SKYWARN nets. When there is significant rain and hail, when you most need to make the repeater clearly, that is when you most need the 25 watts to punch through the back scatter. Believe me, most RACES emergency nets up here rely on people with full sized 2m rigs, not HT's. When the water is coming down at 3" an hour and the tornado warning is out, you really don't want to have the RACES net control have to tell you that he can't copy you.

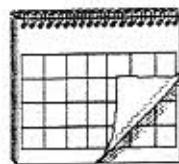
de Ginger McCausey, N5LTH

[Recall that last month's Guest Editorial writer believed that your first VHF rig should be a handy talkie. You can take your pick, or buy one of each.]

Rumor has it that K5EJL's philosophy of music is, "If it ain't Baroque, don't play it."

Calendar

Jul 11...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, ARRL
 Jul 11...Tidelands Hamfest @ TX City
 Jul 11-12...IARU HF World Championship
 Jul 14...Austin Amat. Radio Club meeting
 Jul 17-19...Centr. St. VHF Conf @Kerrville.
 July 18...Mueller Emerg. Exercise (ARES)
 Jul 21...Austin Amat. TV Club meeting
 Aug. 1-3...ARRL UHF Contest
 Aug 4...Austin Rptr. Organization
 Aug. 7-9...Summerfest @ Austin
 Aug. 8...Ham exams @ Wyndham
 Aug 11...Austin Amat. Radio Club meeting
 Aug 11-12...Perseid meteor shower
 Aug. 15-16...10 GHz Cumulative Contest
 Aug. 20-23...ARRL Nat. Convention @ L. A.
 Sep....ARO No-Code ham classes begin
 Sep. 12...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, ARRL
 Sep. 12-14...VHF QSO Party
 Sep. 19-20...10 GHz Cumulative Contest
 Sep. 26...Temple / Bell Co. Swap Meet
 Sep. 29...ARES meeting @ Luby's?
 Oct. 3...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, W5YI
 Oct. 10...Manchaca swapfest
 Nov. 6-8...ARRL Hamfest @ Houston
 Nov. 7...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, ARRL
 Nov. 7-9...Sweepstakes, CW
 Nov. 21-23...Sweepstakes, phone
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

