



AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

January 1993

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization

Will meet Tuesday, January 5, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop (about a block west of Burnet Road). While the official start time is 7:30, most folks get there early and eat supper together. Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, will tell about "Shooting Trouble With Basic Tools." See ARO Monitor on page 4.

Austin Amateur Radio Club

No regular meeting this month. The AARC Zilker Club House Banquet, 6 to 9 PM, on Saturday, January 9, takes its place. Banquet is \$7 per person. Door prizes include: 40 m receiver kit, 24 hr. clock, Ringo Ranger, dual band antennas, ARRL Handbook, ARRL Op Manual, ARRL Antenna Book, Repeater Directory, etc. Cut-off date for tickets is January 2.

To get to the Zilker Club House from MoPac, take the Rollingwood exit (aka Bee Cave Road). Get on the northbound access road (aka Barton Springs Road), turn under MoPac onto Rollingwood Drive. Go about 3 tenths of a mile, turn right onto a narrow road and drive up the hill. The Zilker Club House is at the end of the road, top of the hill, with a beautiful view of downtown. Questions? Call Gary, WX5Z, at 454-3230, or Steve, KB5RSY, at 251-7791.

Austin Amateur Television Club

Will meet Tuesday, January 19, same time and location as ARO above. Program: Video taped from a ham balloon at 120,000 ft. See Camera Amateurs on page 11.

New Hams Take Note

Now is the time to thank our favorite amateur radio instructor for his or her hard work and dedication to you and to the hobby. Nominations for the 1992 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year and the ARRL Professional Teacher of the Year awards are due to your Section Manager (Alan Cross, WA5UZE, ARRL South Texas Section Manager, 4714 Colwood Dr., Spring, Texas 77388) by January 31, 1993. Winners receive special mention in QST as well as various amateur radio publications. In addition, a plaque is awarded to honor their hard work. Congratulations to 1991's winners — volunteer instructor Thomas Hammond, NOSS, and school teacher Patricia Hensley, N4ROS.

de ARRL via Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Kit Class Scheduled

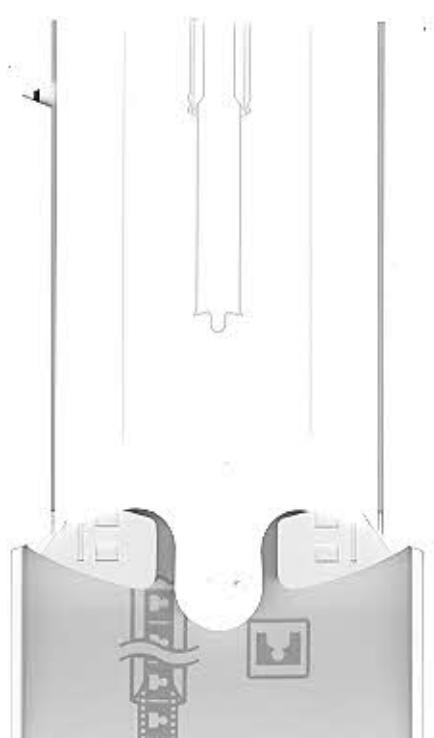
Mike Allen, KB5RBW, has announced that the QRP Kit Building Class will begin January 23 and run for four consecutive Saturdays. Classes run from 9 AM until noon, at Murchison Middle School, 3700 North Hills Drive. Bruce Williams, WA6VC, will teach how to build the 20, 30 and 40-meter CW receivers, transmitters and transceiver kits sold by MXM Industries...he should be pretty good at it, since he designed them.

Kits cost \$30 to \$95 (no cabinet), less 10% for class participants. The one-time

continued on page 9

Paul, KA5FYI, still walking on air after Vanna White contest win! See page 3.

N50UJ



For Immediate Release:

There is an old expression that goes, "Not advertising is like winking at a pretty girl in the dark...You know what you're doing, but nobody else does."

When the Amateur Radio community does not "toot its own horn" the public has no way of knowing that we exist...and if they do, they probably don't know WHY we exist.

This is why we must exert every effort to enlighten the general populace via whatever media may be available. And also why we should at all times conduct ourselves in the highest possible demeanor. It is sad, but nonetheless true, that the public in general thinks ham radio and CB are one and the same! Now, we know different...but THEY don't!

Your new Public Information Officer (PIO) is at this time working to establish a liaison with all known public media so that we can constantly feed them information on "happenings" and activities within the Amateur Radio community.

Here is where we need every single amateur's help. If you know, or hear of

anything in ham radio that you feel would be of interest to the general public, PLEASE call me, or just mail it in. Do not be concerned with proper grammar, spelling or protocol... "just the facts, man; just the facts." The whole idea is to simply be alert to things of interest that can be used as "media meat."

Serious effort is being made to acquire space for a regular Amateur Radio column in a local paper, hopefully the big one. It is believed that a regular presentation of our amateur community activities will greatly enhance our position in relation to all other city and county involvements.

What seems "trivial" to you in your regular everyday pursuit of radio communicating, may be quite interesting to the regular reader. An unusual contact of some sort, a contact with an unusual "twist," involvement in aiding victims in an emergency situation, how you ran across a friend you have not heard from in years, and all sorts of stuff like that, can make good reading to the casual newspaper reader.

I will soon make available a handout for each ham to take and follow as a guide to feeding Amateur Radio newsworthy items to your PIO. Your help is solicited, and you WILL get a by-line for your contribution.

Just remember. WE may know what we are doing in Amateur Radio...but THEY do not!

de Hal Henegar,
W5MDL, ARRL Public
Information Officer,
8520 Brookfield
Drive, Austin 78758,
tel. 836-2012



Stray Currents

SARC: San Antonio Radio Club will have their annual San Antonio Hamfest from 8 AM until 3 PM on Saturday, January 23, 1993. Vendors can start setting up at 7 AM. Location is the Crossroads Bingo Hall and Activity Center, at the corner of West Commerce and Gen. McMillan. Advance registration fees are \$4 for tables, \$2 for admission. Send checks (payable to SARC) to Royce Taylor, KA5OHJ, 5027 Blackberry, San Antonio, Texas 78238.

Scholarships: The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its annual \$2,000 scholarships. Licensed amateurs graduating from high school in 1993 are eligible. Please make this known to any amateurs in your area who may qualify. For further information and application forms write: DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Ct., Springboro, Ohio 45066. (thanks to Johnny Chiu, KB5SJK, UTARC)

SAREX: NASA plans 3 space Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment flights in 1993. STS-55, 56 and 57 are scheduled for launch on February 18, March 11 and April 28 respectively. (de AMSAT Journal, 850 Sligo Ave., Suite 600, Silver Spring MD 20910)

KA5FYI Still Thrilled

Paul Johnston, KA5FYI, is still "walking on air" after he won the first Vanna White Technical Article Contest back in June. This year it may be your turn. He describes winning as "one of the most exciting nights of my life," and he expects to enter the Second Annual Vanna White Technical Article Contest, which begins with this issue.



The grand prize will be the same as last year, an all-expenses-paid night on the town with TV celebrity Vanna White. Of course, if Ms. White has something else scheduled for that night, the club might have to substitute a prize of somewhat lower value.

All locally-originated technical articles for the AARC/Over received by May 14 will automatically be entered. Paul notes that an award like this can be a real attention grabber on a person's résumé!

Time's a'wasting! Mail or modem those technical articles in soon! Ms. White is waiting, and we don't want to letter down! de Miles Abernathy, N5KOB

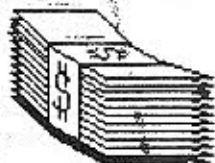
Spectrum Going Fast

The FCC proposes to give 2,000 MHz (2 GHz) to companies for operating Cellularvision, a voice and TV service that would compete with both the phone company and cable TV. The spectrum is in the 28 GHz region. Homes would need a flat 4-square-inch antenna to receive the signals. The FCC voted 5-0 to seek public comments on the plan. "We've tried to keep it very quiet," said one of its proponents, to avoid contentious Washington proceedings.

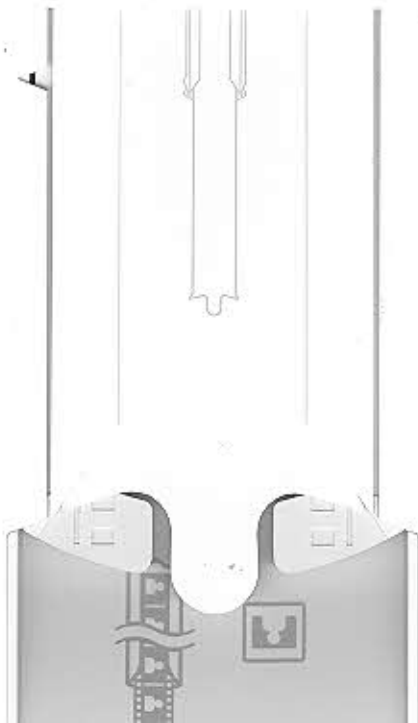
de Wall St. Journal, 12-11-92

Georgetown Swapfest

Sunday, February 7, from noon until 5 PM. Location is the Community Center at San Gabriel Park in Georgetown. Admission is free. Table rental is \$5 (\$7 with electric), and sellers can set up starting at 10 AM. City ordinance prohibits tailgating. Talk-in on 147.08 (+) and 145.13 (-) MHz.



For table rental call Tom WA5ACF at 6675 or 800-880-0064. This swapfest is sponsored by the Williamson Co. Amateur Radio Club.





PO. Box 4763, Austin, Texas 78765
Operator of Voice Repeaters on 146.28/88Mhz.,
146.34/94Mhz., 223.20/224.80 Mhz. and
449.1/444.1Mhz.
Packet Digital Repeater 145.01Mhz.
Sponsor of Central Texas Weather Net,
ARO Transmitter Hunt and Swapnet

HELPING HAMS

What a great story I came across in the paper (Associated Press) the other day! A ham in Lebanon, Illinois was fiddling with his ham radio before going to work one morning. He was killing time before going to his job at the post office when he heard a distress call. It was an English accent saying his 50 foot sailboat was sinking. The ham, Wilber Warke, relayed the ship's location to the Coast Guard, who in turn notified a commercial vessel, a Norwegian tanker. The tanker rescued the two British yachtsmen aboard. They were about 500 miles off the Florida coast. As they awaited rescue, they told Warke if they made it to safety, they were going to give him a big kiss.

Club Officers

President - Phil Steinbach (WB5SUR) 258-3215
Vice President - Jeff Schmidt (N5MNV) 255-6753
Secretary - Paul Parker (N5ZLN) 267-7070
Treasurer - Tenia Kinney (KA5TXX) 442-8427
Editor - Anne Click (KB5RHA) 451-7667

ACC FORMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A meeting took place Thursday, December 10, at the Northridge Campus of Austin Community College to discuss the formation of the ACC Amateur Radio Club. The following officers were elected: Bruce Cantrell (KB5RSK) President; Camille Lockridge (N5UXH) Vice President; and Hugo Sanchez (N5JGX) Secretary/Treasurer. Dues are \$10 per year. Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month. The club's first meeting will be Tuesday, January 26th, at 7:30 p.m. Call Bruce at 451-7272 for where. Membership is open to all ACC students. The gathering of a few ACC faculty, students, and a few local hams concluded with a discussion of ACC

TRANSMITTER HUNT - Jan. 9, 7 P.M.

AUSTIN REPEATER ORGANIZATION JANUARY MEETING

Luby's on North Loop - TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1993 -- 7:30 PM

Program: Shooting Trouble w/ Basic Tools

repeater possibilities. Exciting news on this could be forthcoming!

HELP! PASTOR WANTS HAMS OUT OF CHURCH

Call Pat Patterson (Home 327-0362 or Work 478-9568) if you can help cut out the repeater interference with St. John Neumann's Church wireless mike system. It seems that during Saturday and Sunday services for the past month, when the pastor turns off the transmitter, the congregation has been hearing local hams giving their calls and chatting. The pastor's not really upset, but would welcome our "expert" suggestions on how to eliminate the interference.

HIGHEST ANTENNA IN THE WORLD

Tom Griffy, WA5YAN, noticed one day recently that his SWR readings on 15 and 20 meters were wacky. Trying to pinpoint the problem, he climbed on his roof to check his antenna. One of the traps looked suspicious. When he and a few other hams took the antenna down and the traps apart, they discovered something in one of the traps that looked at first like a wasps' nest. On closer examination, it turned out one of the traps contained a marijuana cigarette in its entirety. Speculation is that someone on the assembly line was about to be caught, so they stashed the evidence. We're not sure what Tom did with it, though (o.k., just kidding, Tom).

ASK ANNE (REAL HONEST ANSWERS FROM KBSRHA--IF I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER, I'LL RESEARCH UNTIL I FIND IT.)

Q. Does anyone know how many hams there are in Austin?

A. There are 2,106 hams in the Central Texas area, according to Zeke (W5NFC). That includes zip codes between 78600 through 78800, which encompasses Georgetown, Bastrop, Dripping Springs, and San Marcos.

Q. Why give your call followed by "for I.D."? Why else would you give your call?

A. That's a good question, and it sure irks some hams when they hear the "for I.D." It does seem redundant, but some hams consider it a point of clarification.

Send your questions to:
ANNE BATHURST CLICK, KBSRHA
3105 MOHAWK ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78731

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER
AUSTIN REPEATER ORGANIZATION
MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Phil Steinbach (WB5SUR) at 7:30 p.m. at Luby's North Loop cafeteria. There were 83 people in attendance. Guests and visitors were introduced. The minutes were read by Paul Parker and were approved as amended. The Treasurer, Tennia (KB5TXX), reported a checking account balance of \$6,040.28. The engineering report was that all the machines appeared to be running well, except for the digipeter. Announcements included: Next Novice class will begin January 9, 1993; Nominations for Volunteer Instructor of the Year were solicited; Joe Fisher (K5EJL) announced a balloon launch scheduled for Saturday, December 5 in the San Marcos area.

There was no old business.

New business included the following:

Joe (W5EJL) presented the club with a check for \$500, which was ARO's portion of Summer Fest. The 1993 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$9,340.27 was approved as submitted. It was announced that there was a need for additional interest in the Kit Building class to make it worthwhile.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Tom (N5YNA) presented the program on Electrical Safety.

ARO DUES ARE DUE!

ARO Membership Form--1993

Name _____ Call _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home # _____ Work # _____

Annual dues are \$10. Each additional family member may join for \$3. Auto-dial is \$1.

Checks should be made payable to the ARO. Mail this form and payment to: ARO, P.O. Box 4763, Austin, TX 78765.

Thank you to my xom, LeRoy Click, for typing all this. de KB5RHA.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU.



HAM CONNECTION

(Interview with Zeke, W5NFC)

Do you know who built the first repeater in Austin? I learned that and other interesting historical radio facts at a Thursday lunch while talking with George Douglas Harvey (Popularly known as "Zeke" to his friends and fellow hams). The repeater--homebrew--sat in a six foot cabinet at Zeke's house for 8 years until the late 60's, when the ARO formed and took over the repeater. In the early 60's, Zeke and several U.T. students were thrilled to talk simplex--150 Mhz--on some old cab company 2-way radios they bought for \$35 each.

Like a lot of amateur radio operators, Zeke was interested in radio as a child, but couldn't learn the code. There were no tapes, then, certainly no Super Morse, so at age 10, he saved up his 10 cents per week allowance until he reached one dollar to buy his first ARRL handbook. All through high school he read the handbooks. When drafted at 18 years old, he was sent to signal corps where he learned the code--to the speed of 40 wpm!

Unlike nowadays, he built his first transmitter; then, he got on 40 meters daily, sending CW (You didn't call it code, then, he emphasized. It was always called CW). "You got a liberal education easy when you had tubes," Zeke said. "Everyone built their own rig."

When Zeke had the 1st Austin repeater in the late 60's and the 2nd repeater in Texas (the 1st was in San Antonio), he and George Munsch (W5VPQ) of San Antonio called a meeting of hams from Austin, Houston, and San Antonio. From that meeting evolved the Texas UHF-FM Society.

If you want to hear a great story--Zeke's got many--ask him how he helped get call license plates in Texas. Or just say, "Hey, Zeke, how did Senate Bill 32 get passed?" Then be prepared to settle in and listen for awhile.

ELMER

By Rich Regent, K9GDF



Austin Amateur Radio Club Minutes

Meeting for December 8, 1992. President Neely, WA5LHS, brought the December meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

VISITORS: Our visitors included Al, who just moved to Austin; Jim, KB5CIU; and Al, K1SCY.

MINUTES: The November 10th meeting's minutes were approved as printed in the AARC/Over.

OFFICER REPORTS: Dave, KG5ND, the AARC Treasurer had to be out of town. He sent a report that the club checking account balance is \$1,825.72, plus a postal account balance of \$250.52. Our Technical Committee Chairman, Ed, K3AHS, knows of no problems with the repeater. He still hears some misuse of the autopatch and requests that we monitor its use and help those whom we hear misusing it. The Club Activities Manager, Gary, WX5Z, was not able to attend. He sent word via Rod, WOND, that the January meeting will be the annual Bar-B-Que on January 9th. Tickets are \$7.00 each.

NEW MEMBERS: We elected the following new members: Darrell, KB5ONO; David, N5MYD; Richard, KB5UOG; Stu, KB5TJG; a returning member, David, KK5D; A. L., KB5VHM; Jim and Julie, N5WDH and N5WDN; plus Patrick and Nevil, both waiting for their calls.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Jim, WA5LHS, presented the nominating committee's slate for the 1993 officers. He then reminded us that this is a suggested list only, members may nominate others from the floor for these officers. The floor was then opened for nominations, but none were heard. Joe, N5HPC, moved that the nominating

committee's slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote with no opposition. The newly elected 1993 officers are: President: WA5LHS - Jim Neely; Vice President:

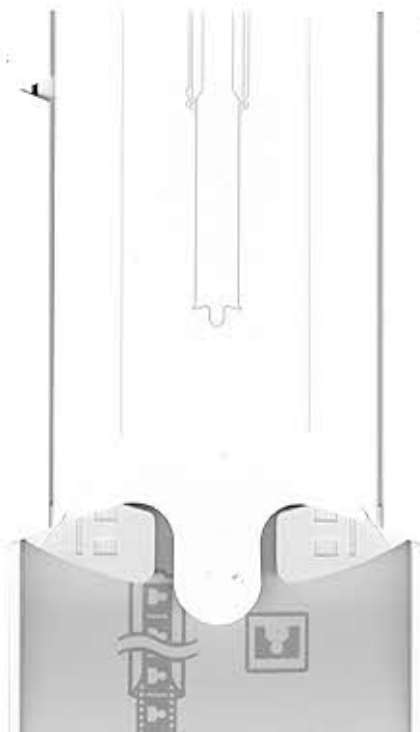
Mike, KB5RBW, is organizing a Kit Building class...

WOND - Rod Moag; **Secretary:** KF5OY - John Weber; **Treasurer:** KG5ND - Dave Marschall; **Activities Chairman:** KB5RSY - Steve Sparks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rick, K5FNI, has stickers with his phone number for the ARES pagers. Rick also announced that there will be a quarterly ARES meeting at 7:30 PM on December 29th, here at Luby's. Joe, W5EJ, presented the AARC with \$500.00 as its share of the proceeds from last August's Summerfest. Hal, W5MDL, announced that the QCWA will start meeting monthly. The meetings will be on the third Saturday, 11:30 AM, at Wyatts Cafeteria in the Hancock Shopping Center. Bill, AB5HP, announced the formation of the Austin Community College Amateur Radio Club. The organizational meeting will be this coming Thursday at the Northridge campus. Mike, KB5RBW, reminded us that he is organizing a QRP Kit Building class to start in January.

PROGRAM: Returning Vice-President Rod, WOND, introduced a panel for a presentation on packet radio followed by a question and answer session. The panel members were Jim, WA5LHS; Ben, WD5HLS; and Steve, KB5RSY. Jim began with a brief

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FCC Rule Changes

The FCC has proposed establishing a small weak signal subband within the 222 MHz Amateur band, as well as authorizing Novices use of the entire band, in response to ARRL petitions. In addition, the FCC proposes allowing Novices to be licensees and control operators of repeaters in both the 222 and the 1270 to 1295 MHz Novice segment of the 1240 MHz band, as proposed by another petitioner. The FCC has asked for comments on these proposals, in P.R. Docket 92 289, with no deadline set as yet. For more information, see January, 1992 QST, page 73, and April, 1992 QST, page 63. (12-7-92)



The ARRL has filed reply comments continuing to support an FCC proposal to revise their rules on permissible communications by Amateurs. The proposal, in P.R. Docket 92 136, is detailed in March

"...allowing Novices to [own] repeaters..."

1992 QST, page 62. The League said that other commenters seeking fine tuning of the proposed new rules were asking for an unnecessary rigidity in Amateur rules. The League also suggested that a request by commercial interests to relax the use of Amateur Radio in ordinary news gathering, a request previously denied by the FCC, be denied once again, and that the revised rule change be finalized as soon as possible. (12-8-92)

de ARRL HQ via Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Ron, WD5ERG, SK

Ron Meyer, WD5ERG, became a silent key in November. He was a friend to many of us, a good person and a good ham.

NEW HAM CORNER

Cracking Pileups

During the last CQ DX Phone Contest I ran into the worst pileups I have ever seen. It was real interesting to hear guys with linears and huge yagis show up, say their calls once or twice and walk off with the DX while all us little guys sat there and listened with envy. Since I can't compete with the big boys on ERP, I guess I am going to have to rely on skill alone (now there's a concept).



In my 3 weeks on HF, here's what I have learned so far to help crack said pileups;

- Listen for the DX station to start answering stations from your number's area before you call. Beats calling for nothing!
- If the pileup is huge, go read a book and come back in a bit. This has helped a lot during the CQ DX Phone Contest.
- Don't always call right away after the DX station has finished. Wait until right after the initial rush and then say your call. I discovered this by accident. I called late for the heck of it and got answered!

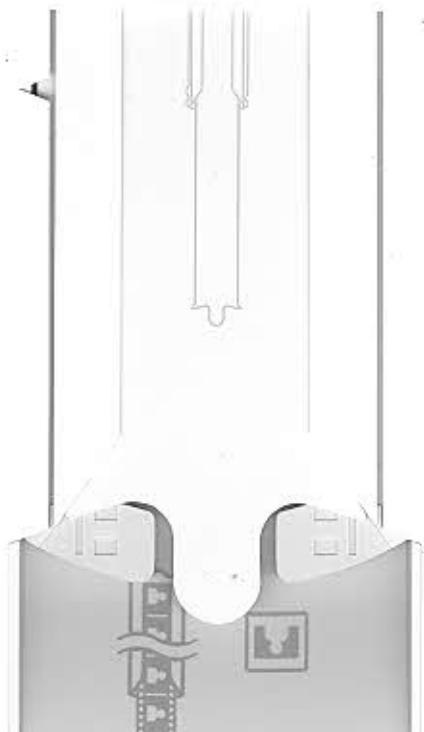
• Look for other DX stations that are calling while everyone's at the pileup. I picked up Ecuador very shortly after he started calling doing this.

de Jeff Jones, KC6SKV

Kit Class from page 1

building-use fee is \$3 per person. Eight have enrolled already, maximum is 25.

This is really quite a rare opportunity...to build a kit under the direction of its designer, who can explain how the circuit works and help troubleshoot it if it doesn't. Even some old timers may attend! If you are interested, call Mike soon, either on 147.06 MHz during drive time, or at 328-0823.



Ham Balloons Going Up Everywhere

Balloons carrying ham radios have been getting popular lately. The South Texas Balloon Launch Team out of Houston launched a balloon ("BLT 7") from Seguin on December 5. After a successful flight with a digipeater payload, it landed in a field only about 100 yards from a road near Sealy and was recovered successfully. A ham in Shreveport was able to work the digi on 2 meters, and another ham in Massachusetts was able to hear the 10m beacon. That makes 7 consecutive successes for the team!

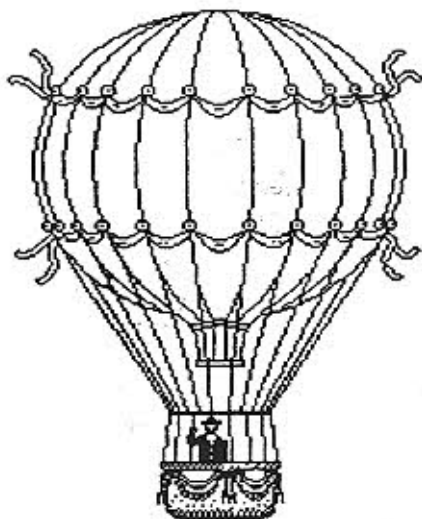
The following weekend was the North Texas Balloon Project's turn. Their payload included a radar reflector, 2m and 10m transmitters, and a 35-mm camera. The launch team assembled at the Cleburn airport, and even inflated the balloon, but the clouds would not go away and the flight was scrubbed.

The informal Texas balloon team frequency is 7.155 MHz. You can tune in there on Saturday mornings and see if anything is happening.

The Wisconsin Amateur Radio Balloon Association (WARBA) has recently, or will soon, launch a balloon designed to carry amateur radio clear around the world. The balloon will cruise at about 65,000 feet at night, then rise to 75-80,000 feet in the sunlight. Listen on 14.317 MHz for the 50-milliwatt CW beacon, "DE WB9SBD/BCN BALLOON PSE QSL", followed by 13 sets of "OO". For a QSL card, send a SASE and report the exact time you heard the callsign. The flight will take 3 or 4 weeks.

WARBA is very active in ham balloons. Their last launch, October 31, landed in light rain somewhere in a large marsh, and when its transmitter went off the prospects for recovery seemed very dim. But luck was with the hams...the package had emerged from the cloud cover above two goose hunters, whose dog noticed it

first. According to one of the hunters, "We didn't know what it was. We first thought



it might be a bomb because it was beeping [an audio tracking device]. Then we thought it might be a drug drop that had landed in the wrong place! It's a good thing we shot it first!" The hunters called the phone number on the side of the payload and collected a \$50 reward.

de Joe Mayenschein, WB9SBD, via BSSS, and other sources

Ham Licensees

Here are the number and breakdown of licensed amateur operators in some Central Texas communities.

City	Nov	Tech	Gen	Adv	Xtra	Total
Austin	128	503	277	311	167	1386
G'Town	8	34	17	24	16	99
R. Rock	5	30	10	9	10	64
Pflville	6	16	9	7	8	47
Leander	9	14	6	11	0	40
CedPark	3	18	7	6	1	35

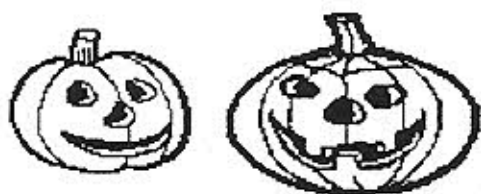
Source: BuckMaster HamCall, Oct. 1992, via John Q. Adams, W5SYT

Camera Amateurs

The Austin Amateur Television Club met on November 17, 1992 at the Luby's on North Loop.

This, being November, was the annual business meeting and election. The current officers agreed to continue serving in their present positions: Bob, W8ZSX, as president; Joe, K5EJL as VP; Pat, WA8PLR, as treasurer and Jon, N5MHI, as secretary. George, N5ZLV, joined the technical committee. Dues were collected from all present.

We discussed the successful ATV activity that occurred Halloween night in downtown Austin. The ATV club and other local amateur volunteers operated 6 video cameras that assisted local authorities assure a safe night for the approximately 100,000 participants in the Halloween celebration. Pat, PLR, coordinated the effort. All cameras were set up to be monitored simultaneously from the law enforcement communications truck. Two cameras operated on 900 MHz, one on 430 MHz, two on 1.2 GHz and one on 75



Ohm cable. All six pictures were combined and translated to 6 UHF channels on the top of a parking garage and then sent down a 250' cable to the communications truck. The event came to an end around 12:30 AM when an approaching violent thunderstorm caused many of the participants to not want to be out on roof tops! By then most were pretty tired anyway. Joe Fisher, K5EJL, read a letter of appreciation from the City at the following ARO club meeting. Over two dozen participants helped with staging, setup, camera

operation and teardown. Thanks to all who helped!

A couple of new repeater sites were discussed. Joe, K5EJL, will follow up.

Bob, ZSX, reported on his trip to the Houston Ham convention. There was an interesting talk by an attorney about a recent California antenna deed restriction case. First, the city upheld the neighborhood's deed restrictions. Then when taken to court, the court said that since PRB-1 is a national policy, it would overrule the city (also, the city probably could not enforce the deed restrictions anyway). The city appealed, the decision was reversed, the ham "lost" but the city had to compensate him.

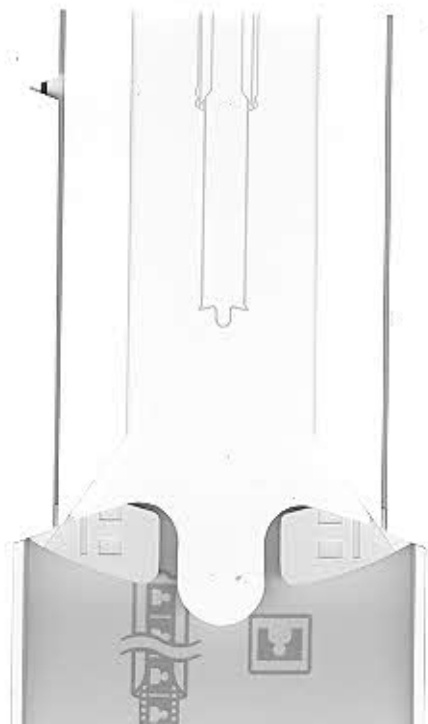


For show and tell, George, ZLV, brought in a miniature infrared camera about the size of a pack of cigarettes. It has 8 infrared LEDs on the front. He demonstrated how the LED's could "illuminate" the scene in a dark room. [see 73 *Amateur Radio*, Jan. 93, p. 56] Bob, ZSX, brought a communications van he had recently obtained from a Houston TV station, complete with a 40' pneumatic telescoping mast.

The next club meeting will be the usual third Tuesday at Luby's. January's program will be a new video tape from AEA on ATV. Featured will be a club that launched a camera and transmitter in a weather balloon that sent pictures back to the ground from an altitude of 120,000 feet. Visitors are welcome!

There is usually some ATV activity Monday evenings from around 8:30-9:30PM 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 contact W8ZSX, WA8PLR or N5MHI.

de Jon Penner, N5MHI, 335-0220



HUCK'S COUNTRY STORE**Fungus Amongus**

A well-known Fraternity among Radiomen fifty years ago was called "Fungus Amongus." That term originated among Signal Corp Radiomen during "The Big War."

Soldiers who were stationed in tropical or semi-tropical climates were forced into the fraternity. It spread like a plague and afflicted men and their electronic equipment, bringing great pain to the men and death to their radios.

Those were the days of push-back wire and reclaimed rubber for electrical insulation, before plastic came along. Push-back insulation was a woven cotton braid on the wire. You just cut the wire and pushed back the insulation...very fast and easy.

After exposure to hot and humid climates, this insulation would start to show dark mold spots, then would grow whiskers of insulation rot. Other molds would attack people as ringworm, scabies, athlete's foot, jungle rot and other imaginative names.

Stored electronic gear could be totally destroyed in just a few weeks. You may have seen this plague in antique radios. Though people did not die, they suffered somewhat of a "living death."

How good it is to have all the encapsulated electronic components and plastic insulation in modern equipment! And, advances in medical care and sanitary living conditions make "fungus amongus" just a bad dream of the distant past for most Americans. Electronic equipment of today is such a joy, for we know that it is good for many years of reliable service. We never expect to see "fungus amongus" again.

from the 50-year memory bank of J. M. "Huck" Huckabee, AA5BU.

ANAGRAMS

Here are the names of some local radio club officers, with the letters re-arranged. Can you identify them? Can they identify themselves? Answers on page 15.

1. Cackle inn.
2. Charm saved all.
3. He now be Jr.
4. Bleach isn't hip
5. Vesper tasks
6. Keen inanity

de "Hell, Sir, By My Antenna," N5KOB

UT Club Earns WAZ

W5EHM's Worked All Zones (WAZ) certificate has arrived. To get this, you contact (and confirm via QSL cards) stations in all 40 "zones" of the world, and it pretty much requires you to cover all parts of the globe. This one is for all-CW contacts.

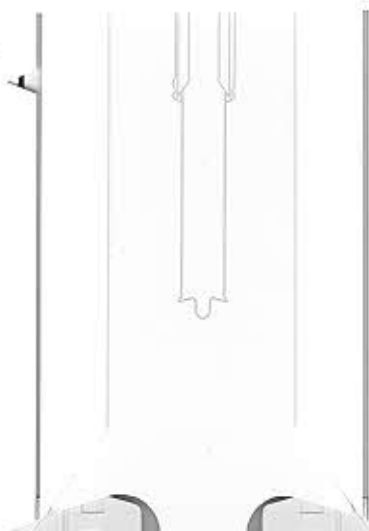
Anyway, it's a nice certificate and will be displayed at the shack if someone will frame it.

de Derek Wills, AASBT, G3NMX

AARC Minutes continued

explanation of packet radio, continued with networks (NETROM and the TexNet system), and included some suggested references for beginners (*Get Connected to Packet Radio, Your Gateway to Packet Radio, plus Texas Packet Operating Guide*). Ben continued this with a discussion of TCP/IP and its ties to Internet (an international computer interconnection system). Steve talked about problems he encountered as a beginning radio operator. Thanks to all three for an interesting meeting.

Submitted by: Joe Canfield, N5HPC, AARC Secretary.



W5YI-VEC December Austin Exam Results

The W5YI-VEC held an examination session on 5 December. Many congratulations to the following who qualified for new licenses -

<u>Name</u>	<u>License class</u>
Thomas Ashworth	Technician
Gregory Breedlove	Technician
Patrick Casey	Novice
Charles Dear	Technician
William Cole	Technician
David Gentry	Tech Plus
Scott Hooter	Technician
Homer Huerta	Tech Plus
Larry James	Technician
Woodrow Lemcke	Technician
Lucille Miller	Technician
Geoffrey StGermain	Technician
Neville Stewart	Technician
Colin Thom	Technician
Steve Titsworth	Technician
James Trevarthen	Technician

In addition people 10 people upgraded (4 of them) before their first license has even arrived!) -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>License class</u>
Robert Basinger	Awaiting	General
Kenneth DeBower	Awaiting	Advanced
Joe Honovich	WA5OIB	Extra
Terry Krey	N5TKR	Extra
John Moore	KB5VIW	Tech Plus
Sakae Obara	Awaiting	Extra
Richard Payton	KB5UOG	Advanced
Jim Seiders	Awaiting	Tech Plus
William Sepulveda	N5EIF	Extra
Gary Wall	KB5IJU	Tech Plus

Congratulations! One candidate passed one or more elements but did not upgrade or qualify for a new license.

The overall pass rates for examinations at this session was -

CW	53%
Theory	79%

Many thanks to the following VEs who gave their time -

Richard Ber	KB5BBU
Charles Doughtie	N5EXY
Jim Greenwood	AB5EK
Jim Huckabee	AA5BU
Dave Lidback	N5MNV
Bill Montgomery	AB5HP
Tom Rohrer	AB5FH
Joe Thiel	N5SMN
Roy Walker	WA5YZD
Lloyd Walls	WA1PRY
Keith Watson	WB9KHL

If any Advanced or Extra Class amateurs would like to become a VE and help with the examination sessions, please give me a call on 335-4327! If you are already a W5YI VE and I haven't called you yet please get in touch and I'll add you to the list!

The next regular exam session at Murchison will be on Saturday January 9, 1993, run by the ARRL-VEC. The next regular W5YI-VEC examination session will be Saturday 6 February.

For information on the ARRL-VEC session call Larry Gunter, WB5BEK on 473-3526 (work) or 345-7281 (home). For information on the W5YI-VEC session call Mark Johnson, KJ5AN, on 335-4327 (home).

Please note that the fee for examinations in 1993 will be \$5.60, an increase of 20 cents.

de Mark Johnson, KJ5AN



AARC & AARC/Over Information

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Officers

Jim Neely, W4SLHS, President 442-4812
 Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice Pres. 467-6825
 Dave Marschall, KG5ND, Treasurer .83+1779
 John Weber, KF5OY, Secretary 280-1082
 Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, Activity Mgr 251-7791

Committees & Positions

Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical 255-4818
 Joe Fisher, K5EJL, ARES Coord. 926-4689
 <vacant>, AARC/Over Editor
 Hal Henegar, W5MDL, P.I.O. 836-2012
 <vacant>, Official Greeter

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

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). Please contact an officer if you would like to join the club, and come on down to the next meeting.

Viewpoints expressed in *The AARC/Over* do not necessarily reflect those of any club or its members, directors, or officers.

Members are encouraged to submit material for publication...email to miles@emx.cc.utexas.edu, or mail to AARC/Over, 3216 Park Hills Drive, Austin 78746, or call Miles at 327-1310. Submissions may be edited for format, style and suitability. Deadline for the next issue is the 14th of this month. Late material will be saved for next month.

We grant permission to reprint *AARC/Over* articles provided that you credit the author and *The AARC/Over*.

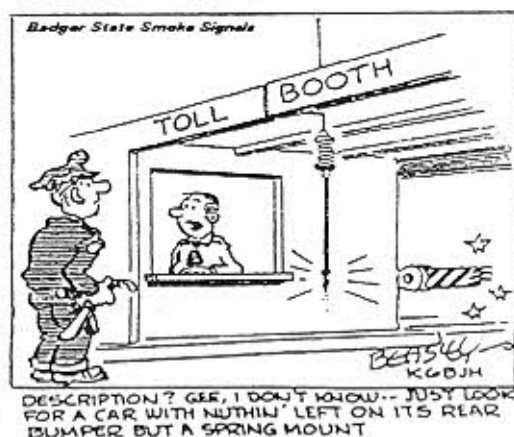
He Needed an Elmer

One of the saddest or funniest things I have heard was a newly-licensed station on a fairly rare island who gamely entered a contest. He wanted people's names for the log (you don't do this in contests, but people went along with it, otherwise they wouldn't get a QSO).

One of the big stations who worked him suggested that he go by call areas to make it easier on him, but the DX guy didn't know what that meant. Another person who got through explained that the first one meant "take 1s, then 2s, then 3s, etc.". The DX guy then said "OK, I'll take zone 1 first - any zone 1?" Of course, no Alaskans called but lots of W1s did, and the DX fellow then proceeded to berate the 1s who of course were all in zone 5.

Later he got the hang of it, although was still saying things like "OK, now everyone with a 4 in the call or in Zone 4" (which includes most of the U.S.). This was all pretty funny, although had I needed this island on that band or mode I might not have thought so. The guy was doing his best, and the desperate callers just had to go along with it. It takes a while to learn proper contest procedure, and it must be extra tough if you in a rare location.

de Derek Wills, AA5BT, G3NMX



Guest Editorial

Calendar

Why Ham Mags Are Slim

Nowadays, there is a lack of really good publishable articles for magazines devoted to Amateur Radio. I am on the editorial review board of Communications Quarterly for antenna articles and related measurements subjects.

It is a rarity to see an article that is technically correct and does not attempt to refute or repeal basics like Ohm's Law, Conservation of Energy, etc. I am not addressing such items as spelling, grammar, and so forth; these are things any editor can fix.



I had one recently which attempted to tell prospective readers that reflected power was lost power. There were equations to prove it, too!

de Forrest Gehrke, K2BT

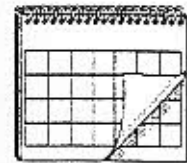
Solution to last month's crossword puzzle:



1. Anne Click, 2. Dave Marschall, 3. John Weber, 4. Phil Steinhach, 5. Steve Sparks, 6. Tenia Kinney, Miles Lynn Abernathy

- Dec 29...ARES meeting @ Luby's
- Dec 31...Straight key night
- Jan 2-3...RTTY Roundup
- Jan 5...Austin Rptr. Organization meets
- Jan 9...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison
- Jan 9...AARC Banquet @ Zilker Clubhouse
- Jan 12...NO AARC Meeting
- Jan 16...QCWA, 11:30, Wyatt's
- Jan 19...Austin Am. TV Club
- Jan 23...Kit Building Class starts
- Jan 23...San Antonio Hamfest
- Jan 23...South Austin W5YI Exams
- Jan 23-25...ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
- Jan 26...ACC AARC meets (495-7186)
- Jan 30-Feb 7...Novice Roundup
- Feb 6...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison
- Feb 7...Williamson Co. Swapfest, noon
- Feb 8...School Club Roundup
- Feb 10-11...ARES Heart to Heart
- Feb 20...South Austin W5YI Exams
- Feb 27...Wide Area Weather Exercise
- Mar 6...Ham exams, 8:30 AM, Murchison
- Mar 6...Skywarn '93 @ 3M
- Mar 6-7...Intl DX Contest, phone
- Mar 20...South Austin W5YI Exams
- Mar 30...ARES meeting @ Luby's
- Apr 10...Manchaca
- Apr 22-25...Robot Olympics, Toronto
- Jun 26-27...Field Day
- Aug 6-8...Austin Summerfest 93

Calendar updates to Miles @ 327-1310.



Weekly Events

- 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
- Lunch...Thursdays @ Holiday House #4
- U.T Net...Thursdays, 7 PM, 145.21
- QCWA Net...Thursdays, 8:15 PM, 147.18
- Breakfast...Saturdays, Simon David deli.
- 521 Trade/Tech Net...Sat., 9 PM, 145.21
- WeatherNet...as needed, 146.94 MHz