



AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

August 1993

ISSN 1067-0262

Amateur tower "noxious" - Update

David, WA4NST, and Sherri, N4XLF, Brower of Vero Beach, Florida, won their appeal of the Code Enforcement Board's order finding them in violation of the laws and ordinances of Indian River County that the limit the height of towers. In the code enforcement appeal, the court found that the local ordinances, which absolutely limit tower-heights to 70 feet, were preempted by PRB-1 and Sec. 125.0185(1), Fla. Stat. that incorporates PRB-1 as state law. Quoting the opinion, written by Judge J. Kenney, "We conclude that the ordinances in question are nothing more than flat and arbitrary prohibitions enacted without any attempt to consider, much less balance, legitimate community concerns, with similarly legitimate, and legally recognized rights, of Amateur Radio licensees."

The appeal of the civil trial that found the radio transmissions to be a "noxious and offensive activity and the appearance of the tower and antenna an annoyance and nuisance to the neighborhood" is still pending. The issue in this case is the broad interpretation of deed restrictions to prohibit Amateur Radio. The tower and antennas are standing but the Browsers are still enjoined from further radio transmissions from their home.

The Browsers thank all who have written to the ARRL, government offices and ham radio

publications and sent letters of encouragement. A special thanks goes out to James H. Laseter, N4ZYX, for acting as trustee for the legal defense trust. Your generous contributions have helped cushion this tremendous financial burden.

- World Radio - Aug. '93

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization

meets on Tuesday, August 3, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop, one block west of Burnet Rd. Everyone is encouraged to come early and have supper together.

Austin Amateur Radio Club

will meet on Tuesday, August 10, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's on North Loop.

Austin Amateur Television Club

will meet on Tuesday, August 17, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria.

Austin QCWA

meets on Saturday, August 21, 12:00 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria.

The AARC/OVER is published monthly in Austin, Texas

Monitor

Austin
Repeater
Organization

P.O. Box 4763, Austin, TX 78765

Amateur Radio Club

Operators of Voice Repeaters on

146.28/88, 146.34/94, 123.20/224.80, and 449.1/441.1 Mhz

Packet Digital Repeater 145.01 MHz

Sponsor of Central Texas Weather Net, ARO Transmitter Hunt and Swap Net

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Phil Steinbach	WB5SUR	258-3215
Vice President	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNV	255-6753
Secretary	Paul Parker	N5ZLX	467-7070
Treasurer	Tenia Kinney	KA5TXK	442-8427
Newsletter Editor	Mickey McInnis	KB5YAC	339-0344

Greetings, I am Mickey McInnis, KB5YAC, the new editor of the *Monitor*. Actually, I just agreed to "type up" the *Monitor*, so please forgive me if I don't produce deathless prose, or produce a lot of pages.

Feel free to contact me at the number above if you have material for the *Monitor*. (My number is wrong in the roster, but I am in the Austin phone book.)

Minutes of the July ARO Meeting

The meeting started at 7:30 PM on July 6, 1993, at the North Loop Luby's Cafeteria.

Unfortunately, it appears that no one took minutes, so the minutes will be limited to what I recall.

Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, gave a short descrip-

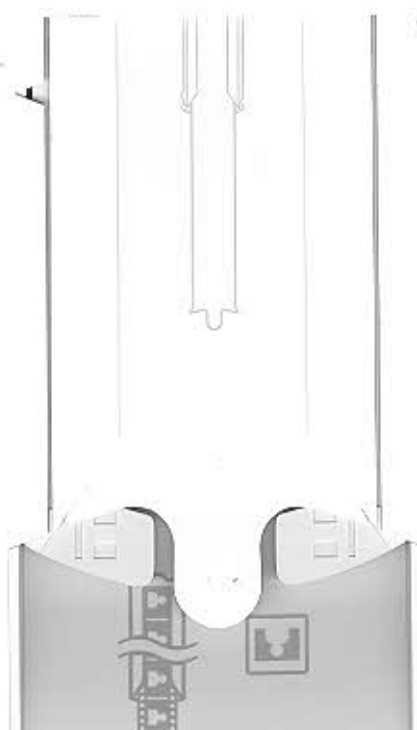
tion of the field day activities at DOSS elementary school.

Joe Makeever, W5EBJ, discussed the Austin Summerfest scheduled for August 6-8. This is a volunteer event of the Austin ham community, so please volunteer to help if you can.

Austin Summerfest Volunteers

Please Contact George Dallas, N5ZLV, at 837-5925, if you can work security (i.e. check for tickets at the door.) This will be inside the air conditioned area.

Please contact Frank Edwards, KB5WOA, at 451-4318 if you can help with talk-in.



Antenna Analyzer available for Loan

Keith Watson, WB9KHL, has received the MFJ 249 Antenna analyzer the ARO has purchased. This device allows you to quickly analyze the SWR on your antenna setup. Please contact Keith at 288-9709 if you would like to use it. It is available for loan to all ARO members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 3, 1993 at 7:30 PM at Luby's Cafeteria at North Loop and Burnet Rd.

Transmitter Hunt

The August Transmitter Hunt is scheduled for August 14, 1993 at 7:00 PM. The hunt frequency will be 146.52, with coordination on 146.52.

ARES Net

The Travis County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net meets every Sunday night at 6:30 PM on the 146.94 Repeater and at 8:30 PM on the 146.78 Repeater. Any amateur interested in emergency communication is invited to join.

Swap Net and *Newsline*

There is a swap net held every Sunday night at 9 PM on the 146.94 repeater. The swapnet is followed by *Newsline*.

Information on ARO's Repeaters

All of ARO's repeaters are open access. Any amateur is invited to use them, except during nets, when a designated net control is in charge of repeater usage.

146.88 offset -600 KHz has a phone patch. Use "*" to bring up the patch, and "#" when you have completed the call. You can dial "911" (no star needed) for access to local emergency services. "Speed dial" 3 digit access codes are available to ARO members for frequently

dialled numbers.

146.94 offset -600 KHz is used for the weather net at the request of the National Weather Service. It is also used for the Swapnet and *Newsline* at 9PM Sunday.

224.80 offset -1.6 MHz is ARO's 200 repeater.

444.10 offset -5 MHz is available.

ARO maintains a Packet Digital Repeater on 145.01 MHz.

RFI Tips

I think I would try the "standard" TVI remedies. Contact your section Technical coordinator (located through your Section Manager - page 8 of QST - or ARRL HQ.)

* Install a low-pass filter between the transmitter and the antenna tuner. If the TVI is on channels harmonically related to 15 meters, ie channel 3 and channel 6, this will probably be the cure. Even if not, put it on anyway. The TVI might stem from both station harmonics and fundamental overload. This way you will be confident that it is not your station.

* Purchase some FT140-43 ferrite cores. (#43 is the material of choice for 15 meters. If you also operate on 80, get some FT-140-J, FT-140-75, or FT-140-77. If you have RG-8 (or equiv size) cable, or a BIG line cord or plug, you may need to use an FT-240 size core.)

* Wrap about 10 turns of the transmitter's AC line cord around one of these cores, as close as possible to the transmitter. This is a common-mode choke. (If you have other AC-powered equipment connected to the transmitter, ie keyer, SWR meter, TNC, etc, install one of these on its AC line cord, too. The idea here is to prevent any chassis RF (harmonics or fundamental) from seeking earth via the power lines.)

* Do the same thing with the coax cable between the transmitter and the tuner. This is also a common-mode choke. * Now you know that the transmitter is (probably) clean.

* Simplify the TV installation. Multiple TVs, VCRs, etc make it impossible to troubleshoot. Get it down to one antenna or cable and a TV. If it is cable and a non-cable-ready TV, use the set-top converter or VCR as you normally do. After you get the bugs out, you can start adding stuff backone at a time.

* If you have a TV preamp, booster or distribution amp, get it the heck out of there. These things are notorious for overload.

* Install a high-pass filter on the TV (or before the set-top converter/VCR.) If using a set-top converter/VCR, you may need to use one before the converter AND before the TC.)

* Install a common-mode choke in the same location(s). If the TV is using a CATV or community antenna, I would try the common-mode chokes before the high-pass filter, just to play the percentages.

* Install a common-mode choke on the TV and set-top converter/VCR AC-line cords.

* If you still have interference, try using a differential-mode AC-linefilter on the TV, set-top converter or VCR, and the station transmitter. Radio Shack catalog 15-1111 is universally available.

* If you still have TVI, either you have one of those "wierd" problems that you don't even want to think about, or you have a TV that is just so susceptible that it can't be helped. If so, call me here at HQ. I will offer some advice. But please, read the RFI Tips handout and the Radio Frequency Interference book before you call me. I don't mind helping, but would prefer that we not have to cover the basics.

(Continued on Pg. 9)

HUCK'S COUNTRY STORE

BY HUCK HUCKABY - AA5BU

Counting The Controls On Your Rig

How many controls are needed on a good receiver, transmitter, or transceiver? We are in the days of marvelous communication equipment. The new gear has very little remaining to be desired; a button or knob; or some automatic circuit can solve anything you can imagine; even some things we cannot understand.

The best receivers in the immediate post WW-II era had 12-20 controls. These were in the form of knobs and switches. It now appears that I need a transceiver with at least a hundred controls in order to be respected by my peers; and anything under about 35 controls makes me a "2nd class Ham"!

What is the real progress in the recent 20-30 years? Here are the items I think are outstanding:

- o 1) No warm-up time required
- o 2) Essentially absolute frequency stability
- o 3) Excellence in calibration
- o 4) Outstanding sensitivity
- o 5) Simple to operate
- o 6) Low power consumption and heat generation.

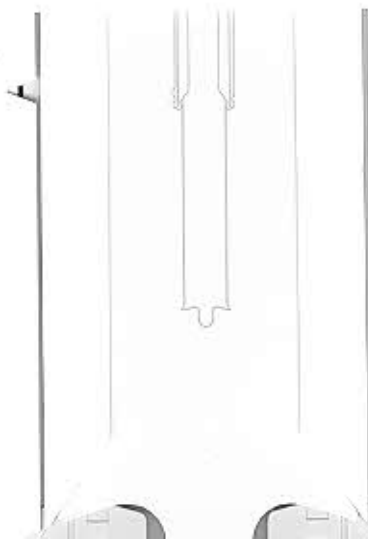
Yes, we have dozens of other features that contribute to ease of operation and organization of our modes of use. But remember, hams worked all states, zones, continents, etc. in years past with about the same ease that we do today. A large part of our ability to now achieve those goals is due to the larger number of radio operators. By example, fifty years ago the US callbook was in much larger print and the thickness of your little finger!

Why do we need a hundred controls? Today's transceiver is a great omnibus; something for everyone! Have you ever watched an avid contest-operator make one of these hundred-button jobs "walk and talk"? That's a show that was never dreamed of just 20 years ago. Some of the contest scores of a one-operator station reach astounding high values; we must see them operate to believe what can be achieved!

Its nice that Ham Radio activity does not require a hundred buttons. That means that amateur radio can be fun and affordable in almost every economic bracket of our society. Therefore I leave this charge to everyone who is, or expects to become a radio operator: Don't let your heart be sad over what you cannot afford; have fun with what you can afford!

The scope of amateur radio is so broad that you cannot do it all; it takes very little resources to do some of it; Ham-for fun!

de Old Huck - AA5BU



AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

Jim Neely, WA5LHS, President, brought the meeting to order on July 13, 1993, at 7:30 pm at Luby's on North Loop.

VISITORS: The following visitors were introduced Joe, KA5LLL, George, K2KBL, Chuck, KB5YKJ, and Steve, KC5APU.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 8, 1993, meeting were approved as printed in the AARC/OVER.

OFFICER REPORTS: Dave Marschall, KG5ND, Treasurer, reported that the checking account balance was \$2053.58 and the postal account balance was \$476.00. Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical Committee Chairman, reported that the Club's 146.78 MHz machine was operating without any problems. There was no Activities Manager report.

NEW MEMBERS: It was voted to accept as new members Joe Slawik, KJ5KM, and Victor Berstis, N2UES.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Miles, N5KOB, passed out the ARES alert tree. Frank, WB5WOA, needs volunteers for the talk-in at Summerfest. George, N5ZLB, needs volunteers for security at Summerfest. Jim, WB5IMB, announced that QCWA will meet at Luby's July 17, 1993. Dick, KB5BBU, had material for nominating ELMER awards. Joe, W5EBJ, announced Summerfest would be August 6, 7, & 8 at the Wyndham. This year there will be a serious swapmeet on Friday from 7 PM to 9 PM.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried and President Neely adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

PROGRAM: Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice-President, introduced Mike Allen, KB5RBW, from the kit building class. The class recently built kits designed by Bruce Williams. Huck, AA5BU, Gary, KC5BHP, and Gene, K5GP, described modifications and differences in the versions of the kits that they had constructed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Weber, KF5OY

AARC Secretary

Guest Editorial

Perpetual Motion Machine Available

If you see the September 1993 issue of Popular Electronics take a look at the inside front cover. It's a full-page ad for the new Mohawk Environmental Services "SWITCH-CHARGER". This amazing device allows a battery to recharge itself while at the same time powering a circuit! Yes, Popular Electronics published a full-page ad for a perpetual motion device on the inside front cover of their September issue. I haven't read PE regularly since my childhood - I knew they'd been in decline for 20 years, but had no idea they'd gone this low. The ad goes on to say that you can get the plans for this device for just \$100, check or money order only. Send it to a post office box in Springfield, MA. No phone number is given. Funniest of all are the blurry pictures of the device: a poorly cropped picture from one angle, a very small picture at another angle, and a low-resolution blow up of the small picture! Two identical images, different sizes. The device appears to consist of a glass of ice cubes on a board with speaker terminals on either side of it. A blurry diagram similar to a bridge rectifier is drawn on a cap on top of the glass of ice cubes. Now, obviously, PE isn't going to get paid for this ad. It's either straight fraud, in which case the P.O. box is collected from once and the con artist disappears, or it's a malicious joke on PE. In either case it's clear that nobody with even half a brain checks their ads. I'd be embarrassed to be seen with a copy of their magazine after this.

de Bruce Perens, KD6OTD

-via Internet and N5KOB

Hams Not Ready for Emergency Service

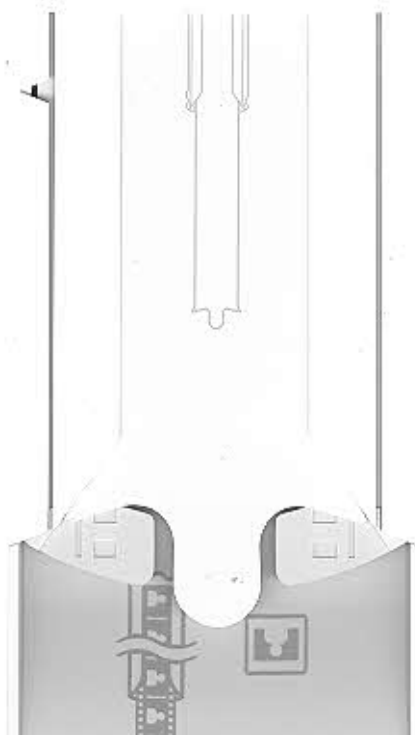
I question whether most hams are properly trained for handling emergencies, either at the tactical level or even Health & Welfare. To ensure that things work properly at the time of an emergency scenario, training incorporating the elements of the "total emergency network" has to be done. Only a small number of hams actually take part in this type of training. Many of the hams and official emergency agencies don't even properly communicate and coordinate. The ham portion of the emergency network is not properly exercised in many et Field Day is the vehicle for such training. However, I have to say that Field Day has become nothing by a QSO contest. Establishing training for emergency communications based on Field Day experiences is not even remotely feasible. About the only thing is shows is the time it takes to find all the equipment (radios, cables, antennas, generators, etc.) to even begin the process of setup. For many clubs, Field Day planning takes most of the year.

More hams really should become part of the official ham emergency groups, such as ARES and RACES. More hams involved with these groups would mean a larger pool of really trained people.

de Erich, N3OXM

[Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net meets Sundays at 1830 on 146.94 MHz and 2030 on 146.78 MHz. There are no dues, and all licensed amateurs are invited to join. ARES has agreements to serve several agencies, including the Austin Police, Austin Emergency Management Office, National Weather Service, Salvation Army and American Red Cross.]

-via Internet and Miles N5KOB



AARC Information

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Officers

Jim Neely, WA5LHS, President442-4812
Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice Pres.467-6825
Dave Marschall, KG5ND, Treasurer 834-1779
John Weber, KF5OY, Secretary 280-1082
Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, Activity Mgr. ... 251-7791

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. Come on down to the next meeting!

Committees and Positions

Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical 255-4818
Joe Fisher, K5EJL, ARES Coord.926-4689
Steve Means, N5PSW, A/Over Ed.452-7240
4800 Caswell... Austin, TX... 78751
Hal Henegar, W5MDL, P.I.O. 836-2012

RFI...(Cont'd from Pg. 4)

Actually, the best solution is to clean up your own house. That may take care of everyone's problem. If not, at least you can demonstrate that it is not your equipment. Do be careful, though. If you mishandle the situation you may find yourself having to buy a few hundred ferrites, highpass filters, etc. You are not bound by law to purchase any filters to compensate for inadequate filtering in consumer equipment. Some hams take the easy way out and pay for the one filter needed to help one neighbor.

Ed Hare, KA1CV and Miles, N5KOB

AARC/Over Information

ISSN 1067-0262, CODEN AAOVE3. (c) Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and/or the Austin Repeater Organization.

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... send material to the Editor at 4800 Caswell, Austin 78751 or by packet on the N5PSW BBS - 145.09 MHz. 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 later months. Permission granted to reprint AARC/Over.

Calendar

Aug 3 Austin Rptr. Organization meets
Aug 6-8... Austin Summerfest '93
Aug 7... Ham exams at Summerfest
Aug 7-8... ARRL UHF Contest
Aug 10... Austin ARC Meeting, Luby's
Aug 17... Austin Amateur TV Club meets
Aug 21... QCWA, 12:00 PM at Luby's
Aug 21... South Austin W5YI Exams
Aug 21-22... 10 GHz Contest
Sept. 2... Wayne Greene's Birthday
Sept. 7... Austin Rptr. Organization meets

Weekly Events

ARES Net... Sun., 6:30 PM, 146.94 MHz
ARES Net... Sun., 8:30 PM, 146.78 MHz
SwapNet, NewsLine... Sun., 9 PM, 146.94
Lunch... Thurs. @ Holiday House #4
U.T. Net... Thurs., 7 PM, 145.21 MHz
QCWA Net... Thurs., 8:15 PM, 147.18
Breakfast... Sat., Simon David Deli
521 Trade/Tech Net... Sat., 9 PM, 145.21
WeatherNet... as needed, 146.94 MHz

Fraud...

If you responded to the large boxed ad on page 3 of the 5/1/93 issue of the Ham Trader Yellow Sheets by Dave Meyers N7KRS, via any telephone BBS's advertising radio equipment and computers by this individual, or over the air, or if you know of the whereabouts of this individual please contact Mr. Dan Marsh of the Las Vegas, NV FBI office at (702) 385-1281 as soon as possible and provide him with all the details. A large number of people have sent this individual money but no one has reported receiving anything from him. His telephone service has been disconnected and he is no longer at any of his addresses in the Las Vegas area. Please also file a mail fraud report with the US Postal Service.

-via Miles - N5KOB and the Internet

First Rig...

When I first got into the hobby several months ago, some of the local hams encouraged me to buy solid state, the most expensive that I could afford. Don't buy third world technology, I was told. Armed with this wisdom, I began shopping for a new or used rig. But the lure of the local 2-meter repeaters was so strong that I surprised myself by an impulse purchase of a Yaesu FT-470. That was okay... handy talkies were new technologies. I ran across some really interesting and remarkable deals for some of the well-known HF models of the big three: Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu. Most of these "good" deals meant an investment of nearly a \$1,000 to get them up and running. (Even the humble Yaesu FT 747 needs a power supply and a antenna tuner.) But I didn't know which "bargain" to buy. I had no criteria to judge which one was "really" the rig that I should get. And I resented paying such a high initiation fee after buying a new dual-band handy talkie.

(Cont'd.)

Each day I became painfully aware that 2 meter FM QSOs were not bringing me closer to the coveted General Class ticket. Finally after turning down an attractive deal on a Kenwood 440 fully loaded (a digital voice even told you what frequency you were on) because I could not tell if the Yaesu FT-767 with both 6 meter and 2 meter modules for \$200 more was the better deal, I realized there was another solution. Wasn't Don Weeks having fun making cw QSOs with a Kenwood 520s that he paid \$450 (including external VFO)? And didn't WIFB's book—Help For New Hams—suggest that besides the Kenwood TS-520s, that the R. L. Drake TR-4B and "C" models of transceivers or a Ten-Tec Triton IV would serve well as first rigs? Had to decide for myself that Amateur Radio is a hobby where knowledge and skill were the prizes, not the equipment. Concentrate on the ham experience first, the equipment second. I could always buy better stuff. Serendipity for me that within a couple of hours of coming to that conclusion, I found a message that there was a Drake TR4CW available in mint condition that would make a great first rig. Yep, I snapped it up. Expect to receive it within the week. But whatever will I do if one of those funny bottles break? Ted Chipps N8PHK Detroit

-Via N5KOB and the Internet

Bits and Pieces...

New RFI #1

Mike Allen, KB5RBW, noted that his programmable central A/C thermostat cycled on and off while he transmitted CW. The clock also became disoriented.

New RFI #2

Charles Rich, WA5ESR, found that RF got into his electronic irrigation system. The sprinkler heads danced up and down when he operated SSB. — N5KOB

