



AARC/OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

November 1993

ISSN 1067-0262

ARES Exercises With City

It is a good thing that the events of Wednesday, September 22, were just an exercise! Otherwise, a mid-day tornado would have caused major damage and loss of life in northwest Austin. Instead, it turned into a very exciting and educational practice for over 30 City employees and 10 local hams. City participants applauded the ham efforts at the end of the exercise.

Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) members participated with the City Emergency Management Office in this year's event. As the scenario unfolded, one or more funnel clouds were reported about 9:30 AM at 2222 and Lakewood Drive, and 360 and Far West Blvd. The 146.94 repeater was knocked off the air, and participants had to QSY to the 145.21 MHz backup frequency. Soon the funnel cloud touched down, and a large fire and tree uprootings were reported. The tornado moved into the Arboretum area. A ham "eyewitness" reported cars flying in the air and broken glass everywhere. The ham said he was lying in the ditch.

The high winds lifted the roof off a yogurt shop, then hit a large grocery store, and then demolished the skylight of a hotel at the Arboretum. Blood and broken bones were reported. The Austin City Manager was injured while attending a stress-reduction

(Continued on Page 15)

Elmers Available

Got a problem? If it involves money, play the Lottery. If it involves love, write to Dear Abby. If you need technical help with ham radio, call Keith, WB9KHL. Keith maintains the club list of elmers (persons volunteering to help) and folks needing help. Currently he has too many under-utilized elmers. So if antennas, transceivers or packet have you buffaloed, call Keith at 288-9709.

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization

meets on Tuesday, November 2, 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, November 9, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's on North Loop.

Austin Amateur Television Club

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

Austin QCWA

meets on Saturday, November 20, 12:00 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria.



P.O. Box 4763, Austin, TX 78765

Amateur Radio Club

Operators of Voice Repeaters on

146.28/88, 146.34/94, 223.20/224.80, 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	N5MNW	255-6753
Secretary	Paul Parker	N5ZLX	467-7070
Treasurer	Tenia Kinney	KA5TXK	442-8427

Minutes of the Austin Repeater Organization Meeting October 5, 1993

The meeting was called to order by President Phil Steinbach [WB5SUR] at 7:30 PM at Luby's North Loop cafeteria. There were approximately 80 people in attendance.

Guests and visitors were introduced.

The minutes of the September 7 regular meeting as published in the October 1993 *ARO Monitor* were approved as printed.

Engineers Report:

John Dahm reported that all equipment was in operation.

Announcements included:

Manchaca Swapfest & Amateur Radio Exams

on October 23, 1993

ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 16, 1993.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Tenia Kinney [KA5TXK] and Keith Watson [WB9KHL] were elected to fill vacant positions on the ARO board of directors.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Submitted by
Paul Parker [N5ZLX]

Secretary

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 2 1993 at 7:30 PM at Luby's Cafeteria at North Loop and Burnet Rd.

Transmitter Hunt

A transmitter hunt is scheduled for November 9, 1993 at 7:00 PM. The hunt frequency will be 146.52, with coordination on 146.94.

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 swap net 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 operator 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 dialed 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 available.

444.10 offset -5 MHz is available.

ARO maintains a Packet Digital Repeater on 145.01 MHz.

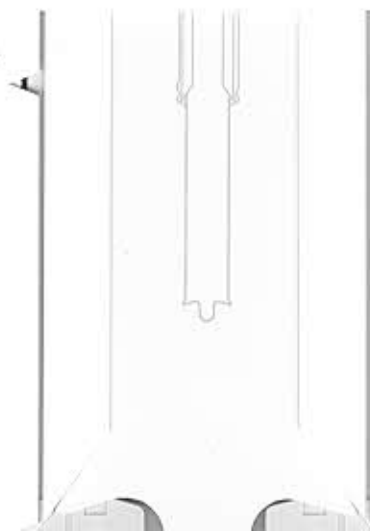
Other events

Tailgate Expo Belton TX. April 23, 1994. 8 AM - 2 PM free admission, tailgate space \$10.

Ham expo 94 Belton TX. October 8, 1994. Indoor table or tailgate spaces. Contact Mike LeFan at 817-773-4768.

ARO Monitor Editor

The *ARO Monitor* is edited by Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC]. This is only this two page section of this newsletter. Steve Means edits the *AARC/Over*, which is the bulk of this newsletter.



Very Busy August ARES Meeting

Badges...were handed out at the meeting to those who did not get them earlier. Joe, K5EJL, recommended that folks make a copy of their ham license, spray it with AquaNet (or similar fixative), and put it in the badge holder. Miles Abernathy, N5KOB, will bring a can of AquaNet to the next meeting (if he remembers).

FCC Rules Changes...Joe called Luck Hurder at the ARRL, learned that local ARES groups now need written agreements with their served agencies. The Planning Committee will work on them.

Packet...ARES needs to make more use of packet radio. Directors of our served agencies bring it up with Joe "all the time." Members need to consider getting packet equipment and experience. Mac Cannary, KB5VYT, wants to set up a packet ARES net session...call him at 339-9531 if you want to participate. [try 145.09 MHz Sundays at 9:30 PM]

EOC...The City of Austin is getting a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in the low building on the corner of 8th St. and Colorado, second floor. Ham operators will have our own room, 7 ft. x 14 ft., with built-in counters and emergency power! Construction begins October 1993, move-in June 1994.

Sept. 22 Exercise...The City of Austin's Emergency Operations Center will have a table-top emergency exercise Wednesday, September 22, 9:30 to 11 AM. The emergency will be a killer tornado which hits NW Austin and knocks out all communications except police and amateur radio. Volunteers were solicited to help.

Oct. 16 SET Exercise...The Big One! Simulated Emergency Test (SET), Saturday, October 16, off and on all day long. > The local American Red Cross will actually set up an emergency shelter somewhere, "out of range" of their own 47 MHz radios. All

traffic will be passed by hams. > The Houston Red Cross may simulate a hurricane, requiring an HF link from Austin to Houston. > We may join the Civil Air Patrol during SET to fly over the "damaged area" and provide live video of the destruction for damage estimates, something that would help DPS as well as the Red Cross. > The National Weather Service (NWS) wants to be involved in SET. They want to simulate that they have moved to their New Braunfels office, and they want weather nets in all their 33 counties to activate and send in reports. > For this year's SET, digitally-passed traffic counts twice as much as voice traffic. > The Salvation Army may be involved in SET. Dave, N5RNE, is checking.

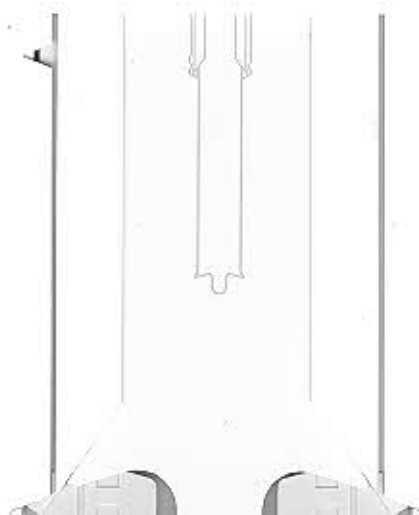
Emergency Repeaters...These local repeaters have emergency power back-up: 146.78, 147.18, 146.90 and 146.94 (soon).

Red Cross Station...needs maintenance. Antenna leads are mis-labelled, etc. Call Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, 251-7791, if you can help.

New Braunfels NWS Office...The new Weather Service office is being built now at the New Braunfels airport. It will cover 33 counties. Move-in should begin April 1994, radar and software will take 2-1/2 more years to make operational. The San Antonio office will close Sept. 1994, the Austin office will close Sept. 1996. A San Antonio club intends to set up a repeater on the new NWS tower. Louis Withrow of the local office is anxious to have hams continue the weather nets...he says they will still need visual confirmation of tornadoes.

Net Controls...Rick, K5FNI, is rotating folks out of the Net Control (NC) position who have held the job for awhile, and rotating folks in who have not yet been NC. Contact Rick (454-1670) if you want a change.

Dallas Brainstorm...A computer-controlled ham station in Dallas has a neat way of
(Continued on Page 10)



AARC OVER

AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

Jim Neely, WA5LHS, President, brought the meeting to order on October 12, 1993, at 7:30 pm at Luby's on North Loop.

VISITORS: The following visitors introduced themselves: Mike, WB4HUC; Steve, KB5WSJ; and Tim, AB5OA.

MINUTES: The minutes of the September 14, 1993, meeting were approved as printed in the AARC/OVER.

OFFICER REPORTS: Dave Marschall, KG5ND, Treasurer, reported that the checking account balance was \$1335.64 and the postal account balance was \$424.21. Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical Committee Chairman, was absent but President Neely reported that everything is working. Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, Activities Manager, reminded the club that our Manchaca swapmeet will be October 23, 1993, and he needs lots of help. Please call Steve and volunteer your services. Sellers will be admitted at 6:30 am and buyers will be admitted at 8:00 am. Talk-in is on 146.78 MHZ. Steve also reminded us that the Club's banquet is January 15, 1994, and he wants us to register as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBERS: Charles Malone, KB5YWK; Daniel Leatherman, WH6HT; Gene Smith, KC5ATY; Greg Hixon, N1ONN; John Moore, KB5VIW; Mike Newell, WB4HUC; Tim Matthews, AB5OA; and Steve Fridley, KB5WSJ, were accepted as new members.

OLD BUSINESS: Pete Jordahl, K5GM, asked about the annual inventory of the Club's property. Stu Rohre, K5KVH, mentioned he was working on it. Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, said we had been working on the Club's station and equipment.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jim, WB5IMB, announced that the Quarter Century Wireless Association meets the third Saturday of the month at the Luby's on North Loop at 11:30 am. Joe Fisher, K5EJL, reminded us of the SET on Saturday, October 16, 1993. It will start in the morning and last most of the day. Rick Herndon, K5FNI, passed out message forms.

It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn. President Neely adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

PROGRAM: Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice-President, introduced Phil Steinbach, WB5SUR, President of the ARO and employee of IBM who extolled the virtues of IBM OS2 software. OS2 needs a 386 or higher platform. It is IBM's answer to Microsoft's NT. OS2 is a disk hog. The full blown system uses about 35 Megabytes. Phil was assisted by his son David.

Respectfully submitted,

John Weber, KF5OY

AARC Secretary

SOUTH AUSTIN W5YI VE TEST UPDATE...

The South Austin W5YI VE team congratulates everyone who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at the October 16 session. They were:

Robert A. Mattocks KC5AAM Advanced Class

Jose A. Lyon IV KB5ZYA General Class

Robert M. Day KB5WYZ Technician Plus

Terry L. Helge -new- Technician

Terry L. Parker -new- Technician

James M. Sibigroth -new- Technician

Jimmy R. Tyree -new- Novice Class

The administering volunteer examiners included:

Bob Basinger, AB5OC

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Bob Inks, WA5MUM

Emil Kasprzyk, KC5IZ

Joe Slawik, AB5OO

Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Lloyd Walls, WA1PRY

Start the new year with a new license! Come to either of our next two sessions on November 20th or December 11th. We start at 2:00 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University, and no pre-registration is required. Call Jim, AB5EK at 327-6184 for further information.

AARC OVER

The Austin Amateur Radio Club
Annual Banquet
at

Manhattans Restaurant
on Saturday, January 15, 1994
6:00 pm for drinks and conversation
7:30 pm for dinner

The Menu:

Chicken Milanese

Roast Chicken over Fetticini

Beef Stir Fry

Beef Strips with Broccoli and a variety of vegetables over brown rice

Tossed Salad

Chocolate Mousse

Beverages: Soft Drinks, Iced Tea, Coffee

Bar Drinks: The first keg of beer is free! (flavor to be announced)

Cash Bar: Beer \$2.00/bottle Wine \$2.75/glass Mixed Drinks \$3.25

Margarita \$3.50/12 oz. \$2.75/9 oz.

Cost: The cost is \$10 per person. It is very very important to get an accurate head count. Mail your check/money order to Austin Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 13473, Austin, TX 78711, by Dec. 15

Manchaca Exam Report - Oct. 23, 1993

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at the Manchaca Swapfest session on October 23, 1993:

Mark Beamer KB5RUG Advanced Class

Stephen J. Kirk KB5VPK Advanced Class

Steve L. Sparks -new- General Class

Hugh C. Brown -new- Technician Plus

Thomas P. Foran KB5VGL Technician Plus

Janet M. Snyder -new- Technician Plus

Steve W. Bailey -new- Technician

Delbert H. David -new- Technician

Curtis W. Doss -new- Technician

Richard L. Stephens -new- Technician

Franklin E. Taylor -new- Technician

George A. Piskorz -new- Technician

Three others earned element credit without upgrading.

The administering volunteer examiners included:

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Emil Kasprzyk, KC5IZ

Bill Montgomery, AB5HP

Tom Rohrer, AB5FH

Joe Slawik, AB5OO

Carol Thiel, N5TLY

Joe Thiel, N5SMN

We will hold our next two VE sessions on December 11th and January 22nd at 2:00 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University.

For more information, call Jim, AB5EK, at 327-6184.

Huck's Country Store

By Huck Huckabee - AA5BU

What Is My Purpose In Amateur Radio?

Thinking about taking an Amateur Radio License Exam? Or have you just passed the License Examination? Do you have that long-awaited new call? Where can I go from here?

The questions will be heavy on your mind and no recommendation will make sense. Every amateur operator will recommend that you follow in his or her tracks. Yet you may not desire to become a carbon copy of those about you.

Surely a piece of good advise will be to study the breadth and depth of this marvelous hobby, so that you can make a good personal decision. Look over the facets of the license privileges available and find the area that will give you "that great expected thrill."

By all means, keep working on upgrading your ticket. Don't pause for weeks or months; you will be loosing your equity in past study. Forge ahead! That will give you a greater ability to make lasting decisions.

If you are computer oriented, there is a vast area of Amateur Radio for you. Do you like electronic equipment construction? There is an endless field awaiting to teach you high technology electronics.

How about DX-ing? A whole world is out there awaiting to receive your call. How about contesting? No one ever dreamed what that can be like with a few pieces of Ham Gear!

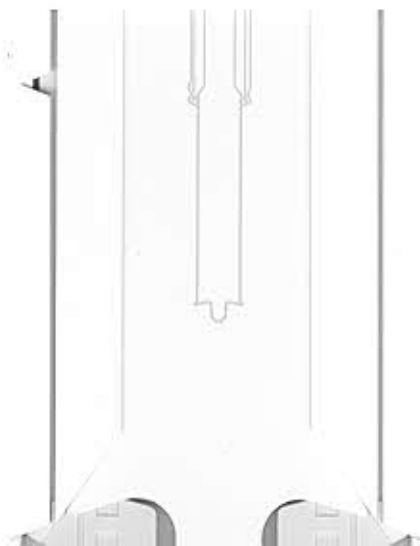
There is always a space awaiting your help in Public Service, Emergency and Rescue work, etc. What a great thrill to this old boy is helping teach others and work as a Volunteer License Examiner.

So many of us enjoy a pause for a simple conversation with a friend via HF or their HT. Some have school work, young families, job pressure and the other things that vie for their spare time. You may be just the one for mobile operation!

Right up front you will want to "do it all." To that, I would say: "Impossible!" Over more than a half century of Amateur Radio experience; Old Huck has only scratched the surface. The technology has grown at a faster rate than one person can run!

Old Huck says: The excitement of Amateur Radio is beyond description. Run fast, and enjoy the fun and education!

de Old Huck AA5BU



August ARES Meeting (Cont'd from pg. 4)

alerting members to emergencies. When the computer receives notification of an emergency, it starts dialing the telephone numbers of all members who carry digital pagers. It sends the message "14694" (or similar) to each digital pager, so the person knows to turn on her / his radio. If you think you could help create a similar system in Austin, call Rick (454-1670).

Traffic Needed... We need messages to pass on the net, at least one per session. N5RNE will generate a training message in mid-September. Everyone should copy all traffic, to get practice. Real outgoing traffic should be passed before net announcements, training messages afterward.

Tips for NC's... Acknowledge the call signs of everyone who checks in, so they know you heard them. Know who your Alternate NC's are. Mark L with a circle around it next to liaison stations when they check in.

Tip for Others... If the NC gets your call sign wrong, be sure to correct him / her. Call signs are being spoken slower recently, which is a big help.

St. Louis Flooding... Pat McGwier, WA8PLR, went to St. Louis during the big flood. He went up in a Civil Air Patrol plane and sent back 4 hours of real-time video of the flood. The Army Corps of Engineers was impressed, maybe LCRA would be interested.

Local Government Liaison Needed... Joe has application forms for anyone wishing to serve in this or other post. We need to have someone who can talk with local government folks, to help prevent anti-ham legislation.

Joe Canfield, N5HPC, has been appointed as Assistant Emergency Coordinator to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and RACES.

A Solution to Radio Interference

I recently purchased a mail-order PC with a poorly shielded case. The plastic cover had no conductive coating, ferrite beads were noticeably absent on the PC and poorly placed inside the keyboard, etc. It could be picked up on 2 meters (with the antenna outside), 880-900 MHz (scanner in the next room), shortwave, etc. The PC registered at S-7 on a handheld transceiver 3 feet away (with a rubber duckie antenna, no less).

The folks who assembled and sold it were no help, and denied knowledge of something as technical as radio waves. "It's FCC certified, sir. We send it to lab and they approve it." Another good line is, "Our radio work just fine and we have many machines." Of course they're listening to the 50,000 watt FM station three blocks down the road.

Anyway, I turned them in to the FCC. Here's how you do it: - Call the local FCC field office. If it isn't in your phone book call the Federal Information number, 800-366-2998.

- The field office asked me to dial up the FCC Part-15-Info BBS, the "FCC Public Access Link", and find out if the FCC ID number listed on the machine is for real. The phone number for the FCC BBS is 301-725-1072. It's 2400 baud, with no login/password required.

- The BBS has all kinds of neat stuff, but you want to look up the FCC ID number on the back of your PC. Enter option 1 for "Access Equipment Authorization Database", then 1 at the next menu for "Equipment Authorization Application Status." You will then be prompted for the equipment's FCC ID number.

In the case of my 486-DX66/2, the FCC registration number was from a 486-25 (DX or SX wasn't specified, nor was the type of cabinet). I reported this to the local field
(Continued on Page 11)

Solution...(Cont'd from Pg. 10)

office, along with the FCC registration number and the company's name/address. The FCC engineer (who was most pleasant and helpful) pointed out that many of these companies have one machine certified, then sell everything under the sun using that number.

Will any of this do any good? Perhaps, perhaps not. But if we just continue to ignore the problem it certainly won't get any better.

de Jim Cronin, N2VNO

You are correct that the problem can't get any better if you don't do something, and thus, you can certainly not make matters any worse by following up as you have. Moreover, for what it's worth, the FCC has in recent years gotten quite aggressive about issuing fines (or what they call "monetary forfeitures") for all sorts of violations, including failure to observe Part 15 requirements in the marketing of electronic equipment.

If it turns out that the model you have is in fact noncompliant, then I would not be surprised to see the information you provided to the FCC result in a forfeiture of at least \$6,000 to the vendor. Theoretically it could be more because each day of a violation counts separately, but the FCC typically starts with the base amount, especially if it is the first offense to come to their attention. If the vendor has any interest in complying with law (or at least a desire to stay out of trouble) that initial fine is usually adequate to get its attention and make sure it cleans up its act.

de Bob Keller, KY3R

Joke: Did you hear about the ham who joined the National Rifle Association? He was afraid that the government was going to outlaw Gunn diodes. (anon.)

Mega Power Supply for HT's

For special events, I've built a battery pack for my HT out of 1" grey PVC conduit, which has an inner diameter the same as the outer diameter of alkaline C cells. I use 10 C-cells, which provides 15V (13.5V when heavily loaded with 1.2A going into my HT in high power mode). If you don't drain it too fast, you can get 4 Amp-hours out of alkaline C cells.

Here's advantages of alkaline cells: * Initial Battery price cheaper * Shelf life better (years instead of weeks) Alkalines don't really have a self-discharge problem. * Higher energy per unit volume or unit weight (2X is typical.)

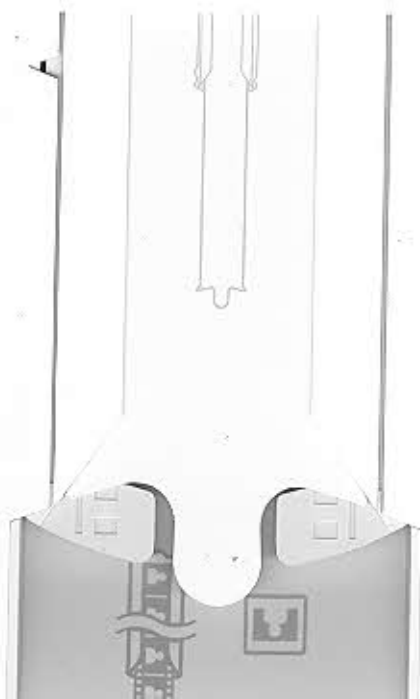
Disadvantages: * Not rechargeable * Maximum current drain is significantly less than a similarly sized NiCad (10X!) * Don't work as well in cold weather as NiCads. Alkalines have a big difference in power between 70-degrees and 32 degrees F.

The pack is trivial to construct, and only requires materials available at any hardware store (except the power connector to your HT).

Before I describe it, I want to mention something I tried first that didn't work: I bought a bunch of Radio Shack 'C' cell holders (those flimsy plastic things that hold 4 C cells.) Here's the problems with those:

1. The batteries pop out easily (this can be fixed by taping the batteries in with electrical tape.)
2. You need 3 holders to get 10 batteries (not really a big deal, but you have to bolt the holders together or put them in a box)
3. The wires coming out of the holders are VERY thin and fragile. They also have measurable voltage drop with more than 500 mA going through them.
4. The springs used to hold the batteries in place have a lot of resistance. YOU CANNOT PUT C NICADS IN THESE HOLDERS! If you run a couple of amps through them, which NiCads will

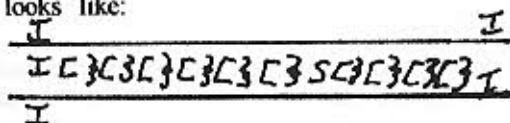
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Mega Power Supply...(Cont'd from Pg. 11)

melt right through the plastic holders.

Without further adieu, here's what my C pack looks like:



The tube () is about 21 inches long, - just a piece of 1" grey PVC conduit. The batteries { } are alkaline C cells. I've run a number of tests with a home-brew digital battery tester, and found Duracell and Eveready to be better than Ray-o-Vac. There are two bolts, marked "I", one at each end of the tube. The bolts can be almost anything from 6-32 up to 1/4". Make them long enough to bolt on your power lugs.

Here's the Secret Trick: The letter S up above is a spring, which keeps tension on the batteries. I got this from an old 6V lantern battery. Just snap it off with needle-nose pliers, and load it in the battery pack when you insert the batteries. Put the wide end of the spring towards the positive terminal on one battery, and the small end of the spring pushing on the negative terminal of the next battery in the tube. If you have an old lantern battery to destroy, you'll have a spring and a spare. Otherwise, just buy the cheapest lantern battery you can find and remove the springs (around \$5).

When constructing, measure the distance between the bolts VERY CAREFULLY. If not, your batteries won't fit, or will be too loose. I recommend drilling the hole at left first, then insert a bolt. Next install the batteries and spring. Now, measure where the positive terminal on the top (right) battery sits with the spring compressed and un-compressed. Drill a hole for the rightmost bolt such that it will compress the battery to about half-way between the two limits. When measuring, remember that the battery

pushes on the edge of the bolt, not the center. Also, try and drill a hole which is exactly the same diameter as the bolt you're using. My batteries fit perfect on the first try.

I built one of these in half an hour last weekend, and took it on a mountain climb to 14,000 ft. It got knocked around a lot, and worked great. It's got to be the most rugged battery pack you can have.

With my HT on high power (5W), I can get 2.5-3 hours of transmit time out of these batteries (and infinite listen time).

More Good Exam Results

Congratulations to these new radio amateurs who earned Technician Class licenses at the September 18th South Austin VE session:

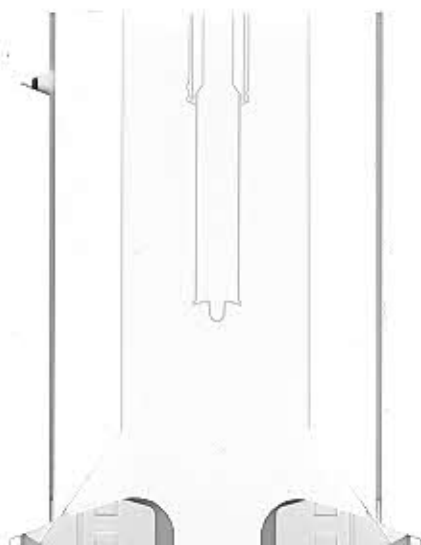
William L. Feistel
Stephen B. Mitschke
Clay L. Noren

The administering VE's were:

Bob Basinger, AB5OC
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Emil Kasprzyk, KC5IZ
Bill Montgomery, AB5HP
Mike Ruiz, WB5WPS
Joe Slawik, AB5OO
Br. Donard Steffes, KD9WI
Carol Thiel, N5TLY
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

We invite prospective hams and upgraders to our next session on November 20th, beginning at 2 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the St. Edward's University campus. Pre-registration is not required.

Call Jim, AB5EK at 327-6184 for more information.



Advanced License Class

Matt Bertram, KB5TGC, is organizing a class for persons wanting to get their Advanced ham licenses. Instructors and students are needed, and no starting date had been set at this writing. For information, call Matt at 288-0259.

Packet Video Available

Videotape of a packet radio seminar is available for borrowing. The seminar was held this Spring at Apple Computer here in Austin, and it covered packet BBS's, TexNet, the DX Cluster and TCP/IP. The whole 4 hours is on video tape. To check out the video, contact Mac Cannary, KB5VYT, at 339-9531.

ARES Goes Digital

Mac Cannary, KB5VYT, has begun the Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) packet radio net. At this writing, the net meets Mondays at 9:30 PM on 145.09 MHz. One option is to use the conference bridge on N5LJF's packet BBS (connect to N5LJF, then type C <CR>), and another is for everyone to send unconnected packets. Net members are still experimenting. For up-to-date information, call Mac at 339-9531. ARES is open to all licensed

FCC Fines Four Hams

Four amateurs have received FCC Notices of Apparent Liability for 2 thousand dollars for malicious interference on the 2 meter band. In June the four gave responses to FCC Notices of Violation but the FCC was not persuaded by their arguments.

Those receiving the NALs are John B. Genovese, WB5LOC, of Slidell, LA; Will T. Blanton Jr., N5ROC, of Carriere, MS; and

(Continued on Page 15)

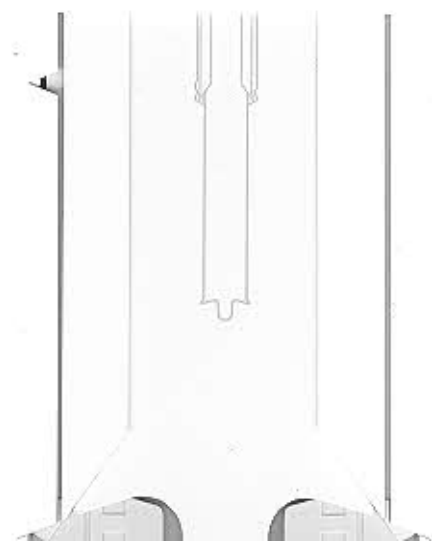
Anti-Lawsuit Bill to Protect VE's, Others

Through ARRL efforts a bill has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 2623, that would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to facilitate utilization of volunteer resources on behalf of the amateur radio service. The League in seeking the legislation said that many amateurs are reluctant to participate in volunteer programs such as the Amateur Auxiliary of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau, the Volunteer Examiner program, and the yet-to-be implemented volunteer club and military recreation station call sign administration program. The League said that volunteer monitors face the prospect of being accused of bias or other motives, and that Volunteer Examiners may fear being blamed by an examinee for failure to pass a test. The legislation is needed, the League believes, to eliminate an obstacle to volunteer participation in these programs, as well as to prevent civil actions against good-faith volunteers. The act is referred to as the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1993. The legislation was introduced by Congressman Jim Slattery ARRL Bulletin 90, August 20, 1993

Congrats to ARRL My sincerest congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the ARRL on getting the Federal preemption on these \$%^#&@ scanner laws. I know two people who were arrested here in New Jersey and spent small fortunes in court (with amateur community help, but never mind) beating these raps. I hope we can put this ridiculous chapter behind us soon. dc Robert W. McGwier, N4HY (Princeton, NJ)

Q: How does one become a ham?

A: A good pickling in nitrites and a good, long, cool, smoking usually does the best job. dc Julian Macassey, N6ARE



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

Station location dropped

Effective November 15, 1993, the FCC will no longer require that a station location be shown on amateur license applications, nor on applications for reciprocal operating permits.

The Commission, in an Order adopted September 24, said that because portable and mobile equipment is now so often used by amateurs, a station's location often changes, sometimes even daily.

The FCC also said that deleting the station location requirement would expedite the processing of license applications. They said that
(Continued on Page 15)

AARC/Over Information

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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, by packet on the N5PSW BBS - 145.67 MHz or by contacting to the Balcones Fault Line BBS (452-2135). 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

Nov. 2... Austin Rptr. Org. meets at Luby's
Nov. 6... Fall Packet Seminar (339-9531)
Nov. 6-8... ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
Nov. 9... Austin ARC Meeting at Luby's
Nov. 17... Austin Am. TV Club, Luby's
Nov. 20... QCWA meets at Luby's
Nov. 20-22... ARRL Sweepstakes, phone
Nov. 30... ARES meeting at Luby's

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

ARES Exercises... (cont'd from pg. 1)

seminar (!) at the hotel.

Research Blvd. and Great Hills Trail were impassible, and EMS requested large machinery to clear them. As is usual when there is debris on the road, an emergency vehicle had a flat tire. By 10:30, the tornado was gone, emergency vehicles were en route and everyone was glad it had just been an exercise.

Hams participating included N5RNE, K5FNI, K5EJL, KB5YWL, W5HNV, N5ZLY, N5MHI, N5ORG, WB8DDE and KB5WOA. Additionally, WA8PLR set up a 2-way TV system in the Emergency Operations Center, which was used for simulated newscasts and for "audience response" back to the newscasters (you had to be there!)

Travis County ARES meets every Sunday at 6:30 PM on 146.94 MHz, and then at 8:30 PM on 146.78. An experimental ARES packet net meets Monday nights at 9:30 PM. All licensed amateurs are welcome to check in.

Station Location... (cont'd from Pg. 14)

since this rule amendment is not likely to be controversial and that it is a "nonsubstantive" change in licensing procedures, no notice and comment period was needed.

The amended FCC Rule "Section 97.21 Mailing Address" will be:

"Each application for an amateur service license and each application for a reciprocal permit for alien amateur licensee must show a mailing address in an area where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC. The mailing address must be one where the licensee can receive mail delivery by the United States Postal Service."

ARRL Bulletin 103 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT October 7, 1993

A Strange Thing Happens

Well, I've been practicing code for an hour or more every day for a month or two, and can now copy in my head at 17 WPM, after having vented my frustration at everyone last week over being stuck at 13 WPM.

A few days ago, I was in my car and my radar detector started saying "TTTTT". I remember wondering why the manufacturer would have it say "T", and then I realized that it was simply beeping. I had a full-blown case of CW on the brain. I wonder if I am going to hear beeping sounds as letters from now on, whether I want to or not? It does seem that as soon as you develop this particular kind of insanity, you can copy faster!

Without joining the code/no-code argument for the moment, I have to admit that the rig and key are sitting right in front of me and I haven't had the motivation to make a single CW contact yet. My favorite mode is still packet.

de Bruce Perens, KD6OTD

Aggie Node Gone

The College Station node of the Southwest Lynx repeater network is down, probably permanently. The former location of the

Fines...(Cont'd from pg. 13)

Joseph F. Richard III, N5JNX, and Vernon A. Paroli, KA5OWW, both of New Orleans.

All four have until October 10 to respond to the NALs.

ARRL Bulletin 102 ARLB102 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT, October 6, 1993.

