



AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

April 1994

ISSN 1067-0262

INSTANT LICENSING UPDATE

The FCC's proposal to bring instant licensing to the amateur radio service appears to be in serious doubt. Comments by the Chief of FCC's Private Radio Bureau seem to leave open the possibility that the proposal may never see the light of day. Ralph Haller, N4RH, spoke to amateurs at the Tropical Hamboree in Miami on February 5th. Commission officials say they are surprised at the response to the FCC's proposal to bring instant licensing to ham radio. The idea is to allow people who successfully pass their first license exams to get on the air immediately. That way they would not have to wait to receive a license from the commission. A process that has taken as long as 3 months. The ARRL strongly opposes the FCC's idea. Frank Butler, W4RH directs the leagues Southeastern Division. He says amateurs are solidly against instant licensing. "What their concern mainly is that people will get, make up a callsign and get on the air without ever really having ever taken a test." Frank Butler, W4RH, Director ARRL Southeastern Division. Instant licensing the way the FCC proposed may not be necessary. The commission is about to upgrade its nearly 30 year old computer system. Ralph Haller, N4RH, says this promises to be much faster processing of license applications. "I think the people have some legitimate concerns in instant licensing that we are going to have to look out very

closely and combine that with our improved speeds of services I expect with the new computer and weigh whether instant licensing makes sense in the amateur service." We seem to be leaving the door open for instant licensing the whole controversy could be taken care of with the new computer system. "I think that's a reasonable possibility. Particularly as we get electronic filing with the VAX. We may well reach the situation individual exam

(Continued on Page 3)

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization

meets on Tuesday, April 5, 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, April 5, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's, North Loop.

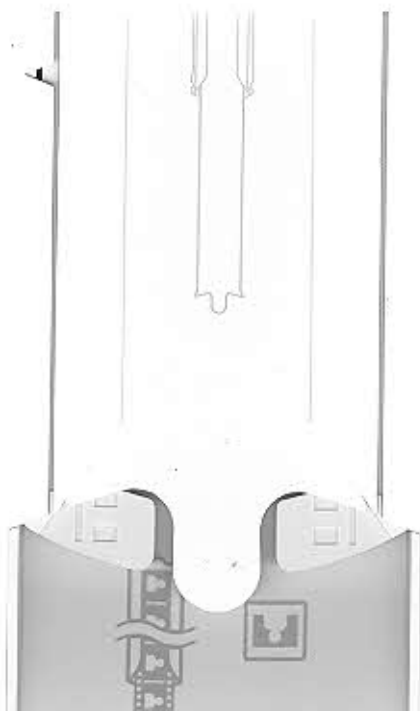
Austin Amateur Television Club

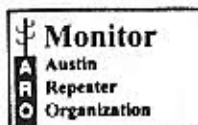
will meet on Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria.

Austin QCWA

meets on Saturday, April 16, 12:00 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria.

The AARC OVER is published monthly in Austin, Texas





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	N5MNV	255-6753
Secretary	Paul Parker	N5ZLX	467-7070
Treasurer	Bill Montgomery	AB5HP	322-9035

Minutes of the Austin Repeater Organization Meeting March 1, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Phil Steinbach [WB5SUR] at 7:30 PM at Luby's North Loop cafeteria. There were approximately 65 people in attendance.

Guests and visitors were introduced.

The minutes of the February 1 regular meeting will be published in the March 1994 ARO Monitor for review and approval at the regular March meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

There is \$6264.76 in the bank account.

Engineers Report:

All equipment was reported to be in operation.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Submitted by:

Paul Parker [N5ZLX] Secretary

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, 1994 at 7:30 PM at Luby's Cafeteria at North Loop and Burnet Rd. Jeff Schmidt will give a pre-sentation on AM stereo.

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 ser-vices. "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 Ser-vice. 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.

ARO Monitor

The ARO Monitor is edited by Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC] (339-0344). This is only this two page section of this newsletter. Steve Means edits the AARC/Over , which is the bulk of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

April 9, 1994 - Manchaca Swapfest, Fire Hall, Manchaca, TX. Opens to the public at 8:00 AM, opens to sellers at 6:30 AM. There will be NO selling before 8:00 AM.

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

May 31, 1994 - Travis County ARES meeting, 7:30 PM, Luby's Cafeteria at North Loop and Burnet Rd.

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

Austin Repeater Organization, first Tuesday of the month. 7:30 PM Luby's Cafeteria North Loop at Burnet Rd.

The ARO transmitter hunt occurs on the Saturday following the ARO meeting. The hunt frequency is 146.52, with coordination on 146.94. 4/9, 5/7, 6/11, 7/9, 8/6, 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, 12/10.

Ham exams are held on the first Saturday of each month at Murchison Middle School. 4/9*, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 8/6 (at SummerFest), 9/10*, 10/1, 11/5, 12/3 . (* days are not on first Saturday.)

Ham exams will be held at 2 PM in Fleck hall at St. Edward's University on the third Saturday of each month. 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, 7/15, 8/20, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17.

Weekly events

Newsline, an amateur radio news program is broadcast at 9:00 PM on the 146.94 repeater. The ARO swapnet follows Newsline.

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. A packet ARES session is held at 7:30PM on Sunday on 145.78 unconnected. Any amateur interested in emergency communication is invited to join.

Instant License Update (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

sites would have immediate access to our computers and we might even be able to have a license, I am dreaming a little bit here, that we may well be able to issue, have the VE issue the license right in the exam session." Ralph Haller, N4RH, Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau. Haller says the commission will look at the responses amateurs submit to the instant licensing proposal. One that so far has little support in the amateur community.

de Newsline

OUTER-SPACE QRM



Visit The Manchaca Swapfest
And Then Come To . . .

T.G.I.K.

Thank Goodness It's **KENWOOD DAY**

Saturday, April 9, 1994
9 AM - 3 PM
\$\$\$ KENWOOD CASH \$\$\$
Special Low Prices!

Donuts • Coffee • Soft Drinks

KENWOOD Reps

Prizes • Prizes • Prizes

Come In And Register For
Free KENWOOD Radios

AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY

5325 N. I-35
Austin, Texas 78723
512-454-2994 • 800-423-2604

**New
Item!**

Periphex Battery Packs

	Reg Price
PB-13S KENWOOD 7.2V 1200 MAH	49.75
BP-84S ICOM 7.2V 1400 MAH	63.00
EBP-24S ALINCO 7.2V 1500 MAH	62.00
FNB-12 YAESU 12V 600 MAH	54.50

**On
Sale! \$40**

*Sale Limited to
Stock On Hand*

PROUD TO BE A HAM?

by Hal Henegar -W5MDL
ARRL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Do you recall how hard you worked to get to be a Ham Radio Operator? Of course you do. And when someone asks you about the equipment in your car, you proudly declare that it's NOT CB! That you are an Amateur Radio Operator. They give you a blank stare and ask, "Is that different from CB?"

Or, worst case comes when they learn that you transmit, and they say, "Oh, you're one of those that messes up our TV!" Are you aware of WHY there is so much ignorance concerning Amateur Radio and the role it plays in the every-day scheme of things? It's because of our indifference toward educating John Q. Public, or we simply don't know how to go about it.

Let's dispel this great void of public ignorance and the difficulty of educating them by explaining what the ARRL PIO does...with your help. You will note that expression ..WITH YOUR HELP. The function of the Public Information Officer is to interface between the ignorant public and the Amateur world, to let it be known what Amateur Radio is all about. The PIO can NOT do this all alone! So, here again .. I make this plea to everyone reading this bulletin: when there is activity coming up that would serve to inform the public about ham radio activity .. PLEASE funnel that information, along with all attendant facts to your PIO.

Example; can't you imagine that people driving up and down the roadway in front of the fire station in Manchaca wonder greatly WHAT IN THE WORLD THIS HUGE CROWD IS DOING HERE TODAY? If the media has been alerted to publish this event, then most everybody WOULD know!

Another example; let's say you experienced an unusual and exciting radio contact .. some rare DX ...or helped a missionary get an emergency message to his folks back in the U.S.. Or you ran across an old High School mate on the band .. and you didn't even realize that he was also a ham! Feed these little morsels of excitement to your PIO .. the public enjoys ready/hearing about such things.

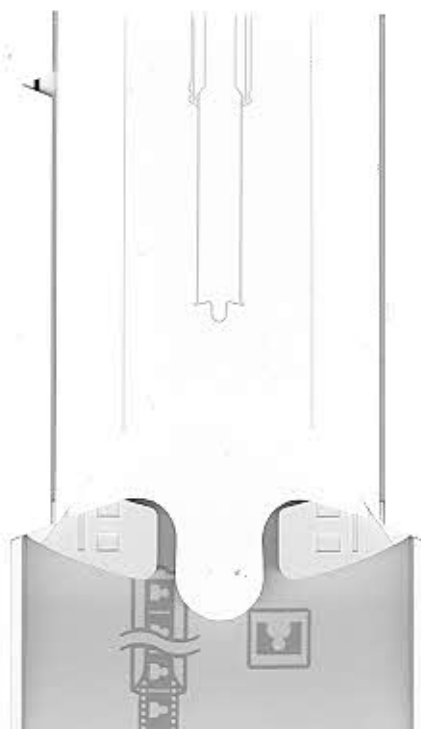
One of the most difficult things about being an editor of a newsletter or holding the position of media informer, is the LACK of input from those we represent.

SO, PLEASE ...clip this from your AARCOVER and post it in a position that you will be reminded to feed all the good things that only YOU will know about to the address listed. I'll accept phone calls (if they are short items) BUT details MAILED to me is much better. The more the better .. then I can simply be the EDITOR instead of scrambling and digging to come up with media news releases! ARRL PIO- HAL HENEGAR (W5MDL) 8520 BROOKFIELD DRIVE AUSTIN, TX. 78758 512-836-2012

Thanks and 73 de Hal



IT'S THE LATEST STYLE FOR YL'S---IT'S CALLED "EXOTIC GROUND RADIALS!"



The Story of Digipeter Rabbit -- a No Code Fable By Frank Terranella, N2IGO

Once upon a time, in the far-away kingdom of Radio, there was a peaceful valley called Hamville, inhabited by a group of rabbits. Hamville was originally settled by the Whiskey family, and the patriarch of that family was an old hare called Charlie Whiskey.

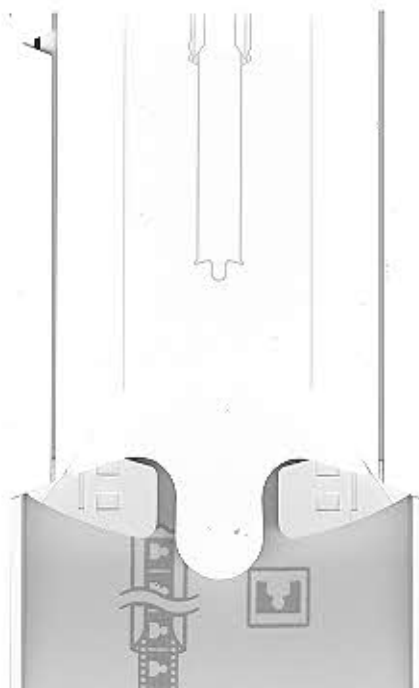
Charlie Whiskey was a farmer by trade. He came to the beautiful valley of Hamville when it was all open meadows. He saw the potential for farming the vacant land and over time he developed a thriving carrot plantation. Charlie Whiskey's carrot plantation was the envy of all the inhabitants of the kingdom of Radio. He succeeded year after year in producing a bumper crop of carrots. All the other residents of the kingdom came to Charlie for advice on planting carrots. Charlie would always tell them, "The secret's in developing a good ear." No, Charlie didn't have superior hearing, but he had developed a very special skill. You see, Charlie picked his carrots with his ears.

In fact, Charlie had worked hard at perfecting this skill and was able to harvest at better than 20 carrots a minute. All of Charlie's family learned to pick carrots with their ears. Soon they were all picking at better than 20 carrots a minute. Charlie was so proud of his special skill that he insisted that everyone who came to work at Hamville first show that he could pick carrots with his ears. Charlie would not give new settlers any land unless they could demonstrate to his foreman, Victor Echo, that they could pick at least 5 carrots a minute with their ears. When they could pick 13 carrots a minute, Charlie gave them more land to work. When they were able to pick carrots by ear at the rate of 20 a minute, Charlie made them full citizens of Hamville.

This process of learning to pick carrots with your ears went on for some time. In other parts of the kingdom of Radio, other rabbits began to pick carrots by ear. However, there were some noisy ducks, known as the Quackers, who lived in the community of Good Buddy. They used their mouths to pick their crops instead of their ears. They had much larger mouths than the rabbits and saw no need to use their ears. The rabbits all looked down on the Quackers. "We must always require ear harvesting skills for entry into Hamville," they said. "That way we will keep out those noisy Quackers." So everyone who came to Hamville had to learn how to pick carrots by ear if they wanted to stay. Charlie Whiskey was adamant about that. "If you don't want to learn the skill of ear harvesting then go work in Good Buddy with the Quackers," he would say.

And so the years passed, and new methods of farming were developed. These new methods were easier to learn than ear harvesting, especially for the animals who didn't have the big ears that the rabbits had. What's more, the new methods were just as efficient as ear harvesting. As time went by, fewer and fewer of the young animals were willing to learn the skill of ear harvesting. The population of Hamville began to dwindle. All the residents of Hamville were getting on in years. To make matters worse, there were new neighbors nearby who coveted the beautiful open farmland of Hamville. They wanted to come in and turn it into commercial uses like shopping centers. And worst of all, the pollution from the Quackers, the other Rabbits, and the Mice (known in Hamville as the QRM group) was having an adverse effect on farming in Hamville. The future looked bleak indeed.

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AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

Vice-President Rod Moag, WONDS, brought the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at Luby's on North Loop.

VISITORS: Several visitors and infrequent attendees introduced themselves.

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 15, 1994, and February 8, 1994, meetings were approved as printed in the AARC/OVER.

OFFICER REPORTS: Dave Marschall, KG5ND, Treasurer, reported that the checking account balance was \$1325.79 and the postal account balance was \$504.45. Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical Committee Chairman, was absent, but the Club's 146.78 MHZ repeater is working anyway. Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, Activities Manager, was absent but it was announced that the spring swapfest will be April 9, 1994, at the Manchaca Fire station. Steve still needs 8 to 10 volunteers to assist at this event. Please contact Steve if you can help.

NEW MEMBERS: It was voted to accept the following new members: Matt Piskorz, KC5EMV; George Piskorz, KC5EIZ; Roger Wines, KB5VHN; Paul Bennett, KC5FCP; and Chris Burford, KB5VYR.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vice-President Moag reminded the club about the scholarship program. We need applicants. Applicants must be high school or college students who are licensed hams. Contact President Neely, WA5LHS, to apply.

Ken Isbell, K5CPI, a long-time Club member is now a silent key.

Vice-President Moag reported that a night school for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders would be held from 7 pm until 1 am on April 8. The Club was invited to participate. Contact Willy Jimenez at 335-8175.

Rick Herndon, K5FNI, announced that the next ARES meeting will be March 29, 1994, at 7:30 pm at Luby's on North Loop.

Jim Bennett, KB5IMB, announced that the QCWA will meet March 19, 1994.

Roger Wines, KB5VHN, announced that the Multiple Sclerosis bicycle ride from Houston to Austin will be April 23 and 24, 1994. If you can assist with communications, contact Larry Gensch, K9MMB, at 984-3784 (work) or 259-1517 (home) or Roger Wines, KB5VHN, at 453-2193.

Harry Hiestand of Austin wants to communicate with his son and family who are sailing the Caribbean. His son's call is N5RRW and his name is Hal. Contact Harry at 320-8177 if you can assist.

It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn. Vice-President Moag adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

(Continued on Pg. 14)

6 Meters... Yours to discover !

Hugh Duff VE3OYH

6 meters is a band that has always held some mystique with many Amateurs. Once very widely used, it soon lost its popularity due to the establishment of the low band VHF television channels directly above the 6 meter Amateur band. TVI became a major problem which soon drove 6 meter enthusiasts to explore other less vulnerable bands like 2 meters. A sad situation since 6 meters is a "Pandora's Box" of interesting propagation. Located between 10 and 2 meters, it offers much of both worlds. Worldwide DXing is possible when the sunspot cycle is high, very much like 10 meters. Sporadic-E and Aurora activity also offers propagation around North America. Temperature inversions and ducting as commonly heard on 2 meters can also affect 6 meters. Meteor showers although usually brief, can produce interesting openings. There is an ever increasing amount of local ground wave activity stirring on 6 meters. Moderately equipped 6 meter setups offer greater range than comparable 2 meter stations.

The "TVI Phobia" virtually reduced 6 meter activity to contesting only. For many years, radio manufacturers did not offer very much in the way of 6 meter transceivers. Home-brewed equipment and transverters were the only ways to get on 6. Many 6 meters operators are of the experimenter type, perhaps as a result of that lack of commercially available equipment. Lately however, radio manufacturers have begun to offer HF transceivers with 6 meters already included, some as an option. Examples are the Yaesu FT-690, FT-767 / Kenwood TS-680, TS-690 / Icom IC-729. This availability of 6 meter amateur radios might be attributed to marketing such radios towards No-Code licencees. Many of these radios are relatively low to medium priced making them accessible as entry level transceivers for new Hams. Such a radio could get a "Basic" Ham active on 6 while offering

HF for the future when they upgrade their licence. There is also a flood of commercial low band radios on the surplus market as a result of the OPP changing their radio communications to higher frequencies. Most of these surplus radios can be modified to be used on 6 meter FM. Radios such as the Motorola Mitrek are of the 110 watt, 4 channel variety. These work great as 6 meter FM mobiles with their beefy output power. 4 channels may seem like a limitation but there is seldom a need for more since most FM operation takes place on one simplex frequency or one of the few repeaters.

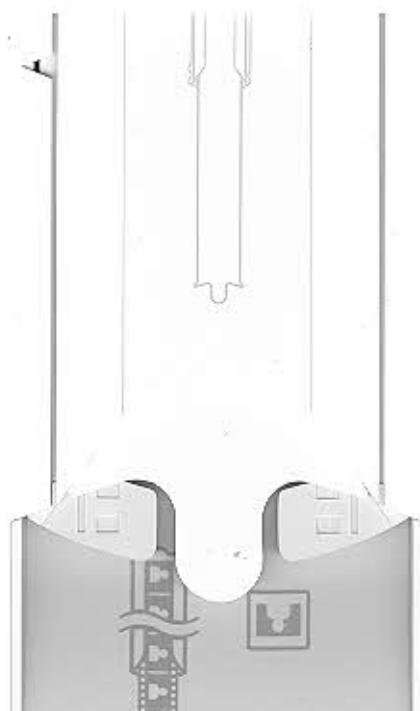
Basic 6 Meter Bandplan

50.0 - 50.1 Mhz CW & Beacons 50.1 - 51.0 Mhz SSB 51.0 - 54.0 Mhz FM

Most SSB activity occurs around 50.1 to 50.25 with 50.125 being a common "hang-out" or listening post. 52.525 is the FM calling frequency (just like 146.52 on 2 meters) and repeater outputs can be heard around 53.0 and up. The local convention for repeater split is -1 Mhz for the input although this apparently varies by region according to some U.S. sources. There are presently 2 operating repeaters that are accessible to the greater Toronto area. One is VE3LSR, located just north of Barrie with frequencies of 53.07 for the output and 52.07 input. The other is VE3SIX in Uxbridge at 53.03 output and 52.03 input. There are a few more repeaters expected to pop up in the coming months. As you can see, 6 meters is not overcrowded making it a refreshing "get away" from some of the other amateur bands.

6 meters holds a lot of surprises. Chasing grid squares can be just as exciting as DXing new countries on HF. Most 6 meter DXing occurs on SSB and CW although FM activity is on the rise. Don't be surprised if you're holding a local conversation on FM and someone from Florida breaks in with a

(Continued on Page 15)



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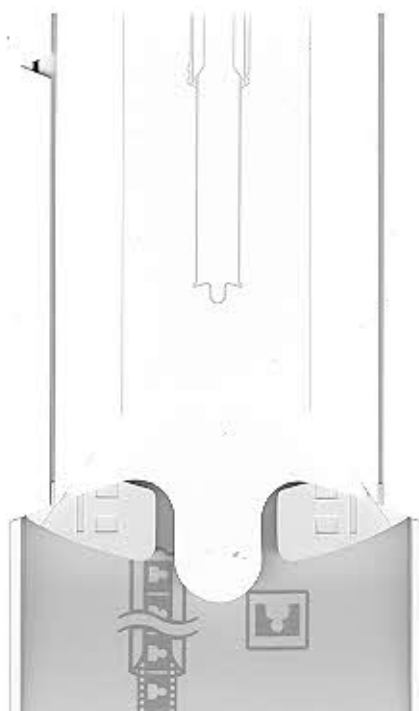
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(Continued on Page 15)



Huck's Country Store

By Huck Huckabee - AA5BU

What Do We Hear On The Ham Bands?

With more than 53 years of Amateur Radio operation, my contacts per year are down to around 500. However, I probably listen more hours per year than in the early days; and what do I hear? The answer is: We need to give more thought to our individual mode of operation.

Repeaters and hand-held equipment opened a whole new world to us. Yet I hear the same activity that we had on the old "country telephone party-line" of 70 years ago. One example is a long-winded QSO during busy hours that we drive to and from work. These bands are big. Lets move off the repeaters, promptly, and not tie up the system. This is a simple courtesy to our fellow-users.

Some of our High Frequency bands are cluttered with phonetics. When a station is readable, lets cut out this practice. It adds little or nothing to our communication in most instances.

Lets not press the PTT button until we are ready to talk! Much of our speech is filled with meaningless words. Likewise I observe the same on CW. Make a list of prompters to help the flow of conversation. I frequently record my QSO's on audio tape. Now that is a shocker when its played back!

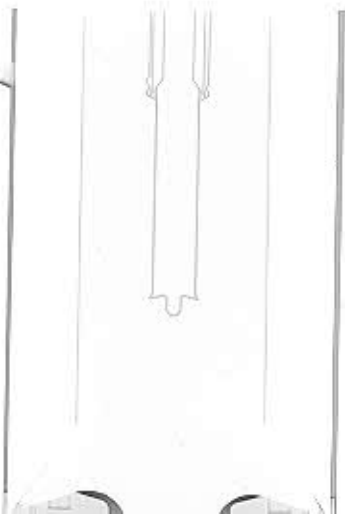
On-the-air tune-up takes up band space and adds clutter and QRM to others. When we need more than just a few seconds, lets go to a dummy load.

Our bands are filled with conversation, loaded with language that discredits all of us. Please, lets clean up our speech and adjust our courtesy. We need to leave an impression of dignity and gravity in the mind of every listener. Lets never forget that courtesy and clean speech is never out of place!

Our subjects of conversation need to be improved. Think of this: Who really cares how many QSL cards are on my wall, how many certificates one may hold or what number is on the nameplate of my rig! Lets turn our QSO's into channels of culture, education, community improvement, aid to others, and things for the betterment of the hobby and mankind.

Amateur radio is a great teaching tool. Lets turn it into a continuous group and personal education!

de Huck - AA5BU



South Austin Exam Session Report

The South Austin W5YI VE team congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at its March 19th session:

Robert H. Gould N5OCK Advanced Class, Joseph E. Brown KA5LLL General Class, Lawrence J. Matus, Jr. -new- Technician Plus, Joe L. Foster -new- Technician, Thomas C. Harkins -new- Technician, Henry A. Roebber -new- Technician, Jason P. Sparks -new- Technician.

Four others earned element credits without upgrading.

The administering volunteer examiners were: Bob Basinger, AB5OC Hugh C. Brown, KC5EYI Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Emil Kasprzyk, KC5IZ Tim Mathews, AB5OA Lloyd Walls, WAIPRY Mike Williams, AA5KW

The Manchaca Swapfest is almost here and the South Austin VE team will be there! That session will begin at 9:30 AM on April 9th in the meeting room above the fire hall.

On the Saturday following Manchaca, April 16th, we will present our regular VE session at 2:00 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University. For more information on either session, call Jim, AB5EK, at 327-6184.

Please note that the GENERAL class written element question pool will change on July 1 of this year. Before purchasing a study guide for element 3B, please check its effective date, if you plan to take the general class written exam on or after July 1st.

Results of the ARRL/VEC Exam

The regular semi-monthly ARRL/VEC test session was held on Saturday, March 5, 1994 at Murchison Middle School. There were a total of 24 candidates taking exams, with 11 upgrading or earning a new license. In addition, there were 6 candidates that passed one or more exam elements toward upgrading their license.

VE EXAMINERS

Joe Makeever W5EBJ Roy Miller W5FOZ
Jim Huckabee AA5BU Curt Goodson
W4QBU Dick Ber KB5BBU Ben Menke
AA5NC Bill Pierson K5TMS Larry Gunter
WB5BEK

THE NEXT ARRL/VEC EXAMS WILL BE HELD AT MURCHISON MIDDLE SCHOOL, 3700 NORTH HILLS DRIVE, AUSTIN, TX ON:

Saturday, May 7, 1994 @ 9:00 am
(please arrive by 8:30 am)

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming exams, please contact me at 473-3200 (work) or 345-7281 (home).

Please note that the next W5YI/VEC exams will be given at the same location and time as shown above on April 9, 1994.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS APRIL DATE IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN PREVIOUSLY POSTED.

If you have any questions about the next W5YI/VEC exams, please contact Mark Johnson, KJ5AN at 335-4327.

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK

**** TIPS FOR LEARNING CW ****

by Richard K Leah VE3ANB / G0TZD

If you have an electronic keyer or manual key, take it to your wife or girlfriend and carefully hand it to her asking her to LOCK it away somewhere for you. Until you know what morse code is supposed to sound like, you will surely not be able to send it properly. I've heard some guys that appear to be sending code using a loose toggle switch as a key. (A good musician always learns how an instrument should sound prior to playing it). There will be plenty of time to send later.

The secret of learning the code, is to LISTEN, LISTEN, and LISTEN! By listening to code that is sent well, you will get a feel for the rhythm (consistent speed PLUS consistent gapping between each character). Morse code consists of a series of dits and dahs (NEVER dots and dashes) that make up the alphabet and, for the purposes of your examination (Canada), you will need to know the alphabet, the numbers 0 - 9, comma, period, slash and question mark.

Learn the sound of each character clearly in your mind. Try to learn each character at a CHARACTER speed of 13 wpm leaving big gaps in between each character. This way, as you progress, you can narrow the gaps between each character WITHOUT changing the character speed, thus, increasing your WORD speed. To try and learn the code at 5 wpm and then increase it to 10 wpm, and then to 13 wpm will result in frustration and in all likelihood, having to re-learn the sound of each character all over again at the new speed.

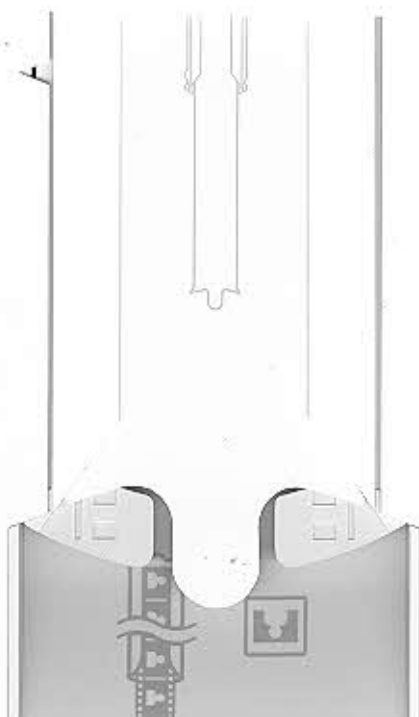
Try to get into the habit of writing down on paper each character in LOWER CASE letters rather than writing in upper case. You will save a lot of time doing it this way. Think about it... It takes more pen strokes to write a

capital letter E than a lower case e (as an example of what I mean). DO NOT translate the sound on paper to dits and dahs and THEN to the character. This is like double translation and you will end up extremely frustrated. Also if you miss a character, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! just train your mind to go on to the next character. If you dwell too much on the character that you missed, you will surely miss the next two or three coming at you. Also do not try to anticipate the next character or word. Second guessing is a NO NO.

Take full advantage of the WIAW morse code practice sessions. They are an excellent tool of assistance. The quality of code is perfect and error free and they have a variety of different speeds to cater to your particular level of progress. The times and frequencies of the WIAW code practice sessions are usually available on packet, QST and the ARRL and RAC. When listening to WIAW, try to listen FIRSTLY to the code session at 15 wpm. YES! 15 wpm, I know your probably saying to yourself, this VE3ANB fellow is fellow is a little nuts, but believe me, although you may only be able to pick out two letters from two words sent, when you then listen to 10 wpm, you will maybe pick out 2 letters to EACH word and at 7.5 wpm, you will no doubt pick out MOST of the letters from EACH word. The point being, this leaves you with a sense of ACCOMPLISHMENT!! and you will also feel good about yourself and the progress you made on each session. Most people give up out of sheer frustration, so it's very important to end a practice session having that positive feeling that you DID accomplish something.

Do not spend more than 1 hour at a time, as it will result in you having to over-absorb and hence, like a sponge when it is saturated, you will not be able to grasp the new stuff being thrown at you. If you find that you are not grasping it, WALK AWAY and try later.

(Continued on Pg. 12)



(We all have off days). Once you have a fair grasp for each of the characters and their sound, send the code to yourself in your mind. eg: When you are walking down the street, sound out the street sign in code to yourself. YIELD (da di dah dah, di dit, dit, di dah di dit, dah di dit). etc. Yes you might get some strange looks from passersby, but, what the heck! That's OK. There's a lot more stranger people out there than you and I.

You should be prepared to spend at least 30 - 45 MINUTES PER DAY just listening. Set yourself a schedule!! If you are not prepared to do this, you have obviously decided that you don't really want to learn and your just kidding yourself and everyone else. Don't create excuses!! I've heard them all. (The dog's sick, I'm tired, my xyl wants to go shopping) There are few excuses if you have the true desire to learn. I never passed an examination with good marks without doing my homework.

****ALL THE ABOVE DOES NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A KEY****

Now that you have all the characters and what they are supposed to sound like impressed in your mind, you are now ready to start a little sending. Now is the time to ask for the secret location of you key (the one you asked to be locked up somewhere). Don't worry about the speed at this point, remember, what counts is the quality, good spacing and clear dit and dahs. Adjust your key to a comfortable position and check the gapping on the contacts. Don't set it so wide a Sherman tank could fit between the contacts!! A small gap will result in a lot less work and more ease of sending.

If you feel that you might get into some contesting later, (Field day, CQWW etc), you might want to use your NON WRITING hand to do the sending with. Sounds odd but, if you keep your writing hand free, it will benefit you greatly! This is not overly important at this stage, just a suggestion that any avid CW operator will endorse.

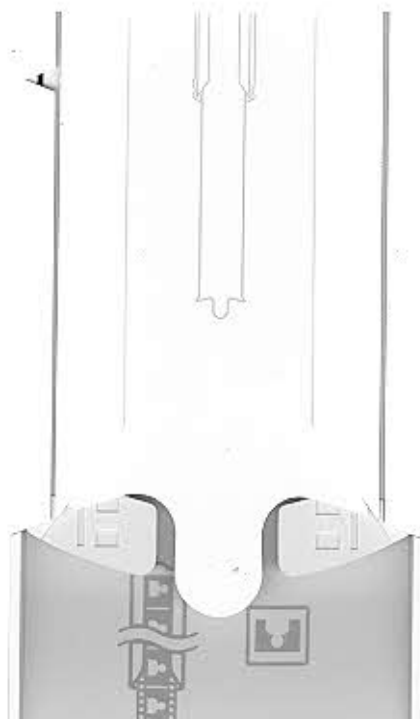
Adjust you key, get comfortable and relax. Send code to yourself or to a friend. You might wish to send text from a newspaper or magazine but remember, pay special attention to the spacing between your characters. CW operating can be and is a very enjoyable mode. IT IS NOT A LOST ART!!! It is merely another mode to which thousands and thousands of Amateurs across the world choose to employ out of their CHOICE. I know guys that operate CW and nothing else, despite their ability to work other modes. Many QSO's I have had could never have taken place on SSB due to bad QRN and QRM or QSB. CW has a way of "punching" through all of that. I have managed to pass traffic using CW on a number of occasions when SSB simply would not have allowed it.

Remember, don't rush, be relaxed, and always use International Morse Code. For further information on how you can begin to learn international morse code, or upgrade your speed, contact your local Amateur Radio Club or check on your local BBS boards to see if they have any Morse Tutors in their files section.

Very best 73 to you and Good Luck (vy 73 to u es gl) de Rich VE3ANB@VE3DTV

This article was published in "The Canadian Amateur" January 1992 and "Hagal" in Israel shortly thereafter.

(Reprinted from Ham On Disk - March '94)



Digipeater Rabbit... (Cont'd from Pg. 6)

Then, one day, a stranger called Digipeter Rabbit came to Hamville. He was an educated rabbit who had studied at the School for Scientific Bunnies (SSB). He had majored in Farm Mechanics and knew all of the latest scientific agricultural methods. But for all his education and know-how, there was one thing that Digipeter could not do. He could not master the skill of picking carrots with his ears. And since he already knew how to pick carrots more efficiently with new scientific methods, he was not interested in learning.

Charlie Whiskey was outraged. "What do you mean you won't learn to pick carrots with your ears? Why, we in Hamville have been picking carrots that way for 75 years. It's a tradition here. It shows that we're special and that we're better than the Quackers. If you don't have the desire to develop a good ear, then we don't want you here in Hamville."

But Digipeter was adamant. He saw no reason to learn an obsolete skill just to stay in Hamville and he refused to even try. Charlie Whiskey took the matter to the Ancient Royal Rabbit League, which he had found-ed. The ARRL decreed that everyone in Hamville must learn to pick carrots with his ears or be banished. And so Digipeter Rabbit left

Hamville and founded his own village called Techietown.

Soon, all the young animals in the land of Radio were flocking to Techietown. But Digipeter had his own entrance requirement. A good ear and a good memory were not enough for him. No one could stay in Techie-town unless he could demonstrate technical knowledge, understanding and ability, and the desire to contribute to the advancement of Techietown.

Digipeter encouraged all the residents of Techietown to experiment in the cultivation of new unexplored lands, never before farmed. Digi-peter showed them how to overcome pollution problems. He showed them how to use the land they had more efficiently. Digipeter even perfected a method of farming which allowed a number of rabbits to farm the same land at the same time. And while the residents of Hamville were picking 30 carrots a minute on a good day, in Techietown, harvests of 300 carrots a minute were possible. Using Digipeter's methods, and those developed by the other bright, young residents, Techietown soon became the most prosperous village in the kingdom of Radio. This did not escape the notice of the Field Carrot Council, which governed the kingdom of radio. To reward the residents of Techietown for their contributions to the kingdom, the Field Carrot Council gave Techietown more and more land to work, until its borders touched those of Hamville.

Meanwhile, Hamville was still plodding along as it always had, oblivious to the revolution in farming occurring around it. The old hares still picked carrots by ear. The Ancient Royal Rabbit League complained bitterly to the Field Carrot Council about all the new land it was giving to Techietown, but the population of Hamville continued to drop. When the Field Carrot Council gave 2 acres of Hamville property to Techietown,

(Continued on Pg. 15)

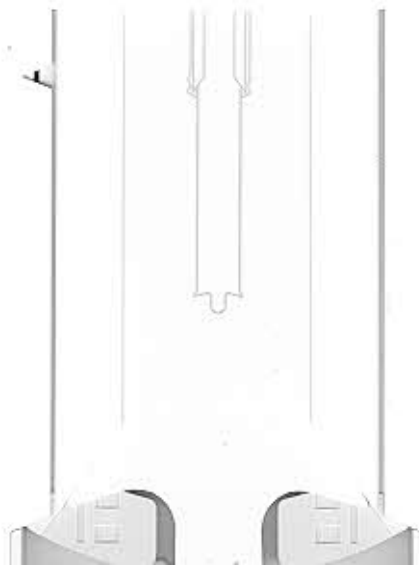
Don't Forget....

Manchaca

Swap Fest

April 9, 1994

Contact Steve Sparks for additional information... See you there!



AARC/OVER

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

AARC Meeting Minutes...(Cont'd from Pg. 7)

PROGRAM: Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice-President, introduced the featured speaker who was Club member Ed Linde, N5DDT, who talked about six meters the underpopulated band. Ed was an electrical engineer at IBM for 35 years. He was first licensed in 1954 and holds an advanced class license. Ed discussed equipment, band plan and propagation for six meters.

Respectfully submitted,

John Weber, KF5OY, AARC Secretary

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 - 145.09 MHz or by connecting to the Balcones Fault Line BBS (452-2135). Submissions maybe 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

Apr. 5... Austin Rptr. Org. meets at Luby's
Apr. 12... Austin ARC Meeting, Luby's
Apr. 16 QCWA meets at Luby's - 12:00
Apr. 22... Austin Amateur TV Club - Luby's

Apr. 9... Manchaca Swap Fest

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

6 Meters.... (Cont'd from Pg. 8)

full quieting signal! A degree of patience is required on 6 though. With the sunspot cycle on it's way down, weeks can go by without any openings and then suddenly, it may open up to the south or several hours (sometimes minutes). This unpredictability is what makes it exciting when the band does open up. There's no telling how long the opening will last. Most contacts are brief so both operators can move onto the next contact before "the bottom drops out". Of course, ragchewing is uncommon during these openings.

I hope that I have piqued your interest in 6 meters. Basic licencees should take full advantage of their priviledges and check it out. Others may find that 6 meters offers renewed excitement in the hobby.

See you on 6! 73 Hugh VE3OYH

(Reprinted from - Ham On Disk - March '94)

Digipeater Rabbit... (Cont'd from Pg. 13)

the residents of Hamville began, for the first time, to be genuinely concerned about their plight. Some even dared to ask the Ancient Royal Rabbit League to change its mind about the need to learn to pick carrots by ear to live in Hamville. "We need new blood here to fight off the Field Carrot Council," they said. Charlie Whiskey, now in his nineties, was furious. "We have to maintain our standards. We don't need those smart young bunnies, we need rabbits skilled in our time-honored harvesting tech-niques. We need rabbits who are dedicated enough to the principles of Hamville to want to learn our methods. If a rabbit really wants to live here, he'll learn our ways. If he doesn't, we don't want him. You don't want those Quackers to move here, do you?"

But by now the residents of Hamville had seen the writing on the wall. Although they

genuinely enjoyed picking carrots with their cars, they realized that there were now other ways which yielded just as many carrots. And though they would probably continue to pick carrots by ear as they always had, they could no longer shun those bright young rabbits who chose a more modern method. A group of rabbits, led by an elder statesman rabbit named Elmer, who had once served in the government of the kingdom of Radio, asked the Ancient Royal Rabbit League to change its policy. The League agreed and issued a decree that henceforth ear harvesting skills would not be required to become a resident of Hamville.

When Digipeter Rabbit heard of the decree, he sent envoys to Hamville with all the latest scientific discoveries, which he shared freely with the residents. The residents of Hamville seized upon the new know-ledge and soon Hamville became revitalized. Its population began to increase as young rabbits were attracted to its bountiful open farmland. The Field Carrot Council, impressed by the renaissance in Hamville, did not take away any more of its land, but actually gave some new territory to Hamville. Everyone was amazed at the new vibrancy of Hamville.

Charlie Whiskey, though sad that his beloved harvesting method was no longer in vogue, saw that his people were prospering and was glad. And to show that there were no hard feelings, Charlie Whiskey sent Digipeter Rabbit a packet of 73 carrots which he had picked himself -- with his ears.

The residents of Hamville rejoiced and declared a festival to celebrate their new prosperity. And over the front door of the Hamville Festival they put a banner, which read: "A bunny's worth is measured not by the skill of his ears, but by what lies between them." The residents of Hamville had learned an important lesson.

(Reprinted from Ham on Disk - March '94)

