



AARC/OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

August 1994

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160 METER SEASON IS UPON US!

By RON JOHNSON/WE7H *UBET ARC*
With fall here, 160 meters (1.8-2.0 Mhz) has become quiet and usable again. 160 Meters (also known as the "top band" and sorry YL and XYL, "the gentlemen's band"), offers exciting, unpredictable frustrating operation characteristics. Sounds a bit like 20 meters doesn't it! One can radiate a weak signal by feeding an 80 meter dipole with a tuner, but considering the high ground losses, one is fortunate to achieve reliable 400-600 mile communications. For illustration, considering wavelength, an 160 meter antenna 35 feet high is equivalent to mounting your 10 meter beam at two feet! For more reliable, distant communication, here are three simple antennas successfully used on this low frequency band: an inverted "L", "T", or helically wound shortened vertical. Achieving a lower angle of radiation without such extreme ground losses, these antennas should offer far better, consistent signals. If one has room, an inverted vee, which has a vertical radiation component, will also offer good results. An inverted "L" is a wire antenna shaped like an upside-down L. The total length of the antenna is approximately 125 feet and one should run the vertical portion as high as possible. The remaining horizontal portion has little radiating effect but acts much like a

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CHECK YOUR LICENSE DATE

The American Radio Relay League advises that amateurs receiving new or modified FCC licenses dated June 8th or later should carefully note their expiration date. This is because only new, first licenses or specific renewals now carry a full 10-year term. With new computer software recently installed, the FCC is now processing

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Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization meets on Tuesday, August 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, August 9, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's, North Loop.

Austin Amateur Television Club will meet on Wednesday, August 17, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria.

Austin QCWA meets on Saturday, August 20, 12:00 PM, at Luby's Cafeteria. Come early and have lunch with the group.



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 July 5, 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 40 people in attendance.

There were no guests or visitors,

The minutes of the June 1, 1994 meeting were approved as printed in the May ARO Monitor.

Treasurer's Report:

We have \$5,421.04 in the bank.

Engineer's Report:

There was no engineer's report, but there were no complaints about the club's equipment.

Announcements:

There were several information only announcements.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by Paul Parker [N5ZLX]
_____ Secretary

Next ARO Meeting

The next ARO meeting will be Tuesday, August 2, 1994 at 7:30 PM at Luby's Cafeteria at North Loop and Burnet Rd.

Information on ARO's Repeaters

All of ARO's repeaters are open access.

ARO MONITOR

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 Newslines 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.

Events

August 5, 6, 7, 1994 - Austin SummerFest. Wyndham Austin Hotel.

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. 8/2, 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6.

The ARO transmitter hunt occurs on the Saturday following the ARO meeting. The hunt frequency is 146.52, with coordination on 146.94. 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. 8/6

(at SummerFest), 9/10*, 10/1, 11/5, 12/3 .
(* not regular week)

Ham exams will be held at 2 PM in Fleck hall room 109 at St. Edward's University 3001 South Congress Avenue on the third Saturday of each month. 8/20, 9/17, 10/29*, 11/19, 12/17. (* not regular week)

Weekly events

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

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. Message traffic would be appreciated.

The Williamson county ARES net is held Sundays at 8PM on the 147.08 repeater in Georgetown. Participation by amateurs inside or outside of Williamson county is invited.

South Austin W5YI VE Session Report

St. Edward's University -

The Cowboys and Oilers only scrimmaged, but this all-star line-up of rookies and veterans played for keeps by earning new and upgraded amateur radio licenses at the July 23rd South Austin VE session. Here's the scoring summary:

TOUCHDOWN

Virginia A. Olsovsky	KC5AFP	Extra Class
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FIELD GOAL

Winston A. Kriger	W5JAV	Advanced Class
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SAFETIES

Cheri Smith	KB5QZJ	Technician Plus
Sue M. Triplett	KC5DCV	Technician Plus

EXTRA POINTS

Craig B. Caldwell	-new-	Technician
Steven M. Graves	-new-	Technician
Joseph P. Haynes	-new-	Technician
Gene C. Kamena	-new-	Technician
Debra L. Pierce	-new-	Technician
William A. Willoughby	-new-	Technician

One other applicant passed an examination element without upgrading.

The administering volunteer examiners who cheered them on included:

Bob Basinger, AB5OC	Emil Kasprzyk, KC5IZ	Hugh Brown, KC5E1Y
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK	Steve L. Sparks, AB5SV	Lloyd Walls, WA1PRY
Andy Williams, AB5FZ		

Don't fumble your chance to upgrade! The kickoff for our next session is at 2:00 PM on August 20th in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University. Our session date after that will be September 17th.

Call Jim, AB5EK, at 327-6184 to discuss pregame strategy or for further information.

160 Meters...(Cont. from Pg. 1)

capacity hat. The "L" should be fed with a series L/C circuit at the base, and should be worked against a ground/radial system. Simple ground rods will not achieve the results you are seeking. Run as many radials as possible and connect them to your sprinkler system, metal fences, water pipes, and also run them along your foundation or lay them on the ground because they will be covered by snow anyway! (Just roll them up in the spring). The "T" antenna is by far the simplest antenna to utilize if you have an existing 75 meter dipole or inverted vee. (continued next page) (160 Meter continued) This antenna must be matched with a tuner, and the coax braid and center conductor must be shorted at your tuner. The resultant antenna is a vertical with a horizontal top hat consisting of your normal dipole section. Don't forget the ground radial system! The helically wound shortened vertical is constructed by winding a half-wave length (260 feet) of 14 ga. insulated wire, evenly spaced on a 15-30 foot long insulator such as pvc pipe, wooden hand railing or whatever one can imagine. The top of the antenna must have a pie tin or pizza pan attached for added capacitance because of the extremely high voltages present. (Unless you want to simulate a tesla coil and impress your neighbors with a torch on your roof top!) Once again, don't forget a counterpoise system if roof mounted, or ground radial system if ground mounted. With any luck, these antennas should turn-out to be resonant antennas, however, the antenna impedance must be matched to the transmitter and coaxial feedline. Refer to the "ARRL Handbook" or the "ARRL Antenna Manual" for simple matching networks for all of these antennas. I was able to achieve 160 meter WAS (worked all States) in two seasons using 100 watts output with an inverted "L" supported by my walnut tree. So why not try one of these antennas and experience the fun of a new band with propagation conditions

completely different than any hf band you have ever operated. Remember these few simple facts: Best results will be achieved with a vertical radiating component. Keep your antenna as far away from televisions as possible. Turn off fluorescent lights. (It took me a whole season to discover that my S7 noise level was caused by my overhead fluorescent light!) Get on the air, talk to others and discover what equipment and antennas the "big guns" are using. You will find courteous hams willing to talk, advise, discuss, chat and give more than a "59 Albania" report. I think you will be surprised to find out that the big signals are a result of the antennas and the radial system used; not the type of transmitter being used or the power output. Could anything be more fun? See you on 1843 khz.

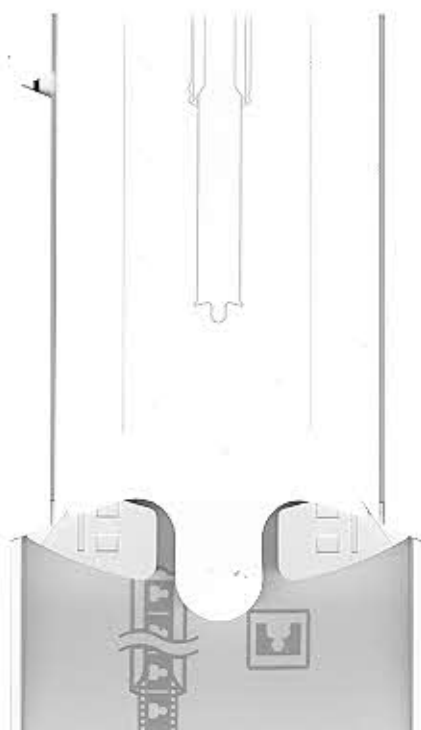
73, Ron Johnson, WE7H.

P.S. The 160 meter contest season begins in December and this offers considerable activity on both cw and ssb. These contests are: ARRL 160 (cw) December 6-8, 1991 CQ 160 (cw) January 24-26, 1992 CQ 160 (ssb) February 21-23, 1992 "Utah 160 Meter Challenge" (cw & ssb) February 28, 1992 (LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS NEW CONTEST IN THE MAJOR-

MORE RETESTS IN CALIFRAUD CASE

Some fifty nine people previously tested by a group of suspect volunteer examiners have been ordered to be retested or face administrative sanctions. This is the latest word coming from the FCC in the wake of its ongoing probe into alleged fraud and corruption in ham radio testing in California. Word of the retests was announced by FCC Personal Radio Branch Chief John B. Johnston, W3BE. Speaking at

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MORE TESTING FRAUD ANNOUNCED

California is not the only place where ham radio testing fraud is taking place. In a related matter, Johnston also told the VEC Conference that government investigators have cracked two other licensing cheating cases. In a Texas incident a non ham actually assumed the identity of a deceased radio amateur to certify test results for applicants who never even attended a test session. In that case the Contact VE -- that's the person who sets up test sessions in a given region -- the Contact VE has already surrendered his license to the FCC. Twenty four applicants at the test session have had their fraudulently obtained licenses canceled as well. Also, an Technician Class ham in Kansas has had his license suspended for a year. This, after the FCC found that he had tried to bribe a Volunteer Examination Coordinator in order to obtain an upgrade. At airtime, the FCC has not yet released this hams call sign or name.

US-RUSSIA SHUTTLE PACT

Word that Russian and American amateurs who flew aboard the space shuttle Discovery on last winters STS-60 mission benefited from temporary third party and reciprocal operating agreements finalized just before lift-off. On February 3 the US Department of State and the Russian Ministry of Post and Telecommunications each approved the temporary arrangements, which allowed cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, to contact, on February 6, the House of Science and Technology for Youth, in Moscow. The contact was retransmitted in Russia on HF and VHF, according to the ARRL SAREX Working Group. After the Russian Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and the US State Department approved the arrangements,

it still was necessary to obtain a Special Temporary Authorization from the FCC. The ARRL contacted the FCC's Personal Radio Branch, and the STA was granted on February 4th. Permanent reciprocal operating and third party agreements between the US and Russia have been in negotiations for several years.

-de Newsline

PRESIDENT CLINTON JAMMED IN ITALY

Radio communications for a Naples Italy motorcade for President Bill Clinton have been maliciously jammed. According to news reports, the incident occurred when President Clinton arrived for the Group of Seven summit in the port city of Naples on Thursday night July 7th. The Italian news agency ANSA quoted police sources as saying that while Clinton's motorcade was traveling from the airport to his waterfront hotel, an unknown voice repeatedly broke into police radio communications with what it authorities called "vulgar expressions." The sources said the jammer interrupted communications between Italian and U.S. security agents to express his views on the Americans and the police. No details of the insults was given but the news agency noted that Clinton did not hear them. Naples authorities also admit that they have little or no hope of finding out who the foul mouthed jammer is.

-de Newsline

AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

President Jim Neely, WA5LHS, brought the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on July 12, 1994, at Luby's on North Loop.

VISITORS: Jimmy Fidler, WB5KXX, introduced his wife Esther Lee.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 14, 1994, meeting were approved as printed in the AARC/OVER.

OFFICER REPORTS: Dave Marschall, KG5ND, Treasurer, reported that the checking account balance was \$1440.60 and the postal account balance was \$31.84. Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical Committee Chairman, reported that the Club's 146.78 MHz repeater was working well and the reports of interference had diminished. Steve Sparks, KB5RSY, Activities Manager was absent.

NEW MEMBERS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: President Neely reported that three qualified applicants for scholarships had applied at the last minute. The recipients are Frank Edwards, KB5WOA, Carol Thiele, N5TLY, and Hugo Sanchez, N5JGX. They all are attending ACC and have been awarded \$2500.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Roger Vines, KA5VHN, announced that the first annual swapfest in Seguin will be Saturday, September 24, 1994, from 6:00 AM until noon. It will be held at the McQueeney Lions Club Community Center in McQueeney. Talk-in will be on 146.16/76 repeater in Seguin. Contact Al Loeschman, WD51QR, at 210-372-3227. The event is sponsored by Chaparral Amateur Radio Club.

Crystal Murray, KC5CXF, and Mark Murray, KA0RLS, need hams to handle communications at the American Diabetes Association Walktoberfest on Sunday, October 2, 1994, from 8:30 AM until noon at the Circle C Veloway. Crystal is a nurse at the Texas Department of Health and she can be contacted at 458-7111, ext. 3560.

Joe Makeever, W5EBJ, announced that Summerfest would be August 5, 6, and 7, at the Wyndham South Park. The Saturday evening party will again be at Dance Across-Texas. The ARRL Texas state convention and the Texas VHF-FM Society summer meeting are among the scheduled events as well as license exams and special interest forums and a swapmeet/flea market. Don't wait to be asked to assist- volunteer. Paul Kitching, WB5UXX, and Frank Edwards, KB5WOA, are in charge of the talk-in on 146.94 MHz. Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, is in charge of the Hospitality Room. George Dallas, N5ZLV, is in charge of security for the swapmeet/flea market. Please volunteer your services.

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

PROGRAM: Rod Moag, W0NDS, Vice-President, did something a little different. He conducted the program himself. Rod and President Neely showed 2 video tapes on amateur satellite communications.

John Weber, KF5OY

INTERFERENCE FROM CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The FCC reports that its San Francisco Office recently received a call from the Veteran's Administration Hospital in nearby Martinez complaining of interference to hospital security communications. At the same time, they received a complaint that a similar pulse noise was interrupting communications at the U.S. Customs Service Office on Mt. Taltamalpais, CA. So FCC engineers using their mobile direction finding equipment went out and tracked the source of interference. And guess what they found. The culprit was a geographic positioning transmitter used by the Corps of Engineers in a dredging operation that no government authorization to operate. It was ordered to cease its operation immediately. It did. Case closed.

de Newsline

HAITI

As reported in many D-X newsletters, two hams were recently in Haiti on assignment for various news agencies. One of them was Alan Kaul, W6RCL of NBC Network News. This is the same W6RCL who for many years anchored Newsline. Alan operated with an Icom high frequency transceiver, antenna tuner and all-band long wire antenna. The other ham in Haiti was Bill Howard, N4MU of CNN, who was also running 100 watts on SSB.

de Newsline

SW CONVENTION

On the convention scene, word that the 1994 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will be held in San Diego, California on August 26th to the 28th at Town & Country Convention Center. For a registration form, please send a self addressed stamped envelope to Bob Boehme, W6RHV, Registration Chairman, 10340 Everell Place, Santee, California 92071. The event is sponsored by SANDARC, INC. in association with the San Diego County Amateur Radio Council.

AMSAT CALLS FOR PAPERS

The 1994 AMSAT-NA Annual Meeting and Space Symposium will be held October 7 to 9, in Orlando, Florida. AMSAT is seeking papers for the symposium and can provide authors with help in editing and graphics if needed. Papers are welcome even if the author is unable to attend the symposium. Topics for all amateur satellite disciplines are sought, including introductory tutorials, satellite operations, Phase IIID design and development, and new applications and techniques. Final drafts are requested on or about August 26. Direct inquiries to Steve Park, WB9OEP, 12122 99th Ave North, Seminole, Florida 34642.

Huck's Country Store By Huck Huckabee - AA5BU

The World's Most Dangerous Piece of Radio Equipment

In the 1930's the British and the United States dominated the world with their Merchant Naval Fleets. As a teenager, I wanted to become a radio operator on a Merchant Ship. That sparked my interest in learning to be a CW operator. Many of my friends had the same ideas. The Scott brothers and the Thornhill brothers were in the same group with an eye on the Merchant Navy. Milton Thornhill and I wound up in the U.S. Army, and the other three spent WW-II in the Merchant Marine Service.

Marine radio gear of that era was usually the minimum that met legal requirements. Most freighters had a simple crystal controlled CW transmitter and a two or three tube receiver. The National SW-3, which is a collector's piece today, was in many a ship. The receivers were usually a regenerative detector plus one or two stages of audio.

A CW signal cannot be heard by ear because it has no form of modulation; other than the on-off keying. Those little receivers were operated in the oscillation mode, to produce the CW tone in the earphones. With the world's best ground connection, and nothing to shield the antenna there is little need for great power on a ship. Now that little oscillating detector is a QRP transmitter at a fraction of a watt output.

It has been estimated that three-fourths of the U.S. Merchant Fleet was sent to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean by German submarine torpedoes. Other estimates claim that the British Fleet suffered even a higher percentage loss.

One of the Thornhill boys survived two ships sank by the U-Boats. One of the Scott boys survived the sinking of five small freighters. All of this was because of that deadly radio with its oscillating detector!

Here is how it worked. The U-Boat would surface at night and listen to the QRP signal of those little radios. They could trail a ship, or convoy of ships until an opportune time could be found for the kill.

Apparently we did not know what was making it so easy to lose our ships. Once the cause was found, the order was for "Radio Silence" meant both transmitter and receiver! Clarence Scott once related signing onto a ship for five months without even turning on the receiver or transmitter.

Yes, many died from the little radio; not from electrocution, but doing just what the radio was built to do - oscillate.

de J.M. Huckabee, 1943

-a true story about his friends

The Gap Products Titan Antenna

By Stu Rohre

How about a single antenna that only requires a two foot support in the ground, and covers all the amateur bands in the HF range from 80 through 10 with the WARC bands included? Moreover, this antenna requires no guys, only one counterpoise "capacity hat", and is so low profile that it only sticks up 25 feet? In addition, this antenna is not fed close to the ground like quarter wave verticals, with the large ground losses they suffer in our poorly conducting soil.

If you are interested by these concepts, or faced with keeping your HF hamming under a low profile in your neighborhood, but still want low angle of radiation for working DX, then you will be interested in this antenna, the Gap Products Titan model just introduced at Dayton.

Now if you want to work all of 75-80 meters on one setting and 160, there is another new top loaded Gap model for you, that goes down to 20 meters on its high end; but this article will concentrate on the Titan. The Titan is the 80 meter through all WARC bands model, while earlier Gap models covered the 80-10 harmonic bands.

Gap is based in FL. and has been putting out their "gap" antennas in several models starting with the traditional "harmonic" ham bands like 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10. They advertise in several ham magazines.

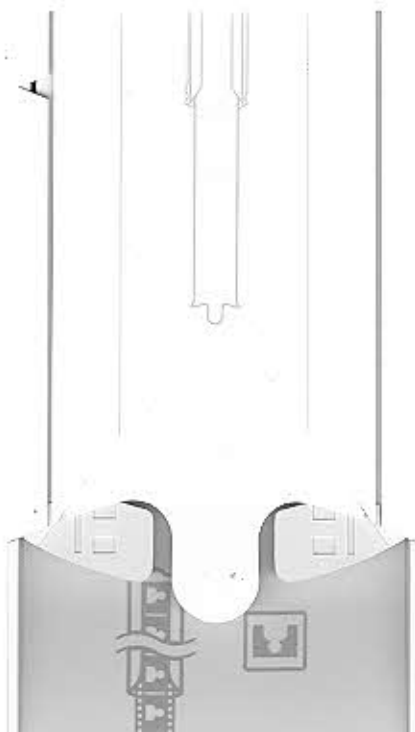
Their claim is that their antenna performs like a vertical dipole on each band, because of the elevated feed. Technically, as reviewed in CQ and other publications, the Gap models are "asymmetrically fed verticals", as the feed point is not exactly half way up the antenna. The aluminum vertical shaft sits on the ground post, which is two feet in the ground, and any height above the ground, supporting the whole antenna. The coax

couples to a coax lead that comes out of the side of the bottom of the tubing. The counterpoise is fastened here also, like a square wheel. The circumference is one 30+ foot insulated conductor, joined at one end to the support structure. The elevated feed has less earth loss, so more of the total impedance is the antenna, not the ground resistance that plagues other verticals. Another way of saying this is that the low impedance point and hence the highest current point is raised up the antenna length so it is not close to the lossy earth. (This has been a reason for putting loading coils at the middle of mobile antennas, rather than at the base, for years.)

The coax feed goes up inside the bottom half of the tubing to the insulated gap; but besides feeding the outer bottom and top tubes, it continues up inside the top tube to its top, where a fixed potted capacitor is attached to provide tuning for the 80 meter segment (100kHz) desired and specified when you order. As if this didn't seem strange; there are also rods that connect across the gap, but are not called linear decoupling elements or traps. Yet, it might be easier to envision this as their function, as to optimizing the antenna for each band. However, unlike traps, there are no LC losses, which is good.

Lew McCoy wrote in CQ that in testing he performed on an earlier model Gap, it outperformed a couple of single band full size quarter wave verticals over his good ground, (an abandoned silver mine). Also, he could hear some signals on the Gap he could not hear on his beam! Actually, that just means the Gap had a different angle of radiation on that band, and he heard signals at a different time than a beam would have, which can be an advantage to the little pistol over the Big Guns! He even saw little difference with and without the counterpoises on that model, but for the lossy ground we have, and for the 40 meter

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Gap Products Titan... (Cont'd from Pg. 10)

resonance to be adjusted, it must be used on the Titan. One way to look at it is as a capacitance hat, but at ground level. McCoy said the Gap model had less electrostatic noise than other verticals, and this may be due to the sleeving of the feed coax, which decouples it for RF like power line noise.

The Gap Titan is UPS shippable and comes in an 8 foot box. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and I have used and erected Butternuts, an earlier Gap, home made ground planes, R5's, R7's, etc. but I do believe the Titan is a good looking and clean antenna. You might make it pass for a flag pole if your flag does not conduct! I found an earlier Gap model easier to erect than other trap antennas, as there are no adjustments required, (a couple of tuning sleeves are offered). If you watch this space, I will tell you how a Titan does for I put down my \$289, and have one arriving. (UPS would be \$14 additional to Central TX.)

PETER I VIDEO

Also, another new ham radio video on DXing has been announced. "Journey to Peter I Island: Close to the Edge" is a 30 minute documentary on this dangerous and exciting DXpedition through the Falkland Islands, the Drake Passage and onto Peter I Island. The video shows enormous icebergs, animal and marine life, massive Antarctic storms and how the DXpedition team was able to make almost 60,000 QSOs. The documentary was produced professionally from 12 hours of videotape shot by Terry Dubson, W6MHB. A donation to obtain the show is required. Those that are interested in this documentary can contact Jerry Branson, AA6BB, 93787 Dorsey Lane, Junction City, Oregon, 97448.

NEW FCC COMMISSIONER SEES LITTLE BUT C-SPAN

The new FCC commissioner Susan Ness has described herself as a "C-SPAN junkie" who does not regularly watch commercial TV. Ness, speaking to reporters at an informal briefing in her office, said there is "nothing that I watch specifically every week" on commercial TV. Nevertheless, she said the Federal Communications Commission needs to insist that broadcasters "strive for better programming" so long as the First Amendment rights of station owners are protected. Ness' disinterest in commercial TV fare stands in stark contrast to Rachel Chong, the other new FCC member who is a confessed "Star Trek"

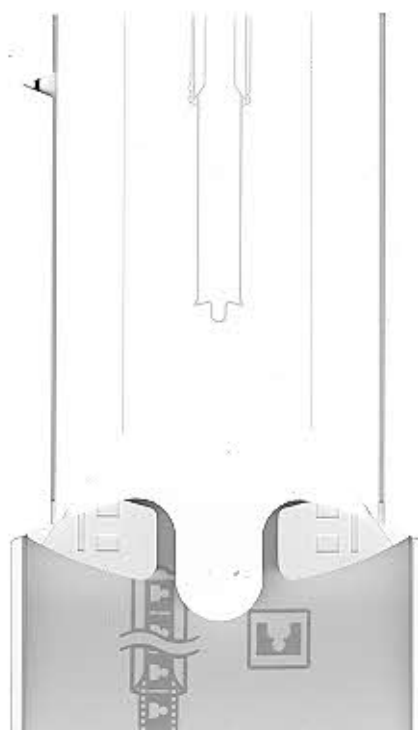
Rover Rules Adopted

Today, the ARRL Awards Committee voted unanimously to accept a recommendation to modify rover category rules for the January VHF Sweepstakes, June VHF QSO Party and September VHF QSO Party. The new rules, proposed by W3EP, are as follows:

Rule 1 (C) Rover: A rover consists of one or two operators of a single station that moves among two or more grid locators during the contest. A rover vehicle may transport only one station using a single call sign; thus a rover may not operate with multiple call signs under the family rule 7 (C). Rover vehicles must transport all the equipment, power supplies, and antennas used at each operating site. This rule is not intended to prevent an operator from using the same call sign to submit separate logs for single-operator (fixed station) and rover-class entries. Rovers add "rover" on phone and /R on CW after their call signs.

Rule 4 (D) Rovers only: The total rover score is the sum of the scores made from

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Rover rules adopted... (Con'td from pg. 11)

each grid locator. Submit separate logs for each grid where operating sites were established and score them individually, as explained in paragraphs (A)-(C) above. Then add the scores from each grid on the summary sheet for the total rover score. Rovers are listed in the published contest results under the division from which the highest aggregate score was made. For the January VHF Sweepstakes only: Rovers entering club competition must indicate the grid locators where operating sites were within 175 miles of the club's center. Only scores made from those grid locations count for club competition.

Bulletin 61 ARLB061 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT July 18, 1994

ARLB062 BOD Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, July 15, 1994. The following is a summary of the meeting's highlights:

The ARRL Spectrum Committee has been asked to study the bands between 420 MHz and 300 GHz to enable a better understanding of present and future activities in this region of the spectrum, giving priority to those bands subject to spectrum reallocations by the government.

The Board commissioned an RF Safety Committee to advise the Board and staff on safe operating practices for the development of policy and educational methods and materials. Members to be selected by the President.

The ARRL Professional Media Award was created to recognize media professionals who

make distinguished contributions to the public image of Amateur Radio.

In recognition of more than ten years of successful SAREX missions aboard space shuttle flights, the Board expressed its gratitude to the SAREX Working Group. The Board commended the group for its efforts to make Amateur Radio communications a part of future space missions, including the Space Station.

Jonathan M. LeBretton, N1MJM, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, was selected as the 1993 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award winner.

James Dalley, W0NAP, of Centerville, Utah, was selected as the Herb S. Brier Volunteer Instructor of the Year.

The Board picked Sheila Perry, N0UOP, of Bloomfield, Missouri, as the 1993 Professional Educator of the Year.

Rick Campbell, KK7B, of Chassell, Michigan, was selected as the winner of the Technical Excellence Award for his article, "High-Performance, Single-Signal, Direct-Conversion Receivers," appearing in the January 1993 issue of QST.

The Board tabbed Len Winkler, KB7LPW, of Phoenix, Arizona, as the recipient of the Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the public relations arena. The Board thanked all Amateurs for their public relations efforts.

The staff was commended for developing and implementing strategies for responding to the 13-cm band challenges posed by the government reallocation plans.

The Board noted the selection of ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI as a member of the US delegation to ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, and congratulated him for his excellent service as an international representative of Amateur

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BOD Meeting Highlights (Cont'd from pg. 12)

Radio.

The Contest Advisory Committee will study the possibility of expanding the scope of the 10 GHz contest to include all bands above 10 GHz, and report back to the Board at its 1995 Annual Meeting.

The Contest Advisory Committee will study the possibility of adding a club competition to all VHF/UHF contests and sprints. The committee will also consider establishing a Summer Sprint series.

The Board selected Peoria, Illinois, as the site of the 1996 National Convention. The convention will be held September 13-15 under the sponsorship of the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club.

Dallas/Ft. Worth was selected as the site of the 14th ARRL Digital Conference to be co-sponsored by the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation (TAPR) and the Texas Packet Radio Society in September 1995.

The full story of the Board meeting will appear in September QST.

ARRL Bulletin 62 ARLB062 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT July 18, 1994

Legislation Moves Forward

ARRL's House of Representatives Joint Resolution 199 passed a major hurdle when key provisions were included in H.R. 4522, the FCC Authorization Act of 1994, during markup by the Telecommunications Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on July 14. Sponsored by Rep. Mike Kresider (D-WA), H.J. 199 earlier gained 245 other Congressional co-sponsors as a result of hard work by the Amateur community.

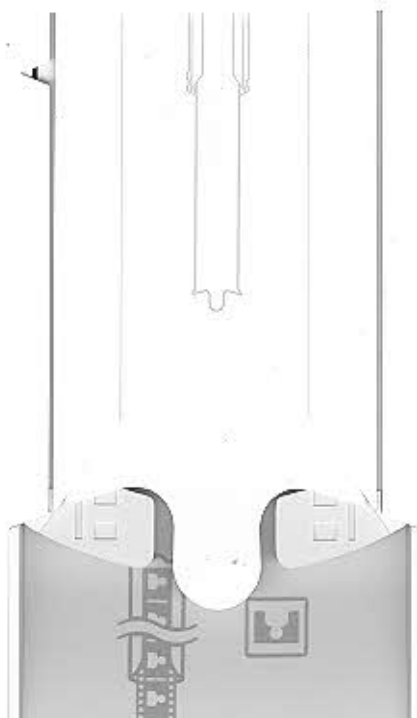
The next step is action by the full Energy Commerce Committee, and then consideration on the floor of the House. Companion legislation awaits action by the Senate Commerce Committee. If the Senate bill differs from the House bill, an additional conference committee decision might be necessary before floor action.

The bill urges the FCC to "continue and enhance the development of amateur radio as a public benefit by adopting rules and regulations encouraging the use of new technologies," and urges the Commission to make "reasonable accommodations for the effective operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas," and urges "all levels of government" to facilitate Amateur Radio as a public benefit.

The bill provides for a one time "vanity" call sign fee of 150 dollar(s). The previous "annual fee" provision was deleted in favor of a one time application charge, staving off the threat of an annual fee for all amateurs. In addition, ARRL lobbied to ensure that the fees go to FCC rather than the Treasury.

The one time fee was a calculated decision. As a result of concern on Capitol Hill about deficit reduction, new bills must be "scored" by the Congressional Budget Office to determine budgetary impact. A bill stands a better chance of passing if the Congressional Budget Office rules that it won't be an additional burden on taxpayers. ARRL supported the 150 dollar(s) amount since it would generate sufficient revenue to offset new costs to FCC and would meet the "revenue neutral" criterion, without imposing any new fees on amateurs who keep their present call signs or who receive new ones issued routinely.

ARRL Bulletin 63 ARLB063 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT July 19, 1994



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. ... 244-3776

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.....AustinTX..78751
Hal Henegar, W5MDL, P.I.O. 836-2012

More Power to British Hams

Power restrictions in Great Britain have been lifted on parts of the 1.8 and 50 MHz bands, according to the Radio Society of Great Britain, and antenna and effective radiated power (ERP) restrictions no longer apply on 50 MHz.

Holders of the amateur Class A license may use 400 watts from 1.81 to 1.85 MHz, removing the power restriction on 1.81 to 1.83 MHz. The power limit for 1.85 to 2.0

(Continued on page 15)

AARC/Over Information

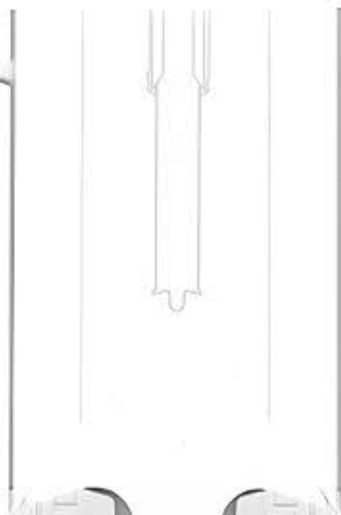
ISSN 1067-0262, CODEN AAOVE3. (c) Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and/or the Austin Repeater Organization.

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, by connecting to the Balcones Fault Line BBS (452-2135), or smcans@bga.com. 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.

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



CHECK YOUR LICENSE DATE (Cont'd from Page 1)

amateur permits to conform with to the way in which it processes all other Private Radio Service licenses. As a result, Amateur license upgrades, changes of address, call sign, or name changes are processed with the original expiration date intact. That is, they are not automatically extended for another 10 years as has been the case in years past. The FCC currently recommends that amateurs submit license renewal applications 60 to 90 days before their expiration date. The Commission says that it intends eventually to mail license expiration notices to amateurs but that program is not yet in place. In the meantime, the ARRL is sending license expiration notices to its members, along with an FCC Form 610 and a return envelope to the FCC's licensing division in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The W5YI VEC is doing the same for the general ham public but does charge a nominal fee for filing paperwork back to the FCC.

MORE RETESTS... (Cont'd from Pg. 5)

the annual meeting with the nations Volunteer Examination Coordinators on June 24th, Johnston said that twenty examines have had their examination credits totally invalidated in addition to the fifty nine ordered to retest. W3BE told the VEC's that there was definite evidence that at twenty five California test session the commission knows about so far, applicants were given answers to the Morse Code test message prior to testing. As a result the retesting was ordered. As we go to air only three people who have been re-examined have received passing grades. Johnston has also made public a few other pieces of evidence collected in the probe. According to John, one Volunteer Examiner allegedly administered examinations at two different locations on the same day, and traveling as

much as seventy miles one-way between test sessions. W3BE says that the FCC has determined beyond any doubt that one of the sessions never actually took place. Even more incriminating, the FCC appears to have solid evidence that only seven people were actually examined at the second session even though the VE's proctoring the test claimed the number tested on site was twenty-two. This lends a lot of credibility to our report two weeks ago that much of the alleged fraud was accomplished by manipulating the paperwork going to the various VEC's. About the only thing not yet made public are the names and call signs of the suspect VE's, but this too may soon change. At least one major ham radio publication is known to have a copy of the list of VE's that are under government scrutiny. We hear that entire list plus the names of some suspect applicants may be appearing in print worldwide within the next few weeks.

More Power... (Cont'd from pg. 14)

MHz remains at 10 watts.

Holders of the full amateur Class A and B licenses may now run up to 400 watts between 50 and 51 MHz. The maximum permitted power between 51 and 52 MHz is still 100 watts. The ERP and antenna height restrictions have been removed from the whole of the 50 to 52 MHz band, allowing the use of any antenna, and maritime mobile operation is now permitted on 50 MHz.

In addition, all UK amateurs are now required to notify their local Radio Investigation Service office of unattended digital operation. The RSGB said this additional restriction was necessary following "a number of problems" with unattended operation.

Special Bulletin 22 ARLX022 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT July 25, 1994

