

AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

December 1995

Issue 95-12

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization
Tuesday, December 5, 1995 7:30 PM.

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday, December 12, 1995 7:30 PM
Topic: Repeater Operations, Bylaw changes

Austin Amateur TV Club
Tuesday, December 19, 1995 7:30 PM

All these organizations meet at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop, about a block West of Burnet Rd. We meet in the back room, about as far from the cash register as we can get. Visitors are welcome, whether licensed hams or not.

Upcoming Events

City EOC Open House, December 2, 1995, Municipal Building 8th and Colorado Street. 9 AM 11 AM.

QCWA Meeting, December 16, 1995 Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 12:00 Noon.

City EOC Open House December 2, 1995

This center is where the Austin City government coordinates relief operations during emergencies. Travis County ARES has a nice radio room here that has worked well during several drills and emergencies.

The open house will be held on Saturday, December 2, 1995 from 9 AM to 11 AM. The building is at 8th and Colorado. The entrance is on the Northeast corner of this intersection. The entrance to the EOC is located by the wheelchair ramp on Colorado St. There is a red phone box located inside the covered area by the doorway. Pick this phone up to contact the EOC for entrance.

Page Mac Cannary [KB5VYT] at 613-3306 if you need

more information. All interested amateurs are invited to drop by.

Smithville Swapfest

The Smithville swapfest will be held February 17, 1996, at Riverbend Park on Hwy. 71, just out of Smithville, and east of its former location on Alum Creek at Bastrop.

Admission is \$1 per person for buyers.

Talk in 145.35 or 443.75

OST: Worked All States (WAS) Award for KK5MI

Congrats to Bob Allen, KK5MI of Austin!

On 25-Sep-95 I was pleased to verify Bob's QSL cards for a Worked All States (WAS) Award. Bob's first QSL was in 1994 and he is now working on his Five Band WAS. Who said the HF bands are dead!

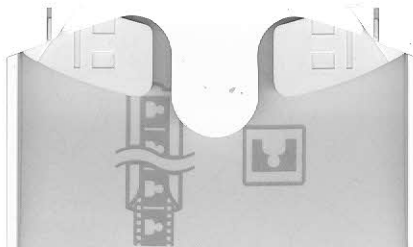
Richard M. Kriss, KD5VU
ARRL Awards Manager
Austin, Texas

Travis County ARES Packet Net Frequency Change

Travis County ARES packet nets are held every Sunday night at 1930 local time on 145.73 MHz in unconnected mode. The backup frequency is 145.79.

Packet is becoming more and more important to our emergency operations. All amateur operators interested in emergency communications are invited to join.

de Mickey McInnis KB5YAC



Austin Repeater Organization Club November Minutes

Vice-President Jeff Schmidt [N5MNV] called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on November 7, 1995. Several visitors, both licensed and unlicensed. The (unlicensed) couple in the back were interested in joining, and were glad to hear Ham wanna-be's are welcome in our ranks. Guests introduced included Cathy & Don Beaver, Jarod [KC5QLT], and Andy [KA5SNN].

The minutes were approved as printed in the November AARC/Over.

Treasurer's report

Bill Montgomery [AB5HP] reported we have \$5,118.69.

Engineering Report

John Dahm [WB5PCV] was in Phoenix, the 444.1 repeater is still down.

Old Business

None

New Business

Hal Henegar [W5MDL] moved that ARO pay for the framing of the appreciation plaques the club has received from the Mayor, etc. This was approved.

Hal Henegar talked to Luby's Management about hanging some of the appreciation plaques and possibly inviting a news crew in to provide some publicity.

Tina Kinney and Keith Watson both voluntarily ran again for their respective board positions and were voted in unanimously.

Announcements

Joe Fisher- K5EJL invited all to become active in ARES.

The Austin Trail of Lights walkthrough days need communications volunteers, Dec. 10-17. Call Jim Coker [KB5EHP] for details.

Jeff Schmidt reports next Technician class will start Jan. 13, 1996 at Murchison Community school. A Morse Code instructor is needed, as well as backup theory instructors. Please help if you can !!! Call Jeff at home 255-6753 work 933-5704.

Program

Jeff Schmidt showed a few clips from the latest Technician class.

Jeff Schmidt [N5MNV]
ARO Vice President

Austin Amateur Radio Club November Minutes

President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, brought the meeting to order at exactly 7:31 PM on November 14, 1995. The meeting was held at Luby's cafeteria on North Loop.

Visitors

We welcomed one visitor.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 10, 1995 meeting were approved as printed in the AARC/OVER.

Officer Reports

Treasurer John Weber, KF5OY, reported the checking account balance of \$ 1,654.10 (this figure includes \$ 120.00 for our Austin Public Library Book Project), and a postal account balance of \$ 619.32.

Technical Committee Chairman Ed Golla, K3AHS, reported no problems with any AARC equipment.

Activities Manager Frank Edwards, KK5IA, announced that our next activity is going to be the annual "Heart to Heart" event with the Red Cross in February.

New Members

New or renewing members voted in were: Don Erickson, KC5LGR.

Welcome to the Club!

Old Business

The Club membership voted on the previously proposed bylaws changes. The changes were adopted.

New Business

President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, announced his three appointments for the position of Nominations Committee. The new Committee members are: Dave Effland, N5RNE; Hal Henegar, W5MDL; and David Hoge, WD5FGZ.

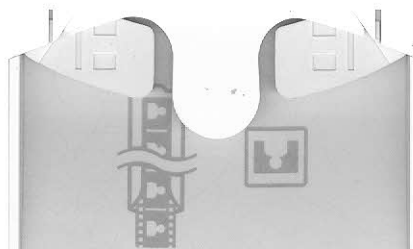
Announcements

Saturday December 2, 1995. The Austin EOC will have an open house from 9 to 11 am. Talk-in will be on the -146.94 repeater.

Vice President David Sprague, KB5ZEG, put out a request to all amateurs that have suggestions for future program topics. If there is something that you've been wanting to hear; you can let him know by giving him a call. He can be reached at 259-7282.

Program

President Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, introduced Ed Golla, K3AHS. He spoke to us about our repeater (-146.78) and



how to access it to get the fullest use of it. Thank you Ed, for all the info and a great program!

Submitted with pleasure,

Gene Van Zelfden, KB5UGO
AARC Secretary

Travis County ARES October 24 Meeting

Joe Fisher opened the October 24, 1995, face-to-face meeting of Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) with the revelation that he didn't have any certificates to hand out. Last quarter's certs will be presented at the next meeting. He noted that the ATV'ers will be out for Halloween 95 on 6th Street. He expects about 4 TV cameras, with video in the 902 MHz and 1240 MHz bands and coordination on 2 meters. If you are coming, be sure to wear your ARES badge and check in on 2 meters before coming to 6th St.

Other upcoming ARES activities are helping monitor the Klan march (usually in January, getting smaller each year) and Heart-to-Heart. The latter is a traffic-handling exercise with the American Red Cross.

We got into a sustained discussion of badge sizes...should ARES badges continue to be "jumbo convention" size, or should we switch to credit-card size? And what about badges with photos? We held at least an inconclusive straw vote on the matter, with the outcome that badges will remain as they are.

Rick Herndon took the floor to announce that we have a new Net Control...Karl, N5PVD. Rick is still looking for new NC's, so let him know if you'd like to try it out.

Rick thanked all who participated in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET), and he reminded everyone to mail their log sheets to Joe Fisher. He noted that participation on the 8:30 PM ARES session is sometimes a little light.

Stu Rohre notified the group that the new Kenwood HF rig is installed at the Red Cross building, along with two HF and 3 VHF antennas. One of the HF antennas is a Near Vertical Incidence dipole, which gives good coverage to most of Texas. The antennas are configured so we can now run 2-m packet and FM without desense.

Jim Neely reported that we are getting the 2M system at Channel 24 working. We still need to replace some bad coax. He said TEXNET has a new weather node...just press W to connect to it.

Joe described Mac Cannary's efforts to get the radio room at the new City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) set up. The now-dispersed Lockheed ARC donated a large transceiver, which Mac installed. HF and VHF antennas are now up. Intermod at the site is bad.

Joe Canfield has Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) applications.

Joe Fisher said that Travis County ARES has at least three new served agencies: Hudson Bend VFD, Manchaca VFD, and Spicewood Emergency Services District. He noted that

they all have severe communication problems...hilly country, no repeater, can't afford 800 MHz trunking gear. We need a person to liaison with each agency, so if you live in one of those areas please contact Joe.

The meeting wound up with a discussion of SET. There were some snafu's, but still 60 hams checked in during the exercise. About half that number were licensed since 1991. One problem was that many repeaters are tone activated, and many hams didn't have tone radios. Also, we need some time to overlap when changing Net Controls. The amount of paper at the EOC was almost overwhelming.

de Miles Abernathy, N5KOB

Railroad Frequencies

Lots of people have asked me about local railroad frequencies. I've spent much time listening to local railroads, and find them interesting, particularly if you're interested in trains like I am. It's also interesting to compare ham NTS traffic handling to railroad handling of track warrants, orders, etc.

Here are some local frequencies of interest in the Austin area.

Union Pacific Road	160.740 MHz
Union Pacific PBX	160.605 MHz
Georgetown Railroad	160.995 MHz
Austin & Northwestern RR	161.525 MHz
FRED	457.9375 MHz

Slightly more distant railroads or areas that you might get with a good antenna or good conditions.

Union Pacific Road	160.470 MHz
Southern Pacific Road	161.550 MHz
Santa Fe Road	160.650 MHz
Santa Fe Repeater	161.385 MHz
SF PBX	160.260 MHz
SP PBX	160.950 MHz
SP PBX	160.890 MHz

The complete set of railroad frequencies occupies 160.215 to 161.550 MHz with 15 KHz channel spacing.

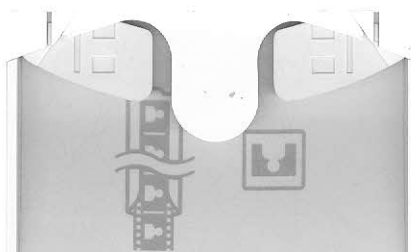
Terms:

FRED: Flashing Rear End Device. This attaches on the end of the train and transmits air pressure data to the engine. All you will hear on this channel is a short chirp every 30 seconds or so. Unlike the train crew, FRED's transmit all the time, letting you know when a train is nearby, even if the crew isn't saying anything.

PBX - The railroad's equivalent to a phone patch on their internal company phone system.

Hot Box detector - automated equipment mounted at certain track locations that checks for hot wheel bearings and transmits a voice message whenever a train passes. UP has detectors that transmit on 160.740 from near Duval Road in North Austin and near Kyle, south of Austin.

de KB5YAC



Club Information

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 13473, Austin, TX 78711-3473

Officers

President	Stu Rohre	K5KVH	255-3932
Vice President	David Sprague	KB5ZEG	259-7282
Treasurer	John Weber	KF5OY	280-1082
Secretary	Gene Van Zelfden	KB5UGO	338-4729
Activity Manager	Frank Edwards	KK5IA	255-6753

Committees & Positions

Technical	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818
ARES Coordinator	Joe Fisher	K5EJL	926-4689
ARRL Public Information Coordinator	Hal Henegar	W5MDL	836-2012
ARRL Public Information Officer	Robert Barron	KA5WSS	837-4051
ARRL Public Information Officer	Roger Wines	KB5VHN	453-2193

Austin Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 4763, Austin, TX 78765

Officers

President	Phil Steinbach	WB5SUR	258-3215
Vice President	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNW	255-6753
Secretary	Warren Anderson	N5XUG	346-0186
Treasurer	Bill Montgomery	AB5HP	478-7928

Please contact a club officer, attend a meeting, or mail us to join either Organization

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Membership dues are \$8 per calendar year (\$10 for a family). Joint ARO/AARC dues are \$15 per year.

AARC 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. Persons residing or working within the coverage area are expected to join the club if they use the autopatch. Non residents on short visits are welcome to use the autopatch.

The Austin Repeater Organization dues are \$8 per calendar year. Joint ARO/AARC dues are \$15 per year. Family membership is \$10 per year.

ARO maintains the following repeaters.

146.88 MHz offset -600 KHz has a phone patch. 146.94 MHz -600 KHz is used for the weather net at the request of the National Weather Service. It is used for the Swapnet and Newsline at 9 PM Sunday. 244.80 MHz -600 KHz 444.10 MHz +5 MHz . 145.01 MHz is the packet NetROM node, KB5PM-1 or alias AUS.

ARO maintains a TCP/IP gateway, ausgw.wb9khl.amp.org on 145.670 MHz. For AX25 connections, use WB9KHL-1.

Persons residing or working within the coverage area are expected to join the club if they use the autopatch. Non residents on short visits are welcome to use the autopatch.

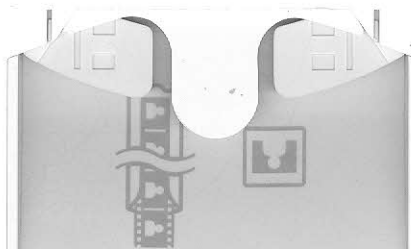
The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches. Press "" and dial the phone number to place a call. Do not unkey after the "". When finished, press "#" to hang up the phone. Dial "911" (no "" needed) for emergency services. Please transmit your callsign **before** using the phone patch.

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 and other readers are encouraged to submit material for publication. Mail to Mickey McInnis at 1519 Charolais Drive, Austin, TX 78758, or e-mail to mcinnis@austin.ibm.com (Internet), 339-0344. Submissions may be edited for format, style and suitability. Deadline for the next issue is the Thursday following the AARC meeting. Material may be saved for later months. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint AARC/Over articles provided that you credit the author and the AARC/Over.



Travis County ARES Net Control Stations

Backup net control stations are the net control stations for the following months. e.g. The second Sunday of June, KB5VHN is net control, N5MHI is backup, and N5PVD is the second backup. Remember to read from the same horizontal row. If you are net control for a session, you should be available for backup the same session on the same week for every month. Please listen in if you are a backup net control and be prepared to fill in if the primary net control or backup is absent.

Jan	Feb	Mar
Apr	May	June
July	Aug	Sep
Oct	Nov	Dec

First session 18:30 local time 146.94 MHz

Week

1st	WA5MUM	KB5YWL	K5EJL
2nd	N5MHI	N5PVD	KB5VHN
3rd	N5HPC	KB5UGO	K5FNI
4th	KB5WNZ	W5KNA	KF5OY
5th	N5KOB	N5KOB	N5KOB

Second session 20:30 local time 146.78 MHz

Week

1st	KB5YAC	KB5OVM	KG5ND
2nd	N5ORG	N5RNE	AB5EK
3rd	KK5AM	KB5ELV	N5OUJ
4th	WB5IMB	K5IOJ	KK5IA
5th	KC5IAI	KC5IAI	KC5IAI

We are always looking for additional volunteers for net control. In a real emergency, you may have to be net control. It will be very good if you have had some practice.

Contact Rick Herndon [K5FNI] at 454-1670 to be a net control station.

Net Script

Before starting the net, establish a backup net control and frequency.

CQ the Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service net. This is _____, net control for this session. This is a directed net. That means that no station is to transmit unless directed to do so by net control. This net promotes public service through amateur radio. We provide emergency communications through agreements with several agencies in Travis County. This net operates with the permission of the owner of this repeater.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service or ARES is a part of the Field Organization of the American Radio Relay League or ARRL. Questions regarding ARES membership should be directed to Joe Fisher, K5EJL. He is the Travis County Emergency Coordinator. He can be reached by phone at 926-4689 or after the net on this frequency if he checks in today.

This is a local level net of the ARRL National Traffic System. At this time we will check in ONLY stations wishing to take outgoing messages on to other nets. Will these liaison stations please check in now, stating which National Traffic System net you will carry messages to.

Check in and acknowledge all liaison stations.

Any stations with outgoing message traffic ONLY, please come now.

Check in and dispatch traffic

First time check-ins, please notify net control when you check in. All stations please check in by saying "This is," release your push-to-talk switch to cut down on doubles, then give your call phonetically and slowly.

Check in all others, individually acknowledging them.

Stations with announcements or bulletins, come now.

Allow users to give their announcements

Last call for stations wishing to check in to the Travis County ARES net, please come now.

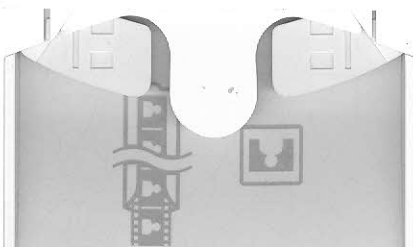
Repeat enough times to be sure everyone has a chance to check in

This is _____, closing the Travis County ARES net. We had __ stations check in and __ messages handled. Thanks to all stations for participating.

This net meets each Sunday evening at 1830 local time on the 146.94 repeater and at 2030 on the 146.78 repeater. A packet session is held at 1930 on 145.73 unconnected mode with backup frequency of 145.78. Any amateur interested in emergency communications is invited to join. The net is now free and the frequency is open to general use.

Call your alternate net control and reconcile your traffic and checkin counts. Send netlog to Mickey McInnis, [KB5YAC], at 1519 Charolais Dr., Austin, TX 78758. Give traffic and checkin counts and Net Control station callign to Rick Herndon [K5FNI] at 454-1670.

de Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC]



Huck's Country Store

Sky-wire Technology Sixty Five Years Ago

Around 1933 "Young Huck" was crippled for several years by a devastating disease. Our family had no radio, electricity, or running water, but we had heard of that wonderful device called "a radio." In fact, my state of Mississippi then had three radio stations.

A family friend gave me his old magazine collection to pass the long days of my disease. Among the magazines was about a dozen years of *Popular Mechanics* and *Radio News*. I learned that my friend was an ardent radio experimenter and had even built a radio featured in an issue of *Radio News*. He told me that Mr. Hugo Gernsback knew "Everything about Radio." That was evident because he was Editor of *Radio News*.

I learned that an antenna was one or more features on the body of an insect. Further study of Mr. Hugo's material taught me that an aerial wire could capture a radio signal "Right out of the Sky." The magazine frequently featured "aerials" with a long discussion of their merits, over those designed by someone else. Trade literature today seems to be on a continuation of the same subject, now called antennas.

The "Crown Jewel" by Mr. Hugo was in an issue around 1928. He described the construction of an "aerial of all aerials" that every radio owner should use. The guidelines were very interesting, and may be tested by amateur radio operators of our current day.

Right up front he gave us a few technical hints. Higher is better, and longer is best. He even recommended asking your neighbors permission to cross their back lot to gain another hundred or so feet. Strong towers or poles must be used to prevent wire-sag over the long distance. Each end should be fitted with a halyard to lower the wire for cleaning. He recommended solid wire with three or more insulators on each end, just in case one of them might not be "real good." The wire was let down (Saturday recommended) and cleaned with sandpaper for best reception.

The distant pole was to be taller than the near pole because radio signals could better "run downhill" to the radio. The lead-in wire should be rubber-covered because only the top wire could catch a radio signal and the rubber covered lead-in wire would not let the signal escape. As the lead-in wire came into the house window, form a drip-loop to dispose of the rain, but not very big because radio signals do not like an uphill path.

The ground rod should be a steel pipe a couple of inches in diameter which should be kept filled with water. A sandpaper aerial and well-watered ground rod would assure good Saturday night reception, which was considered the best reception day of the week.

As I search the memory of an eleven year old lad, could this be the acme of sky wire design? My memory seemed very clear, so I decided to test the aerial system. As an expedient, I turned my hand held radio upside-down and found that radio signals which will indeed go uphill. I was in a state of shock because the first test failed. Then a little sandpaper on the rubber ducky failed to make reception better.

Could it be possible that the story detail is mixed up? Maybe it's because the HT uses an antenna and the story only applies to use of an aerial wire.

Oh! I just recalled, I didn't have a well-watered ground rod on my HT. Maybe the aerial will be best on equipment that does not require an antenna.

de "Old Huck" Huckabee, [AA5BU]

South Austin W5YI VE Team Session Report October 21, 1995

The South Austin W5YI VE team congratulates Stephen G. Grupinski, KC5LQI on his upgdate to Technician Plus class amateur license at its October 21st session. Two others earned element credit without upgrading.

Our volunteer examiners were:

Bob Basinger, AB5OC
Hugh Brown, KC5E1Y

Emil Kasprzyk, KC51Z
Earl Landry, AB5VM

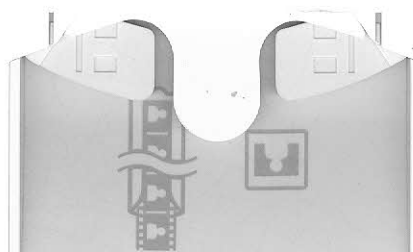
Tony Lyon, KJ5XF
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Bud Thompson, KB5RBI

Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5HYR
Scott McCreight, AB5KS

Everyone is welcome at our next session scheduled for December 16th. Testing begins 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.

de Jim Greenwood, AB5EK



Calendar

December

- 2 Ham Exams, Murchison 8:30 AM
- 5 ARO Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 9 ARO Transmitter Hunt 7 PM
- 12 AARC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 16 QCWA meeting @ Luby's at noon
- 16 Ham Exams, St. Ed's 327-6184
- 18 CTDXCC Old Quarry Library 7 PM
- 19 AATVC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM

February 1996

- 17 Smithville Swapfest

Periodic Events

Sun	6:30 PM, Travis CO ARES net	146.94 MHz
Sun	7:30 PM, ARES Packet	145.78 MHz
Sun	8:00 PM, Williamson ARES net	146.64 MHz
Sun	8:30 PM, Travis Co. ARES	146.78 MHz
Sun	9:00 PM, SwapNet	146.94 MHz
Sun	(after Swapnet) Newslines	146.94 MHz
Sun	(after Newslines) Vertical SSB net	144.225 MHz
Wed	8:30 PM Vertical SSB net	144.225 MHz
Thurs	11:30-1:00 Lunch At Holiday House	
Sat	7-8:30 AM Breakfast at Simon David Deli on Great Hills Trail	
Storm	WeatherNet	146.94 MHz

Most Austin radio club meetings are held at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop.

The Austin Repeater Organization meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Luby's at 7:30 PM.

The Austin Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Luby's at 7:30 PM.

The Austin Amateur TV Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Luby's Cafeteria at 7:30 PM.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association meets on the third Saturday of each month at Luby's at noon.

The ARO transmitter hunt occurs at 7 PM on the Saturday following the ARO meeting. The hunt frequency is 146.52, with coordination on 146.94. 12/9, 1/6/96, 2/10, 3/9, 4/6, 5/11, 6/8.

The AARC sponsors ARRL VEC ham exams at 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month at Murchison Middle School. 12/2, 1/6/96, 2/3, 3/2, 4/13*, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/7. (*Not normal date)

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. 12/16, 1/20/96, 2/17, 3/16, 4/27, 5/18, 6/15

The ARO swapnet is transmitted Sunday at 9:00 PM on the 146.94 repeater. Newslines, an amateur radio news program, follows the swapfest. The swaplist is copied to WB5GHJ's

packet BBS shortly after the swapnet is over.

A vertically polarized SSB net follows Newslines on 144.225 MHz. Another session occurs at 8:30 PM on Wednesdays.

The Travis County ARES net meets every Sunday night at 6:30 PM - 146.94 MHz and 8:30 PM - 146.78 MHz. A packet session is held at 7:30 PM on 145.73 MHz (backup 145.79 MHz) unconnected mode.

Face-to-face meeting ARES meetings are held on the fifth Tuesday of months with a fifth Tuesday at 7:30 PM at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop 1/30/96, 4/30.

The CTDXCC Central Texas DX Contest Club meets at 7:00 PM at the Old Quarry Library off Far West on the 4th Monday of each month. 12/18*, 1/22/96, 2/26, 3/25, 4/22, 5/20*, 6/24, 7/22, 8/19. (* Not normal schedule)

New Austin Area Internet Mailing List

Good Day fellow Ham Radio Operators!

My name is Steve Sparks and Call is KB5RSY. Some of you who receive this message may know me. I am sending you this E-mail via a ham radio mailing list I have setup on the internet. This list is maintained by myself and has been established to promote ham radio in Austin and surrounding areas.

I have setup the list to send this one time message to provide information to people interested in participating in this list. If your interested please send E-mail as follows:

E-mail to: majordomo@sss.org
 Subject :subscribe
 Message-Text:

subscribe ham

If you send e-mail to majordomo@sss.org and message text of "help" <less quotes> for information on using the mailing list server.

de KB5RSY

