

AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

March 1996

Issue 96-3

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization
Tuesday, March 5, 1996 7:30 PM.

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday, March 12, 1996 7:30 PM
Hal Henegar [W5MDL] on Radio Controlled Airplanes

Austin Amateur TV Club
Tuesday, March 19, 1996 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

Skywarn Class Saturday, March 2, 9:00 AM, at 3M plant near 2222 and 620.

ARO Transmitter Hunt, Saturday, March 9, 7:00 PM. Coordination on 146.94, hunt on 146.52. Hunt boundaries have changed for March only.

QCWA Meeting, Saturday, March 16, 1996 Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 12:00 Noon.

Acting ARO Secretary Needed

Louis Pecenka, our ARO Secretary is currently unable to work as the ARO Secretary. We need someone to fill in for him. If you are willing to help fill this position, contact one of the other ARO officers.

Ed Lynch W5EQD SK

Ed Lynch passed away January 22, 1996 at the age of 95.

Merrill Eidson W5AMK SK

Merrill Eidson passed away February 5, 1996 at the age of 91.

Get Well Wishes

Charlie Hughes [K5YCZ] is recovering from a stroke at home in Jonesboro, TX.

Louis Pecenka [N5ORG] is recovering from a stroke at Silver Pines nursing home in Bastrop Rt 1, Box 1X, 78602.

Some Amateur Radio Definitions

From Brett Coningham AB5P

House Bracket

A device which secures the house and the tower together. It lets the tower do double-duty by holding up the house during severe windstorms.

Rotator Control Box

A device which is designed to let you monitor antenna "windmilling".

Windmilling

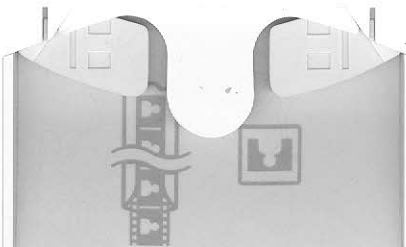
A technique whereby prevailing winds are allowed to rotate the antenna, enabling the operator to "scan" the radio horizon.

Dummy Load

A measure of the stress exerted on a tower by a ham who climbs the tower without a safety belt.

You Know You're a Ham When...

You always hear a scraping sound when you drive through the fast food restaurant's drive-thru lane.



Austin Repeater Organization February Minutes

The meeting was called to order by John Badger [KC5NXL], President, at 7:30, February 3, 1996. We had several visitors. Our President, Lansing Pugh was delayed in returning to Austin by the weather.

The January minutes were approved as printed in the *AARCIOver*.

Officer Reports

The Treasurer, Bill Montgomery, [AB5HP] reported a balance of \$4544.68.

Old Business

None

New Business and Announcements

New members welcomed into the club were: Murphy Hawkins [N5VVV], William Bothager [KC5RSS] George Creel [KC5QGW] and Jake Albritton (waiting for call). Welcome to the club!

Mickey McInnis - KB5YAC
ARO Editor

Austin Amateur Radio Club February Minutes

President Gene Van Zelfden called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on February 9, 1996. The meeting was held at Luby's cafeteria on North Loop.

Visitors

We welcomed five visitors.

Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the *AARCIOver*.

Officer Reports

President Gene Van Zelfden reported a checking account balance of \$1397.90 and a postal balance of \$411.12.

New Members

New Members welcomed to the club were Nancy Honda, KC5SOL and Tom Davis.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

President Gene Van Zelfden, KB5UGO, presented the 1996 budget and it was approved by vote of the members attending.

Announcements

It is with regret that we report that Major General Edmund Lynch, W5EQD has become a silent key.

Skywarn Class will be held at Motorola on Saturday, March 2. The starting time will be 9:00 a.m.

Joe Canfield, N5HPC, announced that RACES will be conducting a Net once a month on the 3rd Sunday, immediately following the ARES net on the 146.94 repeater. All amateurs are invited to join. Contact Joe for membership information.

ARO President Lansing Pugh, announced that ARO needs an acting Secretary to fill in during the illness of the Secretary. If you can help, please contact Lansing.

Lansing also announce that the boundaries of the ARO transmitter hunt have been moved for next months hunt. This is a one time change only. The new boundaries are IA on the East, FM2222 on the South, and RR 620 on the West and North.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Program

Dave Harper [WD5N] gave a most entertaining presentation on his recent DXPedition to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. The occasion was a world wide CW contest in which Dave finished with a very high score. Congratulations to Dave and thanks for a well presented program with some great slides.

Submitted with pleasure,

June Parchman, KK5AM
AARC Secretary

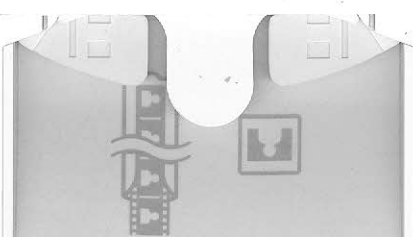
ARRL Requests Stronger PRB-1

The ARRL wants the FCC to take additional steps to compel state and local governments to make reasonable accommodation for Amateur Radio under PRB-1 and apply the least restrictive means to regulate amateur antennas and activity. In a Petition for Rulemaking filed February 7, the League calls on the FCC to amend Section 97.15(e) to say that any state or local ordinances restricting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be presumed unreasonable, unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions support a clearly defined health, safety or aesthetic objective. State and local governments also could not impose substantial application costs on amateur service licensees.

The League also wants the FCC to acknowledge that it has an interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio stations in areas regulated by deed restrictions or restrictive covenants rather than by local zoning ordinances.

The League says clarifying the preemption policy (PRB-1) would help guide municipalities to enact provisions that make fair accommodation for amateurs and avoid highly divisive litigation between hams and localities.

Under the suggested changes, state and local governments could apply to the Commission for a full or partial waiver of



the amended rules in unusual circumstances.

The FCC has not assigned a rulemaking petition (RM) number.

Here is the suggested wording of Section 97.15(e) the petition requests:

(1) State and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications; it must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose; and it must not impose substantial costs on amateur service licensees.

(2) Any state or local antenna restriction or regulation which, on its face or as applied, would limit amateur station antennas to heights below 70 feet is presumed unreasonable unless the promulgating authority can demonstrate that such regulation is necessary to accomplish a clearly defined, and expressly stated health, safety or aesthetic objective; that there is no less burdensome alternative to the regulation; and that the Federal interest in efficient amateur radio communications from the amateur station at issue is otherwise reasonably accommodated.

(3) Any state or local authority, or other entity that wishes to maintain and enforce zoning, land use or other regulations or restrictions inconsistent with this section may apply to the Commission for a full or partial waiver of this section. Such waivers may be granted by the Commission in its sole discretion, upon a showing by the applicant that local concerns of a highly specialized or unusual nature create an overwhelming necessity for regulation inconsistent with this section. No application for waiver shall be considered unless it includes the particular regulation for which waiver is sought. Waivers granted according to this rule shall not apply to later-enacted or amended regulations by the local authority unless the Commission expressly orders otherwise.

de ARRL ARRLB009

February 10, 1996 ARO Transmitter Hunt

Hunt #1

Fox: KK5VK Lansing KC5NXL John Location: 300 block of Croslin Street near US 180 and IH-35. Hunters: 1) 17 minutes KB5O Randy KI5YN Roger. 2) 26 minutes N5QGZ Vance KB5LET Jay. 3) 27 minutes WB5SUR Phil and son David. Comments: "Not bad for a first hunt!" Good job, David! 4) 28 minutes KC5MUN John KA9LAY Edward. 5) 31 minutes KB5RSY Steve KC5JBD Larry. 6) 45 minutes KB5YAC Mickey. Comments: "I found an area nearby with something that is generating RF on the third harmonic of the hunt frequency. Also, it didn't help that I was sitting on my transmitter's mike for a while back there." 7) KB5TKF Milton N5YJU John. Comments: "We might have done better if we were on the right frequency."

Hunt #2

Fox: KB5O Randy KI5YN Roger Location: 2600 block of Waymaker Way near Westlake Drive and Loop 360 Comments: "Our original hiding spot was much better, but Smith Security flushed us out after only two minutes of hiding."

Hunters: 1) 35 minutes N5QGZ Vance KB5LET Jay. 2) 36 minutes KC5MUN John KA9LAY Edward. 3) 45 minutes KK5VK Lansing KC5NXL John Comments: "We got tricked again ... we spent way too much time on the other side of the river. One of the guys from Smith Security said he used to t-hunt CB radios when he was a kid." 4) 50 minutes KB5RSY Steve KC5JBD Larry. 5) 55 minutes KB5YAC Mickey 6) KB5TKF Milton N5YJU John.

Hunt #3

Fox: N5QGZ Vance KB5LET Jay Location: 3900 block of South Congress near Ben White Boulevard Comments: Hint: "Watch out for those nasty bald headed guys near our exposed location." Interpretation: Watch out for the bouncers at the topless club next door. Hunters: 1) 30 minutes KB5O Randy KI5YN Roger. 2) 32 minutes KC5MUN John KA9LAY Edward. 3) 40 minutes KK5VK Lansing KC5NXL John. 4) 50 minutes KB5RSY Steve KC5JBD Larry. 5) 55 minutes KB5YAC Mickey 6) 60 minutes KB5TKF Milton N5YJU John.

Debriefing location:
Black-Eyed Pea on South Lamar Boulevard

Comment on next month's hunt:

We agreed to use alternative boundaries for the March hunt to allow us to explore a new area. The transmitter will be located in the area bounded by FM 2222, SH 620, and IH 35. KB5O Randy and KI5YN Roger will be the first fox team.

de Lansing Pugh KK5VK

Travis County ARES Net Control Stations

Odd Numbered Months Even Numbered Months

First session 18:30 local time 146.94 MHz

Week

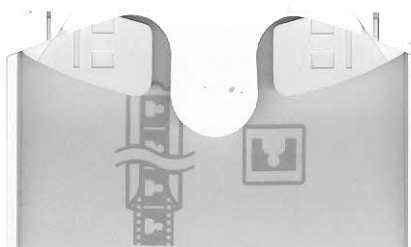
1st	WA5MUM	KB5YWL
2nd	N5MHI	N5PVD
3rd	N5HPC	KB5VHN
4th	KK5IA	W5KNA
5th	AB5EK	AB5EK

Second session 20:30 local time 146.78 MHz

Week

1st	KB5YAC	N5OUJ
2nd	KC5HMA	N5RNE
3rd	KK5AM	KB5ELV
4th	WB5IMB	K5IOJ
5th	KC5IAI	KC5IAI

Please change your net scripts to replace Joe Fisher with Mac Canary as Travis County EC. Mac's phone number is 339-9531 or digital pager 613-3306.



Club Information

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

Officers

President	Gene Van Zelfden	KB5UGO	338-4729
Vice President	David Sprague	KB5ZEG	259-7282
Treasurer	Stu Rohre	K5KVH	255-3932
Secretary	June Parchman	KK5AM	823-1350
Activity Manager	Frank Edwards	KK5IA	255-6753

Committees & Positions

Technical	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818
Travis County Emergency Coordinator	Mac Cannary	KB5VYT	339-9531
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	Lansing Pugh	KK5VK	441-0508
Vice President	John Badger	KC5NXL	442-3873
Secretary	Louis Pecenka	N5ORG	
Treasurer	Bill Montgomery	AB5HP	478-7928
Editor	Mickey McInnis	KB5YAC	339-0344

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 -1.600 MHz 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.

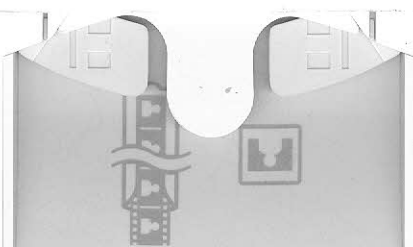
The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches. Press * and dial the phone number to place a call. Do not unkey after the *. When finished, press "#" to hang up the phone. Dial "911" (no * needed) for emergency services. Please transmit your callsign **before** using the phone patch.

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.



Huck's Country Store

Some Extraordinary People I Know

In a recent conversation with a new acquaintance I mentioned that I'm an amateur radio operator. His reply was, "That is a strange group of people." This was a shock to Old Huck, and I had no immediate reply.

After a few moments, the reply was, Yes, amateur radio operators are indeed somewhat different.. We are a friendly and adventurous group that are from all walks of life, bound together by the technology of communication. In fact, here in the USA, we number about 600,000 who are dedicated to wireless means of communication, and good will.

These Radio Operators, often called "Hams," individually and collectively study, develop, and practice many forms of radio service. This hobby spans all aspects of life, from the ocean depths, over the entire surface of the earth, and to the distant reaches of the universe. We can and do send voice messages, printed material, scientific data, photographs, television pictures, emergency messages and aids, and more. We can communicate on every single area of the inhabited earth!

We spend vast blocks of time teaching others the art and science of communications. Amateur radio operators have the largest pool of men, women, boys and girls with portable and emergency powered communications equipment in the world! In the Austin area, our people and equipment exceed all of the city, county, state, and military communications resources combined.

We hold educational classes to teach those who wish to enter our ranks. License examiners are trained and then approved by the Federal Communications Commission to administer the licensing of amateur radio operators. All of this is by volunteers, at no cost to our local or federal government system.

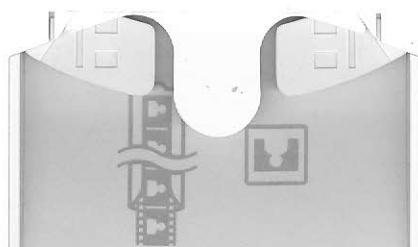
We maintain clubs and publish bulletins to keep our people on the leading edge of communications. Our vast reservoir of trained people was a "God-send" for our military forces in WW-II and other military activities since that time.

A natural extension of any system of communications is the power of the modern computer. A hard-copy message enters a computer controlled amateur station and a few minutes later, you can have a printed reply. "The magic of wireless communication" is the glue that holds the "strange" people together.

Numerous repeater stations in our area permit us to communicate with all commercial systems in the area. A palm-sized unit on the person can place a 911 call in equal or less time than the same call can be placed by any other phone service in the city.

Yes, we have a cross-section of people from all walks of life. We range in age from 2nd or 3rd grad children to the oldest segment of our community. As the old rural adage goes, we span doctors, lawyers, business executives, preachers, farmers, begger-men, and thief, all working to build our skills and to help our community. You surely will find these people to be extraordinary indeed!

de "Old Huck" Huckabee, [AA5BU]



Pres. On...

This is my first column since being elected President of the AARC, and I am very happy to have the chance to talk with you here about my favorite topic - Amateur radio. In future months I hope to bring important information to the *AARC/Over* that will be of interest to us all.

Let's talk about the weather. Central Texas is a particularly high-traffic area for thunderstorms in the Spring and early Summer months. I sometimes envision our region as a giant railroad track down which a powerful coal-powered locomotive rushes now and again, belching smoke and fire. This issue is for March, and we are just at the beginning of the season, so I thought it would be helpful to talk a little bit about severe weather and how it relates to us as Ham Radio Operators.

One of my first experiences with Amateur radio was through attending a Skywarn class given by the National Weather Service. I was about 12 years old at the time, and I talked my dad into driving me to the Central Library where it was held that year. You can imagine how thrilled I was to see some of the local TV weathermen teaching the course. The class was so interesting that I bombarded my brothers with discussions of cloud formations for months after that. And when I found out that Ham Radio Operators get to go out, drive around during storms, and talk to each other on their radios, I was really hooked. I wanted to get a radio and a driver's license more than any kid ever.

Look in the calendar section of this *AARC/Over* for an announcement of the next class (I think it's the first weekend in March at 3M). I go every year and find it more enjoyable each time. Plan to join us to learn all about various weather patterns, and hang out with National Weather Service and TV personalities, along with fellow Hams. Lunch is catered, always a good fellowship time, and you will earn an official Skywarn completion certificate to frame and hang up in your shack.

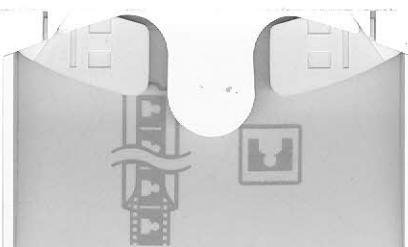
On a different topic... One of the great pleasures I have as President of the Club is recruiting members for various committee assignments. Be prepared for me to call on you in the future or just give me your name as a volunteer. Serving on a committee is a great way to meet other Hams, some of whom might become lifelong friends.

One of the major reasons that many of us became Hams was to be of service to the community. This unselfish attitude is reflected in the activities we schedule for the Club. To have interesting, enjoyable, and worthwhile activities, we must have good committee members. And the better activities we have, the stronger our club will be. Besides, what could be more enjoyable than scoring high at Field Day? Sitting around for 24 hours talking, eating, and joking around is fun too. Of course, there is also the serious aspect of being a Ham and helping out our friends and neighbors in the case of disaster (which we all hope will not visit Central Texas). Everything takes organization and effort, which is why we need to have a lot of people participate.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Call me any time.

My best regards to you all,

Gene Van Zelfden, KB5UGO
AARC President



Calendar

March

- 2 Skywarn Class, 3M
- 2 Ham Exams, Murchison 8:30 AM
- 5 ARO Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 9 Victoria Swapfest
- 9 ARO Transmitter Hunt 7 PM
- 12 AARC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 15-16 Little Rock Swapfest
- 16-17 Midland Swapfest
- 16 Ham Exams, St. Ed's 2 PM
- 16 QCWA Meeting @ Luby's at noon
- 25 CTDXCC Old Quarry Library 7 PM

April

- 20 Belton Tailgate swapfest

May

- 17-19 Hamvention, Dayton, OH

June

- 7-9 HamCom, Arlington

August

- 2-4 Summerfest, Austin

October

- 5 Belton Swapfest, \$1 admission

Periodic Events

Sun	6:30 PM, Travis Co ARES net	146.94 MHz
Sun	7:30 PM, ARES Packet	145.73 MHz
Sun	8:00 PM, Williamson ARES net	145.13 MHz
Sun	8:30 PM, Travis Co ARES net	146.78 MHz
Sun	9:00 PM, ARO Swapnet	146.94 MHz
Sun	(after Swapnet) Newslines	146.94 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. 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. 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. 327-6184 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.

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 4/30, 7/30, 10/29.

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. 3/25, 4/22, 5/20*, 6/24, 7/22, 8/19. (* Not normal schedule)

Some Amateur Radio Definitions

From Brett Coningham AB5P

For those new to ham radio, here are some useful definitions, pertaining to antennas and DX-ing.

S.W.R.

A term, applied to any part of the antenna system, which means: "Savings-to-Watt Ratio". Based on the inverse relationship of dollars in the bank and effective radiated power.

Characteristic Impedance

The usual reaction of the XYL when told about the proposed antenna system.

Traps

Devices installed in antennas to collect rain-water, to keep it from running further down the antenna.

Wind Loading

The measure of how much more awkward it gets to handle a big beam as you ascend the tower.

Balun

(Pronounced: "balloon" by many). An anti-surveillance device, installed in coaxial lines at the antenna, to prevent nosy neighbors from eavesdropping on you through their TV sets.

