

AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

May 1996

Issue 96-5

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization
Tuesday, May 7, 1996 7:30 PM.

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday, May 14, 1996 7:30 PM
Topic: The Internet and Ham Radio by Ron
Parsons [W5RKN]

Austin Amateur TV Club
Tuesday, May 21, 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

Field Day June 22 and 23, 1 PM to 1 PM. The AARC will be participating. Please consider participating in some fashion with the AARC and/or one of the other groups participating in field day.

ARO Transmitter Hunt, Saturday, May 11, 7:00 PM. Coordination on 146.94, hunt on 146.52.

QCWA Meeting, Tuesday, May 28, 1996 Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 7 PM.
!!! New Date !!!

ARES Meeting, Tuesday April 30, Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 7:30 PM.

I Want You for Field Day!

AARC will be conducting field day activities at Anderson High School June 22-23.

Plans for this year include operating QRP in a tent, Bar-B-Que by the Texas Rib Kings, and a potluck dinner on Saturday night.

We need **YOU** to make this a great field day this year.

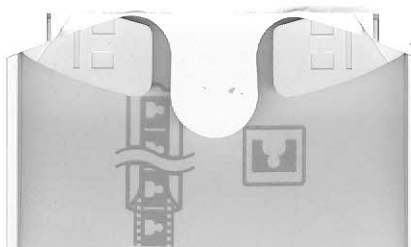
Field day is a national activity sponsored by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) to encourage Hams all over the country to practice their emergency preparations and operations.

The general public is most welcome to drop by and observe our operations.

You Know You're a Ham When...

The cute girl in the KISS T-shirt asks you "what bands do you like", and you answer, "Two and twenty meters".

Screw Driver ANTENNA



Austin Repeater Organization April 1996 Minutes

The meeting was held on April 2, 1996, at Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, Austin, Texas. President Lansing Pugh [KK5VK], called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Visitors

The organization welcomed the following visitors and members who had been away for quite some time:

Ray Deramo [WD8DFW] Roy Gray [KC5SUZ]

Minutes

The minutes for the February meeting as submitted by ARO editor, Mickey McInnis, were approved as printed in the April 1996 *AARC/OVER ARO Monitor*.

Officer Reports

Treasurer Bill Montgomery [AB5HP] reported a balance of \$6,821.66.

New Members

Watt Gee [KC5THS], Shelley Korbelt [KG0QQ], Roger Thompson, John Collett [KK5YI] (formerly [KC5MUN] - congratulations on the upgrade)

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business and Announcements

Announcements included the Belton Tailgate Swapfest, April 20th, the Transmitter hunt which was rescheduled from the second Saturday to PM on Saturday, April 20th, and the Ham Exams at Saint Edwards University on April 27th. Other upcoming events included the Quarterly ARES face-to-face meeting (7:30 PM April 30th), The Dayton Hamfest (May 17th), HAMCOM (June 7th-9th) and Summerfest (August 2nd through the 4th).

Hal Henegar [W5MDL] reminded everyone that the Quarter Century Club has changed its meeting schedule. The group now meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Luby's on

North Loop. Hal pointed out that anyone who had ever held a ham license before April, 1971, was eligible to become a member, even though they had allowed their license to lapse for a period of time. He also suggested that operators who had forgotten their former call signs could get help from Jim Walsh [W7LVN] of Eugene, Oregon. Jim has copies of call sign directories that date back to the 1930's.

Program

Keith L. Watson [WB9KHL] presented information about the installation and operation of photovoltaic (PV) systems. PV systems use arrays of photoelectric cells to convert solar energy to electrical energy. Keith presented diagrams of typical PV systems and showed photographs of the system he uses at home to power his HF equipment. He recommended using six volt deep charge batteries such as the ones used on golf carts to store energy. He also warned that since PV systems initially produce direct current, heavy gauge wire is necessary to prevent any excessive drop in voltage between the battery storage and the power inverter.

Steve Mihalik [KB5SML]

Austin Amateur Radio Club April 1996 Minutes

President Gene Van Zelfden [KB5UGO] called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on March 12, 1996. The meeting was held at Luby's cafeteria on North Loop.

Visitors

We welcomed two visitors.

Minutes

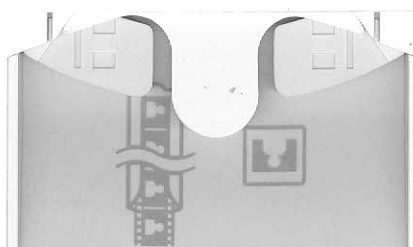
The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the *AARC/Over*.

Officer Reports

Treasurer Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reported a checking account balance of \$3814.31 and a postal balance of \$265.83

New Members

Twelve new members were welcomed to the club. A big hearty Texas welcome to:



William Boaster, KC5RSS, John Collett, KK5YI, Lee Cooper, N9YEK, Paul Daniels, KK5AZ, Shellie Forbis, KG0QQ, Murphy Hawkins, N5UUV, Peggy O'Neal, KC5JNW, Trey Pushing, AA5W, Jerry Smith, KE6RBD, Spurgeon Smith, KC5ATY, Roger Thompson, AD5T, Watt Gee, KC5THS

Technical Report

A few members reported that they felt the 146.78 repeater was not up to its usual performance level. Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical Committee, reported that it had been a while since its last overhaul, and that he would check into seeing if the performance could be improved.

Activities Report

There was no activities report, as upcoming activities, especially Field Day planning, was the subject of the program.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Rick Herndon, K5FNI, requested that any ham who wishes to be included in his ham e-mail address directory to please send their name, call sign and e-mail address to Rick at hearndon@earthlink.net.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Program

Vice President David Sprague, KB5ZEG introduced the program which was a report on past Field Days, and plans for this year's Field Day event. Several members helped with the presentation.

Frank Edwards, KK5IA, the Activities Manager, told the group that the site for this year's Field Day will be the football field at Anderson High School. New buildings and power line construction made a move from Doss Elementary

necessary. The new site has adequate room for pitching tents, hanging antennas and plenty of parking.

President Gene Van Zelfden. KB5UGO, reported that the club hopes to make this Field Day a fun event for all the family. Plans are underway to have barbecue available from a local restaurant. T-Shirt sales may be in the works, and other events are in the planning stage.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reported plans to have a very competitive station this year and present a real challenge to Williamson County. He hopes to have a QRP battery powered station using 3 Vee antennas to maximize performance.

Joe Canfield, N5HPC, told the club that a new generator is needed as the old one can no longer be repaired. He also discussed the various possibilities for batteries to operate the station.

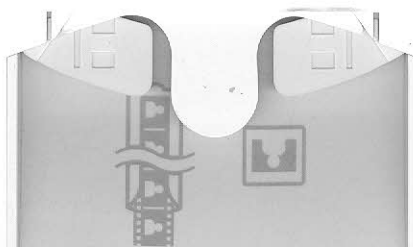
Joe Fisher, K5EJL, showed slides from Field Days past just to get everyone in the mood, and along the way demonstrated that Anderson High School is certainly a more accessible site than the top of a mesa.

Submitted with pleasure,

June Parchman, KK5AM
AARC Secretary

Corrections

Mike Milton, whose upgrade to general was reported in the last *AARC/Over*, has the callsign KC5GQZ, not KC5QGZ.



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
Acting Secretary	Sam Mihalik	KB5SML	
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.

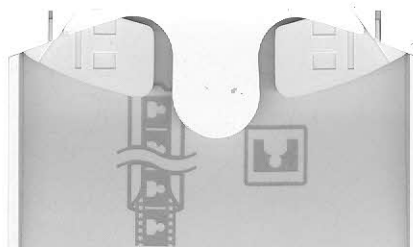
The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches. Press * and dial the phone number to place a call. Do not unkey after the * When finished, press "#" to hang up the phone. Dial "911" (no * needed) for emergency services. Please transmit your callsign **before** using the phone patch.

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

Headphones and Amateur Radio

Do you use headphones with your amateur radio equipment? Do you find the phones help in difficult reception, or have you found them to add to your reception problems? Headphones can be a genuine aid to difficult reception, or they can add to the problem. Let's discuss the situation.

In years past, most headphones were built with an impedance of about 2,000 Ohms. They used a thin steel diaphragm to reproduce the audio. Most of these diaphragms had a resonant frequency in the range of 800 - 2,000 Hertz. They worked well on voice, but were very poor in the reproduction of music.

The so-called "hi-fi" phones of today may be build somewhat like a miniature speaker with a light-weight voice coil and soft diaphragm. They may respond to a frequency range of 100 - 20,000 Hertz with little or no sharp resonant peak. Typical impedance is in the range of ten to a few hundred Ohms. They are a marvelous reproducer of music.

We generally use headphones to close out local noise, or to be able to hear weaker signals. With this in mind, what do we need? In the first place, the hi-fi phones are not the choice. They will pass the entire audible spectrum of noise with ease. We only need up to about 2,500 Hertz to pass useful voice frequencies. This essential rules out hi-fi phones for voice or CW communications.

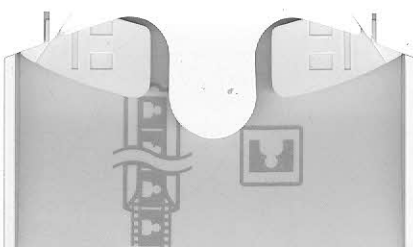
How does the metal diaphragm headphone fit our need? Quite well, because they do not respond well below a couple of hundred Hertz, or above about 3,00 Hertz. This means that they are a filter to block out lots of unwanted sounds (noise).

Are the metal diaphragm phones what I need? Possibly. Most current day radio equipment will have a phone jack rated in the range of 10-50 Ohms. The 2,000 Ohm metal diaphragm phones will be such a mismatch in impedance that they will hardly operate. On the other hand, modern day phones of, let's say, 16 Ohms impedance, would mismatch in older receivers and hardly operate.

Can the phone impedance be adjusted? Not easily, however, a small matching transformer can be used to adapt either type headphone to the radio output impedance. In either case, the phones "come to life" in their own right. What can we expect? The metal diaphragm phones work on CW like an additional bandpass filter. When the CW note is tuned to the diaphragm resonant frequency, it works wonders in improvement of signal-to-noise ratio! The hi-fi phones adapted to an older radio will bring out music with beauty you would have never have dreamed would exist!

Other small single phones often use a metal diaphragm that has a resonant peak suitable for good CW reception. These are usually fund in the "toy" quality class. Look around the flea markets for something in headphones. You may find just the jewel that will improve your difficult communication reception. It boils down to "the Right Phones" for your application.

de "Old Huck" Huckabee, [AA5BU]



Pres. On...

What is it that makes a Ham Radio Club fun? I have been a Ham and an active member of the AARC since 1992, and because of that, these years have been among the most enjoyable years of my life. During this time, Ham Radio has introduced me to local chit chat on 2M, the behind-the-scenes portion of events such as airshows and races, swapfests, banquets and other social gatherings, and some of my closest friends; people that I wouldn't have otherwise met.

Let me share my vision for our Ham Radio Club, here in Austin. We should have fun. Everything we do should be enjoyable - that's why we're in the hobby, right? I have made a list of successful club attributes partially taken from a recent bulletin that I read. These are some tidbits that I have thought about or collected from people in other successful clubs. The following items are in no particular order:

We should welcome member and public participation in any event or activity we schedule, have a Club Shack which is regularly open, encourage family involvement with a wide variety of activities for the young and old alike, be a "general purpose club" as opposed to being focussed on just one particular facet of Amateur Radio, we should meet regularly year-round, elect good leadership, endorse solid teaching and "elmering" for new and prospective hams, keep a low burnout rate among the active members, publish a quality monthly newsletter, maintain an active repeater, be prepared for emergencies (which we hope will never happen), recruit new members, have a strong base of technically qualified people, put a healthy focus on community affairs and service, and support a strong public relations department.

Quite a list, isn't it? Each one of the items on the list is important and the good news is, that we already have some of these things accomplished. Hopefully, this gives you an idea of all that can be accomplished with a bit more organization. It is a sheer joy for me, as president of the AARC, to be able to see all of the different angles of the hobby from the Club's point-of-view and be in the position to take some form of action. Try to think of some events or activities that you would like to see the Club take up or be involved in and tell me or one of the other Officers about them.

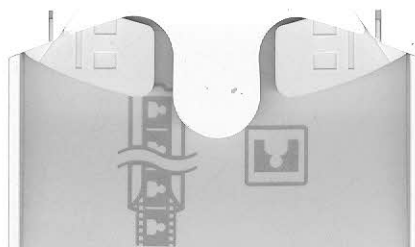
HAMsters, mark your calendars! for June 22 - 23, 1996 and don't let anything stand in the way of:

Field Day. What do these words bring to mind? Well, Field Day with the AARC this year will be quite different from anything you've seen in the recent past. We will be operating at Anderson High School, a new site for us this year. Anderson High is located at the corner of Steck Ave. and Mesa Dr. in Northwest Austin. I hope that you will come out and join the festivities with us. The plan is progressing nicely and includes a large operating tent on the football field, Bar-B-Que by the Texas Rib Kings, a potluck dinner on Saturday night, spotlights in the parking lot, maybe a tailgate swapfest, a Capital Metro bus set-up for an emergency communications demonstration (including packet radio and APRS), AARC T-shirts, flags from all fifty states, interviews with the local news media, and the list goes on. When June 22 - 23 gets a little closer the AARC will send out a special mailing to you describing all of the scheduled events within Field Day - as well as all of the new attractions.

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

May

- 4 Ham Exams, Murchison 8:30 AM
- 7 ARO Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 11 ARO Transmitter Hunt 7 PM
- 14 AARC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 17-19 Hamvention, Dayton, OH
- 28 QCWA Meeting @ Luby's at 7 PM
- 20 CTDXCC Old Quarry Library 7 PM
- 27 Ham Exams, St. Ed's 2 PM

June

- 7-9 HamCom, Arlington
- 22-23 **Field Day**

August

- 2-4 Summerfest, Austin

October

- 5 Belton Swapfest, \$1 admission

Periodic Events

- Sun 6:30 PM Travis ARES net 146.94 MHz
- Sun 7:30 PM ARES Packet 145.73 MHz
- Sun 8:00 PM Williamson ARES 145.13 MHz
- Sun 8:30 PM Travis 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 **fourth Tuesday of each month** at Luby's at 7 PM. There is a fellowship meeting the third

Saturday of each month at 11:30 AM at Luby's.
(Date change)

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. 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. 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 5/18, 6/15 (*Not normal date)

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

