

AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

June 1996

Issue 96-6

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization
Tuesday, June 4, 1996 7:30 PM.

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday, June 11, 1996 7:30 PM
Topic: Nick Broline W5FUA discusses lightning protection and gives an introduction to 6 meters.

Austin Amateur TV Club
Tuesday, June 18, 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, June 15, 7:00 PM. Coordination on 146.94, hunt on 146.52.
Date change due to conflict with HamCom.

QCWA Meeting, Tuesday, June 25, 1996 Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 7 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 at 8 PM Saturday night.

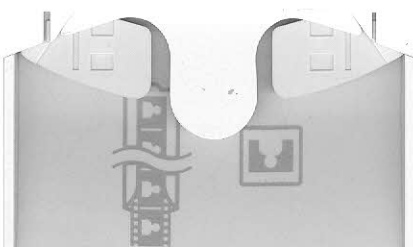
We need YOU to make this a great field day this year.

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.

Louis Pecenka [N5ORG] SK

Louis Pecenka, [N5ORG], our secretary for the ARO, died recently. We thank Louis for his many contributions to ham radio in Austin.



Austin Repeater Organization May 1996 Minutes

The meeting was held on May 7, 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 visitors John Lusk [N5AID] and John Barkelew [KC5QGU].

Minutes

The minutes for the April meeting as submitted by ARO Secretary Sam Mihalik, were approved as printed in the May 1996 AARC/Over ARO Monitor.

Officer Reports

Treasurer Bill Montgomery [AB5HP] reported a balance of \$6,554.74.

John Dahm [WB5PCV] reported for the Technical Committee.

Keith Watson [WB9KHL] gave the high speed packet repeater report.

New Members

The organization welcomed Ed Cox [W0RAO] to membership in ARO. Ed recently moved to Austin from Florida.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business and Announcements

Silent Key: Louis Pecenka [N5ORG] has recently become a Silent Key.

President Pugh announced that APRS is really taking off. Those interested can download software from the internet and look for traffic on 145.79. He reported the following calls:

WA5LHS, KB5RSY, W5RKN, KB5VYT, W5NFC, and KB5IN

The president also announced that the ARO has contributed \$50 toward the printing of the Central

Texas Traffic Net's manual. Anyone interested in the manual should contact Don Fuller [KC5CRD] in San Marcos at (512) 392-8172.

Program

Hal Henegar [W5MDL], presented an overview of how he built his "Screwdriver Antenna". The antenna takes its name from one of its components, a rechargeable NiCad battery powered screwdriver, which is used to tune the antenna to resonance. Other components include #16 bare copper wire wound on a length of schedule 40 gray electrical PVC, 1/4 inch brass all-thread rod, and assorted hardware. The unit is inexpensive to build and is ideal for mobile HF operation because it is easy to tune without having to change resonators. While no one could help but admire the simplicity of the screwdriver antenna's design, everyone was most impressed with Hal's method for preparing the outside surface of the PVC. Construction of the antenna requires that the #16 copper wire be wound evenly onto the outside of the tubing. To make winding easier, Hal constructed a jig to cut an evenly spaced helical groove into the surface of the PVC. The jig, which resembles a wood lathe, is built out of scrap wood and powered by a barbecue rotisserie motor. Hal's screwdriver antenna was interesting, but his cutting jig was by far the star of the show.

Steve Mihalik [KB5SML]
ARO Secretary

Austin Amateur Radio Club May 1996 Minutes

President Gene Van Zelfden. KB5UGO, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. on March 14, 1996. The meeting was held at Luby's cafeteria on North Loop.

Visitors

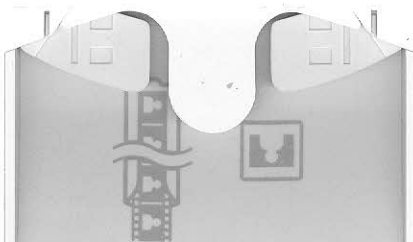
We welcomed three visitors.

Minutes

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the AARC/OVER.

Officer Reports

Treasurer Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reported a checking account balance of \$3596.25 and a postal balance of \$263.45



New Members

Morgan Palmer, KC5GPG was welcomed as a new member.

Technical Reports

Ed Golla, K3AHS, Technical Committee, reported no problems with the repeater.

Activities Report

President Gene Van Zelfden reported that Field Day is coming up in five weeks and reminded all members that they are encouraged to participate.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Joe Fisher, K5EJL, told the members that he is in charge of the CW tent for Field Day and that he needs many more CW operators. If you think you may be available to work CW on Field Day, please contact Joe.

President Gene Van Zelfden announced that the club needs tents for Field Day, both big and little. If you know of a source for these tents please get in touch with Gene.

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

Program

Ron Parsons, W5RKN, gave a very informative program on the Internet and ham radio. His focus was on the World Wide Web and all present, whether newbies on the net, or old hands learned a lot from, and really enjoyed his presentation.

Submitted with pleasure,
June Parchman, KK5AM
AARC Secretary

South Austin W5YI VE Session Report

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who

earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at its spring 1996 National Exam Day session on April 27th.

Kevin P. Mandaville	KG5KI	Extra Class
Mark J. Soulard	KC5PQO	Advanced Class
David W. Andrews	new	Technician Plus
Johnathan R. Currie	new	Technician
Gregory R. David-Spinks	new	Technician
Thomas J. Eckdale	new	Technician
Martha Ann Fuller	new	Technician
Forrest R. Haney, Jr.	new	Technician
John J. Kindla	new	Technician
Brad A. Sander	new	Technician

Another applicant passed an exam element without upgrading.

Our volunteer examiners were:

Bob Basinger, AB5OC, Clay Noren, AB5WY, Hugh Brown KC5EIY, Trey Rushing, AA5WI, Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5HYR, Sophia Tapley, N5JNE, Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, Joe Thiel, N5SMN, Emil Kasprzyk, KC5IZ, and Marion Williamson, AC5CM.

Our next session is scheduled on June 15th at 2:00 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University.

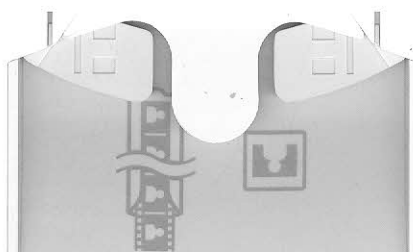
Call Jim, AB5EK, at 327-6184 for more information.

ARRL Volunteer Examination

On Saturday May 4th the monthly ARRL VE testing was performed at Murchison Middle School. Six examinees were serviced. Three of them upgraded to new license classes, one Extra, one Advanced, and one Novice Class. One examinee passed the General Class written element (3A) without an accompanying license upgrade. The examiners were:

Rick Herndon, K5FNI
Jim Huckabee, AA5BU
Joe Makeever, W5EBJ
Bill Pierson, K5TMS
Keith Watson, WB9KHL
Roy Walker, WA5YZD

The testing at Murchison Middle School is sponsored by the Austin Amateur Radio club. The next test session there will be on Saturday, June 1st at 0830.



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	Sam Mihalik	KB5SML	282-6229
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 Newslines 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.

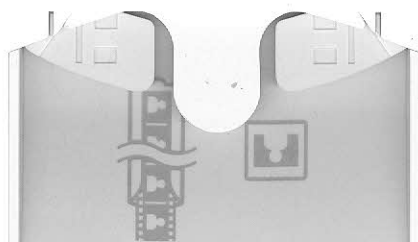
The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches. Press * and dial the phone number to place a call. Do not unkey after the * When finished, press "#" to hang up the phone. Dial "911" (no * needed) for emergency services. Please transmit your callsign **before** using the phone patch.

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

A Beautiful Story Heard on 40 Meters

In April of 1996, my wife and I were in Rockport, Texas in our RV camper. The RV has a whip antenna on the rear bumper and a little 50 Watt CW transceiver. Every day, I would scan the CW bands and listen to stations from far and near.

After several days, I became aware of an operator named "Tim." He was on each morning and late afternoon, a pretty good hand with his CW at near 20 WPM. Often he would send QRS (slow down) but made contact after contact. His QTH is Pensacola, Florida. I marveled at his courtesy and the quality of contacts he was making. He was always on the same frequency, so I knew just where to find him.

Several more days passed and I heard his CQ, and gave him a call at about 22 WPM. He immediately came back with "QRS 2 or 3 (Slow down). Then I heard his story. "I have had my license just a little over 3 months, passed the 5 WPM test and got on the air on CW. In a month, I passed the 13 WPM and upgraded." He then related that a couple of weeks before he had received his Advanced class license. In further conversation, he said, "I'm trying hard to get my code speed to 20 WPM to take my Extra class examination next week." All of this activity had evolved in less than 4 months, and he was "full of joy and it was fun all the way."

Afterward I mused over the story and thought "How wonderful!" It would be very difficult to have more fun with ham radio than Tim has experienced in such a short period of time!

How refreshing it is to see Tim's desire to strive for everything that is available in amateur radio. I feel certain that he will expand his interest to other modes of communication available to amateur radio, "the most wonderful hobby the world has ever known."

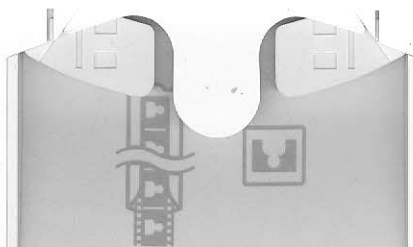
And to we hams who have been around for so long, may we purpose in our hearts to lead others along the example set by Tim.

To those who desire to be a ham radio operator, I trust that Tim's example will be an encouragement to each of you.

de "Old Huck" Huckabee, [AA5BU]

National Weather Service Thanks Local Hams

The National Weather Service Austin/San Antonio Forecast Office sent a thank you note to Hams in the Central Texas Weather Net through our local weather net control operator, Jim Neely [WA5LHS]. They said that we have played a major part in helping them cut "false alarms" by 60%, and identified 25% more of the severe storms than ever before.



Vanity call sign Filing Gate 1 Opens May 31!

(From the ARRL Letter)

The vanity call sign program is almost here! The FCC has announced that Gate 1 of the vanity call sign program opens May 31, and eligible hams may file applications on or after that date.

Under Gate 1, you can file for a previously held individual or club call sign or for a call sign formerly held by a deceased close relative. Specific eligibility criteria are below. To request a vanity call sign for your primary station, you must already hold an unexpired amateur operator/primary station license. To obtain the former call sign of a deceased close relative, your license also must be of the proper operator class. To request a formerly held club station call sign, you must also hold an unexpired club station license listing you as the trustee. Vanity call sign applicants must use FCC Form 610-V to file.

Applicants should refer to the licensee data base to make sure the call sign they are requesting is not already assigned. A call sign is normally assignable two years following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set aside, cancellation, void ab initio, or death of the grantee. FCC Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-V, Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign System, has details. For explanations of Groups A, B, C and D and the geographic Regions, see Fact Sheet PR-5000 #206, Amateur Station Sequential Call Sign System.

Legibility is critical! If your application is not legible, you could experience a delay in processing, lose the opportunity to obtain a requested call sign or even obtain a call sign different from what you want.

Gate 1 Eligibility Criteria

Request by Former Holder (Primary Station): For your primary station, you may request a call sign that was previously assigned to your primary, secondary, repeater, auxiliary link, control, or space station. You may request your former call sign even though it has been unassigned for less than two years. The two-year requirement does not apply to an otherwise eligible primary station if the call sign was previously assigned to a station of the requester. You do not have to hold a class of operator license required for the Group (A, B, C, or D) for the call sign requested. A call sign request by a former holder may be from any group in the sequential system. Your mailing address does not have to be in the region designated in the sequential system for the call sign requested. A call sign requested by a former holder may be in any region.

Request by Close Relative of Former Holder Now Deceased (Primary Station): For your primary station, you may request a call sign that was previously assigned to the primary, secondary, repeater, auxiliary link, control, or space station of your now-deceased spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law. You may request the former call sign of a close relative now deceased even though it has been unassigned for less than two years. Upon the death of the holder, a call sign is assignable immediately to an otherwise eligible primary station of a close relative. You must be an Amateur Extra class operator to request a Group A call sign. You must be at

least an Advanced class operator to request a Group B call sign. You must be at least a Technician class operator to request a Group C call sign. You must be at least a Novice class operator to request a Group D call sign. Your mailing address does not have to be in the region designated in the sequential system for the call sign requested. A call sign requested by a close relative of former holder now deceased may be in any region.

Request by Former Holder (Club Station): For the club station for which you are the license trustee, you may request a call sign that was previously assigned to that station. You may request your club station's former call sign even though it has been unassigned for less than two years. The two-year requirement does not apply to an otherwise eligible club station if the call sign was previously assigned to the club station for which the requester is the license trustee. You do not have to hold a class of operator license required for the Group (A, B, C, or D) for the call sign requested. A call sign request by a former holder may be from any group in the sequential system. Your mailing address does not have to be in the region designated in the sequential system for the call sign requested. A call sign requested by a former holder may be in any region.

A \$30.00 fee is required with your FCC Form 610-V application. Payment of fees may be by check (payable to "FCC"), bank draft, money order or credit card. If paying by credit card, you must also complete and submit FCC Form 159 with your FCC Form 610-V. Do not send cash!

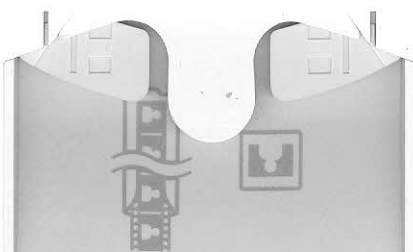
Send your application package to: Federal Communications Commission, Amateur Vanity Call Sign Request, PO Box 358924, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924. If you do not qualify under the above eligibility standards, your application will be dismissed.

The FCC says it will announce Gate 1A in a future notice. Under Gate 1A, club station trustees may file for the former primary station call sign of a person now deceased, provided the club held a club station license on March 24, 1995.

For more information about the vanity call sign program, call the FCC Consumer Assistance Branch, 800-322-1117.

--FCC

The ARRL Letter is published by the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259. Rodney J. Stafford, KB6ZV, President; David Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice President.



Calendar

June

- 1 Ham Exams, Murchison 8:30 AM
- 4 ARO Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 7-9 HamCom, Arlington
- 11 AARC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 15 ARO Transmitter Hunt 7 PM
- 15 Ham Exams, St. Ed's 2 PM
- 22-23 **Field Day**
- 25 QCWA Meeting @ Luby's at 7 PM
- 24 CTDXCC Old Quarry Library 7 PM

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) Newsline | 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.

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. 6/15*, 7/6, 8/10, 9/7, 10/5, 11/9, 12/7.

***Will be held one week later than normal in June.**

The AARC sponsors ARRL VEC ham exams at 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month at Murchison Middle School. 6/1, 7/6, 8/7.

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 6/15, 7/20, 8/17, 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 12/21

The ARO swapnet is transmitted Sunday at 9:00 PM on the 146.94 repeater. Newsline, 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 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. 6/24, 7/22, 8/19.

