

# AARC OVER

## Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club  
Austin Amateur Television Club  
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

September 1996

Issue 96-9

### Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization  
Tuesday, September 3 1996 7:30 PM.

Austin Amateur Radio Club  
Tuesday, September 10, 1996 7:30 PM  
Topic: Kit Building

Austin Amateur TV Club  
Tuesday, September 17, 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

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

QCWA Meeting, Wednesday, September 18, 1996 Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 7 PM.

AARC Picnic. Saturday, October 19

### Fast, Wet Ham

Congratulations to Jon Penner, [ N5MHI ], one of our active Club members who recently won the first place in his division at the American Water Ski Association's regional meet in Baton Rouge, LA on August 2-4, 1996.

### Who Was that Masked Ham?

In case you've heard some new calls with familiar voices here are some recently changed callsigns.

KB5VYT, Roger Wines, is now W5WIA  
AB5VM, Earl Landry, is now K5EID  
AB5HP, Bill Montgomery, is now K5ZSI  
KC5IZ, Emil Kasprzyk, is now K5JTP

Club members, please let me know if you would like your recently changed callsign published. My phone and e-mail are listed on the Club Information page.

de Mickey McInnis KB5YAC

### Surfing the Net

Information on the ARRL field organization and ARRL's Public Service Communication Manual.

<http://www.arrl.org/field/>

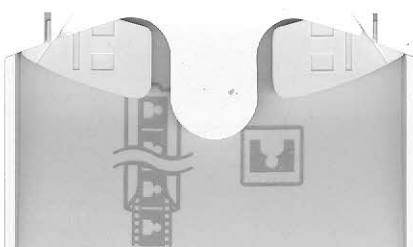
Callsign lookup (very up to date)

<http://www.ualr.edu/hamradio>

QRZ callsign lookup. You can register an internet address here so that people can get your e-mail address from your callsign.

<http://www.qrz.com>

de Mickey McInnis KB5YAC



**Club Information**

**Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

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

**Officers**

President	Gene Van Zelfden	KB5UGO	338-4729	adrian@zilker.net
Vice President	David Sprague	KB5ZEG	259-7282	dsprague@bga.com
Treasurer	Stu Rohre	K5KVH	255-3932	rohre@msmailgw1.arlut.utexas.edu
Secretary	June Parchman	KK5AM	832-1350	june.parchman@45.ima.infomail.com
Activity Manager	Frank Edwards	KK5IA	255-6753	frank@austin.cc.tx.us

**Committees & Positions**

Technical	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818
ARRL Travis Co. Emergency Coord.	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	W5WIA	453-2193

**Austin Repeater Organization**

P.O. Box 4763, Austin, TX 78765

**Officers**

President	Lansing Pugh	KK5VK	441-0508	lansing@acadlp.com
Vice President	John Badger	KC5NXL	442-3873	JBadger@aol.com
Secretary	Sam Mihalik	KB5SML	282-6229	smihalik@fand.tdh.state.tx.us
Treasurer	Bill Montgomery	K5ZSI	478-7928	bmontgom@austin.cc.tx.us
Editor	Mickey McInnis	KB5YAC	339-0344	mcinnis@austin.ibm.com

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. 224.80 MHz -1.600 MHz 444.10 MHz +5 MHz. (444.10 is currently out of service) 145.01 MHz is the packet NetROM node, KB5PM-1 or alias AUS. 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.

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

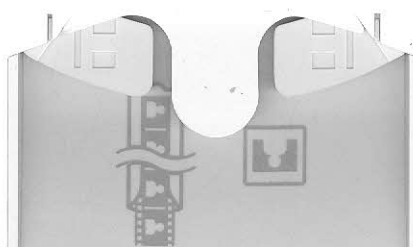
The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches. Press \* and dial the phone number to place a call. Do not unkey after the \*. When finished, press "#" to hang up the phone. Dial "911" (no \* needed) for emergency services. Please transmit your callsign **before** using the phone patch.

**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*.



**Austin Repeater Organization August 1996 Minutes**

The meeting was held on August 6, 1996, at Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, Austin, Texas. President Lansing Pugh [KB5VK], called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

**Visitors and New Members**

The organization welcomed Greg Turner [KB5TWW] who recently moved here from Longview, Bill Henson [WB5SYS] of Killeen, Paul Fenrich [KA5FZU] of Austin and Chris Paap [KC5VLG] of Kyle.

**Minutes**

The minutes for the July meeting as submitted by ARO Secretary Sam Mihalik [KB5SML], were approved as printed in the August 1996 AARC/Over ARO Monitor.

**Officer Reports**

Treasury - In the absence of Treasurer Bill Montgomery [K5ZSI], President Pugh reported a balance of \$6,126.23. Technical Committee - Jon Dahm [WB5PCV] reported that there was still a problem with the 444.1 repeater. Jon expects to have the equipment transferred to him in the next couple of weeks and he expects to have it operational by the September meeting.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business and Announcements**

Jerry Henry [KC5MUL] asked for volunteers to work at the Walktoberfest to be held at the Circle C Veloway on September 28, 1996. Volunteers will meet at Bowie High School at 7:30 AM. Anyone interested in serving as a monitor for the event should contact Jerry at (512) 441-0517. Let him know by August 15, 1996, if you want to order a T shirt.

Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC] announced that Gene Van Zelfden [KB5UGO], who is affiliated with the Central Texas Chapter of the Confederate Air Force, was looking for hams to volunteer on August 17th and 18th.

Jeff Schmidt [N5MNW] announced that he and

Roger Wines [W5WIA] would be conducting an introductory amateur radio class at Murchison Middle School beginning September 14, 1996. The class will meet every Saturday morning from 8 AM to noon for seven weekends. Testing will be conducted on the eighth weekend. Anyone interested should contact Gwen at Murchison's Community School, (512) 414-2871. The class will only cost \$3.00. The textbook is *Now You're Talking* 2nd edition (\$19.00) published by the American Radio Relay League.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

**Program**

Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC] and Lansing Pugh [KK5VK] presented A Ham's Guide to Trains in Austin, which included a slide presentation as well as a guide to railroading terms and radio frequencies. Mickey described local railroad operations and provided several railroad safety tips for motorists and pedestrians. He reminded everyone that the locomotive will always win all ties at a railroad crossing and that motorists should try to stay on the train side of a collision. He also warned pedestrians not to walk on bridges and to avoid the railroad right-of-way if at all possible. Mickey further reported that several people die every year in the Austin area because they have either tried to hop freight cars or because they have fallen asleep on the tracks. He said that the only safe place to ride a freight was in the cab of the locomotive.

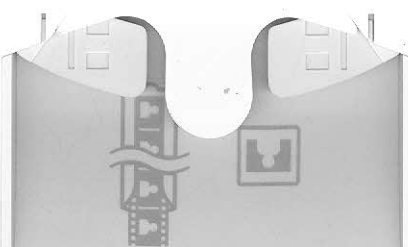
Anyone interested in monitoring railroad frequencies should contact Lansing for a copy of his guide. Some frequencies from his handout include

Union Pacific (Austin)	160.740
Union Pacific (Taylor)	160.470
Union Pacific PBX (Austin Area)	160.605
Georgetown Railroad	160.995
Longhorn Railway	161.525

Sam Mihalik [ KB5SML ]  
ARO Secretary

**Austin Amateur Radio Club August 1996 Minutes**

President Gene Van Zelfden. KB5UGO, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. on August 13, 1995. The meeting was held at Luby's cafeteria on North Loop.



**Visitors**

There were no visitors.

**Minutes**

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

**Officer Reports**

President Gene Van Zelfden, KB5UGO reported a checking account balance of approximately \$3200. An exact amount was unavailable as the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting.

**New Members**

There were no new members.

**Technical Report**

No problems were reported with the repeater.

**Activities Report**

President Gene Van Zelfden announced that the club will be planing a fall picnic at a local park later this fall when the weather is cooler. No date has been set yet, but some time in October is the most likely date Also plans are being made for a special event station also later this year.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Announcements**

Joe Thiel, N5SMN, gave a short report on new regulations in Part 97 related to RF exposure and the operation of amateur radio stations. The new regulations have the potential to affect all amateur stations. The FCC has not yet announced how the regulations will be implemented so all amateurs should stay alert for future pistons from the FCC.

Roger Wines, W5WIA announced that the AARC ham classes for Technician/Novice will begin the 2nd Saturday in September and continue for 7 weeks with the 8th week being an exam session. Classes will be held at Murchison Middle School,

from 8:00 a.m. until noon. There is a \$3 registration charge plus \$19 for the textbook. Anyone interested in becoming a ham or interesting in upgrading with a 5 wpm code proficiency are invited to attend. Call Murchison Middle School for registration information.

**Adjournment**

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

**Program**

George Fremia, WB5VZL, presented a most informative program on contesting. George has been doing it for quite a while and had many interesting experiences to relate. Plus, he gave the members in attendance some good hints that should help us all score better in our next contest.

Submitted with pleasure,

June Parchman, KK5AM  
AARC Secretary

**South Austin W5YI VE Session Report**

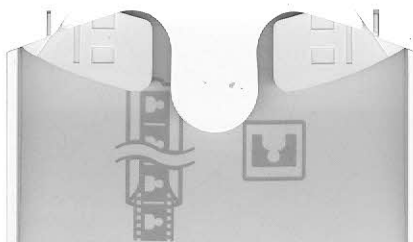
The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at its July 20th session:

David W. Andrews	KC5UGE Advanced Class
Harold J. Karn	WN3BAX Advanced Class
Barbara V. Garcia	KC5VLH Technician
Nathan E. Good	KC5VLF Technician
Aubrey L. Holt, Jr.	KC5VLC Technician
Michael A. Navarro	KC5VLE Technician
James C. Paap	KC5VLG Technician
Hans G. Schantz	KC5VLD Technician

Our volunteer examiners were:

Jeff Deines, Sr., KK5TO, Emil Kasprzyk, K5JTP, Cathy Donohee, KK5XT, Tony Lyon IV, KJ5XF, Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5HYR, June Parchman, KK5AM, Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, Roger Pfluger, AC5IP, Christine Hindman, AC5IS, Joe Thiel, N5SMN, and Marion Williamson, AC5CM.

At the August 17th session, the following people earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses.



Watt P. Gee	KC5THS	Advanced Class
Martin N. Wennerstrom, Jr.	KC5JTO	Advanced Class
Robin L. Fanker	-new-	Technician
Madelyn J. Osborne	-new-	Technician
Wayne F. Weirich	-new-	Technician
Mark D. Woodard	-new-	Technician
Dale W. Zett	-new-	Technician
Beverly D. Brown	-new-	Novice

Our administering volunteer examiners were: Hugh Brown, KC5EIIY, Emil Kasprzyk, K5JTP, Jeff Deines, Sr., KK5TO, Tony Lyon, IV, KJ5XF, Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5HYR, Carol Thiel, N5TLY, Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, Joe Thiel, N5SMN, Christine Hindman, AC5IS, and Marion Williamson, AC5CM.

Special thanks to Diane Nousanen, Director of the Learning Resources Center at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired for her assistance in preparing the written examinations in Braille.

Yes, we now have amateur radio exams available in Braille! We have always been handicapped accessible. So, everyone is welcome to our next session scheduled for September 21st. We will start 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.

**SB QST ARL ARLB055**  
**ARLB055 FCC to open Gate 2**

The FCC has announced that vanity call sign filing Gate 2 will open September 23. Under Gate 2, Amateur Extra class licensees may request a vanity call sign on or after that date. File requests on FCC Form 610V. 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.

Under Gate 2, you must hold an unexpired Amateur Extra class operator/primary station license to request a vanity call sign for your primary station. To request a vanity call sign for a club station under Gate 2, you must also hold an unexpired club station license grant listing you as

the license trustee. Applicants should refer to the licensee data base to verify that a requested call sign 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.

Using Form 610V, provide a list of up to 25 call signs in the order of preference. The first assignable call sign on the list will be assigned to your station. Remember: When requesting a call sign under Gate 2 for your primary or club station, the call sign must have been unassigned for at least two years. As an Amateur Extra class operator, you may request a call sign from any group, A, B, C or D.

Any call sign requested must be one designated for the region of your mailing address, as follows:

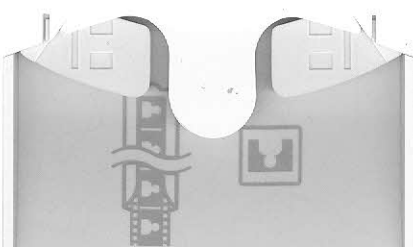
- One of the contiguous 48 states: Regions 1 to 10.
- Alaska: Regions 1 to 11.
- American Samoa: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 8.
- Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 0.
- Guam: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 2.
- Hawaii: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 6 or 7.
- Puerto Rico: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 12 having numeral 3 or 4.
- Virgin Islands: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 12 having numeral 2.

For explanations of Groups A, B, C and D and the geographic Regions, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-S, Amateur Station Sequential Call Sign System. For more information, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-V Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign System.

Advanced, General, Technician Plus, Technician, and Novice class operators are not yet eligible to request by list. Advanced class operators will be eligible at Gate 3. Others will be eligible at Gate 4.

A separate Public Notice will be released providing guidelines for the implementation of electronic filing procedures for FCC Form 610V.

de ARRL and the ARRL Letter



# Huck's Country Store

## Find a Better Place for Your Antenna

Do you have an antenna problem? Is it space, city codes, next-door TVI, apartment-house dwelling or dozens of related antenna troubles? Possibly you need to move your antenna.

Over the HF and VHF bands I hear stations both near and far operating from their automobiles. Mobile radio is very easy today. Most equipment of moderate power will operate from a 12 Volt battery. This makes mobile radio very easy to achieve.

The next thought is a suitable mobile antenna. Many types and makes are available for most HF, VHF, and UHF bands. Some are taller, longer, shorter, etc. All are workable under fair-to-good conditions. So jump into your car, drive out to the park, hillside, or country road. It's easy to find a parking space away from power lines and electrical devices. This may reduce your background noise by several S-units. Shut down your engine and eliminate all of your own noise.

You may be able to back up against a hill and use your background as a reflector for your antenna. You may be amazed at what you can do with a whip antenna of moderate length.

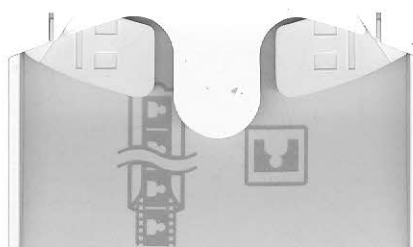
A few years ago I drove out to Colorado in our RV. While parked at 10,500 feet and several miles away from commercial power, the 20-meter band sounded like it was "all mine." I heard stations and made contacts that I never imagined possible with a whip antenna and a hundred Watts.

A country drive with your mobile rig can give you the "best operating locations" in your community. I have found this so successful that for the past 6-7 years I only operate semi-mobile. Our RV trailer is parked in the back yard and has become my favorite "ham shack." The antenna is three 8-foot sections of home-built aluminum tube, bumper mounted. I run 1, 2, or 3 sections depending on band of operation. On 40 and 20 meters I use 2 sections. They screw together hand-tight and are stored inside when on the road.

I live in the approximate center of about 20 acres of mostly wooded land. No TVI, RFI, and no space problems. The smaller antenna and battery power works so well that it is a real pleasure to operate. It has been proven over most of the Southwestern states of the nation.

The purpose of this story is to encourage everyone who has antenna problem is to "move into your car" so you can "move your antenna to a better location." You are sure to like it.

de "Old Huck" Huckabee, [ AA5BU ]



## Calendar

### September

- 3 ARO Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 7 Ham Exams Murchison 8:30 AM
- 7 ARO Transmitter Hunt 7 PM
- 10 AARC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 18 QCWA Meeting @ Luby's at 7 PM
- 21 Ham Exams, St. Ed's 2 PM
- 23 CTDXCC Old Quarry Library 7 PM

### 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 holds its business meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at Luby's at 7:30 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. 9/7, 10/5, 11/9, 12/7.

The AARC sponsors ARRL VEC ham exams at

8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month at Murchison Middle School. 9/7, 10/12\*, 11/2, 12/7, 1/11/97, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/14\*, 7/12. (\* not normal week)

Ham exams will be held at 2 PM in Fleck Hall room 109 at St. Edward's University 3001 South Congress Avenue on the third Saturday of each month. 327-6184 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 12/21

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.

The Travis County RACES net meets on the third Sunday of each month following the 6:30 PM ARES net on the 146.94 MHz repeater.

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 10/9, 4/29/97. (no meeting 12/31/96)

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. 9/23, 10/28, 11/25, 12/23, 1/27/97, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26, 6/23

### Newsline Funding

The following is an important closed circuit advisory. Attention all bulletin stations. Newsline is once again on the verge of bankruptcy and existing hand to mouth. We urgently need your support to survive.

As we have said many times, the decision whether Newsline stays or goes is yours. If you want this service to continue, we will need your ongoing financial support, and it is needed right now.

The address for the Newsline Support Fund is:

NEWSLINE  
P.O.Box 660937  
Arcadia, California 91066

