

AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

October 1996

Issue 96-10

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization
Tuesday, October 1, 1996 7:30 PM.

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday, October 8, 1996 7:30 PM
Topic: Kit Building

Austin Amateur TV Club
Tuesday, October 15, 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.

N5IQR, Johnny Allen, is now W5TQL
KC5THS, Watt Gee, is now KM5CS

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

AARC Picnic

The AARC will have a picnic Saturday, October 19, 1996. The picnic will start at 3 PM, and we will eat around 5 PM. We will use the picnic area near the pool North of Barton Springs Drive. This will be a potluck affair.

Please RSVP by October 15 with the number of people in your party and the food item you will bring. Please call 259-7282 before 9:30 PM with your information.

Upcoming Events

ARO Transmitter Hunt, Saturday, October 5, 7:00 PM. Coordination on 146.94, hunt on 146.52.

QCWA Meeting, Wednesday, October 16, 1996 Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 7 PM.

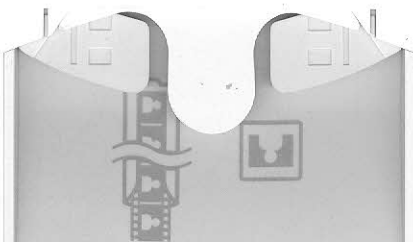
AARC Picnic. Saturday, October 19, 1996. 3 PM Zilker Park.

444.10 Repeater Back Up

The ARO's 444.10 MHz repeater is back on the air again at a temporary location.

Who Was that Masked Ham?

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



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

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
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Director	Juathenia Kinney	KA5TXK		
Director	Jim Neely	WA5LHS	442-4814	jneely@eden.com
Director	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	255-3932	rohre@arlut.utexas.edu
Director	Keith Watson	WB9KHL		
Director	Fred Neuenschwander	W5FQR		

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. 224.80 MHz -1.600 MHz 444.10 MHz +5 MHz. 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.

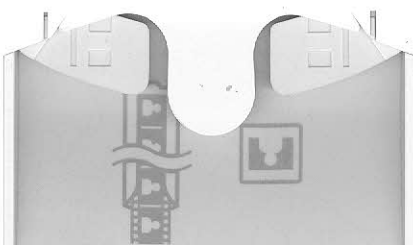
The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches. Press * and dial the phone number to place a call. Do not unkey after the * When finished, press "#" to hang up the phone. Dial "911" (no * needed) for emergency services. Please transmit your callsign **before** using the phone patch.

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 September 1996 Minutes

The meeting was held on September 3, 1996, at Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, Austin, Texas. President Lansing Pugh [KK5VK], called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Visitors and New Members

The organization welcomed Gene Gault [no call], a guest of Terry Parker [KC5EFD] and Joseph Peppers [KC5RZU], a member who has been absent for quite some time.

Phil Winsborough [KC5VIJ] was introduced and welcomed as a new member.

Minutes

The minutes for the August meeting as submitted by ARO Secretary Sam Mihalik [KB5SML], were approved as printed in the September 1996 AARC/OVER ARO Monitor. Correction: The August meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM, not 8:44 PM as published.

Officer Reports

Treasury - Treasurer Bill Montgomery [K5ZSI] reported a balance of \$6,126.53. There was a brief debate among the membership as to whether fees for new members should be prorated. Jim Neely [WA5LHS] reported that the Austin Amateur Radio Club had decided not to prorate fees. The consensus was that ARO would do likewise.

Technical Committee - Jim Neely announced that, although there was still a problem with the 444.1 repeater, the equipment was now in the possession of the technical committee and would soon be operational. Keith Watson [WB9KHL] reported that the high speed packet repeater has been built and is waiting to be installed. Jon Dahm [WB5PCV] is expected to install it within the month. Joe Thiel [N5SMN] also reported the satisfactory condition of the 445.2 repeater which has a 9600 baud modem. The technical committee will work with the treasurer to determine the cost of repairs and installation and will identify any expenses that will need to be reimbursed by the organization..

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business and Announcements

President Pugh announced that Newline was having a tough time meeting their expenses. Jim Neely reported that ARO had supported them in the past. A motion was made that the ARO send Newline \$100 more than we had been sending them. The motion was seconded and passed by a acclamation with none dissenting.

President Pugh publicly thanked Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC] for all the hard work he has done for the organization, particularly the time he has spent getting the ARCOVER to press. The organization gave Mickey a hearty round of applause.

Upcoming events that were announced included the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) on the third Wednesday of each month, Hamfests in Seguin on September 21st, and Belton on October 5th, and Ham exams at Saint Edwards University on September 21st. Contact Jim Greenwood at 327-6184 for more information on the exams.

Jeff Schmidt [N5MNV] once again reminded everyone about the Novice/technician ham classes at Murchison Middle School on September 14th. Jerry Henry [KC5MUL] requested volunteers to monitor the Walktoberfest to be held at the Circle C Veloway on September 28. Volunteers were to meet at Bowie High School at 7:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Sam Mihalik [KB5SML]
ARO Secretary

Austin Amateur Radio Club September 1996 Minutes

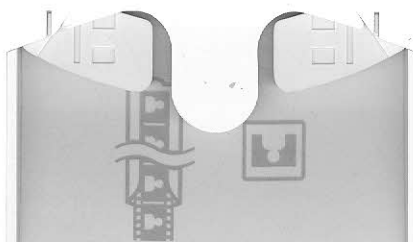
President Gene Van Zelfden. KB5UGO, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on September 10, 1996. The meeting was held at Luby's cafeteria on North Loop.

Visitors:

Visitors were welcomed by the club.

Minutes:

The minutes of the August meeting were approved



with the following correction. The first paragraph in the Announcements section is amended to read "all amateurs should stay alert for future postings from the FCC."

Officer Reports:

Treasurer Stuart Rohre, K5KVH reported a checking account balance of \$2892.14 and an approximate balance of \$200 in the postal account. He also reported that the club made about \$52 selling AARL books at Summerfest.

New Members:

Paul Fenrich, KA5FZU was recognized as new member.

Technical Report:

President Gene Van Zelfden, KB5UGO, gave the technical report and told the club that the 146.78 repeater has had its caller id blocking removed, so that members may now use the autopatch to call numbers that have anonymous call rejection. The repeater number is now being forwarded to a different number in order to maintain security.

Activities Report:

President Gene Van Zelfden announced that the club picnic will be held on October 19 at Zilker Park. It will be a pot luck affair and all are invited and encouraged to come.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

President Gene Van Zelfden announced that Westlink Newline was requesting donations to help keep them on the air. A motion was made a seconded to donate \$100 to Newline. This motion was passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Hal Henegar, W5MDL, reminded the members that the QCWA meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Luby's and all are invited to attend.

Adjournment:

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

Program:

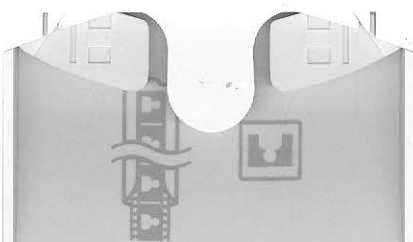
Stuart Rohre showed a group a couple of educational videos on files and new developments in oscilloscopes which were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Stu for filling in so well on short notice when the scheduled speaker was unable to make the meeting. The program next month will be on the practical aspects of kit building.

June Parchman, KK5AM
AARC Secretary

**SB QST ARL ARLB062
ARLB062 ARRL Petitions FCC To
Change Safety Rules**

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to reconsider and reverse portions of the Commission's August 1, 1996, Report and Order that imposed RF-emission safety standards on Amateur Radio, including a 50-W threshold to trigger an RF-safety evaluation. In setting the 50-W threshold, the ARRL said, the FCC failed to consider the effect of antenna height, antenna gain, emission mode, duty cycle or operating frequency. The League asked the FCC either to scale the evaluation threshold by frequency to match the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits--directly corresponding to the way the regulations scale the exposure levels with frequency--or to set the evaluation threshold for all HF operation at 150 W at a distance of 10 meters from all parts of the antenna.

At or below that power level and at that distance from the radiator, "you'd be well on the side of safe, even at 100 duty cycle, with any antenna likely to be encountered on HF," said ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV, our HQ staff liaison to the ARRL RF Safety Committee. "Some VHF/UHF and microwave station configurations could result in an RF exposure exceeding the requirements of the regulations, so the 50-W limit to trigger an evaluation is more appropriate above 30 MHz," said Hare. He emphasized that all stations, regardless of output power or frequency, still must abide by the specified MPE limits for RF.



The new rules, effective January 1, 1997, require licensees of amateur stations running 50 W output or more on any band to conduct a routine RF-safety evaluation to determine if the station could expose people to RF levels that exceed the MPE limits specified in the new rules. (Mobile installations using push-to-talk, regardless of power, are exempt from the environmental evaluation requirement.) In its reconsideration filing, the League called the 50-W threshold "regulatory overkill" and "without scientific basis." Among other things, the League said the means to conduct RF radiation evaluations are not yet available, and the ability to reconfigure a station that might exceed the new limits "is highly problematic." Coupled with any state and local land-use and RF-exposure regulations that might exist, application of the new rules "may constitute a de facto revocation or modification of the station license," the League said.

The League also said the FCC adopted the rules "through flawed procedures" and without advance notice and opportunity for prior comment.

The ARRL said that the new rules differentiate between ham stations and other Commission licensees "which are treated far less restrictively." While the FCC preempted state and local government regulation of personal wireless service facilities based on environmental effects of RF emissions, it refused to do the same for ham radio "without any basis for the distinction."

The ARRL already has asked the FCC to extend the deadline to change amateur examinations and modify question pools, but the Commission has yet to act on the request. The League said that, as it now stands, hams have no way to determine the scope of their obligations under the new rules.

The League suggested the FCC vacate its new RF safety rules governing amateur stations and issue a further notice to permit comment on the proposed rules, and, in particular, the 50-W evaluation threshold.

de ARRL and the ARRL Letter

Current FCC Form 610 is Still Good

Most FCC Form 610's are still good. This according to the ARRL Letter that says unlike the expiration dates on perishable food items in the

grocery store, the expiration dates on the FCC Form 610 can be safely ignored.

The League says that lots of hams have asked about these dates. This, because an expiration date of August 31, 1996, appears in the upper right hand corner of current FCC Form 610 that were issued in November 1993 and in March 1995. It says the August 31, 1996, expiration date is an internal FCC reference date only. It is not a date to instruct the public when to stop using the form.

The FCC says the November 1993 and March 1995 issued FCC Forms 610 are okay to use and will continue to be acceptable for use until further notice.

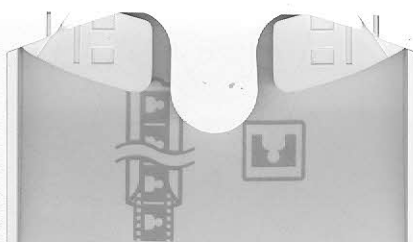
de ARRL and the ARRL Letter

AARC and ARO History

I'm interested in gathering information about the history of the AARC and ARO. I'd like to put together some milestones of the clubs. I'd also be interested in getting copies of old newsletters, etc. which have some items of historical interest. I'd be particularly interested in information about the original formation of the clubs.

Please contact Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC] at mcinnis@austin.ibm.com, 1519 Charolais Dr, Austin, TX 78758, or 339-0344.

de Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC]



Huck's Country Store

The Good Old Days are Now

I often long for the good old days of Amateur Radio of 50 more years ago. While thinking back to my early ham gear, these thoughts come to mind: In 1940, a frequency control crystal could be purchased for about 4 or 5 days wage of a semi-skilled worker. It would be calibrated to within +/- 5 KHz and supplied within +/- 20 KHz of your specified frequency - very expensive! A Sky Buddy (Hallicrafters) receiver with 5 tubes cost two weeks wages of a person skilled in one of the building trades - very expensive!

Radio receiver tubes cost about a day's wage of a skilled tradesman, with some priced about 3 days wage. Though times for the "New Ham". Smaller transmitter tubes would cost a week of wages!

A simple table size battery operated radio with antenna kit and battery was on the market with an easy pay plan: a dollar per week (a day's wage) for a year! This little radio had 4 tubes and was AM broadcast band only: Hard times! Most people did not even own a radio!

Amateur Radio was wonderful! Call CQ, then tune up and down the band looking for a reply. It was rare that a station would be on your frequency. It was great fun, and we never dreamed that the technology could be improved!

In those days a receiver that was calibrated within +/- 20 KHz of the frequency was just a "pipe dream." To own a tube tester or a simple Volt-Ohm meter was beyond the fondest dream of every "Ham." We used small dial lamps to indicate current in a circuit, and light bulbs of various sizes for a dummy load and tune-up indicator.

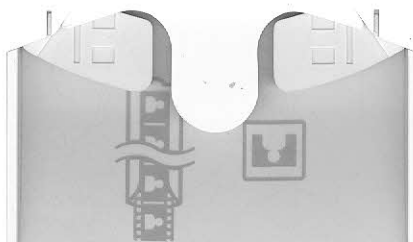
Antenna wire was often salvaged from a burned out electric motor or automobile generator, supported by glass bottles or other pieces of scrap glass for insulation. It was more difficult to make contacts because the number of hams was low. The "Flying Horse" Callbook was in larger print than now, and about as thick as a pencil. It only cost a day's wage. These were great days of ham radio!

Then my thoughts of Amateur radio turned to 1996. The equipment we have today is by far less expensive. That is, in terms of days of wage per piece of equipment. The equipment of today is high grad, high quality, and with a long useful life expectancy. Frequency stability, and calibration accuracy leaves essentially nothing to be desired.

Look at the ease of making very high contest scores, and the ease of DX scores. We are in a wonderful times with high technology equipment at affordable prices! Yes, we are living in great times. "The good old days" were not in a generation or so ago, "the good old days" are now!

What will be in the future? Some 20 years ago the marriage of the computer to amateur radio was a dream. If we have made sure great technical strides in the past 20 years. What will we be doing in the next 20 years? Yes, the good old days are now, and will be better in the future.

de "Old Huck" Huckabee, [AA5BU]



Calendar

October

- 1 ARO Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 5 ARO Transmitter Hunt 7 PM
- 5 Belton Swapfest, \$1 admission
- 8 AARC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 12 Ham Exams Murchison 8:30 AM
- 16 QCWA Meeting @ Luby's at 7 PM
- 19 AARC Picnic
- 19 Ham Exams, St. Ed's 2 PM
- 23 Travis Co. ARES @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 28 CTDXCC Old Quarry Library 7 PM

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. 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. 10/12*, 11/2, 12/7,

1/11/97, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/14*, 7/12. (* not normal week) Contact Joe Thiel [N5SMN]

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 10/19, 11/16, 12/21. Contact: Jim Greenwood [AB5EK], 327-6184.

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 10/29, 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. 10/28, 11/25, 12/23, 1/27/97, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/19*, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25. (*Not normal Week) Contact: Ed Linde [K0GEX] 345-3627.

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

