

AARC/OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

January 1997

Issue 97-1

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization
Tuesday, January 7, 1997 7:30 PM.

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday, January 14, 1996 7:30 PM
Topic: Field Effect Transistors (FET's)

Austin Amateur TV Club
Tuesday, January 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

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

QCWA Meeting, Wednesday, January 15, Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 7 PM.

Travis County ARES January 28, 1997, Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, 7 PM.

Membership Renewals

We will be sending out membership renewals soon. Please don't send in your renewals until you receive the renewal form, in order to make it easier to process the membership list.

I Want You!!! for Vice President

We need Vice Presidents for ARO and AARC. The biggest responsibility of the Vice President is to find speakers for the meetings.

Contact the club president if you would like to be considered for the position in either club.

Vanity Call Sign Program Resumes

Processing of vanity callsign requests has resumed after a short pause. The FCC temporarily suspended processing while it considered the petitions of some hams whose vanity callsign applications were rejected because they were received before the appropriate date because of an error in a delivery service.

The FCC dismissed the petition and let the dismissal of the applications in question stand.

Correction

In the last AARC/Over, I listed Michael Collins new Extra Class callsign as ACKCK. The correct callsign is AC5KC. Congratulations, Michael.

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	(Your name here?)			
Treasurer	Mickey McInnis	KB5YAC	339-0344	mcinnis@austin.ibm.com
Secretary	Morgan Palmer	KC5GPG		
Activity Manager	Joan Cox	KD4SRD		

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	jcvp11a@prodigy.com
ARRL Public Information Officer	Robert Barron	KA5WSS	837-4051	barron@liant.com
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	(Your name here?)			
Secretary	Sam Mihalik	KB5SML	282-6229	smihalik@fand.tdh.state.tx.us
Treasurer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	
Editor	Lloyd Crawford	N5GDB		
Director	Juathenia Kinney	KA5TXK		
Director	Nick Broline	W5FUA	929-4314	nick_broline@tracor.com
Director	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNW	255-6753	jeff_schmidt@email.sps.mot.com
Director	Keith Watson	WB9KHL	288-9709	watson@apple.com
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.

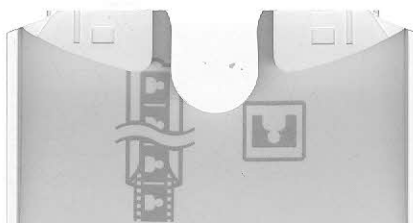
AARC/Over Information

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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*.

Address Correction: Jim Neely WA5LHS jneely@eden.com or 604-3012



Austin Repeater Organization December 1996 Minutes

The meeting was held on December 3, 1996, at Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, Austin, Texas. President Lansing Pugh [KK5VK], called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Visitors and New Members

The organization welcomed visitors Lori Cook (no call), Mike Becker [KW5F] and Stuart Watts [KB5WEW]. There were no new members.

Minutes

A motion was approved to accept the minutes for the November 1996 meeting as submitted by President Pugh and published in the December 1996 AARC/Over ARO Monitor.

Officer Reports

Treasury - Treasurer Bill Montgomery [K5ZSI] reported a balance of \$5,652.92.

Technical Committee - Jon Dahm [WB5PCV] reported that all repeater equipment was up and operating properly. The 146.88 repeater had recently been improved by adding PL to the output. PL is short for Private Line, a term coined by Motorola engineers. PL technology mixes a subaudible tone with the modulated output from a transmitter to identify the signal. Amateur operators with CTCSS can set their receivers to receive only a signal containing that tone. The tone for output from the 146.88 repeater is 103.5. The 146.94 repeater uses a tone of 107.2 and 444.1 uses a PL of 103.5.

Jon also reported that the current location of the 146.94 and 224.80 repeaters was making access for maintenance difficult. He acknowledged that the committee had been required to temporarily down the phone patch on the 146.88 repeater because someone had been dialing the 911 emergency number as a malicious prank. Finally, Jon expressed gratitude to Sanford Musgrove [W5FIT], Roy Walker [WA5YZD], Nick Broline [WA5FUA] and Tina Kinney [KA5TXK] for their help in upgrading the equipment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business and Announcements

President Pugh noted that the ARO's Board of Directors was present in its entirety. He announced that Lloyd Crawford [N5GDB] had graciously volunteered to take over the responsibility of Editing the AARC/Over ARO Monitor from Mickey McInnis [KB5YAC]. He also reported that Roger Wines [W5WIA] would now be assuming the duties of Treasurer from Bill Montgomery and that the Board was still entertaining nominations for someone to be appointed Vice President. The Board has reelected President Pugh and Secretary Sam Mihalik [KB5SML] for 1997.

The President announced that the December Transmitter Hunt would be using the alternate boundaries established for that event. These boundaries are Highway 620, RM 2222 and IH-35. Transmitter hunts are held the first Saturday of every month. The hidden transmitter for the December hunt was operated at a frequency of 146.52 simplex. Operators who participated in the event coordinated their hunt using the 146.94 repeater.

The President reminded everyone of the Austin Amateur Radio Club meeting (December 10), the Austin Amateur Television Club (December 17) and the Quarter Century Wireless Association (December 18).

Sam Mihalik [N5SML]
ARO Secretary

Austin Amateur Radio Club December 1996 Minutes

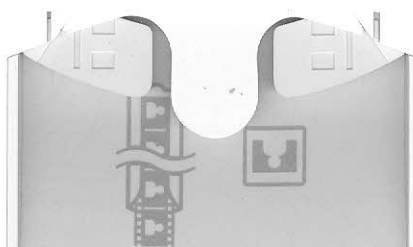
President Gene Van Zelfden. KB5UGO, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. on December 10, 1996. The meeting was held at Luby's cafeteria on North Loop.

Visitors

One visitor was welcomed by the club.

Minutes

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



Officer Reports

Treasurer Stuart Rohre, K5KVH reported a checking account balance of \$1677.00 and an approximate balance of \$ 58 in the postal account.

New Members

There were no new members.

Technical Report

The President reported that all was well with the repeater.

Activities Report

There was no activities report.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Steve Bosbach, KG5BR, reported that classes are being held for new hams at the School for the Blind. He asked the club to consider helping to buy code oscillators to be used at the school to help with code practice. The President appointed a committee consisting of Steve and Stu Rohre to look into costs, etc. and to report back to the club at the next meeting.

Joe Fisher then gave the report for the nominating committee consisting of Joe Fisher, K5EJL, Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, and Lori Schmidt, KC5QGZ.

The committee nominated the following individuals for club officers for the 1997 year.

President, Gene Van Zelfden, KB5UGO
Vice-President, no nomination
Secretary, Morgan Palmer, KC5GPG
Treasurer, Mickey McInnis, KB5YAC
Activities Manager, Joan Cox, KD4SRD

The nominations were approved and the officers elected by vote of the members present.

Announcements

Mickey McInnis, KB5YAC, announced that Lloyd Crawford, N5GDB, has agreed to serve as the new editor of the AARC/Over. Many thanks

are due to Mickey for the fine job he has done over the past two years as editor. And thanks to Lloyd for taking on such an important job for both clubs.

Jeff Schmidt announced that the next session of classes for new hams will begin on March 22 and go through May 10. As usual they will be held Saturday mornings at Murchison Middle School and interested individuals should call the school office for registration information.

The San Antonio Radio Club will hold its annual swapfest on Saturday, January 11 at Crossroads Bingo on Gen. McMullen Drive.

The Texas VHF/FM Society will be meeting in Arlington on January 26. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

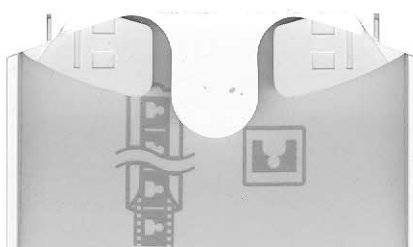
Program

David Sprague introduced the speaker for the evening, Lou Thompson, W5ITU, who told the club more than I ever dreamed it was possible to know about the use of sonobuoys by the US Navy. Lou has been working with this program for many years and presented an excellent, fascinating program.

This is my last report as your Secretary and I want to take a minute to add that I have enjoyed the job and it's been a real pleasure working with the other club officers, Gene Van Zelfden, David Sprague, Stu Rohre, and Frank Edwards who helped make the job a lot easier. Special thanks to Mickey McInnis, AARC/Over editor who was always there to remind me, and is the person primarily responsible for making sure the minutes were turned in on time. Thanks, Mickey, and thanks for cleaning all my typing errors too.

Submitted with pleasure,

June Parchman, KK5AM
AARC Secretary



South Austin W5YI VE Team Session Report

Congratulations to all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at the November 16th exam session of the South Austin W5YI VE team:

Kenneth E. Harker	N1PVB	Advanced Class
Ronald L. Stephens	KC5TNN	Technician Plus
Michael T. Vrabel	KC5AQI	Technician Plus
Wilbur C. Allmeyer	KC5WZU	Technician Plus
Nestor A. Fesas	KC5WZW	Technician Plus
Jimmie L. Loving	KC5WZV	Technician Plus
Charlie P. Lutz	KC5WZT	Technician Plus

Our Volunteer examiners were Bob Basinger N5NE, Hugh Brown, KC5EIIY, Jeff Deins, KK5TO, Cathy Donahoe, KK5XT, Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5HYR, Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, Emil Kasprzyk, K5JTP, Tony Lyon, KC5XF, Roger Pfluger, AC5IP, Joe Thiel, N5SMN and Lloyd Walls, WA1PRY.

Our next session is set for January 18th. As always, we will start at 2:00 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University.

Starting on January 1, 1997, the examination fee at all sessions will increase to 6.25, as caused by a 3.003% hike in the Consumer Price Index.

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

Call Sign SNAFU at FCC Affects New Hams

Imagine you've just passed your licensing examination and your new ticket finally arrives in the mail bearing your brand-new call sign. Maybe you even order a batch of new QSL cards. Then, you get on the air only to learn that your brand-new call sign isn't your call sign after all, because the FCC already had issued it to someone else!

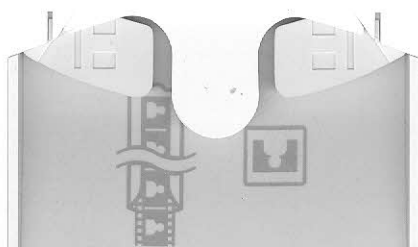
In fact, in some cases during mid to late October, the FCC's computers apparently issued the same call sign to several individuals at different times. In a way, it's been a game of musical chairs, but one where the last person to be assigned the call sign gets to keep it. Among those affected were Louise Williams, KF4MTE, and John Lake, KF4MTC, both of Newberry, South Carolina, and

George Merchant, KF4MTD, of Joanna, South Carolina. Williams first was issued KF4MTO. A check of the FCC transaction records indicates that KF4MTO was a busy call sign, having first been assigned Williams on October 23, then reassigned on October 30 to another YL in North Carolina before ending up with its "rightful" owner, yet another YL in Tennessee on November 2. Williams was issued KF4MTE on the same date, but not before the call sign had briefly been assigned first to different individuals in Florida, also on October 23 and October 30, respectively. Lake's and Merchant's call signs had similar histories, and they, in turn, had first received other call signs on their new licenses.

The FCC discovered the problem in late October. Commission personnel were wrestling with computer-related problems for about a week during late October and early November, just prior to issuing the first Gate 2 vanity call signs on November 4. All of those affected appear to be first-time licensees.

"The incorrect licenses were not supposed to be mailed out, but somehow, they were mailed out," said a spokesman at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office. He said he had "no idea" how many licensees were affected, but he believes the FCC's current database has been corrected so that no call sign has multiple holders. But some people affected might not have gotten the word yet. "The correct licenses might not have been mailed out, so they might be holding a license with the wrong call sign," he conceded. "We're going to try and see which ones didn't get mailed out." He emphasized that the call sign in the current FCC database is the correct call sign. Gettysburg personnel were looking into the reasons for the irregularity with an eye toward making sure it doesn't happen again, he said.

de ARRL and ARRL Letter



Huck's Country Store

The Mainspring of Amateur Radio

When I was a small boy, an old clockmaker explained that he used a key to wind his clock. He told me he stored "work" in a device called a "mainspring" and that work would keep the clock going for a whole week! This stored mechanical energy charmed my life! I thought "How wonderful it is to save up work." I later discovered that money in your pocket is storage of the fruits of your labor.

Even as a small boy, I began to dream of ways to store energy.

Over at the railroad station Mr. Patrick told me he had some work packed away in about 30 big glass jars. Those were the local and line battery jars for the telegraph system. He said, "These jars are full of electricity." And he related that each rail car a tank of air that "stored up work" to operate the brakes. He said some automobiles had a storage battery to start the engine. My papa had a 1916 Model T Ford truck that was hand cranked. That battery story sounded like a "fish story" to me.

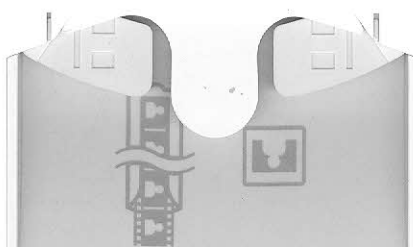
By age 10, I knew that a battery was a great and wonderful device. By age 15, most automobiles no longer had an engine starting crank supplied with a new vehicle. The battery had arrived in its glory!

The numble battery powers jut about every facet of our life today. My watch, clock radio, hearing aid, tooth brush, shaver, grandkid's toys, amateur radio, automobiles, computers, lighs, medical equipment, cameras and most other thins about the house run on a battery.

This "wonderful mainspring of electrical energy" is so widely used that every store offers at least a few types of batteries! A few days ago I looked at the display of batteries in a local grocery store. They ranged in size from less than that of an aspirin tablet to on to power a video camera for 2 hours!

Call the battery an electrical mainspring, energy storage, storehouse of work, or whatever. it is an important part of our daily life. Rechargeable or throw away, the battery is here to stay.

de "old Huck" AA5BU



Calendar

January

- 7 ARO Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 11 Ham Exams Murchison 8:30 AM
- 11 ARO Transmitter Hunt 7 PM
- 11 Swapfest SA, TX Crossroads Bingo
- 14 AARC Meeting @ Luby's 7:30 PM
- 15 QCWA Meeting @ Luby's at 7 PM
- 18 Ham Exams, St. Ed's 2 PM
- 22 Swapfest, UT Arlington
- 27 CTDXCC Old Quarry Library 7 PM

February

- 2 Georgetown Swapfest
- 15 Smithville Swapfest

April

- 19 Belton Swapfest

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. 1/11/97, 2/8, 3/8, 4/5, 5/10, 6/7.

The AARC sponsors ARRL VEC ham exams at 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month at Murchison Middle School. 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 1/18/97, 2/22, 3/29, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21. 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 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 1/28/97*, 4/29, 7/29, 9/30, 12/30. (*12/31/96 meeting rescheduled to 1/28/97.)

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. 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.

