

AARC/OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

March 1997

Issue 3-97

Club Meetings

Austin Repeater Organization
Tuesday, 4 March 1997, 7:30 pm.

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday, 11 March 1997, 7:30 pm.

Austin Amateur TV Club
Tuesday, 18 March 1997, 7:30 pm.

All these organizations meet at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop, about a block west of Burnet Road. We meet in the back room about as far from the cash register as we can get. Visitors are welcome whether they are licensed hams or not.

Austin Amateur Radio Club February 1997

Minutes

(No minutes were received by the Newsletter deadline.)

Program:

The new ARRL videotape of their new Technician Class Training Program was shown courtesy of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club.

- **Planned for March:** All You Ever Wanted to Know About FETs by Ed Ochsnard.

Austin Repeater Organization February 1997

Minutes

The meeting was held on 4 February 1997 at Luby's Cafeteria, North Loop, Austin, TX. President Lansing Pugh [KK5VK] called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Visitors and New Members

The organization welcomed visitors Kip Chatterson [KC5YQS] and Galen Barnaby [KY1T] of Austin, and David McCarthy [KC7AYX] of Flagstaff, Arizona. There were no new members.

Minutes

A motion was approved to accept the minutes for the January 1997 meeting as submitted by Secretary Sam Mihalik [KB5TKF] and published in the March 1997 AARC/Over, ARO Monitor.

Officer Reports

Treasury: Treasurer Roger Wines [WA5WIA] reports a balance of \$5,619.40.

Technical Committee: No one from the technical committee presented a report.

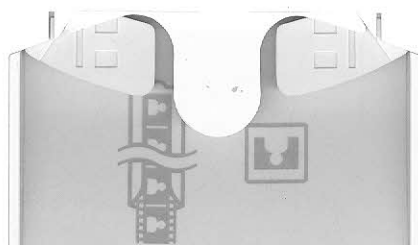
Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business and Announcements

President Pugh reminded everyone that the transmitter hunt would be held as scheduled at 7 pm on the Saturday following the ARO Meeting. Interested hams were asked to tune to the 146.94 MHz repeater Saturday evening for instructions and boundaries.

Jeff Schmidt [N5MNV] once again announced that Novice/Technician classes would begin on Saturday, 22 March 1997 at Murchison Middle School. Each session is scheduled to begin at 8:30 am and will end at Noon. Jeff asked for volunteers to help him teach the class. Persons inter-



Club Information**Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., P. O. Box 13473, Austin, TX 78711-3473**

President	Gene Van Zelfden	KB5UGO	342-0620	adrian@zilker.net
Vice President	(Your Name Here?)			
Treasurer	Mickey McInnis	KB5YAC	339-0344	mcinnis@austin.ibm.com
Secretary	Morgan Palmer	KC5GPG	349-0652	
Activity Manager	Joan Cox	KD4SRD	288-4135	w0raokd4srd@worldnet.att.net

Committees & Positions

Technical	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818	
ARRL Travis Co. Emergency Coord.	Mac Cannary	KB5VYT	339-9531	kb5vyt@moontower.com
ARRL Public Information Coordinator	Hal Henegar	W5MDL	836-2012	jevpl1a@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	Hugo Sanchez	N5JGX	459-7228	
Secretary	Sam Mihalik	KB5SML	282-6229	smihalik@fand.tdh.state.tx.us
Treasurer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	
Editor	Lloyd Crawford	N5GDB	892-3912	lbcrawford@themall.net
Director	Juanthenia Kinney	KA5TXK		
Director	Nick Broline	W5FUA	929-4314	nick_broline@tracor.com
Director	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNW	255-6753	jeff_schmidt@email.spts.mot.com
Director	Keith Watson	WB9KHL	288-9709	watson@apple.com
Director	Fred Neuenschwander	W5FQR	345-2145	

Please contact a club officer, attend a meeting, or mail us to join either organization.

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Membership dues are \$8.00 per calendar year (\$10.00 for a family). Joint ARO/AARC dues are \$15.00 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 \$8.00 per calendar year. Joint ARO/AARC dues are \$15.00 per year. Family membership is \$10.00 per year.

ARO maintains the following repeaters: 146.88 MHz offset -600 kHz and 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; and 145.01 MHz is the packed 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.

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.

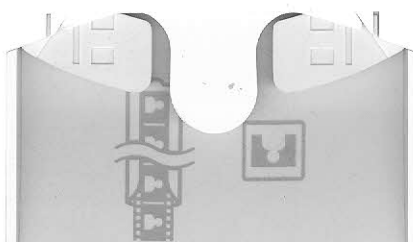
AARC/Over Information

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Viewpoints expressed in the AARC/Over do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers.

Members and other readers are encouraged to submit material for publication. Mail to Lloyd Crawford at P. O. Box 91058, Austin, TX 78709-1058, or e-mail to lbcrawford@themall.net (Internet), 892-3912 voice, or FAX 892-5101. 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



ested in participating should call him at (512) 255-6753. Jeff also congratulated Newsletter Editor Lloyd Crawford [N5GDB] for the layout of the February AARC/Over.

Lloyd Crawford [N5GDB] asked the membership for help in obtaining articles for publication in the newsletter. Anyone with articles to contribute should e-mail them to Lloyd at lb Crawford@themall.net, or FAX them to him at (512) 892-3912 if the articles are time-sensitive or mail non-time-sensitive items to him at Box 91058, Austin, TX 78709-1058.

Stuart Rohre [K5VKH] asked for maximum participation in the ARES exercise to be held next Sunday Evening at 6:30 pm CST. Stuart suggested that every ham should generate a message to someone out of town in time for Saint Valentine's Day. Anyone can contact Stuart for more information by e-mailing him at rohre@arlut.utexas.edu.

Roger Wines [W5WIA] announced that the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) plans to sponsor a booth at the Austin-Travis County Fair to be held March 12th through March 24th at the Travis County Heritage Center. Roger asked for volunteers to help the QWCA demonstrate amateur radio equipment at the booth. Assistance will be needed from late afternoon until early evening.

Jerry Butler [KB5WZW] asked for volunteers to assist communications at the Motorola Marathon scheduled for 16 February 1997. Volunteers were asked to contact him at 837-7925 or to contact Martin Wennerstrom [KM5CT] at 891-8407.

Don Fuller [KB5CRD] had three announcements. First, he announced that the Central Texas Traffic Net (CTTN) meets twice daily on 147.14 at 6:30 pm and on 147.10 at 7:30 pm. Second, he invited interested hams to apply for membership in the Texas Amateur Radio League, a new amateur radio organization that charges no dues, holds no meetings, yet provides a lot of activities. Finally, he announced that Mr. Gatti's, Inc., was sponsoring its Tours of Texas bicycling event to be held 10 miles south of San Marcos on March 1st and March 2nd at 7:30 am. He introduced Bill Glaze [no call] of Mr. Gatti's who described the races associated with the event and answered questions. According to Don and Bill, approximately 30 amateur radio operators would be needed each day of the race to provide communications support.

John Fabac [AB5UP] announced that the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club was sponsoring an upgrade class designed to assist Technician Class Licensees to learn Morse Code. Persons interested in participating were asked to contact Bill Sepulveda [N5EIF] or Tom Whiteside [N5TW].

Also announced was the Bastrop County Swapfest scheduled for 15 February at 8:00 am and a SkyWarn class to be held Saturday, 1 March 1997, from 8:45 am to 4:00 pm at 3M Austin Center.

Program

Vice President Hugo Sanchez [N5JGX] introduced Geoff Stephens [N5SBF]. Geoff demonstrated how screen readers can be used to assist visually handicapped persons to surf the Internet. He recalled using computer voice synthesizers on Apple IIE computers during the early 1980's and described the development of screen readers for DOS and Windows. Finally, he accessed the web using a Keynote voice synthesizer, Jaws for Windows, and MicroSoft Internet Explorer.

According to Geoff, the Internet, particularly the World-Wide Web, has opened up a whole new world for visually handicapped people. Geoff explained that visually handicapped web surfers have difficulty using a mouse or viewing graphics. These problems are solved by using the numeric keypad and the tab key to control the browser and by having a sighted person label the graphics.

Geoff demonstrated how the system worked by accessing the web pages at spring.com. He suggested that anyone interested in screen readers should download the Screen Access demo at WWW@screenaccess.com.

Membership Renewals

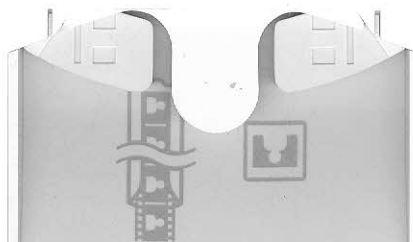
Membership renewal forms will be mailed to you soon. Please don't send in your renewals until you receive the renewal form in order to make it easier to process and update the membership list. ***However, if the form does not have a place to enter an e-mail address (if you have one), please add any e-mail address to the form.***

Announcements/News

SKYWARN '97

The annual Lou Withrow SkyWarn Severe Weather Spotter Training Session will cover:

- Severe Storm Development
- Flash Flooding
- Unique south Texas Tornadoes (Non-Supercells)



Where: 3M Austin Center, Austin, TX, RR2222 just east of 620.

When: Saturday, 1 March 1997, 8:45 am to 4:00 pm. (Registration begins at 8:15 am.)

Chief Instructor: Larry Eblen, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Austin/San Antonio.

There is no admission cost; optional catered Bar-B-Que lunch at \$6.00 per person. If you attended last year, bring your SkyWarn Binder for updates.

For further information, contact Session Co-chairs Troy Kimmel (476-7777) or Mark Murray (459-6521).

South Austin W5YI VE Team 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 18 January 1997 session:

Ralph C. Rice, W0DOL.....General Class

Arthur R. Caraway, NEWTechnician

Kip R. Chatterson, NEWTechnician

Phyllis C. Deines, NEWTechnician

Mark A. Steinbach, NEWTechnician

Our volunteer examiners were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O; Emil Kasprzyk, K5JTP; Jeff Deines, Sr., KK5TO; Roger Pfluger, AC5IP; Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5NYR; Dan Sherman, KG5HKU; Jim Greenwood, AB5EK; Carol Thiel, N5TLY; and Joe Theil, N5SMN.

The March session will be held on 29 March at 2:00 pm in Room 109 of Fleck Hall on the Campus of St. Edward's University. Note that the examination fee for all license examinations during 1997 will be \$6.25. For more information, call Jim, AB5EK, at 327-6184.

ARRL VEC Team Session Report

The ARRL VEC does not publish the results of ARRL VEC examination sessions which includes the names or identification of individuals. However, it can be reported

that two new licenses were obtained at the January exam session, a Technician and a Technician Plus.

Contact Joe Thiel, N5SMN, 832-0450 (home), for information concerning the ARRL VEC examination sessions.

On-line Callsign Checking:

The following World Wide Web addresses are sources of callsign information and on checking for issuance of vanity callsigns:

University of Arkansas, <http://www.ualr.edu/~hamradio/>

Buckmaster, http://www.buck.com/cgi-bin/do_hamcall

FCC Amateur Service Page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html>

ARRL Web Page, <http://www.ARRL.ORG/fcc/fcclld.html>

QRZ Page, <http://www.qrz.com/cgi-bin/webcall>

WM7D, <http://www.rdatasys.com/~mdowning/fcc/callsign.html> (This database allows searching for any specific call including inactive or unissued numbers or any combination of name, and/or City, State, or Zip code. It also reports on calls and vanity calls issued **Yesterday!**) This database is updated daily.

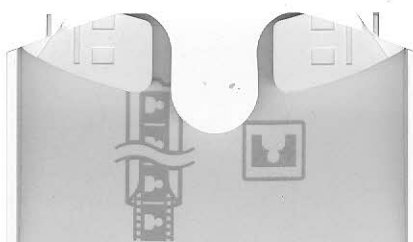
K4MA, <http://www.webbuild.com/~ki4hn/vanitytd.htm>

On Friday, 21 February 1997, the ARRL Bulletin, ARLB011 announced that the FCC has a new toll-free telephone number

"The FCC has designated a new, toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio License inquiries--including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The new number, **888-225-5322**, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Callers to the old consumer information number will get a message referring them to the new number.

Swapfests for 1997

15-16 March	Midland
19 April	Belton
15-18 May	Dayton Hamvention



6-8 June	Ham-Com Arlington
1-3 August	Austin Summerfest
1-2 November	Odessa

Sun	(After Swapnet) Newsline	146.94 MHz
Thu	11:30-1:00 Lunch at Holiday House	
Sat	7:00-8:30 AM Breakfast at Waterloo Ice House, 8600 Burnet Road.	
	Monitor 444.1 MHz	

Calendar

March

- 1 SKYWARN at 3M facility--
Bring last year's red binders.
- 1 Bicycle Race--2 days, San Marcos
- 4 ARO Meeting @ Luby's, 7:30 pm
- 8 ARO Transmitter Hunt, 7:00 pm
- 12-24 Austin-Travis County Youth Fair
- 11 AARC Meeting @ Luby's, 7:30 pm
- 15 QCWA Fellowship @ Luby's, 11:30 am
- 18 Austin Amateur TV Club @ Luby's, 7:30 pm
- 18 AARC Board Meeting @ Texas Rib Kings
- 19 QCWA Meeting @ Luby's, 7:30 pm
- 22 Novice/No-code Technician classes begin.
See class announcement in this issue.
- 29 W5YI VEC Exams @ St. Edward's Univ, 2:pm

April

- 1 ARO Meeting @ Luby's, 7:30 pm
- 5 Novice/No-code Technician classes
- 5 ARO Transmitter Hunt, 7:00 pm
- 6 Capitol 10k Race
- 8 AARC Meeting @ Luby's, 7:30 pm
- 12 Novice/No-code Technician classes
- 15 QCWA Fellowship @ Luby's, 11:30 am
- 15 AARC Board Meeting @ Texas Rib Kings
- 19 Belton Hamfest;
Novice/No-code Technician classes field trip
- 26 Novice/No-code Technician classes
- 29 ARES Meeting

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

Most Austin radio club meetings are held at Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop.

The Austin Repeater Organization (ARO) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Luby's at 7:30 pm.

The Austin Amateur Radio Club (AARC) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Luby's at 7:30 pm.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) 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 7:00 pm on the Saturday following the ARO meeting. The hunt frequency is 146.52 with coordination on 146.94. Projected dates are: ... 2/8, 3/8, 4/5, 5/10, and 6/7.

The AARC sponsors ARRL VEC ham exams at 8:30 am on the first Saturday of each month at Murchison Middle School. Projected dates are 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/14* (*not a normal week), and 7/12. Contact Joe Thiel, N5SMN.

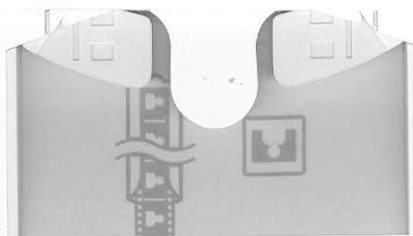
Ham exams will be held at 2:00 pm in Fleck Hall, Room 109, St. Edward's University, 3001 South Congress Avenue, on the third Saturday of each month. 327-6184. Projected dates are 2/22, 3/29, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, 327-6184.

The ARO Swapnet is transmitted on Sunday at 9:00 pm on the 146.94 MHz repeater. Newsline, an amateur radio news program, follows the swapnet. 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 on 146.94 MHz and 8:30 pm on 146.78 MHz. A packet session is held at 7:30 pm on 145.73 MHz (backup: 145.79 mHz) unconnect 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. Projected dates are 4/29, 7/29, 9/30, 12/30.



The Central Texas DX Contest Club (CTDXCC) meets at 7:00 pm at the Old Quarry Library off Far West Blvd. on the 4th Monday of each month. Projected dates are: 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/19* (* not normal week), 6/23, 7/28, 8/25. Contact: Ed Linde, K0GEX, 345-3627.

Some Comments on Propagation (ARLP008 Propagation de KT7H)

Solar activity continues low, with flux values still running lower on every day than the average for the previous 90 days, which dropped this week from 78 to 77. Geomagnetic indices rose on February 17 with estimated planetary K indices as high as five.

Low solar and geomagnetic activity is good news though for the 160 meter contest this weekend. Expect good conditions throughout the contest, with little threat of a geomagnetic upset. For the next few weeks conditions are expected to stay the same, with solar flux in the low to mid seventies.

The latest long term forecast shows the next solar cycle peaking just three years from now. This poses the question--why haven't we seen much activity yet from the new cycle? The projection is based on previous cycles, and indicates an average sunspot number doubling to 44 by July. It also shows solar flux of 77 for January, 80 for February, 84 for March, and 100 by July. Currently it appears that actual conditions are lagging these projections.

Sunspot Numbers for February 13 through 19 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 13, and 15 with a mean of 4. Flux at 10.7 cm was 71.1, 71.3, 71.8, 72, 73.1, 72.9, and 72, with a mean of 72. Estimated planetary A indices for the same period were 4, 5, 4, 8, 17, 7, and 3, with a mean of 6.9.

"Huck's Country Store"

The Fun-Way to 20-WPM CW

You have passed 5-WPM code speed and have a new "Ham Ticket". Now is the time to upgrade! After 56 years of Ham Radio, I know all the excuses: Let's discuss the 20-WPM task in a Fun-Way.

The first "Fun-Way Step" is to operate: Eighty and 40 meter bands have sectors for slow-speed operators. These bands are in-and-out, so some time selection will be in

order. Listen-listen-listen: This will teach you the operating procedures that are so important to making good solid QSOs. Other stations are reluctant to talk to those who are not reasonably good in their operating procedures; It's somewhat like trying to enjoy a letter written in poor script!

Learn to send your call in a clear, crisp form. If your call is not clear, no one can talk to you! Learn to copy in "The Real World". There is no perfect and sterile signal on the air. Discount the noise; separate stations by different pitch. It boils down to this: "If you can hear the stations, you can copy it." Don't concentrate on that which is unimportant!

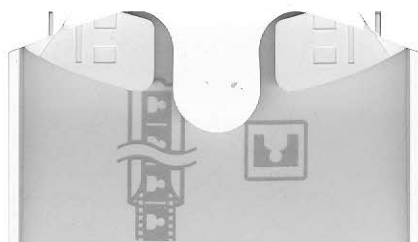
Keep truth in your QSO: Don't say QRM (interference) when you really mean QRS (slow down). You will be under great stress on your first few contacts. Use short sentences with a slight time-break between them. Example: "My name is John." "The QTH is Austin, Texas." "I am nineteen years old (spelled out)." "You are my first contact", etc.

You will have trouble with composing your text. Make up a few flash-cards for your operating position. Each can have a single statement in large print: Select a few of these statements for your early QSOs.

You must have a good key and audio keying monitor. Make some practice QSOs (off the air) and record them on audio tape: Play them back and critique your operation. I still do this at regular intervals after 56 years of CW operation.

What kind of Key? Purchase the best you can afford, then master its use. I recommend a Bencher Paddle and one of the little Electronic Keyers with an Audio Monitor; such as MFJ Econo-Keyer II MOD 401-B. There are many other types available of equal-or-better value. However, this one is suitable for any speed you will ever hear on the air. How about a "Bug" or Keyboard? In general terms a "Bug" is much more difficult to master to the point of "Excellent CW". What are the merits of a Keyboard? They send perfect CW! I have the MFJ keyboard; but rarely use it. It is probably not the device for the new CW operator. Why? You type into memory and your sidetone follows the key strokes later by the memory depth. Unless you are a Master Typewriter, it adds confusion to the other stresses of the new operator. A second factor is that it requires lots of shifting for signs and character ligatures; by example \overline{AS} and \overline{SK} . The Bencher Paddle makes all characters of our code with the finger and thumbs tip!

Make a contact: Let's say 5-WPM. Keep it short; possible 5-10 minutes. That's enough for your first sitting. Now retrace every operation in your mind and do some off-the-air practice to polish-up your new skills.



High Frequency Radio is much like fishing in the ocean: You have no idea what is out there until you make the catch? On VHF Radio our range is limited somewhat by our Repeater System. On HF Radio it is not unusual to work far-away nations with 50 watts and a simple antenna!

Don't expect each CQ to make a contact: In fact, most of them will not; even with the "Big Boys of Ham Radio". Your best method is to replay to the CQ from another station. You have a preview of band conditions and signal strength. Also, you are sure he is listening for you! You need about two S-Units above the noise for good CW copy. Turn down your RF Gain so all the noise is gone. Don't begin operating QSK (Full Break-In). The noise on Key-Up is too much problem for most new operators.

Many of the foregoing steps can be practiced off-the-air. When you master them, it is time for your first contact. A great thrill to an old CW operator is the first contact for a new Ham: I've had that pleasure about a dozen times; the most recent was about six years ago. "US Old Birds" would love to be your first QSO!

And how about "The Fun-Way To 20-WPM"? Once you have conquered these items, you just can't wait for more! And here is where you will get the speed: Make one contact per day for one year; you will be able to copy 20-30 WPM with great ease! A contact per day is better training that seven on a given day in a week.

Advantages of CW: It opens up a whole new world of contacts. Signals too weak for reception by other modes are easily read. And, it unlocks the Jail-House that the Repeater has on Ham Radio. --DE Old Huck AA5BU

News of Interest to Radio Amateurs:

Note: the following three items are quoted from The ARRL Letter, Vol 16, No. 6.

AMATEUR RADIO GAINS GROUND IN LITTLE LEO BATTLE

As the fight continues to prevent hams from having to share 2 meters and 70 cm with the Low-Earth-Orbiting satellite industry, changes favorable to Amateur Radio have been incorporated in a draft report that will eventually go to the FCC. While the Little LEO industry persists in its efforts to secure a foothold on both bands, it seems to have turned its sights away from 144 to 146 MHz in favor of 146 to 148 MHz, which is not an amateur allocation in Region 1. But, most significant was the addition of eight words--at the ARRL's request--to a draft report section dealing with sharing with Amateur Radio: "Any consideration of sharing

would require further study." AMSAT supported the League in requesting the changes.

The latest draft also now states, "The diverse nature of the Amateur Service characteristics makes sharing difficult, but it has not yet been demonstrated to be impossible." The Informal Working Group-2A (IWG-2A) approved the changes at its January 21 meeting in Washington, DC. An earlier draft of the same section had called sharing "difficult, but not impossible" and claimed that studies had not considered certain sharing techniques discussed elsewhere in the report. The ARRL objected on the grounds that its study had taken some of the sharing techniques into account.

In this section of the report, the Little LEO industry also backed away from references that cited resolution 640 (an ITU radio regulation that involves the use of specific bands on an emergency basis) as a way to leverage access to 430 to 440 MHz and 146 to 148 MHz in Regions 2 and 3, where that 2-meter band segment is an exclusive amateur allocation.

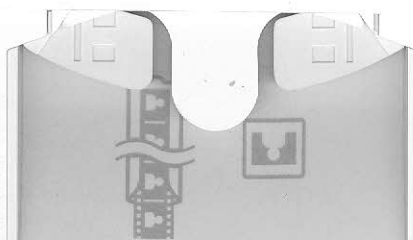
It is expected that when the FCC's WRC-97 Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) meets March 5, it will adopt the sharing section of the report (Section 4.12) as part of its report.

With the possible exception of 144 to 146 MHz, Amateur Radio is still not out of the woods, however. Another paper still under consideration in IWG-2A--submitted by a Little LEO consultant at the January 21 meeting--proposes Little LEO sharing in several bands, including 146 to 148 MHz and 430 to 450 MHz in those parts of the world where the Amateur Service is not primary (which, in the case of 430 to 450 MHz, includes the US), with provisions for emergency use elsewhere.

The ARRL objects to these proposals, noting that they are inconsistent with the report language that's already been agreed upon. The US Department of Defense objects to Little LEO allocations at 430 to 450 MHz, where radiolocation (radar) is primary. Military radar and Amateur Radio operations have a long record of coexistence that would be upset by the introduction of a new satellite service.

Two Little LEO representatives on IWG-2A declined to lend their names to the most recent proposals, which were submitted in the names of CTA, E-SAT, Final Analysis, GE Starsys and VITA--all players in the Little LEO effort.

Any papers on which agreement cannot be reached within IWG-2A will not be included in the body of the report, but will be included in an annex along with opposing comments. At future IWG-2A meetings, the ARRL will con-



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tinue to protest the inclusion in this paper of the 146 to 148 MHz and 430 to 450 MHz bands.

HAMS USING APRS AND GPS ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO DGPS STUDY

Hams involved with APRS and GPS are being asked to contribute to a federal study into the benefits of establishing a national differential global positioning system (DGPS) radio beacon service. The US Coast Guard and the US Army Corps of Engineers already provide (or soon will provide) DGPS signals in coastal areas and along navigable waterways. Terrestrial DGPS signals in the 285 to 325 kHz spectrum--complement satellite GPS data by increasing their accuracy. Ted Pugh of PB Farradyne Inc, which is studying the benefits and feasibility of setting up an inland DGPS system, wants to hear from the amateur community about its use of GPS and APRS in public safety applications, and how DGPS might help. "We are interested in any public benefit you or your organization might identify for such an undertaking--especially as it may relate to public safety or public betterment applications," said Pugh in a letter to ARRL HQ.

Pugh estimated that nationwide, no-cost DGPS service could be in place by 2001. Comments may be sent to John F. "Ted" Pugh at pugh@farradyne.com.

IN BRIEF:

Copy this weak signal and WIN \$100! A non-ham has become the first winner of the Mike Cook, AF9Y, weak-signal challenge. Gary Huntress, an electrical engineer at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, Rhode Island, deciphered the callsign of the very weak EME signal calling AF9Y from a 60-second .wav file that Cook has posted on his Web page, <http://www.webcom.com/af9y/> for the past couple of years. In addition to the \$100 prize, Huntress also got a free copy of Cook's FFTDSP42 program. Huntress has agreed to keep the identity of the calling station a mystery so the contest can continue. Cook says he'll award another \$100 to the second successful identification of the station.

The ARRLWeb page address is <http://www.arrl.org>.

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