



AARCOVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
 Austin Amateur Television Club
 Austin Repeater Organization

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Issue 03-2003

Shuttle Columbia Destroyed, Amateur Radio Operators Assist

(Excerpts taken from ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 6
 And letter from Charlie Land, KC5NKK)

On February 1, 2003, 16 minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia and her crew were lost. A trail of debris was scattered over Texas and Louisiana. The search for clues and answers as to what happened continue.

The STS-107 crew, headed by Commander Rick Husband, included Pilot Willie McCool, Mission Specialists Kalpana "KC" Chawla, KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, Michael Anderson, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut.

"The world has lost seven great heroes," said Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, a NASA employee, in extending condolences to the families and friends of the STS-107 crew. Bauer said the Columbia catastrophe "clearly demonstrated the challenging and sometimes sobering aspects" of human spaceflight. "Our quest for space must continue despite these tragic

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Keeping Emergency Lead Batteries Happy

Rick Herndon, K5FNI

I don't know if you've been disappointed by trying to keep lead-acid batteries happy like I have, but this idea may help in the future. I've tried keeping car batteries, both new and used, electric car batteries, and small gelled-electrolyte batteries happy. The current crop of 28 Amp hour (Ah) units that I bought at Summerfest is the only one I've saved very long. It seems that I forget to charge the batteries for many months, or I forget and leave the charger connected too long, which boils off the electrolyte. I heard seemingly apocryphal stories about special, multi-use chargers, that are supposed to both fast charge and keep the batteries alive over extended storage periods, but they always seemed north of \$30 in cost. Our local Harbor Freight outlet store (I have no connection, so don't worry) has a product that should help you out. It is their Item 41288, 12 Volt, Automatic Battery Float Charger, by Chicago Electric Power Tools. It is made in China, but seems to hold up well in continuous use at my QTH. I've seen them for \$14.99, but they are frequently on sale for a dollar or two under \$10, if you watch the company flyers or the shelves at the store. The unit has a nice LED that shows that you have voltage available at the battery clips.

I suggest you use an appropriate-sized charger to bring the batteries back up to full charge before you put them in connection to this unit. The text on the side of the box says: "Not a Trickle Charger. Perfect for Storing RV's, Motorcycles, Boats, Watercrafts And More! For Use On Flooded Or Gel-Cell

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Periodic Events

Sun	6:45 p.m., Bastrop ARES net	145.35-(114.8)/443.75 + MHz
Sun	7:30 p.m., Travis ARES net	147.36 MHz + (131.8)
Sun	8:00 p.m., Travis ARES Packet	145.73 MHz -
Sun	8:00 p.m., Williamson ARES net	145.13 MHz -
Sun	9:00 p.m., ARO Swapnet	146.94 MHz -
Sun	(After Swapnet) Newslines	146.94 MHz -
Mon	6:45 p.m., Hays ARES net	147.10 MHz -
Wed	11:30 a.m.-1p.m., Travis County ARES lunch @ Jim's	
	807 Camino La Costa on I-35 N. Frontage, 452-0450	
Thu	11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m., lunch, Waterloo Ice House	444.1 MHz+
Sat	7:00 - 8:30a.m., breakfast, Waterloo Ice House, 8600 Burnet	444.1 MHz +
Sat	9:00 a.m., Chapter 67 QCWA QSO Net	3.920 MHz LSB
Daily	CTTN Central Texas Traffic Net, 6:30 p.m.	147.14MHz+

THIS IS YOUR LAST AARCOVER...

unless your dues are paid for 2003. Your grace period is up. Determine your status by checking the date on the mailing label of this issue. If it isn't 2003, you are not registered for the year, or possibly a mistake has been made by the keeper of the records. If there is a question, please contact Roger - W5WIA at w5wia@arrl.net, or call him at 453-2193, or mail your payment of \$20 (single) or \$30 (family) to the addresses listed in this publication.

ARO Meeting, February 4, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by President Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV, at the Sirloin Stockade on North Lamar. Jeff mentioned that all members can take advantage of the dollar off coupon at this web site www.ssbuffet.com/navbar_2.htm.

Visitors: Lance Chambers, KD5UWW, and Al Smithson, KD5UWY, were new hams (and new members) in attendance. Byron Tapley, KD5OOA, was also welcomed as a new member.

Monthly Drawing Winner: Cheryl Preston, KD5IGF, if present, would have won the door prize and had her dinner paid by the club. Alan Russell, no call, was present and won the door prize, a stainless steel Texas ornament.

Minutes: The January 2003 ARO meeting minutes were approved as written.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Roger Wines, W5WIA, reported that the bank balance hadn't changed since last month.

Technical Committee: The only report was that the 220 machine is subject to broadcast interference.

Web Site: Get new and correct information to Lee Cooper, W5LHC.

Old Business: None.

New Business: President Schmidt brought up the subject of the local clubs sponsoring an Austin Swapfest. Many ARO members expressed interest. Jeff said it takes 20 to 25 people to coordinate this. He is looking for a venue that can accommodate 300 to 400 people.

Mitch London, KD5HCV, Editor of the AARCOVER, announced that he bought publishing software for his new duties and would like to be reimbursed. Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, said that ARO and AARC will get together and pay for it. (Approximately \$50 after rebates).

Ham of the Month: President Schmidt named Lori Schmidt as Ham of the Month for almost single-handedly putting on the recent Georgetown Swapmeet.

Equipment Loaner Program: Keith Watson, N9TX, has the club's antenna analyzer. Contact Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ, for signup.

Announcements: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, announced that the second Saturday QRP group meeting was on the same day as Landing Zone training. Those interested can get together after the LZ event.

Don Dudley, AC5YK, mentioned that coax for ARCHES installation at Heart Hospital was available. Bruce Sawtelle, W3NJ, wants a crew to put up the antennas this Saturday. Don also mentioned 2 bills in the state legislature that could use ham influence. The first was for Amateur Radio plates for motorcycles. The second was for expansion of the Amber Alert system.

Mitch London, KD5HCV, asked for submissions for the AARCOVER. He asked for stories or ideas for stories.

Rick Kirchhof, KD5ABM, announced that the Motorola Marathon still needed ham volunteers on Feb 16.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, said the recent bylaw change gave members 60 days to renew or be dropped from the roster. Those who did not renew by the end of February will not receive an AARCOVER.

Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ, announced that the ARES luncheon is held each Wednesday at 11:30 at the Jim's on I35 at St John's. Jeff Schmidt mentioned that the AARC holds a board meeting

on the third Tuesday of each month at the Sirloin Stockade and that the ARO board may consider a joint meeting the same night.

Pete Jordahl, K5GM, asked about the plans for AARC and ARO to combine into 1 club. Stu Rohre mentioned that the plan is still being considered, but the main thing was to consolidate things like the 2 PO boxes to save money.

Smokey Wiley also suggested that the club sell the TH77 and use the funds to buy another HT. The discussion was that the HT was difficult to program. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by the membership.

Activities: Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Program: The February program was presented by Glenn Currie, KD5MFW, and entitled Current Technology in Amateur Robotics. Glenn showed many photos and some video clips of robots built by a local organization called The Robot Group. He went over the kinds of power supplies these robots use (NiCd & Alkaline batteries, deep cycle batteries, pneumatic power); the basics of motion control (H bridges, PWMs, PID loops); the microcontrollers used (HC11, 68332, PIC, Atmel); the advances in telemetry (hacked cordless phones, radio modems, 802.11b); and sensors (SONAR, LASER ranger, IR sensors, motion detectors, IR rangers). Glenn mentioned that artificial intelligence (Neural net and agent based software) was being used for the Robot Brain project. The Robot Group is made up of artists, engineers, and experimenters. Check out their web site www.robotgroup.org for more information.

Submitted by John Suchyta, KG5O

ARO Secretary

Austin Amateur Radio Club

The monthly meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club was held on February 11th, 2003 at Sirloin Stockade, Koenig & Lamar, Austin, Texas. Club President John Suchyta, KG5O, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

Monthly Prize Winner: The monthly free dinner was won by Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV

Visitors and New Members: Joe Dorn, W5VEX, Gerald Garcia, W5GWG, Lance Chambers, KD5UWW

Approval of the Minutes: Lee Cooper, W5LHC moved that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

Officer Reports

Vice President - Mitch London, KD5HCV Mitch announced the continuing need for speakers and topics for the AARC programs. If you have a suggestion or are willing to give a presentation, please contact Mitch London, KD5HCV.

Treasurer - Roger Wines, W5WIA
Balance in the club treasury as of Jan 31, 2003 is \$1900.94

Activities Manager - Stuart Rohre, K5KVH
Stuart announced the Austin Amateur Radio Club Scholarship Program. All applications need to be submitted to the Austin Community Foundation by March 1, 2003.

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(Continued from page 2) AARC Minutes

Also, contact Stuart regarding Field Day preparations.

ARES Liaison - Lee Cooper, K5LHC

Lee Cooper announced that the SkyWarn class would be held early this year. It will be at the same 3M location as in the past, but will be held Feb 22 from 9-2:30. Barbecue by Poke-Joe's will be \$7.00.

Shuttle recovery support efforts are winding down.

Technical Committee Ed Golla, K3AHS

There were no issues reported with the 146.78 repeater.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business: No New Business

Announcements

Roger Wines announced a new group, the Texas Citizen's Corps and he is trying to recruit amateur radio operators to help with this effort. Contact Roger for more information.

John Suchyta, KG5O announced the need for Motorola Marathon help.

Mitch London put on his AARCOVER editor's hat and asked for contributions.

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW announced a movement in the amateur radio community to return a hamfest/swapfest event to Travis County. Unlike the Summerfest Convention, this event will focus more on being a swap meet and less on being a convention. Contact Jeff for more information.

Stuart Rohre announced a winter contest that is scheduled for the same day as SkyWarn (Feb 22). Stuart wants to use the end of the SkyWarn training session to make a few contacts and let everyone up north know what fine weather we're having here in Texas. Contact Stuart for more information.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:38

Program: ICOM presented a demonstration and instruction about their latest line of amateur radio equipment.

Belton Ham Expo

Ham Expo is *Saturday, April 5th* at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas. The only Friday Activity, is setup for dealers and pre-registered non-commercial tailgaters. Ham Expo is your opportunity to sell product or distribute information to about 2,000 people on a Saturday morning. If you've been here, you know this is a first class event. If you haven't tried Ham Expo, let us show you its profitable benefits. Ham Expo is indoors. All spaces have free electricity. There are a limited number of spaces against the wall.

All pre-registrations are classified as either *COMMERCIAL* or *NON-COMMERCIAL* vendors.

COMMERCIAL VENDOR spaces with tables (8'): \$25.00 each. You must set up on Friday, April 4th between 1:00 and 10:00 p.m. You may drive your vehicle inside to unload your display. If you need to set up on Saturday morning, you must do it between 5:30 and 7:00 a.m., you cannot pre-register, and you cannot drive your vehicle inside to unload on Saturday and the spaces must be bought at the door between 5:30 - 7:00 a.m.

NON-COMMERCIAL VENDOR spaces with tables (8'): \$25.00 each. You must set up on Friday, April 4th between 1:00 and 10:00 p.m. You may drive your vehicle inside to unload your display. If you need to set up on Saturday morning, you must do it between 5:30 and 7:00 a.m., you can't pre-register, and you cannot drive your vehicle inside to unload on Saturday. For Saturday setup, spaces must be bought at the door, 5:30-7:00 a.m.

The DEADLINE for registering is *Tuesday, April 1, 2003*. Reserve your space at Ham Expo 2003 today.

Reservations canceled by April 1, 2003 will receive a full refund. Reservations canceled after April 1, 2003, receive a 50 percent refund. The Ham Expo committee of Temple Amateur Radio Club is working to make this another profitable event for you. Questions? E-mail to hamexpo@tarc.org, or call Mike WA5EQQ at (254)773-3590 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)--answering machine after 6th ring.

See you at Ham Expo in Belton, Texas, on April 5th!

Calling All Hams!

Roger Wines, W5WIA

The call needs to go out. There are 2500 Hams in Austin/Travis County, of which there is about 8% active with one or more of the groups/clubs. In the event of an emergency, be it storms, terrorist attack, war, or some other disaster, it will strain our ability to cover all the areas needed for the event. We need every Ham in the community to be up to the latest with the training and understanding of the operations, should we be called into action.

There is a current call to action with all of us participating. We need to be the watchful eyes and ears of everything around us on a daily basis, and report ANY unusual events that could lead to something of a disaster.

There are several ways in which to be involved as a Ham, and as a citizen of the community. There are a number of groups/organizations that have begun as a result of the possibilities of pending disasters. ARES is gearing up and training in communication support to the served agencies. A few hundred more are needed in this area alone. There is a program called CERTS, whereby citizens can take the training, coming up soon, to be 'first-on-the-scene' responders (in their own respective neighbor-

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(Continued from page 1) Shuttle Columbia losses," he said.

In Texas, Amateur Radio Emergency Service and SKYWARN volunteers assisted federal, state and local officials and relief organizations in their search for shuttle Columbia debris and remains of the crew members. They went equipped with GPS's, radios and in some cases sleeping bags. Charlie Land, KC5NKK of San Antonio, Texas was one of the Amateur Radio volunteers, "Our team turned in 15 pieces of debris," he said, "the largest was a piece of structural steel about two feet long. One end had holes where bolts had been ripped out," "Another team found a ladies watch that had stopped at 9:06."

"Ham radio has proven to be the only reliable communications options during the recovery effort," said Public Information Officer Tim Lewallen, KD5ING, of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. "The communications systems used by other federal and state organizations cannot penetrate 'The Pine Curtain' as we know it in East Texas," he said. Lewallen stated federal authorities have requested that every survey team have at least one Amateur Radio operator along to help keep the recovery efforts coordinated and organized.

Built in 1981, Columbia was the oldest shuttle in NASA's fleet and was the first to carry Amateur Radio. Retired astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, became the first ham to operate from space in November 1983. Thousands heard W5LFL, and hundreds had direct QSOs with him on 2 meters.

Refurbished in 1999, Columbia was on its 28th space mission.

(Continued from page 3) Calling All Hams

hoods) to emergency situations, especially designed for major disasters. As a Ham, you will have to make decisions about your position when the time comes. If you are certified as 'CERTS', you will be expected to stay in your own neighborhood and help PLUS report the necessary information to the authorities. If you are not needed in your own neighborhood, you could be called to go to some location as an operator to be the communications person. There are many ways in which to utilize your abilities - especially with your communications skills - and there is a need for all to be trained and be ready to respond. Every Ham should be skilled in emergency communications - ARES (or other), and/or trained in CERTS, or trained with some other group that can use you. This is not the time to hide under a rock. We each need to contact every Ham we can find and encourage them to be involved.

For additional information, contact Roger - W5WIA, and to learn about the Citizen Corps and CERTS, go to www.citizencorps.com, and be sure to make every meeting you can about these topics.

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC - Feb 1, 2003

Technician Class Licenses Processed

David Payne Donald Sannes

General Class Licenses Processed

Marcus Brooks, K5MWB Gregory Hewgill
Dustin La Ferney, KD5UUU

Extra Class License Processed

Arthur Granda, KB5USB

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram W8NUE Tony Davee KM5JH
Larry Gunter WB5BEK Joe Makeever W5HS
Bill Montgomery K5ZSI Herb Nolen W5HMN
Joe Thiel N5SMN Roy Walker WA5YZD

W5YI VEC - Feb 15, 2003

The February 15th session resulted in the following license applications being processed:

Extra Class

James E. Dallas, KC5WXX

General Class

Robert Crossman, III, KC5ATX Robin Fremin, KD5QJT
Marc Keese, WB5WFJ Stanley Keese, WB5WFK
Michael Krueger, WA5MTT Henry Lore, Jr., KA8KBH
Pat Wiggins, KD5RUU

Technician Class

Gene L. Case Emanuel Grove
Rory S. Martin Garrie W. Wortham
Michael von Wupperfeld Stephen D. Zamarripa

Our volunteer examiners were:

Bill Brewer, K5KNC Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
John Fisher, K5JHF Sam Mihalik, KM5MY
Lloyd Goehring, N5TO Dennis Murphy, W5KQF
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Roger Pflugger, AC5IP
Trent Johnson, K5TWJ Sam Stimson, N5WU
Rick Trommer, W5RHT

Exam fee is now \$12.00.

Please bring two forms of Identification plus your social security number.

Sessions are accessible to handicapped applicants.

No pre-registration is required.

Walk-ins are welcomed.

Smokey's Korner
Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ
(continued from last issue)

Sometimes the decision to go inside your rig to repair a defective condition or part replacement is determined by your willingness to stick your nose where it may not belong. I always take my rig apart to see if I want to work on it in the future, should the radio need some work. You get familiar with the assembly in unfamiliar territory that way. It's just my style. Usually I can get every thing back together ok. If I can't, I call an Elmer with my tail between my legs and ask him to help me get back to square one. That means to put it all back together.

It is very important that you have the basic tools on your workbench: Phillips screwdrivers, flat blade screwdrivers, crescent wrenches, soldering irons of several sizes. You would not want to use a 250-watt iron on a circuit board, so don't even think about it. If you need a 16-watt iron for a certain job, get one. Several sizes of rosin core solder would be great. If possible have several different sized tips. Using a small volt ohmmeter can test many components. They come in different sensitivities, 1000 ohms per volt, 20,000 volt ohms per volt, and upwards. Some serious testing can be done with a 20,000 ohm per voltmeter. Diodes, transistors, condensers, resistors potentiometers, chokes, transformers, can be tested with a meter of 20,000 ohm per volt vom. De-soldering is another art that can be practiced. A paper clip, or even a toothpick should be part of your tool kit. Small and larger diagonal side cutters, long nose pliers, nut drivers, SAE & metric, a small hammer, an electric drill, hacksaw, and drill bits. At least one new tool should be added every month or so. If you do home-brewing you will need center punches and punches also. An orange stick is also important diagnostic tool.

Some people say an inquisitive screwdriver is handy, but only if the power is off. Someone who doesn't know what they are doing should never use alignment tools. You can buy different alignment tools if you like, but temptation to use them may be too great for you to resist. You could do great harm to your rig. If the radio does need to go in for repairs, it would be better if no man made problems exist. I have found that man-made trouble is by far the most difficult to locate. I once cut the battery compartment off an HT and removed an earphone jack while adding a 12volt plug for convenience. The radio hasn't worked since, ask N5MNW. The reason was man made trouble.

See you next time.

AARC Continues as a Special Service Club

John Suchyta, KG5O

The Austin Amateur Radio Club received official notification from the ARRL that our renewal as a Special Service Club was granted. The Special Service Club designation is awarded to clubs that exhibit high standards of community service. Many thanks to AARC past-president Don Dudley for submitting the renewal form.

The ARRL considers many attributes in their acceptance process. The club must be active in new ham training and development, have a good PR presence in the community, demonstrate emergency communication skills, provide continuing education and technical development, participate in one or more major operating activities, and have other notable qualities. Fortunately, our members make it easy to accomplish many of the facets that the ARRL considers. From radio license classes to ARES Simulated Emergency Tests to Field Day to SwapNet to the annual Christmas Party, it is evident that we meet many of the ARRL requirements.

We still could use more involvement in training and community projects. We also could use a Public Information Officer (PIO). Please consider assisting in ham classes and volunteering for one of the many opportunities we have to be visible in the public eye.

This designation is up for renewal every 2 years. Thanks to all members who made this award possible. Our 84-year-old club has many generous members who contributed to our recognition as an ARRL Special Service Club.

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., PO BOX 4739, AUSTIN TX 78765-4739, Web site: <http://www.austinhams.org>

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Technical (Repeater Contact)	Jon Dahm	WB5PCV	328-6662	jon.dahm@motorola.com

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

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and The Austin Repeater Organization have combined membership dues of \$20.00/calendar year (\$30.00 family to the same address)

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. AARC maintains a repeater with an 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 this autopatch.

The Austin Repeater Organization ARO maintains the following repeaters: 146.88MHz (-600) with autopatch; 146.94 MHz (-600) used for Weather Net when called, and Travis County ARES. It is also used for Swapnet and Newsline @ 9p.m. Sunday; 224.80 MHz (-1.600); 444.10 MHz (+5); & 145.01 MHz 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 this autopatch. **The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches.** Please transmit your call **before** using the phone patch. 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.

AACOVER Information

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Members and other readers are encouraged to submit material for publication. Call Mitch London, if mailed submissions are required. Electronic files are encouraged! Submissions may be edited for publication. **Deadline is the 15th of the month.** Material may be used in a later issue. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint AACOVER articles, provided you credit the author and the AACOVER.

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Thanks to Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ, and his wife, Betty Wiley, KD5DTC, who mail the AACOVER each month!

**For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:
See Roger Wines, W5WIA (512) 453-2193 w5wia@arrl.net**

Roger handles all changes for AACOVER mailing labels and membership information and roster questions.

Join the AARL through AARC!

Please see Roger Wines, W5WIA, to help out the club financially and help yourself by becoming an ARRL member.

You can have a life membership by paying 15 times a single year's dues over 8 quarter-yearly installments.

Recent Newcomers to the clubs:

KD5UWW - Lance Chambers - AUSTIN
W5GWG - Gerald Garcia - AUSTIN
N5QFM - Ron Zobel - AUSTIN
KD5UWY - Al Smithson - MANCHACA

And missed last month:

AD5HP - Carolyn Hinkle - AUSTIN
K5PA - Gene Hinkle - AUSTIN

Let's be sure they are welcomed and help them to be active members.

Letter from the (New) Editor

Mitch London, KD5HCV

Greetings everyone! Well, here it is, my first attempt at filling the shoes of my predecessor Rick Herndon, K5FNI, who has done a great job putting out the AARCOVER every month for a number of years. He has passed on the torch, the knowledge, and the know-how of making it all happen! The difficult times and long nights are just a bonus! Woohoo!

Seriously though, I hope I can live up to his standards and those of the club. I have made a few additions to the AARCOVER, and I plan some more. Some of which had been in the planning stages prior to me coming on board.

I also want to ask for submissions to the AARCOVER. This is **your** newsletter and I think it should reflect what you want to see and without you telling me, makes it difficult to guess. So please, either write a story, an article or just drop me a line saying what you would like to see covered or changed in the AARCOVER.



I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I have enjoyed making it!

73,
Mitch London, KD5HCV

(Continued from page 1) Happy Batteries

Batteries.” It goes on to say, “The Float Charger prevents self discharge of the battery, while maintaining and extending the life of rechargeable 12 volt batteries. It maintains a battery charge for batteries rated from 5 to 125 amp-hours, by providing [sic - they mean providing...something got lost in the translation from Chinese] a constant (minimum current) 12.5 VDC regulated output. Other types of chargers provide a strong, rapid charge but tend to boil out liquids and decay electrodes.” And they say, “It is simple to use: Just hook it up, plug it in, and forget about it.” That’s exactly what I’ve done. I have two large, happy batteries for ARES or Field Day use to attest to that.

A.R.E.S. New Meeting Location

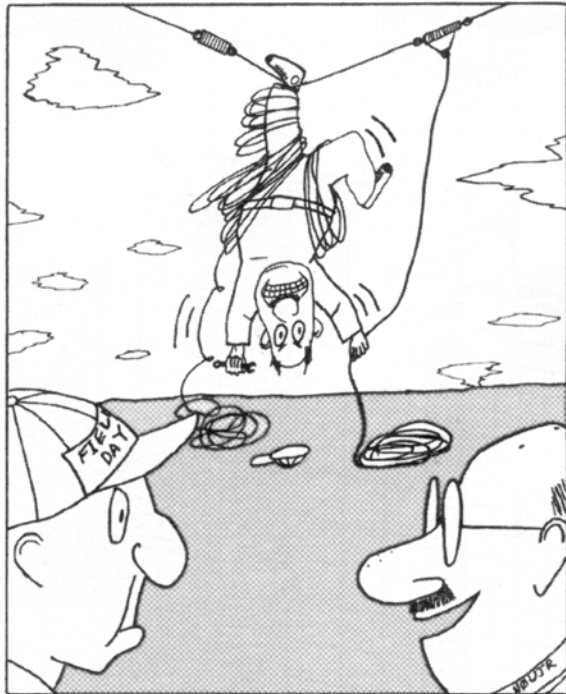
Meetings will be at the ARL labs on 10000 North Burnet Rd.

Directions:

ARL:UT is located at 10,000 Burnet Rd. at the intersection of Rutland and Burnet. There is limited parking in the front of the building but plenty of parking in several lots north of the ARL building. Directions to these lots: turn west into Pickle Research Center (10,001 Burnet Road) then make a left turn at the first guard hut. Directly to the left after the turn is a large lot that has a sidewalk leading to the front entrance of the building. Visitors can only enter the building through the front entrance that faces Burnet Road.

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



“We’ll be on the air as soon as Mike gets the dipole trap...I mean the trapped dipole...up.”



“No, Greg went to the ham auction today to get rid of a couple old radios that were cluttering up the place...Oh I think I hear him pulling in now...”

New Meeting Place!!!

Sirloin Stockade on Lamar just S. of Koenig Ln.

ARO Speaker — March 4

Greg Jurrens, WD0ACD will present the TX VHF/FM society, frequency coordination, new frequency spacing rules & additional 2 meter coordination now possible.

AARC Speaker — March 11

Lewis Thompson, W5IFQ will have a presentation on the ARRL HF Digital Communications Course (EC-005)

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- March 1st and April 5th. - 9a.m. at Murchison Middle School - Take Far West Blvd. From MoPac (Loop 1) west to Hart Ln. (turn left). Then right on North Hills Dr. Enter school from South (North Hills Dr.) entrance. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for information. \$12 examination fee.

W5YI VEC- March 15 and April 19th- 2p.m. in room 109, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University campus. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184), <http://texasparadise.com/w5yi-austin> for more information. \$12 exam fee.

If you're not an ARRL member and are considering it, AARC/ARO will apply \$15 towards your 2003 AARC/ARO club dues if you sign up for first-time ARRL membership through the club! Take advantage of 2003 ARRL signup, join ARRL and AARC/ARO simultaneously! Single: \$44, Family: \$54 Contact Don AC5YK@arrl.net or Roger W5WIA@arrl.net for more details.

Missed an Issue???

Text (only) version of this issue can be found on the Web at <http://www.austinhams.org> where you will also find a new section called **AARCOVERFLOW**. It is there to put in news and articles that just missed the AARCOVER deadline. Check it out!

Calendar of Events

Swapfests, etc. for 2003

Mar 7-9 43rd Annual AARA Hamfest www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/index.html. Rayne Civic Center 300 Frog Festival Dr., Rayne LA. 70578. Al Oubre K5DPG@w5ddl.org 337 367-3901

Crawfish Boil 4 p.m. Friday- Tickets for Boil are \$10 per person. Advanced reservations required before February 15, 2003

Mar 14-16 Midland Shamrock Hamfest www.w5qgg.org Talk-in on 146.76(-) Joe Coldeway, KK5ZG at 915-697-7846 kk5zg@caprok.net

Mar 15 Brenham ARC Swapmeet- Washington Co. Fairground Dan Lakenmacher, N5UNU 979-836-8739 llakenmacher@yahoo.com Brian ka5bkg@arrl.net www.alpha1.net/~barc

Apr 5 Belton Ham Expo - Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ. Register on the website! hamexpo@tarc.org www.tarc.org

Apr 12-13 MS 150 Houston-Austin Bike ride www.ms150.org Mike Hardwick N5VCX mhardwick@worldnet.att.net

Mar	Apr	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
4	1	ARO Meeting, Sirloin Stockade (SS)*	7:00p.m.
8	12	ARO Transmitter Hunt	7:00 p.m.
8	12	Austin QRP Club, SS *	11:30 a.m.
11	8	AARC Meeting, SS *	7:00 p.m.
17	15	ATV Club Meeting, SS *	7:00 p.m.
15	19	QCWA Meeting, SS *	11:30 a.m.
22	19	Informal Transmitter Hunt - Contact Milton Miller	
24	28	Travis County REACT SS? *	7:00 p.m.
No	29	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud.	7:00 p.m.

*All these organization meet at the back room of Sirloin Stockade, at the corner of Lamar Blvd. & Koenig Ln. Visitors are welcome whether they are licensed hams or not. Other meetings or activities are listed under the headings for Calendar and for Periodic Events.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Austin, TX
Time Value Newsletter

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Austin Amateur Radio Club
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