

AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

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Issue 06-2003

Searching For Columbia,

Piece by Piece

Mark Florian, KD5PSR

As a kid growing up in Houston, I never missed an Apollo launch. My childhood dream was to become an astronaut, so fascinated was I with science & space & flight. I later had the opportunity to work at JSC (Johnson Space Center) one summer while pursuing my electrical engineering degree at UT Austin. My heart has always been with our space program. It broke when I learned of the destruction of Challenger and again with Columbia break-up.

Unfortunately, shuttle flights have become all too routine in our day & age, seldom covered on the news anymore despite the fact that our country has a huge shortage of scientists and engineers. They may only be mentioned in passing by the media as one took off today or landed today. But we won't soon forget February 1, 2003. Just as Challenger proved on January 28, 1985, the day of Columbia's landing marked a tragic point in the history of our country and the space program.

Thanks mainly to our fellow club member, Rick Kirchhoff KD5ABM, I passed the test for a Technician Class amateur radio license in Sept. 2001. My interest in amateur

radio was to assist in emergency communications and severe weather nets as meteorology is another interest of mine. Sailing catamarans for many years made me a keen observer of the weather.

The Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (TCARES) is a local association of volunteer radio operators who assist in weather spotting and emergency communications as the need arises. When I learned of the breakup of Columbia and the falling debris field over North East Texas, I knew that amateur radio operators would be called in to assist. I volunteered for three days in the tiny town of San Augustine, TX. They had set up an emergency operations center (EOC) in the chamber of commerce building and TCARES received a call for volunteers to relieve those who had been on-site shortly after Columbia's demise.

When I arrived in San Augustine, I was told where to spend the night and where to report in the morning. A local resident had opened up an old daycare center, which had plenty of room. I could tell I was in the right place when the other vehicles in the parking lot all had antennas sprouting from their rooftops. The only time you'll see more antennas than when a bunch of hams get together is at a fire ant convention.

The next morning I was assigned to a team consisting of a game warden, GPS operator & a group of 15 young men from the ALERT (Air Land Emergency Resource

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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	
	183 & Burnet Rd. 837-1119	
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+

Field Day is HERE!!!

June 28th - 29th

Anderson High

8403 Mesa Dr.

If you want to sign up to help,
contact Stuart Rohre

K5KVH@arrl.net or 255-2932

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Team) academy. These cadets are trained in areas such as disaster relief, aerial search, land search & rescue, underwater search & recovery, community service and humanitarian aid. For more details on ALERT see <http://www.alertacademy.com>.

On the wall in the EOC was a large map that showed the flight path of Columbia and the predicted debris field over East Texas superimposed on a county map. Hundreds upon hundreds of tiny stars appeared where sizable debris had already been located and recovered. Counties had further been subdivided into sectors and satellite maps of each sector also appeared on the wall. Search teams were assigned a sector, given a starting & ending GPS coordinate, a custom color topographic map of the area and driving directions.

Our team headed out in a caravan toward our search area through incredibly thick fog. After about 10 miles of driving, we pulled over onto the side of a road. We were transported in National Guard vehicles with, get this, six wheel drive! Considering we were going through some seriously deep red mud, these 6x6 trucks were by no means overkill.

Upon reaching our destination, we hiked down another narrow road - more mud. It had been raining in East Texas for nearly a week. You could feel the ground give under your feet with each step and the road was quite slippery to walk on. I noticed all of the ALERT guys carried long, straight hiking sticks. I began to search for one to steady myself in the mud and keep from falling over. We hiked in single file through a tight forest made up of 4" trees. The guys in the front were using machetes to clear a path as there were no trails.

The team I was assigned - had found human remains

I looked down at the forest floor covered in pine needles and other leaves wondering what Columbia debris looked like. What were we looking for? Should we be looking up in the trees as well? What color was it? Dull, grey metal, aluminum honeycomb, pieces of black graphite, brown fuel tanks, black or white tiles, clothing, and yes HR . . . human remains. The team I was assigned to had found confirmed HR several times in the previous week.

This is how search & recovery works in the field: Our GPS man finds the designated starting coordinates, the ALERT guys spread out through the forest in a straight line with about 15 feet between each of them, we're given a compass heading for our line to walk, and a guy on each end marks our path using fluorescent surveyors tape about every 20 feet. A whistle blows and everybody starts walking, trying as best to keep the line straight. We

hiked for a couple of hours like this, we soon arrived at the edge of a river that was too deep and too wide to walk across. We waited for others to catch up then headed single file along the edge of the riverbank.

I heard a couple of guys talking about something they found, it was a dark grey piece of metal about 6" x 9" with several arms bolted to it and some sort of track on one edge. This was the first piece of Columbia I saw on the ground. And that fell from 200,000 feet? Wow. . . it's a wonder it didn't take out a small tree. I picked it up and wondered which one out of the 2,500,000 pieces this was. Of course, ripped away from some larger assembly as evidenced by the charred sections, torn out rivets and twisted pieces, it didn't bear much resemblance to what it originally was. The tragedy of it all made my heart sink once again.

Moving through the wooded area, we could see maybe 20 feet. I could only hear the voices of the guys on either side of me. I used my compass to give me a sense of direction and picked out trees up ahead to walk toward. After walking for two hours, I wondered if this forest was ever going to end! Just as I thinking this, I spotted a piece of grey metal – it was a piece of aluminum honeycomb about the size of an apple. One end of it had been scorched. I was excited to have actually found something. I pulled out my GPS unit and marked the location, and continued through the woods.

The 6x6's took us to another sector to search. Our first area to search was an open field – after the briars, what a joy to see open space! We found three pieces that had been previously marked. On each, the ALERT team leader recorded the sector number, coordinates and a description on a large Ziploc bag and then wrote this down on a 'found' sheet. The game warden then took a digital photo of the bag & piece together. The piece was bagged and loaded in a backpack and on we went to the next one. We heard the whistle blow several times as the team went ahead through more forest, indicating finds. One was a crew patch that was scorched on one edge. It listed the names of all the crewmembers. They had found pieces of one earlier, but this one was intact and not charred. I found myself captured by the moment and paused a bit realizing what it was I was holding in my hands. The sounds of a whistle brought me back; we were off to the next piece- a tip of a glove with two wires coming out. We found nearly a dozen pieces, some too small to record. These were lumped together in a bag marked Miscellaneous.

After a brief search through the woods, we hiked back to our vehicles. One of the other teams had found some probable HR so they called in a cadaver dog and the FBI to verify it. We hung around while they showed up, looking to see what the other parties had found. The game wardens collected all the bags at the end of the

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Club Minutes

ARO Meeting, May 6, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by President Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV, at the Sirloin Stockade on North Lamar.

Visitors: Preston Haun, KL0ZW, and Randy Brewer, our guest speaker, visited with us.

Monthly Drawing Winner: Don Page, K5LSV, if present, would have won the door prize. Hank Belopavlovich, W5ZLI, was present and won the door prize, one of Jeff & Lori's famous red, white, & blue "blinkies".

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

Treasury Report: Treasurer Roger Wines, W5WIA, reported that the bank balance was \$4935.59.

Technical Committee: The technical committee was not present. Several comments that the 146.94 repeater is having problems. Although a new antenna is planned for the new KVUE site, it won't help the situation if the problem turns out to be intermod in the area.

Old Business: President Schmidt gave an update on the new Austin swapfest, the Radio Roundup. A dinner and entertainment is planned for Friday night, Nov 14. Price will be \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. The swapfest will be held Saturday, Nov 15, at the St Louis Catholic Church on Burnett Rd.

New Business: Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ, advised all to look over the diskettes and other "stuff" that Mike McNamara donated before he left the state. Smokey also suggested that the club buy an MFJ852 line noise-tracking meter for about \$100. After some discussion, a committee consisting of Stuart Rohre, Lew Thompson, Rick Kirchhof, and Joe Thiel, was appointed to make a recommendation at the next club meeting.

Web Site: President Schmidt advised all to check out the SwapNet info on the web site for the latest information. If you are not receiving an email copy of the SwapNet newsletter, send an email to Jeff or Lori Schmidt to get on the list.

Ham of the Month: President Schmidt asked Bil Henson, WB5SYS, to introduce the Ham of the Month, Terry Parker, KC5EFD. Bil told how industrious Terry was at the recent MS150 event. Terry set up a tower at the site, set up the antennas, and helped look for folks as necessary. Definitely above and beyond the call of duty! Thanks Terry!

Equipment Loaner Program: Burt Perrine, W5SMG, has the club's MFJ259B antenna analyzer. Jeff and Lori announced that the club equipment list includes some crystal radios, code tapes, a Yaesu FT530 HT, ARRL manuals and antenna book. Contact Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ, to reserve equipment and make suggestions for new equipment.

Announcements: Lori Schmidt is taking orders for Field Day 2003 t-shirts and pins. She will be out of town for a few weeks, so contact Stuart Rohre until then. The cutoff for ordering is June 3.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, announced that we will have a GOTA station for Field Day 2003 on June 28 & 29. Stuart also circulated sign-up sheets for operating times on Field Day.

Stuart Rohre announced that the QRP SIG meeting on Saturday, May 10, will be preempted by the Red Cross International Festival. Stuart asked for more volunteers to help with the duties at the festival at Waterloo Park.

John Meaker, KR4AH, announced that he took care of the out-

of-date information problems on the repeater.org web site. The site no longer carries last year's information.

Mitch London, KD5HCV, AACOVER editor, asked for article submissions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Program: The May program was presented by Randy Brewer of Lesco Distributing out of Irving, TX. Randy specifically was asked to talk about the new Uniden (Bearcat) scanners. He said that current scanners will not be able to pick up the new digital trunked radio systems that many cities are going to. Two new Bearcat models are available to cover the current systems and, with a separately purchased digital card, will also receive the new digital channels. The new scanners, the BC785D desktop model and the BC250D portable model, will receive 25MHz through 1300MHz. Anyone interested in purchasing either model should contact Roger Wines since he is authorized to purchase them from the distributor.

Submitted by John Suchyta, KG5O

ARO Secretary

Austin Amateur Radio Club

May 13th, 2003

Sirloin Stockade, Koenig & Lamar, Austin, Texas. Club Vice President Mitch London, KD5HCV, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM

Monthly Prize Winners

This month there were two prizes for the monthly winners. Don Lee, WB5TVU won the monthly dinner Joe Canfield, N5HPC won the door prize.

*This is probably a first for any of the clubs in Austin and therefore deserves a spot in the minutes. The number called was 117 (Don) who was present. After the call "up or down" that member (Joe) was also present.

Visitors and New Members

None

Approval of the Minutes

Lew Thompson, W5IFQ moved that the minutes of the April meeting of the AARC be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

Officer Reports

President - John Suchyta, KG5O

Not Present at the meeting.

Vice President - Mitch London, KD5HCV

Presided over the meeting.

Treasurer - Roger Wines, W5WIA0

Balance in the treasury \$1175.57 (as reported by Mitch)

Activities Manager - Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Stuart is heading up the AARC effort for Field Day this year and everything is coming together nicely. There will be a GOTA (Get On The Air) station for those who haven't operated Field Day in two years. Bill Pittman, KC5NKE of React will handle on site publicity. In addition, Joe Fisher will head up the food committee so we can be assured of a fine dinner. For those who don't have the dates memorized, the official Field Day period is from 1PM Saturday June 28th through 1PM Sunday June

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29th. However help is needed from Friday afternoon through Sunday (June 27th - 29th). Contact Stuart if you are interested in operating, set-up or teardown. Also remember that that you do not need a HF license in order to get on the air on HF. There will be "control operators" available for all hours.

Technical Committee (Ed Golla, K3AHS)
There were no issues reported with the 146.78 repeater.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, proposed changes to the club by-laws to codify some of our current practices, better align AARC and ARO administratively and meet the requirements for 501c3 incorporation. A complete copy of the current minutes and the proposed changes are amended to these minutes.

Announcements

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

Rick Herndon (K5FNI) announced that the Bastrop UHF repeater at 443.75 (+, 114.8 tone) is back on the air and linked to their UHF repeater on 145.75 (-, 114.8 tone). That repeater is used for chat around town as well as their ARES Net on Sunday at 6:45 PM. By the way, the Sunday evening nets are an excellent chance to test your gear and see if you can contact Bastrop in case of an emergency to our east.

Mitch is also the club newsletter editor and needs articles and items of interest for the AARCover. If you are interested in writing a piece for the newsletter, contact Mitch.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45

Program

Gene Preston, K5GP talked about the Texas Power Grid. ■

Recent Newcomers to the clubs:

Roger Wines, W5WIA

KD5WGF, James McAlister – Austin
KD5WML, Tim Stevens – Round Rock

New 'blood' is the continuing force in any organization. We need to stay reminded of that and ask others not yet in the fold, to join us.

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – The following is a summary of the ARRL VE test session held at Murchison Middle School on May 3rd, 2003:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Ismael M. Santa Ana
Tim B. Stevens

General Class Licenses Processed

John S. Creamer, Jr., W5QXH
Carlton P. Lorring, WB5QXT

General Class - Written Element Only Processed

Tim B. Stevens

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Pete Brunet, WS4G Joe Makeever, W5HS
Ron Parsons, W5RKN Bob Redoutey, N5KF
Joe Thiel, N5SMN Rick Trommer, W5RHT

The next two ARRL VE test sessions will be at Murchison Middle School on June 7th & July 12th.

W5YI-VEC- 5/17/2003

The May 17th session resulted in the following license applications being processed:

Extra Class - none

General Class -

Ronald J. Clarkson, KD5WBS

Technician Class - all new licensees

Joe Milton Peters Lawrence O. Richardson
Benjamin F. Stewart

Another applicant earned element credit w/o upgrading.

Our volunteer examiners were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
John Fisher, K5JHF Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Lloyd Goehring, N5TO Roger Pfluger, AC5IP
Rick Trommer, W5RHT

Our next sessions: June 21st and July 19th, 2003. 2 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University

Special Note: We will start using exams based upon the new Technician (Element 2) question pool at our July session.

Information contact: Jim, AB5EK at 327-6184 or ab5ek@arrl.net
Visit our web site at: <http://texasparadise.com/w5yi-austin>

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.

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day and then took them to a collection point where they were transferred to NASA workers. Our team left and headed back to the EOC for dinner. Nothing like walking through forests all day to really work up an appetite. We were treated to hamburgers & spaghetti with all the trimmings and a cooler full of ice cream. After eating it suddenly hit me how tired I was. I hadn't sat down for 15 minutes all day. Eight in the evening felt like 5 a.m. to me. I drove back to the sleeping quarters took a quick bath and dived into dream land. On Day Two we headed out to a different sector about 20 miles down one of the county roads. We walked across an open pasture and then came more briars, lots of them. Even with machetes it took awhile to hack through the brush. Amazingly, the ALERT cadets were finding stuff.

As we continued through the woods, we began finding tiles from Columbia, one after another. We found eight or nine of them within 100 yards. The hard black outer surface of high-strength refractory glass had been stripped from most of them, revealing a white core made of very small silica fibers. Some were shot through with pot marks & pinholes while others showed only minimal damage. I saw no numbers on any of the tiles we found. The plastic bag we put them in probably weighed more than they did. I saw a movie one time about how these tiles were made. A cube of this material was heated to white hot and then removed from the furnace. A technician reached over and picked up the cube using his bare fingers on opposite points. The center of the cube was still glowing red hot. That's how poor a conductor of heat this material is. It's really pretty amazing.

After walking about 45 minutes, we heard a shout from a cadet up ahead. When we finally arrived at where the cadets had gathered, I saw what all the commotion was about. He'd found one of those large spheres I'd seen pictures of on the web. It was about four feet in diameter and brown in color, except for one side where it had been charred. It was almost the color of the forest floor. It sunk into the ground at least a foot and had thrown mud out in all directions. To me it looked like some sort of fuel tank. A single metal pipe about 5/8" in diameter jutted out of a collar on one side. We definitely weren't bagging and hauling this one. I called in the coordinates and gave a description. Later a Haz-Mat team would pick it up. Later we learned it was a helium tank. Helium gas is used to force the two propellants, monomethyl hydrazine & nitrogen tetroxide, from their tanks that feed the two orbital maneuvering system (OMS) engines.

We continued on. I decided to walk about twenty feet on the outside of our new line to increase my chances of finding something. As luck would have it, about thirty minutes later, I noticed a chunk of grey aluminum about 6" x 6" x 12". It looked like it was structural. There were bolts and rivets holding it together (at one time). Once again I was amazed at the force that had twisted it and broken

several of the rivets clean off. There was a white oxide coating that was already forming on many of the metal pieces we found and this one was no different. I picked it up and stored it in my pack and kept moving.

My radio squawked and I was told all the teams needed to be back to the EOC by 5pm for a special ceremony. I managed to hitch a ride back with a ham from another team. We had just enough time to change clothes and convene. The head of the astronaut division wanted to thank all the volunteers for their contribution to the search & recovery effort in the area surrounding San Augustine. At the end of his talk, they handed out a photo of the crew and Columbia with the Earth in the background to each volunteer. The inscription read "In appreciation for your service and dedication to our country in this time of need."

We enjoyed another great meal while sitting in rocking chairs on the back porch. We visited together and swapped stories until eyelid gravity had reached a maximum and we succumbed.

Day Three was another clear day, and took us to an area similar to Day One- mud, creeks to cross, lots of briars and dense woods. By now I was used to it. We found the first of three silver integrated circuits (IC's). They were about an inch square with all the leads ripped off. We also found a circuit board, which endured quite a bit of heat - all its edges were melted and only a few components remained attached.

We went back to the EOC for our next assignment, only to find out that they are going to shut down the operation. Just when you get it down...Oh, well. I said my good-byes to everyone and got ready to leave.

In closing, this was a very good experience and I'm glad to have volunteered. Emergency communication is a major reason I became a ham and it was rewarding to have put those skills & training to use in the field. ■

The QCWA Corral

Keith Zimmermann, K5WX



I was perusing the archives of the QCWA the other day and discovered Bill Swearingen's, W5UJ, personal account of his history in amateur radio. Bill was one of the original charter members of QCWA Chapter 67 in Austin almost 30 years ago. Bill began in 1922 in Lockhart, Texas with the call sign 5UJ. At that time, the University of Texas had begun operating an experimental broadcast station using the call 5EM. In testing the UT station, frequent contacts were made with Bill - first operating on spark and later on CW.

In the fall of 1923, Bill entered UT but according to his ac-

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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.

count, "could only peep through the door at the equipment". The next year, Bill recalled that "the old gang" had graduated and he finally got his hands on the equipment. Bill describes running telephone wires to the "old gym and to the new Memorial stadium". In 1925, he helped broadcast the last few football games of the season and believes that it was the first voice broadcasts of football in Texas. (The Aggies, according to Bill, had been broadcasting the Thanksgiving Day games in code before that!)

The Austin QCWA Chapter will be presenting a photographic history of the Chapter at the June meeting. The meeting will be on Saturday, June 21st. The location is still being decided. All are welcome to come and help us remember and honor some of the early folks who started the QCWA chapter in the early 1970's. Watch www.qcwa.net for details.

Current information is always available at our own Web site: www.qcwa.net. There is also an Austin QCWA e-mail reflector at Yahoo! Groups under AQCWA. Or, just call Keith, K5WX, at 258-7169 or e-mail to K5WX@qcwa.net if you have questions. (Every member is eligible for a special e-mail address linked to their permanent address!) ■

SMOKEY'S KORNER

Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ

Six months ago I didn't know what a NICHE was (Boy that one took a while to find in the dictionary), now I find I'm apart of several. The dictionary says it's a situation or activity specially suited to a person's abilities or character. I am limited technologically but I enjoy elmering (that's one). Betty and I enjoy the challenge of getting the AARCOVER newsletter ready for mailing and out on time.

The editor Mitch London is doing a great job, as is Roger Wines in his capacity of label maker, etc. Putting it all together and out to you is next. (That's two). I have always liked 10 meters and VHF. Transmitter hunting is also one of my favorite activities (that's three or four, I lost count). Since February I have been composing Smokey's Korner (that's five) I'm not doing a great job at any of them, but have found several Niches and really enjoy life. Please find your niche if you're not already involved in some activity and enjoy ham radio with me more than you could ever dream.

By the way there is still a lot of aluminum tubing at my house free for your next project. Telephone 259-1436. See you next month.

Why I Like Field Day

Mitch London, KD5HCV

First of all, Field Day is FUN! Believe it or not! I have been a part of Field Day in Austin a couple of times now, and each time I have more fun than the last time. There is never a dull moment, especially when it's eatin' time!

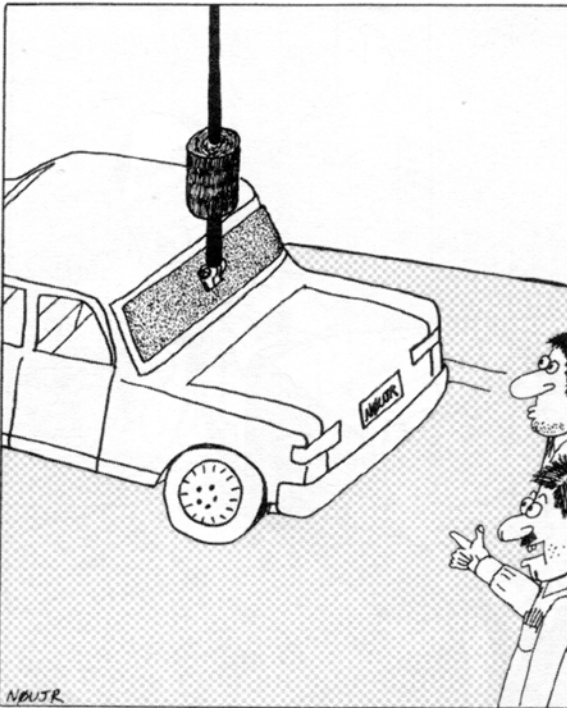
My first year, I kind of stood back and watched while people got set up Friday; as soon as I was spotted just standing there, I was immediately put to work! I got to help hang up an incredibly huge antenna the encircled half of a football field, literally! (I hear this year it will be even bigger!) Later I helped set up tents and tables and other things, nothing strenuous, lucky me! I had a great time and met nice people.

The second year was more adventurous, With the help of Alan Russell (no call (yet)) we set up our own tent and on Saturday afternoon, and hauled out our secret weapon! **The weather balloon!** We wanted to see if we could dangle a long wire from a balloon filled with helium and make contacts on the 10 meter band. Alas, the age of the balloon and the wind took its toll and before we could get on the air, **pop! Splat!**

This year we have a newer balloon, so don't be surprised to see a big red ball flying high in the sky over Anderson High School. See you at Field Day 2003!

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



"It's my thru-the-glass, 160 meter Antenna."



Kit Fun

ARO/AARC Meeting Place

Sirloin Stockade on Lamar just S. of Koenig Ln.

ARO Speaker — June 3

Representatives of the various area ham radio groups will discuss their clubs and their activities.

AARC Speaker — June 10

Stuart Rhore, K5KVH will give a video and powerpoint presentation on Field Day Activities

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- June 7th & July 12th- 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- June 21st & July 19th- 2p.m. in room 109, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University. 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

Jun 20-22 Arlington Ham-Com ARRL National Convention
Maury Guzick, W5BGP 214-361-7574 chairman@hamcom.org
www.hamcom.org

Jun 28-29 AARC Field Day- 1pm Sat. - 1pm Sun. Anderson High School, 8403 Mesa Dr. Austin, TX

Jun 26-29 10-10 International Convention Omni Hotel 9821 Colonnade Blvd., San Antonio, TX Cliff K5FBS
catk5fbs@aol.com <http://www.drhnet.com/stlhb/2003.htm>

Jul 19 Sherman North Texas Hamfest Gene Hodge, K5DPS
903-893-6082 kc5aft@gte.net <http://home1.gte.net/wb5dcu/nortex00.html>

June	July	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
3	1	ARO Meeting, Sirloin Stockade (SS)*	7:00p.m.
14	12	ARO Transmitter Hunt	7:00 p.m.
14	12	Austin QRP Club, SS *	11:30 a.m.
10	8	AARC Meeting, SS *	7:00 p.m.
17	15	ATV Club Meeting, SS *	7:00 p.m.
21	19	QCWA Meeting Bevo's Bar & Grill+	11:30a.m.
21	19	Informal Transmitter Hunt - Contact Milton Miller	
23	28	Travis County REACT SS? *	7:00 p.m.
No	29	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud.	7:00 p.m.

+ Bevo's Bar and Grill is where Jim's Restaurant used to be on I-35 N.

*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.

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