

AARCOVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

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The QCWA QSO

Bil Henson, WB5SYS



Packet radio is one of the more popular digital modes of amateur radio. This mode is still growing in popularity, even though it was introduced 23 years ago. Several QCWA Chapter 67 members have been experimenting with packet for many years.

Most packet activity can be found on 2-meter FM in the lower portion of the band. Although it is not pleasant to hear, the Frequency Shift Keying carries great amounts of information as accurately as it was typed on a keyboard.

The heart of a packet station is the Terminal Node Controller, or the TNC. Its primary functions are:

- to receive ASCII characters typed on a keyboard, store them, and then convert them to audio tones to be sent to a radio and transmitted over the air in small clusters (or packets) of information, and
- to receive audio tones (in packets) from a radio

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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+

Officer and Board Member Elections for 2004!

Attention ARO Members!

The terms of 2 ARO Board members, Tina Kinney, KA5TXK, and Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, are expiring. An election will be held at the November meeting to select 2 new board members. Please consider nominations for prospective ARO Board of Directors at the October 2003 meeting.

Attention AARC Members!

AARC officer elections will be held at the November 2003 AARC meeting. Positions available are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Please consider running for office or nominating a candidate for office. Nominations will be requested at the October 2003 AARC meeting and at the November meeting.

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and then convert them into ASCII digits to be sent to a video terminal.

Along with the information that is entered by the operator for transmission is some other information that is never seen. This administrative and error-checking information is not important to the operators, but ensures that the data is exactly the same on both ends of the link. This guaranteed 100% accuracy is important when transmitting information concerning weather, medical, location, etc.

Due to the rapid evolution of the hobby and equipment, there are several ways packet radio may be used. A few worth mentioning are:

- Unconnected Conversational Mode. This is the simplest mode, where you type information on your terminal's keyboard and it is transmitted for all (in range) to read on their screen. This mode is handy in nets where a lot of stations are involved. There is no error checking between stations, but there is rarely an error in the information.

- Connected Conversational Mode. This mode is for exchanges between two stations with automatic error checking by the stations. The error checking consists of extra transmissions (or "handshaking") between the stations' TNCs to assure accuracy. The two stations are "connected" because they are paying attention to only each other.

- PBBS, or Public Bulletin Board Service. (My Favorite) This is the mode of Packet where the receiving TNC acts mostly on its own - sometimes with the receiving operator not present. One operator (called W5A here) contacts his buddy's (W5B) station without expecting a response from him personally. W5B's unmanned station does all of the work automatically, by "answering" the call, prompting W5A for input, storing a private message, and then signaling the control operator (W5B) that a numbered message is waiting in memory for him. If W5B's station is not turned on, or busy doing something else, W5A may leave a private message for W5B at his own (W5A) station. Then when W5B checks into W5A's PBBS, he'll be alerted that there is a message waiting there for him (and only him) to read. Of course, you can also leave a message, or a Public Bulletin, for all to read on anyone's PBBS. Most modern TNCs come with Mailboxes or PBBS

(Continued on page 3)

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – September 6th, 2003

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Douglas M. Dawson William S. Kjellstrad
Joshua D. Palacios Patrick K. Stewart
Christopher P. Velez

General Class License Processed

Benjamin F. Stewart, KD5WRO

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Michael O. Schlamp Michael A. Wolfe, KD5YZC

CSCE Issued for Elements 3 & 4

Robert D. McLaren, KD5YRD

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Bill Montgomery, K5ZSI
Jerry Jackson, N5UJ John Stott, AC5ZT
Jim Lindley, K5EWS Rick Trommer, W5RHT
Joe Makeever, W5HS Roy Walker, WA5YZD

Next ARRL VE Tests - Murchison Middle School October 11th @ 9AM November 1st @ 9AM

W5YI-VEC – 9/20/2003

The September 20th session resulted in the following license applications being processed:

Extra Class – None-

General Class – James B. Newberry, KD5TUK

Technician Class – all new licensees

Jeremiah A. Bowling
Maccin D. Lenart
Douglas C. Miller

Our volunteer examiners were:

Bill Brewer, K5KNC Tony Lyon, KJ5XF
John Fisher, K5JHF Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Lloyd Goehring, N5TO Dennis Murphy, W5KQF
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Rick, Trommer, W5RHT

Our next sessions: October 18th and November 15th, 2003
2 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University.

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.

functions built in.

-APRS, or Automatic Position Reporting System. This is a more advanced fully automatic mode, with little or no intervention required from the Control Operator. Instead of a terminal being connected to the TNC, a GPS is connected, inputting location (lat/lon) data that is being transmitted one-way (no reply expected) in preset time intervals. The information is being received by other stations and being handled as useful data. A popular web-site allows you to locate and track any Amateur APRS Station on a map..

-Telemetry. You may have recognized the term "one-way transmissions" above as telemetry. There are several possibilities for automatically reporting conditions at remote sites. Home weather stations usually have a standard-formatted serial output that may be connected to a Packet TNC and beamed to receiving stations, also appearing on the Internet as a much-appreciated service. One popular model of TNC has analog inputs, to be digitized and beamed as (battery voltage, chassis temperature...) telemetry.

- Remote control (Insert your own possibilities here!)

- Digipeating.

Just as voice radio has repeaters, Packet Radio has digital repeaters, or digi-peaters. The beauty of digipeaters is that they do not have to be a separate single-function system. Any packet station can digipeat with no additional hardware. This is possible because the input and output signals do not happen on different frequencies simultaneously like on voice repeaters. The TNC receives the packet, "processes" it, and retransmits it with no loss of quality. The originator of the Packet can determine a digi-path to direct a message through a planned route, or cause it to propagate outward in all directions for a certain number of hops on willing stations.

You never have to remember to identify your station. It is included in every Packet sent. But since Packet Radio is controlled by a programmed automatic device, and the Station Licensee may not be present at the controls, he must be confident that the station is in tune and set up to behave exactly as intended.

Packet radio has been around for 23 years because it's an efficient and accurate mode of communication. At the last QCWA Chapter 67 meeting, we had a nifty demonstration of two small, portable, battery-operated packet stations. I've even taken my portable station canoeing on Town Lake. I can send packets from my canoe through my parked car and back to my home station while drifting down the river. Just ask the XYL how romantic that can be!



WB5SYS discovered that his packet signal always dropped whenever he got too close to Longhorn Dam in his canoe.

The next meeting of QCWA will be on Saturday, October 18th. The location will be at "Be o's Restaurant (or whatever it is now called) on North IH35 at 11:30 AM. (Formerly Jim's. It is just past the Red Lion Hotel and Owen's Restaurant.) All are welcome to come. 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!) ■

The QCWA QRS

Keith Zimmermann, K5WX

Code practice is being provided every Wednesday evening at 8 pm on the 146.78 repeater. The project is spearheaded by Bil Henson, WB5SYS, of the local chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). At this time, code speeds of 5 words per minute (wpm), 7 wpm, and 10 wpm will be sent. The text for the code practice may be found at www.qcwa.net. The user interfaces for the code generating programs were developed by Milt Cram, W8NUE. The code format is based on the Farnsworth Method. With the Farnsworth Method, you learn each character at 15 words per minute with large spacing in between characters. This has been proven to be the best method for long-range development. Once the characters are learned, copying speed is easily increased by decreasing the spacing between each character.

Will CW (Continuous Wave) and Morse code still be in use 25 years from now? Undoubtedly, there will always be a group of hams that maintain a proficiency in code and understand its value in low power and weak signal communication. However, fewer and fewer new hams will take the time to learn and become proficient in code.

Copying code is obviously slower than voice communications. Or is it? Under weak signal conditions, can you pass error-free emergency traffic faster with single sideband or with CW? What kind of rig is easier for a beginner to build? A SSB transmitter or a simple CW transmitter? If you are mountain climbing in a National Park during Field Day weekend, will you score more points with a compact, battery-powered CW rig or a power hungry voice rig? The use of CW will likely have a dedicated following for many more years to come.

Another fun challenge is to take a code proficiency test. The ARRL has been holding their on-the-air "Qualifying Runs" for years. You must copy one minute of the qualifying run without error. A nice certificate (suitable for framing) can be obtained from the ARRL if you pass! And every time you increase your speed proficiency, you can get an endorsement sticker to add to your certificate. There are endorsements for up to 40 wpm code speed. The local QCWA chapter may provide similar qualifying runs if enough interest is shown.

Yes, there are "anti-code" forces in this world. In

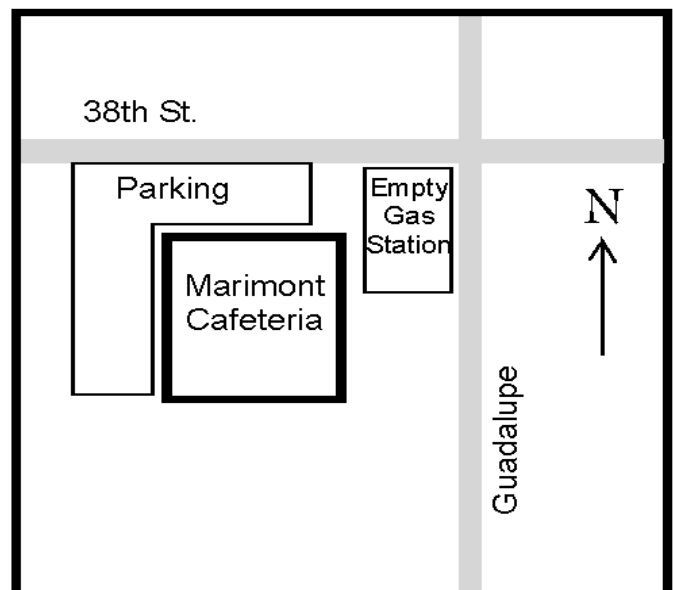
most case, the anti-code folks are simply against a code requirement for amateur radio licensing. Obviously, the world is moving away from the long-held belief that demonstrating a proficiency in Morse code equates to a competency for holding an amateur radio license. A significant event occurred on July 5, 2003, when WRC-03 adopted changes to the ITU Radio Regulations that remove the international requirement that all administrations require Morse tests, leaving that determination to the individual administrations. In a relatively short period of time, it is likely that the U.S. will also be dropping the code requirement. However, as annoying as code might be to some people, it will never be "banned" from the band. (Sorry about that.)

If you are interested in upgrading your license by passing the current 5 wpm code requirement, then consider listening in on 146.78 MHz on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm. Yes, it requires effort and practice to become proficient at code. However, it is always something that you can brag about to your grandkids 50 years from now! ■

ARO New Meeting Location

Don't forget the Austin Repeater Organization meets at a new location starting this month.

The new location is at the Marimont Cafeteria on 38th Street and Guadalupe. Food is served 'a la carte'. This month's meeting will have Ray Henning who runs trimming operations for Austin Energy. Ray will tell us about what the risks are, how to improve the reliability of your power and how to see if trimming is needed in your neighborhood.



CLUB MINUTES

ARO Meeting, September 2, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by President Jeff Schmidt, N5MNB, at the Applied Research Labs on Burnet Road. He stated that future ARO meetings will be held at the Marimont Cafeteria on 38th at Guadalupe. He also said that the September AARC program (at ARL) will be on soldering coax connectors.

Visitors: Doug McLaren, KD5YRD, visited with us.

Monthly Drawing Winner: Leigh Jared, KD5SPZ, won the door prize, a Designer Desk Clock.

Minutes: The August 2003 ARO meeting minutes were approved as published in the AACOVER.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Roger Wines, W5WIA, reported a balance of \$4808.20.

Technical Committee: President Schmidt reported that the move of the 146.94 repeater to the new KVUE tower is getting closer. There is more frequent contact between the technical committee and the station engineer.

Old Business: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, showed a simple UHF receiver for noise tracking. A meter and whip antennas will be needed to complete the project.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Web Site: Get information to Lee Cooper, W5LHC, or Mitch London, KD5HCV, for posting on the web site.

Ham of the Month: A motion from the membership suggested the Technical Committee as Hams of the Month. The motion passed. The Tech Committee, Nick Broline, W5FUA, Jon Dahm, WB5PCV, Roy Walker, WA5YZD, and Jim Lindley K5EWS, are busy coordinating the new KVUE tower installation of the 146.94 repeater.

Equipment Loaner Program: The club's MFJ259B antenna analyzer is available. Contact Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ, to reserve equipment and make suggestions for new equipment.

Announcements: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, announced that the QRP special interest group would hold their next informal meeting at the Owens restaurant on I35, north of 290, starting at 11am on the second Saturday. Stuart also announced that scholarship applications for

the Copeland Fund are available through the Austin Community Foundation. This program is available to licensed hams. Contact the ACF at 472-4483

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNB, said that the ATV group will meet on the third Tuesday at 7pm at the Marimont Cafeteria.

Bill Henson, WB5SYS, announced that the QCWA will meet on the third Saturday at Bevo's on I35.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Program: The program, Wireless Networking for your Home, was presented by Rick Kirchof, KD5ABM. Rick started off by explaining the purpose of home networks. Then he described the terms used in home networking, such as, Cat 5 cable, switches, hubs, routers, Wireless Access Point, and Wireless Router. Rick said that while wireless network components were expensive, the prices are dropping rapidly. The downside of wireless networking is that, by default, you can "publish" your hard drive and data. Rick says that you can minimize this risk by being aware of the security options. Rick also discussed the 3 wireless networking standards, starting with 802.11b, which is the most common. This is in the 2.4GHz band and allows 1 to 11Mbps per second data transfer. The 802.11g standard uses the same frequencies but transfers data up to 54Mbps. However, if an 802.11b device is on the 802.11g network, all data transfers are done at the slower speed. The third standard, 802.11a, operates in the 5.2GHz band and gives 54Mbps throughput. Rick passed on some security tips for setting up wireless network devices.

Submitted by John Suchyta, KG5O
ARO Secretary

Austin Amateur Radio Club

The monthly meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club was held on September 9th, 2003 at Applied Research Laboratories, 10000 Burnet Road Austin, Texas 78758. Club President John Suchyta, KG5O, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Visitors: KC0PBD, Eric Huffman- KC2JCY, Sharon Laibovitz

Approval of the Minutes: Jeff Schmidt (N5MNB) moved that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

Officer Reports

President - John Suchyta, KG5O

Vice President - Mitch London, KD5HCV-Mitch noted

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

President	John Suchyta	KG5O	261-4931	kg5o@arrl.net
Vice President	Mitch London	KD5HCV	472-2843	kd5hcv@arrl.net
Treasurer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net
Secretary	John Meaker	KR4AH	693-9342	kr4ah@arrl.net
Activity Manager	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	255-2932	k5kvh@arrl.net
Editor, AARCOVER	Mitch London	KD5HCV	472-2843	kd5hcv@arrl.net
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818	edgolla@hotpop.com
ARRL Travis Co. Emergency Coordinator	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	260-7757	w5lhc@arrl.net
ARRL Public Information Officer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net

Austin Repeater Organization, PO BOX 4739, AUSTIN TX 78765-4739 Web site: <http://www.austinhams.org>

President	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNV	255-6753	n5mnw@arrl.net
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Secretary	John Suchyta	KG5O	261-4931	kg5o@arrl.net
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Director	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	255-2932	k5kvh@arrl.net
Director	Fred Neuenschwander	W5FQR	345-2145	Fred_Neuenschwander@amat.com
Transmitter Hunt Coordinator	Mickey McInnis	WX5U	339-0344	mcinnis@austin.ibm.com
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 <Hz 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.

AARCOVER Information

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Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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 AARCOVER articles, provided you credit the author and the AARCOVER.

"NOUJR and His Friends" is reprinted with permission by Greg Trook, Trook Enterprises. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission.

For information: <http://incolor.inebraska.com/n0ujr>.

]Thanks to Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ, and his wife, Betty Wiley, KD5DTC, who mail the AARCOVER 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 AARCOVER mailing labels and membership information and roster questions.

Over the Radio WWWaves...

Forwarded by Richard Herndon, K5FNI

<http://www.qsl.net/ac6la/xlzizl.html> -The free-ware XLZIZL spreadsheet from Dan AC6LA handles every kind of transmission line, transformers, lumped components, and calculates all you might want to know, as well as plotting Smith Charts.

<http://www.rst-engr.com/kitplanes/> - This is a link to lead-acid battery desulfinator rejuvenation device.

<http://www.libertybasic.com/productinfo.html> - Liberty BASIC

that he is seeking input from the members on topics of interest to the amateur community for the AARC monthly programs. If you have something of interest to present or know a good speaker, please contact Mitch London <mlondon@austin.rr.com>

Activities Manager - Stuart Rohre, K5KVH- Stuart has received the gift of 1000 ft. of coaxial cable for use at the club repeater site.

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

ARES Liaison- Lee Cooper (W5LHC) announced that ARES is planning an independent Simulated Emergency Test (SET) that doesn't involve the City or County is scheduled for Oct. 11th and will probably test our ability to work in remote locations such as western Travis County.

Old Business- No old business.

New Business-Mitch London, KD5HCV, the AARCover editor, has announced detailed plans for advertising for the AARCover. Costs of making and creating the AARCover are one of the club's major expenses and advertising will go a long way to help with those costs. If you want to advertise in the AARCover or know someone who does, please contact Mitch for sizes and costs of ads.

Announcements -

Mitch London, KD5HCV-The AARCover will likely expand so that space for the new advertising can be accommodated. This means more space for articles of interest to the local community. That means that there is a unique opportunity for you to write an article and share that information that you have with the rest of the amateur community.

John Suchyta, KG5O - Due to the new by-laws in place, officer elections have been moved up a month. Nominations will be accepted at the October meeting and new officers will be elected at the November meeting. If you want to run for office or would like to nominate someone, please do so at the meeting in October or contact an club officer to submit their nomination.

Rick Kirchhof, KD5ABM - The Austin ATV Group meets in the back of the Marmont Cafeteria on the third Tuesday of the month.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH - The Quarter Century Wireless Association meets on the third Saturday at Be o's on IH-35 frontage road at 290 East at 11:30 AM. Please note the change in name from "Bevo's" to "Be o's." Stuart also announced that the AARC scholarship has changed dates since the ratification of the new by-laws. All applicants must be licensed amateur radio operators and attending school to further their education. This is an excellent opportunity for hams that need help with tuition for advanced education, All applicants need to re-apply each year. Contact the Austin Community Foundation by phone at (512) 472-4483 and ask for Amy Allen in the scholarships department. The ACF has moved and their new physical address is 816 Congress, Suite 1201.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM

Program - Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV, demonstrated soldering techniques.

Over the Radio WWaves...

Forwarded by Richard Herndon, K5FNI

<http://www.qsl.net/ac6la/xlzizl.html> -The free-ware XLZIZL spreadsheet from Dan AC6LA handles every kind of transmission line, transformers, lumped components, and calculates all you might want to know, as well as plotting Smith Charts.

<http://www.rst-engr.com/kitplanes/> - This is a link to lead-acid battery desulfinator rejuvenation device.

<http://www.libertybasic.com/productinfo.html> - Liberty BASIC

Tip on QSLing via a Manager

by Richard Kriss, AA5VU

I recently worked TZ6L on 20 Meters RTTY. The operator was Luis, XE1L, and his QSL Manager is WA3HUP who happened to be the Manager of the ARRL W3 Incoming QSL Bureau. I wondered how to address the QSL for submission via the ARRL Bureau. The ARRL web page was not clear (to me) on how to QSL via a manager so I contacted Martin Cook, N1FOC at the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. Martin pointed me to the "new" QSL Service FAQ Information Sheet. Since I may not be the only person to that did not see the hot link to the FAQ, the following blurb contains the good stuff.

A NOTE ON QSLING VIA A MANAGER

Question:

How do I QSL a station that has a QSL Manager when I'm using the Bureau? How do I indicate the Managers call on my card? How do I sort cards with Managers, by the contacted station's call or the Manager's call?

Answer:

When QSLing via a Manager please write via and the Manager's call on the back upper left corner of your card. If the back of your card is not blank please write it on your card near the contacted stations call and if possible make it stand out in some way (highlight it, use different color pen, etc.)

When sorting these cards please sort them en-masse with your regular QSLs by the Manager's call (if the Manager's call is on the back of the card please sort with the Manager's call facing up).

DO NOT use envelopes, slips of paper or post-it notes to separate the cards with QSL Managers. Because these cards go through so many hands before they reach their destination slips of paper and post-it's will most likely fall off and envelopes can become damaged, possibly damaging the enclosed card.

Please try and follow these guidelines to ensure your cards are routed properly and arrive in good condition.

Thanks to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

73 de Dick, AA5VU

Christmas Party - December 9th, 2003

by Mitch London, KD5HCV

Just a few more shopping days until Christmas! Well, maybe more than just a few. But, the annual Christmas Party is approaching and with some help and a little luck, it will be just as great as last years!

The party will again be held at Fiesta Gardens located at 2101 Bergman Street. The fun will begin at 6pm but if you want to help decorate and set-up, show up around 5pm. I still need some people to help run the door and collect money. A sign up sheet will be passed around at a future meeting so if you can help out, I would appreciate it.

So...what's happening at this years party? Let me tell you! There is going to be the famous "QLF Contest" That means sending Morse code using your left foot. There will be a table top decorating contest. 50/50 drawings, and dozens upon dozens of door prizes to be given out, not to mention lots of free stuff near the door!

The cost of the party is \$7 per person in advance or \$10 per person at the door. If you sign up and pay before November 28th you will receive 2 extra door prize tickets when you arrive! To sign up in advance, send payment, along with the number of people you are bringing and mail to...

**Mitchell London
1306 Winsted Lane
Austin, TX 78703**

Make checks payable to:
AARC

More details about this years party will be presented at the meetings as it becomes available. I hope to see you there!

73,
Head Cheese in Charge of Christmas Party

Join the ARRL 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.

SMOKEY'S KORNER

Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ

You would really be surprised what can be done with several rotary coax switches. If for instance you provided a return path to the source by forwarding any antenna at the operating position to your workbench you could connect any antenna to any equipment. Insertion loss, sure, in the interest of convenience, it would be a great asset in the shack. You could also reverse the situation by having all your antennas appear in the work bench area, then sending them to the operating position, or other rooms in the home.

Next I would like to discuss the microscopic ads that appear in some of our ham magazines. Your first tendency is to scan quickly over and give the larger adds your attention, however I have looked more closely and discovered a wealth of info, which might appeal to you. I was delighted with what I found. On a rainy afternoon, take a nap and when you awaken, mail off for some of the ads for catalogs that you found in the small adds. This in turn will get you on more mailing lists for other rainy afternoons. Good reading.

73 Smokey

AARC and ARO MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION &/or RENEWAL FORM
 For year ending December 31, 2003

APPLICATION FOR: (check applicable box and enclose payment to either)
 AARC/ARO \$20 single \$30 family (all with same mailing address)
 For 'first time registrants to ARRL' - join both ARRL and the local clubs
 (a \$15 savings) (make check payable to AARC)

Local QCWA dues for the year - add \$6 to your check and indicate here
 Mail this form with payment to:
 AARC - P O Box 4739 - Austin, Tx 78765

CHECK HERE IF ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED HAS RECENTLY CHANGED

NEW MEMBER - NEVER BEFORE REGISTERED RE-REGISTERING

Call sign _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____
 ARRL member Y N License class E A G T + T N Year first licensed _____

Mail Address _____
 City/ST/Zip _____
 Hm Ph _____ Cel Ph _____ Wk Ph _____
 Pager # _____ e-mail _____

Please list additional family members here and check the family member box above.

2nd Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem Y N
 3rd Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem Y N
 4th Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem Y N

I/WE have interest in the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Working Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Transmitter Hunts
<input type="checkbox"/> Talking on 2 mtrs	<input type="checkbox"/> DXing	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Holding Office
<input type="checkbox"/> Presenting programs	<input type="checkbox"/> CW	<input type="checkbox"/> Net Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Comm's
<input type="checkbox"/> Holding ARRL office	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Working w/Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Others _____			

----- (for office use only) -----

Rcvd ___ / ___ / ___ Amt \$ _____
 --
 CK _____ Cash _____ Dep _____ Comp _____

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

President	John Suchyta	KG5O	261-4931	kg5o@arrl.net
Vice President	Mitch London	KD5HCV	472-2843	kd5hcv@arrl.net
Treasurer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net
Secretary	John Meaker	KR4AH	693-9342	kr4ah@arrl.net
Activity Manager	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	255-2932	k5kvh@arrl.net
Editor, AARCOVER	Mitch London	KD5HCV	472-2843	kd5hcv@arrl.net
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818	edgolla@hotmail.com
ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord.	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	260-7757	w5lhc@arrl.net
ARRL Public Information Officer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net

Austin Repeater Organization, PO BOX 4739, AUSTIN TX 78765-4739 Web site: <http://www.austinhams.org>

President	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNV	255-6753	n5mnw@arrl.net
Vice President	Rick Kirchhof	KD5ABM	454-4306	rick@kirchhof.com
Secretary	John Suchyta	KG5O	261-4931	kg5o@arrl.net
Treasurer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net
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Director	Juathenia Kinney	KA5TXK	442-8427	
Director	Nick Broline	W5FUA	929-4314	nick.broline@baesystems.com
Director	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	260-7757	w5lhc@arrl.net
Director	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	255-2932	k5kvh@arrl.net
Director	Fred Neuenschwander	W5FQR	345-2145	Fred_Neuenschwander@amat.com
Transmitter Hunt Coord.	Mickey McInnis	WX5U	339-0344	mcinnis@austin.ibm.com
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 Newline @ 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** 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.

AARCOVER Information

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Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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 AARCOVER articles, provided you credit the author and the AARCOVER.

“NOUJR and His Friends” is reprinted with permission by Greg Trook, Trook Enterprises. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission. For information: <http://incolor.inebraska.com/n0ujr>.

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

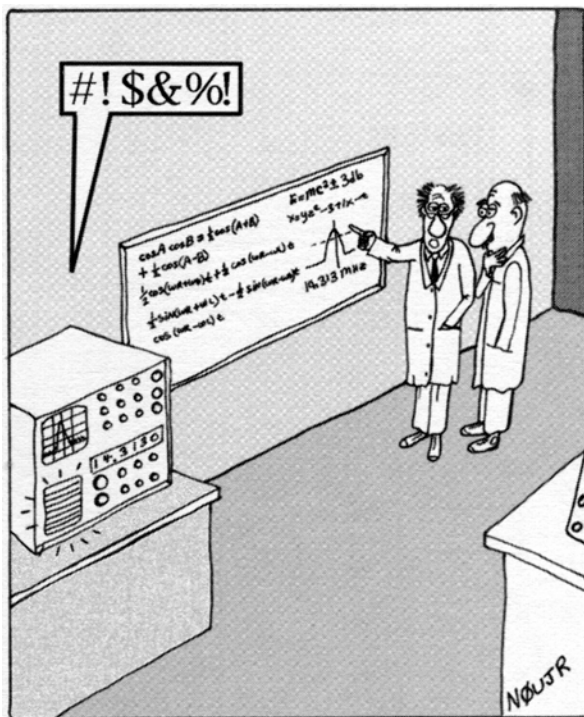
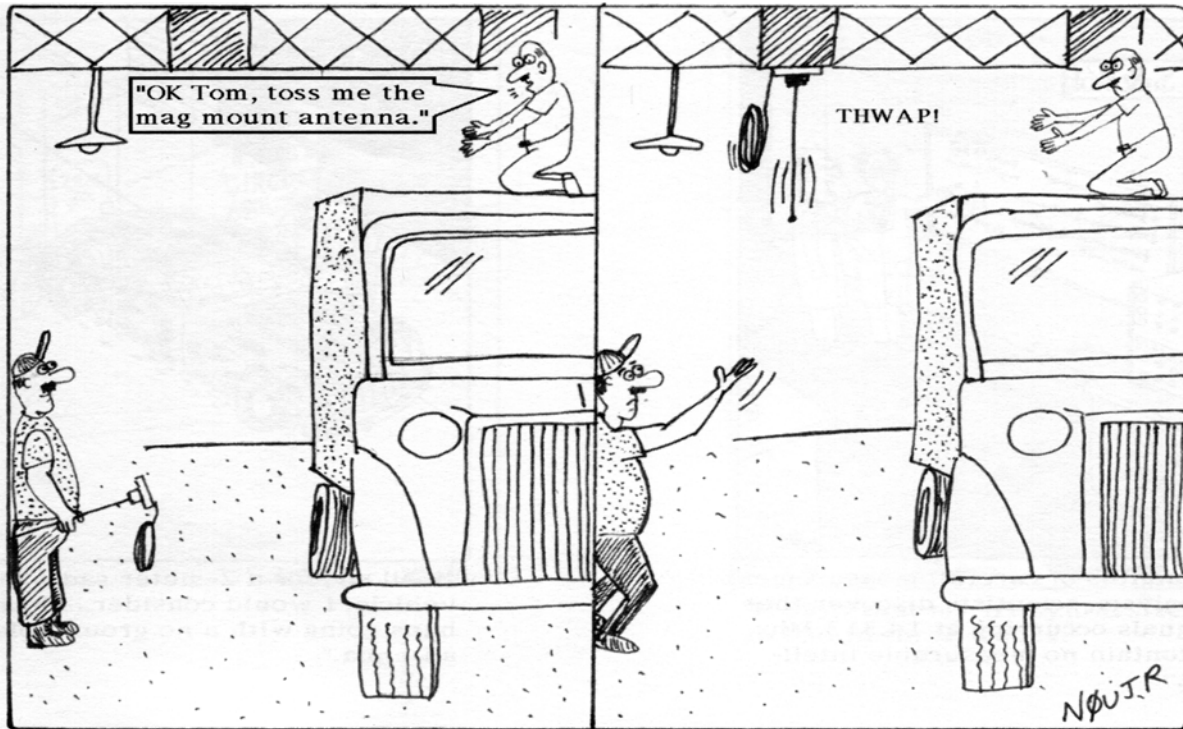
For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:

See Roger Wines, W5WIA (512) 453-2193 w5wia@arrl.net

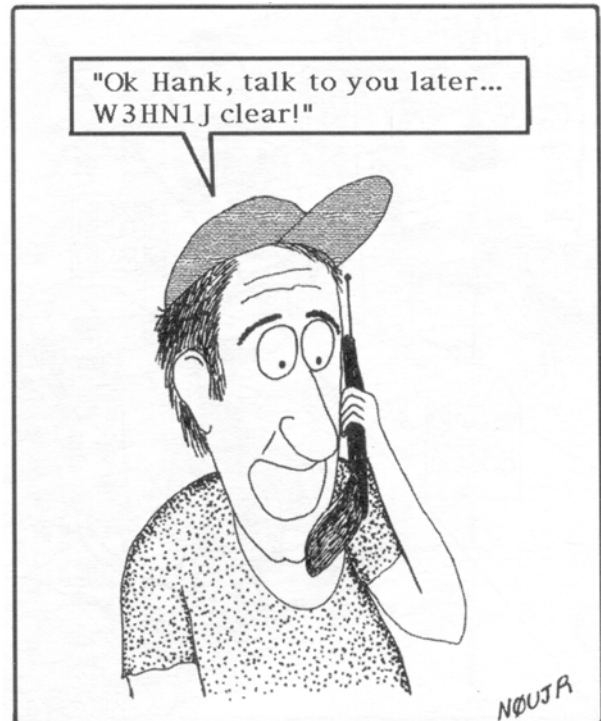
Roger handles all changes for AARCOVER mailing labels & membership information & roster questions.

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



After months of careful measurement and analysis, scientists discover that SSB signals occurring at 14.313 Mhz, often contain no measurable intelligence.



Cell phone/HT confusion syndrome.

ARO/AARC Meeting Places

Marimont Cafeteria - 623 W. 38th St.

ARO Speaker — October 7th

Ray Henning runs trimming operations for Austin Energy. Ray will tell us about what the risks are, how to improve the reliability of your power and how to see if trimming is needed in your neighborhood.

ARL Auditorium - 10000 Burnet Rd.

AARC Speaker — October 14th

Last month you learned how to solder, this month put that knowledge to use! Bring your solder guns and we'll make jumpers and connectors plus J-Pole antennas! Don't miss this chance to walk out with a **free** dual band antenna!

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- October 11th & November 1st

9a.m. at Murchison Middle School on North Hills Drive
Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for information. \$12 examination fee.

W5YI VEC- October 18th & November 15th

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 examination fee.

Calendar of Events

Swapfests, etc. for 2003

Oct 4 Belton Fall Ham Expo - Mike LeFan, A5EQQ
254-773-3590 hamexpo@tarc.org Register at www.tarc.org

Oct 24-25 Texoma Hamarama www.angelfire.com/tx5/TexomaHamarama/ Herb WB5PHM 940-855-5820

Oct 25 Capitol BEST Robotics Competition Day- Leander High School Volunteer for Comms or Staff- Greg 996-6455
greg.young@motorola.com www.capitol-best.org

Nov 8 CLARC Hamfest- Bay Area Community Center
9:30am-2pm 5002 NASA ROAD 1 Seabrook Texas Entry \$4,
Talkin- 442.750+ and 146.64- www.clarc.org/hamfest.htm

Oct.	Sept.	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
7	4	ARO Meeting, Marimont Cafeteria	7:00p.m.
11	8	ARO Transmitter Hunt	7:00 p.m.
11	8	Austin QRP Club, Owens on I-35 N	11:30 a.m.
14	11	AARC Meeting, ARL Auditorium *	7:00 p.m.
21	18	ATV Club Meeting, Marimont	7:00 p.m.
18	15	QCWA Meeting Be o's Bar & Grill+	11:30a.m.
25	22	Informal Transmitter Hunt - Contact Milton Miller	
27	24	Travis County REACT	7:00 p.m.
No	No	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud.*	7:00 p.m.

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

* These Clubs meet at ARL Auditorium.

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.

Time Value Newsletter

Permit No. 2942

Austin, TX

U.S. Postage Paid

Non-Profit Organization

Return Service Requested

October 2003

Austin, TX 78765-4739

Box 4739

Austin Amateur Radio Club

AARCOVER