

AARCOVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

March 2004

Issue 3-2004

FCC OKAYS BPL PROPOSAL

The ARRL Letter/Vol. 23, No. 07

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted nearly 5200 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in emission limits for unlicensed Part 15 devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that attended the February 12 FCC open meeting in Washington later expressed disappointment in the FCC action.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference," Sumner said," but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access

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) Newsline | 146.94 MHz - |
| Mon | 6:45 p.m., Hays ARES net | 147.10 MHz - |
| Wed | 8:00 p.m. Code Pracice | 146.78 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+ |

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Exam Results | 2 |
| Old Lessons | 4 |
| Motorola Marathon Report | 5 |
| Club Minutes | 6 |
| Smokey's Korner | 8 |
| Club Reunification! | 10 |

BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns "can be adequately addressed." Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM:

* Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur "and must cease operation if they cannot," she noted.

* Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands."

* Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database that would include the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies.

* Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems.

Mirroring his colleagues' enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting," although he conceded that BPL has "a long way to go." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC has posted additional information, including a public notice <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243879A1.doc> on its Web site. The Commission is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after publication. Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>. ■

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – The following is a summary of the ARRL VE test session held at Murchison Middle School on February 7th, 2004:

Extra Class License Processed

Carlton Lorfing, WB5QXT

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Milt Cram, W8NUE | Larry Gunter, WB5BEK |
| Jerry Jackson, N5UJ | Joe Makeever, W5HS |
| Herb Nolen, W5HMN | Ron Parsons, W5RKN |
| John Stott, AC5ZT | Joe Thiel, N5SMN |

Next Two Test Sessions - Murchison Middle School
March 6th and April 3rd

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

W5YI-VEC –2-21-04

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our February 21st session:

Extra Class – (none)

General Class

Frank H. Gregg, KB5VYW
Kenneth B. Morgan, KD5TRW

Technician Class (all new licensees)

James G. Casto
Michael G. Diamante
James W. Kunetka
Tara I. McGuigan
Jonathon T. Poindexter
Luke A. Zimmermann

Our volunteer examiner were:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| John Fisher, W5JHF | Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH |
| Lloyd Goehring, N5TO | Sam Mihalik, KM5MY |
| Jim Greenwood, AB5EK | Roger Pfluger, AC5IP |

Our next two sessions: February 21st and March 20th, 2004.
The exam fee for 2004 is \$12.

Information contact: Jim, AB5EK at 327-6184 or by e-mail at hamradioexams@hotmail.com

Our web page: <http://texasparadise.com/w5yi-austin/>

Good news! No exam fee increase for 2004. The exam fee for 2004 will stay at \$12.

Exam fee is \$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.

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 | Jerry Jackson | N5UJ | 832-5663 | jerry@gaj.com |
| Treasurer | Roger Wines | W5WIA | 453-2193 | w5wia@arrl.net |
| Secretary | Lee Cooper | W5LHC | 260-7757 | w5lhc@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. 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 | N5MNW | 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 |
| Editor, AARCOVER | Mitch London | KD5HCV | 472-2843 | kd5hcv@arrl.net |
| Director | Mitch London | KD5HCV | 472-2843 | kd5hcv@arrl.net |
| 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 <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** sing 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

ISSN 1067-0262, CODEN AAOVE3. ©Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and/or the Austin Repeater Organization. Published monthly by the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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.

Old Lessons

Forwarded by Pete Jordahl, K5GM

Argh. Finished tuning up a nice dual band J-pole antenna and shoved it up inside its PVC housing. Yuk. I knew I would have to re-tweak it for the change in dielectric but I never thought it was 10 to 12%!

Basically had to completely rebuild the antenna and re-cut everything. Resonance in air at 146 MHz dropped to 132 MHz inside the PVC. So the right way is to not even waste time in air. Just slide it into the PVC for every step in the tweaking process.

Also in looking at J-pole designs I found on the internet, I was amazed that everyone of them was fed what I think is wrong. They hooked the shield of the coax to the stub and center to the radiator. Sure that works, but it is very vulnerable to even the slightest change in how the coax hangs.



It's better to take advantage of the inherent grounded nature of the vertical and run the coax alongside the main pole and keep it geometrically close to that grounded part of the antenna, then run the center conductor over to the "J". This is far less vulnerable to how the coax hangs..

Just relearning old lessons...For what it's worth...de WB4APR, Bob

Awards Discontinued

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 07 February 13, 2004

Effective immediately, the ARRL Awards Branch has discontinued the Rag Chewer's Club, the Old Timer's Club and the Friendship Award. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says that the number of amateurs applying for awards in general has declined significantly over the years, and interest in these three awards had slowed to a trickle. DXCC and WAS remain among the most popular ARRL Awards, he said, but the eliminated awards "had outlived their interest level." For more information on ARRL awards, visit The ARRL Awards Program. <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/>>.

| | | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
|  AARC | | | |
|  HARRO AUSTIN REPEATER ORGANIZATION | | | |
| Rcvd _____ / _____ / _____ Amt\$ _____ Ck _____ Cash _____ Dep _____ Comp _____ <small>(for office use only)</small> | | | |
| I/WE have interest in the following: | | | |
| Monthly Meetings | Field Day | Working Events | Transmitter Hunts |
| Talking on 2 mtrs | Dxing | Newsletter | Holding Office |
| Presenting Pgms | CW | Net Control | Emergency Comm's |
| ARRL Office | Education | Public Awareness | Working w/ Youth |
| Others | | | |
| Please list additional family members joining and check the family member box above. | | | |
| 2 nd Call _____ Name _____ | ARRL Mem | Y | N |
| 3 rd Call _____ Name _____ | ARRL Mem | Y | N |
| 4 th Call _____ Name _____ | ARRL Mem | Y | N |
| Call Sign _____ First Name _____ Last name _____ | | | |
| ARRL Member? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N License Class <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> T+ <input type="checkbox"/> N | | | |
| Year First Licensed _____ | | | |
| Mailing Address _____ | | | |
| City/State/Zip _____ | | | |
| Home Ph. _____ Cell Ph. _____ | | Work Ph. _____ | |
| Pager# _____ | | e-mail _____ | |
| CHECK HERE IF ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED HAS RECENTLY CHANGED | | | |
| NEW MEMBER NEVER BEFORE REGISTERED | | | |
| RE-REGISTERING | | | |
| 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 for a \$15 dollar 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 PO Box 4739 Austin, Texas 78765 | | | |

2004 Motorola Marathon APRS Operations

John Suchyta, KG5O

The 2004 Motorola Marathon on Sunday, February 15, was a success in many ways. The thirteenth annual foot race was enjoyed by almost 11,000 runners. As usual, a hardy group of about 30 amateur radio operators showed up to provide the coordination and logistics for the bus transportation. Fourteen buses were staffed with at least one operator with an APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) tracker and VHF radio. Ten other buses without APRS ran between the hotels and the start before the race started.

The hams started the day at 4:00am. They rigged all 14 buses by just after 5:00am as the runners were showing up in larger numbers. A larger than anticipated mass of runners gathered at the Hyatt hotel, which required us to make 10 unplanned trips to the hotel. However, with the APRS trackers, we were able to route an equitable share of buses to the appropriate pickup points to get most of the runners to the Start line before the race started. We still had runners showing up at the loading points just minutes before the race was to begin and did our best to get them to the Start as fast as possible.



Adam, son of KM5CT, decommissioning a bus.

net operators. For the record, we ran 199 trips with our 14 buses.

Many thanks to the many hams (and at least one harmonic) who volunteered in many ways. These included KM5CT, K3SWJ, KD4SRD, WD0ACD, N5PTN, W5RKN, KD5ABM, KB5TWO, N5MNW, KG5O, KL0ZW, KE5RS, KD5PGX, KD5RJU, AB5EK, WB5ZFG, KB5UGN, N5FYY, KD5ZRM, N5DFW, KD5OUQ, KD4HNX, W3NJ, KD5ZVR, N5SMN, N5JGX, KC5EFD, K5AEM, KB7UQD, K5FOG, and Adam, no call.



Ed Cox, K3SWJ monitoring APRS in mobile ARES vehicle.

During the race we staged buses at the half way (for the Half Marathon event) and finish lines. As buses were dispatched from one location, we were able to balance the availability of more buses by monitoring the position of the buses in transit and in staging and then sending replacements as needed. This minimized the waiting time for runners who had just finished their 13.1 or 26.2 mile runs. As quoted by one of the non-ham transportation coordinators at the half way point, the tracking system we provided was an "invaluable" tool in making her job easier.

Did everything go perfectly? Not really! However, this has been our best year for ham involvement (all buses were staffed with at least one operator), for equipment reliability (no rackers 'died' though several had to be reset), for ham preparedness (no last minute scrambling for HT power and antenna adapters), and for apparent professionalism among the



John Suchyta, KG5O, Net Control, getting the buses rolling early in the morning.

Club Minutes

ARO Meeting, February 3, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm by President Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, at the Marimont Cafeteria on 38th at Guadalupe.

Visitors: New members, Karl Olson, KD5ZIM, and JP Sugarbroad, KD5ZVR, visited with us tonight.

Monthly Drawing Winner: Glenn Currie, KD5MFW, won the door prize, a caller ID message light.

Minutes: The January 2004 ARO meeting minutes were approved as published in the AARCOVER.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Roger Wines, W5WIA, reported a bank balance of \$3360.73.

Technical Committee: A problem with the 146.88 phone patch was being investigated by Fred Neuenschwander, W5FQR.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Web Site: Check out the new site appearance. Get new information to Lee Cooper, W5LHC, or Mitch London, KD5HCV, for posting on the AustinHams.org web site.

Ham of the Month: President Schmidt named Rick Trommer, W5RHT, as Ham of the Month for running the Georgetown Swapmeet this year.

Equipment Loaner Program: The club's MFJ259B antenna analyzer is available. The Yaesu FT530 dual band HT is on loan. The Kenwood TS120 HF rig is available. Contact Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ, to reserve equipment and make suggestions for new equipment.

Announcements: President Schmidt mentioned that he would conduct a General upgrade class as one of the "Hands-on Hamming" programs.

John Suchyta, KG5O, announced that the Motorola Marathon still needed a few more volunteers to help with transportation on February 15.

President Schmidt announced that the helicopter Landing Zone training is scheduled for Saturday, February 14.

Lee Cooper, W5LHC, announced the National Weather Service Partners Workshop would be held in Austin from noon to 2pm on Feb 19.

Lee also announced that the TSSA annual meeting will be held in Garland, TX, on Feb 21. Lee also had OEM calendars for all to take.

Roger Wines, W5WIA, had numerous short announcements. He has new application forms for several clubs. The Amateur Radio Think Tank members have been addressing topics like school programs and membership. The club's radio equipment was successfully moved from the old EOC to the new EOC at the former Mueller Airport. CERTS (Citizens Emergency Response Team) training will be held soon.

Roger mentioned that Bantam Electronics was approached to offer corporate privileges to local amateurs. They agreed. Just identify yourself as a member of the Austin Amateur Radio Club to avoid the minimum purchase.

Finally, Roger announced that the 501.c.3 application for the AARC was sent to the government.

Mitch London, KD5HCV, announced a potential donation of packet equipment but didn't have the donor's info.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Program: Joe Fisher, K5EJL, gave a presentation concerning his exploits with 160 meter mobile operation. Joe combined an antenna coil from Bill Oakley, WA5ET, with a Hustler mast to come up with a narrow bandwidth mobile antenna. He mentioned that he improved his Rent Car Mobile Kit (autotuner with HF and VHF antenna mounts) by gluing plastic newspaper wrapper sections to the magnets to protect the vehicle's finish. When he originally fired up his Icom 706 with the antenna, he found that it was only resonant at

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) Club Minutes

1.837MHz +/-6KHz. Joe did some research and found that adding a wire stub to the antenna gave him a way to mechanically tune the antenna to the CW band below 1830. He reported numerous DX contacts during his road trip from Houston to Austin. His call, K5EJL/M (mobile), drew a few requests for repeats.

Submitted by John Suchyta, KG5O
ARO Secretary

AARC Meeting Feb. 10th, 2004

Meeting as called to order by President John Suchyta, KG5O at 7:20 PM. Meeting was held at the ARL labs on Burnet Road.

Visitors, New Members and New Calls: Bob Wright, KS4JH and his cousin Rod were visitors to the meeting.

Monthly Door Prize: The monthly door prize, a large package of Tie Wraps, was won by James Lindley, KE5WS

January Meeting Minutes: Were approved pending the correction of Marie Vander Weele, KA5HFH's name in the January minutes.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasury Report: Roger Wines, W5WIA, reports that there is a current balance of \$2547.44.

Field Day Committee: Joe Fisher, K5EJL, reports that the committee will meet at his house on March 7th to discuss the barbeque and other issues related to this years Field Day.

John, KG5O, passed around a number of sign up sheets for each committee and asked that members interested in working on specific ones sign up so that the committee chairs can start to work with you.

It was announced that the Technical Committee has already had one success, in that they have made an arrangement with Bantam Electronics (Formerly Tinkertronics) to consider Austin Amateur Radio Club to be eligible for consideration as a business which means that they will wave the \$25 minimum order that is required of individuals making purchases. Just tell them you are from AARC when shopping there.

Copeland Committee: Stuart, K5KVH, announced that the Copeland Committee, which reviews and issues Scholarships to licensed hams meeting the requirements, has had an increase in the principle amount used to fund the scholarships.

The Copeland Fund was created in 1995 from the estate of W5TQ, who having no children of their own bequeathed their estate to the club, where it is used for the purpose the scholarship fund. The fund is administered by the Austin

Community Foundation group, which specializes in this sort of thing. The principle is invested and the money earned each year on the investments is used to issue the scholarships. This year the fund has \$15,000 to award.

If you are interested in applying, talk to Stuart, or go to the Austin Community Foundation website for details. **Please note that any applications must be mailed to: PO Box 5159, Austin TX 78763 only to be properly processed!**

Old Business: Stuart, K5KVH asked about the club budget printed last month and pointed out that any budget category must be listed even if the proposed amount is \$0. This is in reference to the various groups the AARC contributes to when it can afford to. There were several potential recipients listed on the budget but no monies allotted in the current budget year. It was noted by John, KG5O that this had been done.

New Business: None

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Activity: This month the activity was a "Hands on Hamming: event or a chance for members to do a show and tell of some unusual items that they have relating to ham radio and computers. There were many very interesting items that were shown and discussed, making it a very

(Continued on page 9)

S m o k e y ' s K o r n e r

A lot of you won't remember the old eleven meter ham band. Some of the older receivers have it on the band switch knob. I know, your saying what is a knob? Well a knob is a round thingy that when turned performs a particular function. You will also see the eleven meter band on some of the older transmitters. The point I'm headed for is that eleven meters was taken away from the amateur community by the FCC so they could create the citizen band. Eleven and ten are shared bands as are some of the others. You are not supposed to talk to shared users. I inadvertently talked to Buffalo 34 one time on ten. I found out later it was a military call and he was in a convoy. We were never given another band to replace eleven. Unless you want to count fifteen as taking the place of eleven.

Before all this transpired the FCC moved the hams off of five meters to make room for channel two VHF TV and some scatter work being done on seventy MHZ. Five meters probably was replaced by six meters which is called the magic band. Some fine contacts are possible on six from "F2" to sporadic "E" and temperature inversion contacts. A friend of mine K5EBZ back in 1956, and 1958 had shoe boxes full of confirmed QSL cards from Germany, Africa ,Egypt, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, ETC. By the time I got my license the sun spot cycle was on the wane, so I didn't get in on all that good stuff. Clay Walen was his name. His brother and dad were hams but some people just stand out more than others. Some how while I was QRT I lost track of the whole family.

We had 160m, 80m, 75m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, 6m, 2m, 1 1/4m, 70cm, and above. Several years rocked along with minimal changes by the FCC. Then the World Amateur Radio Congress allowed 30m, 17m 12m, and recently 60m. These are called the W.A.R.C. bands. I still don't know why but I wasn't aware of 160m until about 10 years ago. Ignorance is bliss isn't it?

About the time I went QRT which was late 1968 I worked 38 states on 15m CW. The advent of transceivers came into being. A lot of the old times are still using amplitude modulation instead of single sideband. There are a few hams using AM on 80m, 10m, 6m, but attrition has cleared out most of the AM users. There were clusters of hams using RTTY because surplus equipment was becoming available.

Some people are natural contesters, I was not in the least interested in contests. There are a lot of people who get their "worked all states" "WAS " in a weekend if conditions are good. Others get DXCC in way less than a year. I wasn't that diligent. Fellow hams, with all the modes and bands available you can entertain yourself for years to come so get your feet wet as soon as possible.
73 Smokey K5RDJ

Missed an Issue???

Text (only) version of the current issue can be found on the Web at ...

<http://www.austinhams.org>

You will also find a section called **AARCOVERFLOW**. It is there to put in news and articles that just missed the AARCOVER deadline. Check it out!

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.

(Continued from page 7) Club Minutes

entertaining evening. The items, and their owners, are listed below.

- Rick Kirchof, KD5ABM, brought in two items. Once was a three stack variac and a 100V output Feral Transformer
- Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, showed us a audio signal tracer and a Palomar Noise Bridge.
- Glenn Currie, KD5MFW, brought in an 18 db gain 2.4 ghz patch antenna and a Fresnel lens (which we had a lot of fun playing with).
- Bob Morgan, WB5AOH, showed us an application called SPLAT, an RF **S**ignal **P**ropagation, **L**oss, **A**nd **T**errain analysis tool for the spectrum between 20 MHz and 20 GHz.. More information on this application can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/kd2bd/splat.html>
- Jerry Bolton, KD5SBZ, brought in some manuals for a circa 1948 Oscillograph, fore runner to today's oscilloscopes. Due to weather conditions Jerry was understandably uncomfortable bringing in the actual device that he owns.
- Curtis Goodson, KD4QBU, brought in a robot kit that he acquired off the web from the Hamilton Books. com, and a 700 Hz CW filter featured in the ARRL 2004 handbook.
- Bob Wright, KS4JH showed us an MFJ Pocket Morse tutor .
- Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, showed us a homemade ground continuity tester using some ground rods, a homemade shunting device using a light bulb some resistance and 110 volts. The output is measured using a dvm across the output test points. Stuart also gave a brief lesson on the math behind the device.
- Monty Northrup, N5ESE, showed us a variety of QRP rigs built into Altoid tins. Some of these were quite sophisticated devices for their size!
- Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ brought in a homebuilt 6 liter / 6 meter tunable cavity and a rebuilt MFJ key.
- David Riven, AD5OO, brought in a mobile computer project that he has been building. It is a state of the art system being built into a small mobile foot print. One of the more interesting points is the use of a 1 Gig flash Card as its "hard drive".
- John Suchtya, KG5O, brought in a modified extension cord with a AC power box with a switch on it to allow for turning off AC to a device before plugging it into the remote end of the cord.
- Mitch London, KD5HCV, brought in a collection of old computer parts and advertising materials from the early days of computing. We had some fun trying to recognize some of the old pc boards he had. He also had some sales material from North Star computing that , in 1985, was selling one of the very first Local Area Network server and Workstation products. You could but the 80186 based 6 MHz server with a whopping 256K of ram for around \$9000 and each of the diskless workstations, running Dos 1.1 and 128 K or Ram for around \$5000 each! - Ah, the memories..
- Shawn McCoy brought in a Kenwood Mobile rig with a bad battery to relate to memory issues with lithium memory batteries in older rigs.

Hope you had a chance to attend and see all of these really great items. See you next month!

Respectfully Submitted;
Lee Cooper, W5LHC

Reunification!
ARO & AARC Together Again
John Suchyta, KG5O and
Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW

The time is approaching when the Austin Repeater Organization, Inc (ARO) and the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc (AARC) will become reunified into one club again. The ARO Board of Directors and the AARC Executive Committee have been working on important tasks to meet this goal. The general plan was started early in 2003 with necessary changes to the ARO and AARC bylaws proposed by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH. Meetings were held throughout the year to discuss the logistics of combining the members, assets, finances, and meetings of the two clubs. ARO President Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, and Vice President Rick Kirchof, KD5ABM, held an information gathering session at the December 2003 ARO meeting to bring some of the details to the members and receive feedback on future presentation topics. AARC President John Suchyta, KG5O, and Treasurer Roger Wines, W5WIA, filled out and filed the application to make the AARC a 501.c.3 organization. One of the final actions, which is still some time off, is filing the official dissolution of ARO, Inc with the state of Texas.

ARO will still exist as a special interest group under the auspices of the AARC, much as the ATV and packet groups are now. Distinguished service, honorary or life membership in ARO will be honored and continued by AARC. The (future former) officers and board of ARO have volunteered to work on and/or head committees addressing various projects, including Activities, Membership, Technical, Finance and so on.

Despite the meetings and paperwork, the boards and officers of both clubs are looking forward to the alignment. We hope to make our meetings more fun and informative. We want to increase our membership by attracting new members and training new hams who will eventually become members. With 501.c.3 status we will be able to attract tax-deductible donations and grants, which in turn would be used to fund community service and emergency preparedness projects. We plan to get more media coverage and make amateur radio more visible in the community. With all the feedback we've received, we know that you are also enthused by the changes we are undertaking.

The two monthly meetings will still go on, with the first Tuesday being a social/dinner/business meeting with our traditional Technical topic-of-interest guest speaker. The second meeting, usually 2nd Tuesday at ARL, will be "Hands on Hamming" and feature practical applications, projects and outings, focusing on "Elmering", teaching and demonstrating actual principles, hardware, techniques, etc. We have many interesting presentations planned, so stay tuned to www.AustinHams.org for updates & announcements!

History- The ARO was conceived and founded in the early/mid-seventies by a few dozen "youngsters" and some of their wives, who wanted to experiment with VHF and above Amateur Frequencies. These brash youth wanted to push the envelope of automatic repeating stations, which were of questionable legality at that time. The AARC then was well-established with traditional HF communication and characteristically loooooong business meetings that did not serve the advancement in the state of the art. Thus evolved the Austin Repeater Organization,

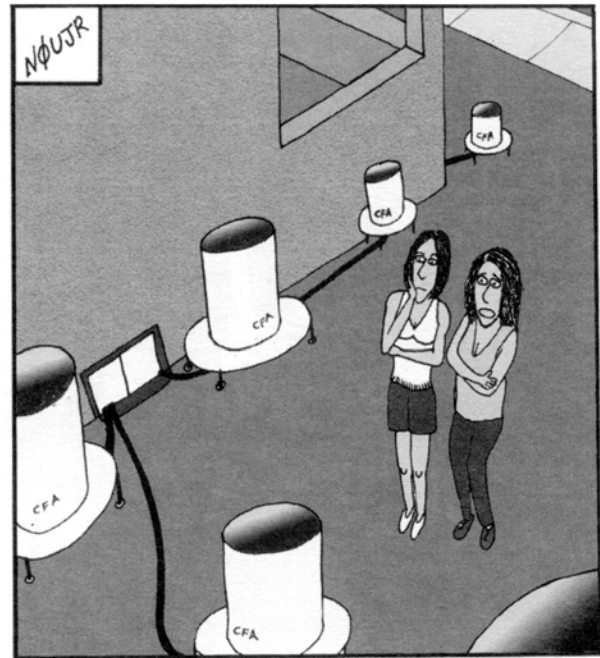
(Continued on page 11)

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



“Mr. Nelson I’m afraid you will have to leave the air for a while, during this procedure.



I don’t understand Dan. A few weeks ago, he got interested in these “top-hat planters” and now every time I turn around he’s installed another one.

(Continued from page 10) Reunification!

whose aim was more technical in nature and appealed to those so inclined.

As time went on, more and more Radio Amateurs embraced VHF-UHF frequencies and the lines of distinction lessened between the clubs, so much that it was hard to tell which club meeting one was attending, as the same friendly faces often showed up at both.

The ARO helped carve the way for repeaters and frequency coordination in Texas, provided communications for hundreds of special events and served in times of real emergencies. ARO has a long history of service that will continue for many more decades.

So, we’ve come full circle, from one club, into two and back again. John and I hope you are as excited as we are in our future and will find your place to serve. ■

A Year Already!!!

Mitch London, KD5HCV, Editor

It seems amazing to me that it has already been a whole year since I have tried to fill the shoes of my predecessor, Rick Herndon, K5FNI. I must say I have learned a lot about newsletters, but probably most importantly, be thankful for any help you get, whether it is in the form of someone sending in an article each month, or someone picking up the finished newsletters and putting labels on them and then mailing them. Every bit of help is appreciated and so I take this short moment to thank everyone that has helped out this past year and I hope to have your continued support throughout this year as well.

Remember! The AARCover is **YOUR** newsletter! I can only put in it what I am sent from **you!** Write something funny, something serious, something that interests you and send it in. Photos are a great way to enhance a story, as is artwork. I hope to hear from you soon! KD5HCV@arrl.net
73 Ed.

ARO/AARC Meeting Info.

Austin Repeater Organization

March 2- Lewis Thompson, W5IFQ, will discuss PACTOR and the Winlink2K amateur radio Internet e-mail system, and their applications to emergency HF communications.

Austin Amateur Radio Club

March 9 - Jeff N5MNW will bring his HP8921A service monitor for precision measurement of Transmitter power, frequency error and Deviation. A short tutorial on how deviation and frequency error can affect one's on-the-air signal and how it may sound when retransmitted through a repeater. So bring your HT's, mobile rigs and base stations Mar 9 for a TX checkup!

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- March 6 & April 3
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- March 20 & April 17
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

Mar 6 *Alamo Area Council of Governments AACOG Skywarn Training Conf.* UT (SA) Health Science Center from 8:30 AM to 4 PM

Mar 13 *Irving ARC* Irving, TX www.irvingarc.org/ Coleta Taylor KD5QFH@arrl.net 972-579-9089

Mar 20 *Brenham Swapmeet* at Washington county Fairgrounds No entry fee, Free tables for commercial vendors and \$10 for individuals. Dan N5UNU 979-836-8739 llakenmacher@yahoo.com

Mar 20-21 *West Texas Section Convention* Midland ARC www.w5qgg.org Joe KK5ZG@caprok.net 432-697-7846

Mar 27 *ARC of Parker County* Weatherford, TX James Adams, AD5KG@arrl.net 817-341-1979

Mar 28 *Capitol 10K Run* Hams are placed every ¼ mile or so and relay information/status www.runtex.com/04Cap10KClinic.htm

| Mar. | Apr. | Austin Meetings/Happenings | |
|------|------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 2 | 6 | ARO Meeting, Marimont Cafeteria | 7:00p.m. |
| 13 | 10 | Austin QRP Club, Owens on I-35 N | 11:30 a.m. |
| 9 | 13 | AARC Meeting, ARL Auditorium | 7:00 p.m. |
| 16 | 20 | ATV Club Meeting, Marimont | 7:00 p.m. |
| 20 | 17 | QCWA Meeting Owens Restaurant | 11:30a.m. |
| 22 | 26 | Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet | 7:00 p.m. |
| 23 | No | Travis County A.R.E.S., Marimont | 7:00 p.m. |

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
Permit No. 2942
Time Value Newsletter

AARCOVER
Austin Amateur Radio Club
Box 4739
Austin, TX 78765-4739
March 2004
Return Service Requested