



AARCOVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs
Austin Amateur Radio Club
Austin Amateur Television Club
Austin Repeater Organization

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February 2005

Happy Valentines Day

Issue 2-2005

LBJ High School Awarded Grant

Forwarded by Jerry Jackson, N5UJ

Hello all:

Just thought I would share this good news with you. I know that my weekend is a little better! Basically, I applied for the "Best Buy" Grant for \$2,500.00 and received word that we got it. Woo-Hoo! We will use the money to purchase some laptop computers suitable for field work, etc...

Thanks and many kudos to Mark Spencer at ARRL for forwarding the links to the teachers. Without knowing about such grant opportunities, it is hard to apply for them.

Have a great weekend and pray the bands get better....

Sincerely, Ronny Risinger
LBJ High School Amateur Radio - Austin, TX

Congratulations! Your school has been selected to receive a Best Buy te@ch award. Within the next two weeks a package will be sent to the contact person listed on your te@ch application. The package will contain a \$2,500 te@ch Best Buy Gift Card and a CD with important tools and templates to help your school garner community and media recognition of this award.

Thank you for participating in the Best Buy te@ch program. Any questions about this program should be directed to teach@BestBuy.com.

To see the full list of schools receiving a te@ch award please visit BestBuy.com and click on Community Relations or click on the link below.

<http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/teachwinners.asp>

Sincerely,
Best Buy Community Relations

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 Practice	146.78 MHz
Wed	11:30 a.m.-1p.m.	TCARES 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	6:30 p.m.	Central Texas Traffic Net	147.14MHz+

New Scientist Magazine Attacks BPL

Forwarded by Staurt Rohre, K5KVH

LONDON (Reuters) - Plans to send Internet broadband signals down mains electricity cables rather than telephone lines could hit the radio hams whose transmissions were so vital in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami, New Scientist magazine reported on Wednesday.

The technology is being pushed by power companies keen to compete with traditional broadband suppliers and get a slice of the profits from the demand for fast Internet connection.

"The downside is that packets of Internet data pulsing down unshielded mains cables makes the cables behave like aerials that send short-wave interference beaming out over a wide area," the magazine reports.

Amateur radio operators believe this could threaten reliable communications on short-wave frequencies, which are invaluable to global broadcasting and emergency communications when all other options fail.

"A few extra decibels of interference from future networks and I would not have been able to hear the news from amateurs in Sri Lanka, India and the Andaman Islands," Hilary Claytonsmith of the International Amateur Radio Union's UK branch told the magazine.

The U.S. government approved the power line technology in October, while the European Commission (news - web sites) is set to approve its version soon.

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (news - web sites) (FCC (news - web sites)) has ruled service providers must use filters on their household equipment, to avoid the problem. The EC is trying to set similar rules.



Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – The following is a summary of the ARRL VE test session held at Murchison Middle School on January 8th, 2005:

Technician Class License Processed

Joel A. Green

General Class License Processed

Weldon B. Goodnight, Jr.

Extra Class License Processed

Nelson F. Mikeska, Jr. K15JF

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Skip Glueck, K5ZUA Jerry Jackson, N5UJ
Jim Lindley, K5EWS Joe Makeever, W5HS
Herb Nolen, W5HMN Rick Trommer, W5RHT
Roy Walker, WA5YZD

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

February 5th - Murchison Middle School
March 5th - Murchison Middle School

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

W5YI-VEC – The South Austin W5YI VE team started its thirteenth year of monthly amateur radio exam sessions by heartily congratulating all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our January 15th session:

Extra Class –

Robert S. Wittkower, KD5JAO

General Class –

Charles Anema –new-

Technician Class (all new licensees) –

Jerry D. Toney

Our volunteer examiner were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
John Fisher, K5JHF Dennis Murphy, W5KQF
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Roger Pflugger, AC5IP
Tony Lyon, KJ5XFRick Trommer, W5RHT
Thomas Visel, NX1N

Our next two sessions: February 19th, 2005 and March 19th, 2005 at 2 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University.

The exam fee for 2005 is \$ 14. Information contact: Jim, AB5EK at 327-6184 or by e-mail at hamradioexams@hotmail.com

Our web page: <http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/>

Exam fee is \$14.00

**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	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNV	255-6753	n5mnw@arrl.net
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ARRL Public Information Officer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net

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

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. has a membership dues of \$20.00/calendar year (\$30.00 family to the same address)
The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. AARC maintains the following repeaters. 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. 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** 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

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

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

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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 Jerry Jackson, N5UJ (512) 832-5663 jerry@gaj.net

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

Over the WWWaves... A Collection of Various Websites sent in by members.

AARC 85 years of affiliation with ARRL makes their web site,. Thanks to Ben Worrell, NE5B for the link.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2004/12/30/1/?nc=1>

How Big a Geek Are You? Find out here. Link by Rick Herndon, K5FNI.

<http://www.geekcode.com/geek.html>

All,

Lori wants you all to know about upgrades at www.findu.com! All the expected mapping (my location as an example) but have a look at all the buttons and links on the left side of screen:

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=n5mnw-2>

Even a recent radar image centered on the target location:

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=n5mnw-2&radar>

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV

Club Minutes

AARC Meeting January 4th, 2005

The first meeting of the new year and the first meeting as a unified club in nearly three decades was called to order by President John Suchyta, KG5O at 7:10 PM. Meeting was held at the Merimont Cafeteria on 38th street.

Visitors, New Members and New Calls:

Cecil Nunnally, KE5DJU was a visitor to our club tonight.

Monthly Door Prize:

There was no door prize given away this month.

Meeting Minutes:

As the Christmas Party was held in lieu of a December meeting there were no minutes to approve.

Ham of the Month:

This month the Ham of the Month award moves from the ARO to the AARC meetings. **NEW!** You can now nominate someone for Ham of the Month by going to Austinhams.org and submitting your nomination online.

This month the honor was awarded to Tami Friedman, KD5RJU for her hard work on so many community services. Tami is involved with ARES, active on the ARCHES program, Red Cross Disaster committee and others. We thank Tami for all of her hard work and congratulate her on being this month's Ham of the Month.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President:

John Suchyta, KG5O thanked the membership for all the help they have provided recently on various events. He specifically thanked everyone for their assistance with the Trail of Lights, the AARC Xmas party and the ARCHES install at South Austin Medical Center.

Vice President:

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNM spoke to the need for the club to increase its membership roles. Although the AARC and ARO have reunited the expenses that each club incurred still exist and the costs of these continue to rise. Only through active participation and increased membership can we hold dues or maybe even lower them.

Treasury Report: No report this month

Secretary:

Lee Cooper, W5LHC stated that you can now renew your dues online at austinhams.org. You can now nominate someone for ham of the month online too. Lee is seeking any suggestions for making the website more useful to the members.

Events: No report. Club is seeking someone to chair this committee.

Programs: No report. Jeff Schmidt, N5MNM is chairing this committee.

Finance: No report. Club is seeking someone to chair this committee.

Technical: No report. Club is seeking someone to chair this committee.

Big Project: No report. Jerry Jackson, N5UJ is chairing this committee.

Membership: No report. Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ is chairing this committee.

Editor: No report. Mitch London, KD5HCV

Old Business: None

New Business:

Membership dues are due by end of January. Please see a club officer or renew online at austinhams.org

Copeland fund – Currently the appointed trustees are Joe Fisher, K5EJL (3 year term), Stuart Rohre, K5KVH (2 year term) and Jim Neely, WA5LHC (1 year term). The elected trustees were Joe Canfield, N5HPC (2 year term) and Roger Wines, W5WIA (1 year term). There was an opening for the three year term. Stuart Rohre nominated Marie Vander Weele for another term. She was unanimously voted in by the present members.

2005 Budget – The 2005 budget will be taken up at the next business meeting.

Volunteer Activities (See Swapnet for details):

- 3M Half Marathon – January 30th
- Freescale Marathon – February 13th

Announcements and Upcoming Meetings:

Travis County ARES General Meeting, January 25th. Meeting will be at CTECC 7 PM. EOC will be providing training on Low Water Crossing reporting and other areas that they seek our assistance with.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Program: Jeff Schmidt did a review noted club events throughout 2004. Here is a recap of his presentation.

January

- 3M Half Marathon

February

AARC and ARO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For year ending December 31, 2005

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

----- Bring this form with payment to the club meeting -----

NEW MEMBER – NEVER BEFORE REGISTERED (or lapsed 2+ years)

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:

- Monthly meetings
- Talking on 2 mtrs
- Presenting programs
- Holding ARRL office
- Others
- Field Day
- DXing
- CW
- Education
- Working Events
- ?Newsletter
- Net Control
- Public Awareness
- Transmitter Hunts
- Holding Office
- Emergency Comm's
- Working w/Youth

(Continued from page 4) Club Minutes

- Landing Zone Class
- Club meetings were moved to the Merimont Cafeteria
- .88 Repeater was repaired
- Bantam Electronics agreed to waive \$25 minimum for club members
- Motorola Marathon
- 3M Skywarn

March

- Held Technician classes
- Garrison Park GPS picnic

April

- Capitol 10K
- MS-150 race

May

- .78 repeater controller repaired

June

- VHF QSO Party at Anderson High
- Field Day at Anderson High

July

- Announced new Student Membership rate of \$5

August

- Summerfest
- Decker Lake power plant tour
- City of Austin SET (ARES)
- Club attains 501©3 status!

September

- Uncle James 80th Birthday!
- Ham Slam Technician Class
- Copeland Fund awards \$15K in scholarships

October

- TCARES SET

November

- Radio Roundup

December

- AARC Xmas party
- Trail of Lights
- Clubs Re-united!

Respectfully Submitted;
 Lee Cooper, W5LHC

DXpedition assists in Tsunami Aftermath

Forwarded by Richard Herndon, K5FNI

NEW DELHI, DEC 31: Call it providence but the timely help rendered by a team of amateur radio operators, who happened to be in Port Blair on an expedition, was godsend for the local administration after the tidal waves hit the islands early Sunday morning.

With no telecommunication links or electricity in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, it was this team of radio amateurs led by Ms Bharathi Prasad that bridged the communication gap and helped relay messages to the mainland and back. A chief coordinator of the National Institute of Amateur Radio based in New Delhi, Ms Bharathi Prasad had led a team of five - her husband D.N. Prasad, son Varun Sastry, Ram Mohan and Sarath Babu, all licensed HAM operators - to the Andamans on a month-long expedition.

Called DXpedition (DX stands for distant contacts, in amateur radio parlance), the team set up three stations in Port Blair. Their mission:

To make contact from the island with as many HAMs across the world as would be possible in 30 days' time. Mr Prasad, a senior government official, and his 15-year-old son Varun, a student of DPS, R.K. Puram, reached Port Blair on December 1. While Mr Prasad and his son returned to New Delhi, Bharathi, Sarath Babu and Ram Mohan stayed on. As fate would have it, the tsunamis struck Sunday morning.

"Immediately after the tidal waves struck the islands, the team suspended DXpedition and shifted quickly to emergency mode," Mr Prasad and Varun told The Tribune this afternoon. Immediately, the team contacted the Deputy Commissioner's office at Port Blair. "By early afternoon, they set up the terminal outside the hotel where they were staying and began relaying messages of people wanting to tell their relatives back home about their safety," Mr Prasad said.

That was how Dr Karan Singh Chauhan, who teaches in a college in Delhi, and Mr Deepak Singh Shekhawat got in touch with their homes in New Delhi and Rajasthan, respectively. Bharathi was also able to relay a message to a foreigner's wife in Thailand that he was all right.

In Dr Chauhan's case, Bharathi (VU4RBI is her call sign) established contact with Sandeep Baruah (VU2NCT), an amateur radio enthusiast who works in a government organisation in New Delhi, who called up Dr Chauhan's home and conveyed the news about his well-being.

They are not alone. With the help of Mr Baruah in Delhi, Bharathi's team managed to communicate to Rafi's family in Kerala and T. Sreekumar's relatives in Kerala and Saudi Arabia about their whereabouts in Port Blair and elsewhere.

"It was sheer coincidence that Ms Bharathi and her team were there when the tsunami struck. She had been seeking permission from the government for a long time but it was granted only recently," recalled Master Varun, sitting at the Prasads' residence in R.K. Puram.

"Providentially, the hotel where they were all putting up had generator sets to power the radio equipment. That proved crucial for emergency communication activities," Mr Prasad added. "They were to return tomorrow but they might stay on for some more time."

Both Mr Prasad and Mr Baruah agree that it was fortuitous that the VU4RBI DXpedition was under way when the disaster struck. "If one takes a positive look at the turn of events, it could be said that the government has realised the utility of amateur radio in difficult times," they said.

(Courtesy: Tribune News Service)



I don't understand why the reception has been so bad since we left the beach!"

W5KA Participates in SET

By Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

W5KA, AARC Club Station at the Red Cross, participated in the recent Kendal County SET, as NCS for a statewide SSB net on 40m, using NVIS mode antennas.

A record of over 20 check ins were recorded. Real emergency conditions were experienced when operators at W5KA found that the recent storms around the Nov. 20 weekend, had damaged some rigs and antennas due to a lightning hit. Lightning had damaged the original Yaesu dual band radio such that its only ground was coming through the coax shield, causing the radio to turn on and off by removing the antenna lead! However, VHF FM communications were maintained in spite of this, using the club beam and the Sadler repeater.

After the successful half hour net, the 40m rig was tired out on PSK 31 mode, using the Red Cross owned TS 140 Kenwood. Again, 100 per cent copy communications were established with Kendal County, a first for W5KA in ARES work. Prior use of PSK 31 had netted QSOs across the country, but it had not been used for an ARES test.

Giving up his Saturday afternoon to work as Net Control on HF was Jim Greenwood, AB5EK. Working VHF was Bob Morgan, WB5AOH, while Stuart Rohre, K5KVH helped with logging and troubleshooting the Lightning damaged VHF rig, and an Astron Power Supply that was hit, as well as testing the antennas for damages. Members of Red Cross Disaster staff saw the bolt hit the tower, in spite of the nearby cell towers being higher.

The QCWA QSO

Keith Zimmermann, K5WX

The kick-off meeting of 2005 was a success. Chapter 67 tried a new location and a new meeting time and it worked. Hank Belopavlovich, WA5ZLI, gave a good introduction to the methods he uses to teach code, based on more than 20 years of teaching students on good test-taking techniques and relaxation techniques.



The February meeting will be at 2 PM on Saturday, February 19th at Denny's at 7820 Burnet Road. This Denny's location is on Burnet Road between Anderson Lane and Northcross Drive. Program for this meeting is "To be Announced"! All are welcome to join us for the meeting. A number of folks will be there at 1 PM for lunch. Or just come and have a dessert and coffee with us at 2 PM. Or just come to see the gang!

Always check the QCWA Chapter 67 web site at www.qcwa.net for meeting location and times. Remember, you don't have to be a member to attend. This is a great opportunity for folks to come together. 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.

AARC Meeting Info.

Business Meeting

February 1st- Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW will have a presentation on the Big Bend Amateur Radio Operations in west Texas. Great info and beautiful photos makes this a program not to miss!

Hands on Hamming

February 8th - John Suchyta, KG5O will have a soldering demo, focusing on power pole connectors.

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- February 5 & March 5th
9a.m. at Murchison Middle School on North Hills Drive
Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for information. \$14 exam fee.

W5YI VEC- February 19 & March 19
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. \$14 exam fee.

Dues are DUE Dude!

2005 is here and it's time to pay your dues!
\$20 for individual or \$30 for families at same residence.
Make checks payable to AARC. Contact Jerry Jackson to
find out if you are paid up for next year!

Calendar of Events

Feb 6 Georgetown Sunday Swapmeet San Gabriel Park San Gabriel Park Community Center, Georgetown TX. Exams 8:30A.M. Setup 10AM, Open 12-3PM Rick w5rht@arrl.net 863-2428 www.wcarc.com

Feb 12 LZ Class at Shoreline 9AM-12noon register on line at www.mset-tx.org For more info, e-mail MSET Officers officers@MSET-TX.org

Feb 13 Freescale Marathon
Martin.Wennerstrom@freescale.com to volunteer APRS and voice ops needed

Feb 19 Smithville Swapfest at Riverbend Park in Smithville, TX 8AM-? Contact Lynn K5LYN 512-360-4809
www.bastrophams.org/

Feb 26 SkyWarn Advanced Spotter Training 8AM to 3PM NOTE PLACE CHANGE!-UT Pickle Research Campus
Commons- Big Tex Auditorium Jeff N5SSI chase-1@austin.rr.com

Feb.	Mar.	Austin Meetings/Happenings
1	1	AARC Meeting Marimont Cafeteria 7:00p.m.
12	12	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop* 11:00 a.m.
8	8	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
15	15	ATV Club Meeting, Marimont 7:00 p.m.
19	19	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00p.m.
28	28	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
No	22	Travis County A.R.E.S., Marimont 7:00 p.m.

*New meeting location and time, Alvin's Sandwich Shop
12200 Research.

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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