

AARCOVER

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

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March 2005

Issue 3-2005

Amateur Operators Appreciated at Freescale Marathon

John Suchyta, KG5O

The Freescale Marathon was a success despite the early rain on Sunday morning, February 13. About 5800 runners were expected to start the marathon and half marathon. More than 2000 volunteers were on the course. Thirty hams and 1 harmonic helped make the transportation system an enjoyable benefit of the marathon.

The Freescale (formerly Motorola) Marathon has used amateur radio operators for over seven years now to help manage the transportation of runners. The operators ride on the buses which are equipped with an APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) package, or "tracker". The buses (and the lead vehicle) are tracked by APRS, and the control station can ensure that buses will be where they're needed so that tired runners do not have to wait. Freescale's marathon is one of the few in the country that provide full transportation services. Hams are instrumental in directing the bus drivers to the appropriate stop and advising them of special road conditions.

We had 16 buses with trackers this year, and 10 other buses without trackers that did short runs. It was interesting that the buses without trackers were the ones that had the biggest problem being at the correct place at the right time.

This was probably the best year ever for our operation. The brief rains held out until we were done rigging most of the buses. "Rigging" included taping steel plates to the aluminum bus tops, attaching 2 VHF and 1 GPS antennas, routing cables through a bus window, and connecting the trackers and radios to the bus power system (cigarette lighter outlet). All the equipment worked well this year – only a few trackers needed to be reset during the race. The temperature started out cool and warmed up nicely towards the end. We ended up with just enough operators to ride

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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)	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.	Ham Social Luncheon, Jim's at 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+

Where Did I Park?

Sent by Lee Cooper, W5LHC

Cell-phone aided parking begins in Berlin Drivers in Berlin can now pay parking fees with their cell phones in a pilot project that may put an end to fumbling for spare change at roadside parking meters.

When the year-long test run got under way on Tuesday (February 8), more than 1,100 cars used the service, called "Handy Parken" after the German words for "cell phone parking."

Although the test initially covers only the central districts of Mitte, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf and Tempelhof-Schoeneberg, the service is expected to be evaluated for the entire city of Berlin within a year.

To use the service, drivers must first register their cars online or via text-message. After parking, drivers call a universal number on arriving and again on leaving the parking spot to complete the transaction. Parking fees will then be added automatically to the driver's phone bill at the end of the month.

The test run follows a similar pilot program launched in October, 2002, that allowed Berlin's subway passengers to buy tickets by sending a text message with their cell phone.

Under that system, passengers sent a code from their departure station to a telephone number, which in turn sent a text message back that acted as the passenger's ticket.



Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held at Murchison Middle School on February 5th, 2005:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Carolyn E. Canfield James A. Kellough, Jr.
Roger A. Russell Robert B. Schaffner
Paul T. Seegers Norman Sprott
Jerry Stacy Jeff H Stroke
Eric S. Wachsmann

General Class License Processed

Kevin J. Biediger, KB5KUK

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Pete Brunet, WS4G Tony Davee, KM5JH
Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Jerry Jackson, N5UJ
Joe Makeever, W5HS Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Bill Montgomery, K5ZSI

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

March 5th - Murchison Middle School
April 2nd - Murchison Middle School

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

W5YI-VEC - 2-19-2005

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our February 19th session:

Extra Class – none

General Class –none

Technician Class (all new licensees) –

George R. Benson Jerry Fye
Delia A. Guyote Nhi T. Pham
John M. Sangree

Our volunteer examiner were:

John Fisher, K5JHF Tony Lyon, KJ5XF
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Kevin Hill, KB5LMZ Sam Mihalik, KM5MY
Roger Pfluger, AC5IP

Our next two sessions: March 19th, 2005 and April 16th, 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
Treasurer	Jerry Jackson	N5UJ	832-5663	jerry@gaj.com
Secretary	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	260-7757	w5lhc@arrl.net
Editor, AARCOVER	Mitch London	KD5HCV	326-3096	kd5hcv@arrl.net
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818	edgolla@hotpop.com
ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord.	Don Dudley	AC5YK	301-8745	ac5yk@yahoo.com
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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“XYL” is printed with permission. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission.

Thanks to Jerry Jackson, N5UJ, who mails the AARCOVER each month!

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

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

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

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

This is entertaining! Morse Code set to music. <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2005/01/15/1/ny6qblues.MID>
-Skip Cameron, W5GAI

And you thought it was hard to get a new computer up and running!

<http://starfish.osfn.org/AGCreplica/>

-Rick Herndon, K5FNI

The BCWipe utility is a shell extender for Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP, intended to secure delete your files. It supports correspondent U.S. Department of Defense recommendations (DoD 5200.28-STD).

See: <http://www.jetico.com/index.htm#/bcwipe.htm>

The program to download is at: <http://www.jetico.com/bcwipe3.exe>

-Dale Cockle, K5JIC (From Austin Hams Yahoo Group)

(Continued from page 1) Freescale Marathon

the buses, thanks to some unexpected help from Houston and Arlington (see the list below).

The runners really appreciated the efforts of the transportation team. Many were impressed by our equipment, our dedication, and our professionalism. Thanks to all who helped make the 2005 Freescale Marathon transportation the best ever!

Transportation Chairman:

KM5CT – Martin

Bus Crew:

KE5RS - John	N5DFW - Jere
KD5ZKR - David	AB5EK - Jim
KC5EFD - Terry	KE5BWA - Stew
KD5RJU - Tami	WB5BBW - Kurt
N5RVS - Dan	KD5ZVR – J.P.
KD5OUQ - Shawn	KD5ZRM - Kathy
N5FYY - Jeff	N5VCX – Mike (Houston)
KB5UGN - Dave	KC5RJK – Matt



The mobile headquarters, known as NCS

Finish Coordinator:

WB5ZFG - Frank

Start Coordinators:

KD5ABM - Rick KB5TWO - Dan

Half Coordinators:

W5LHC - Lee W5MAY – Jerry (Arlington)
WB5WIA – Dave (Arlington)

Net Control:

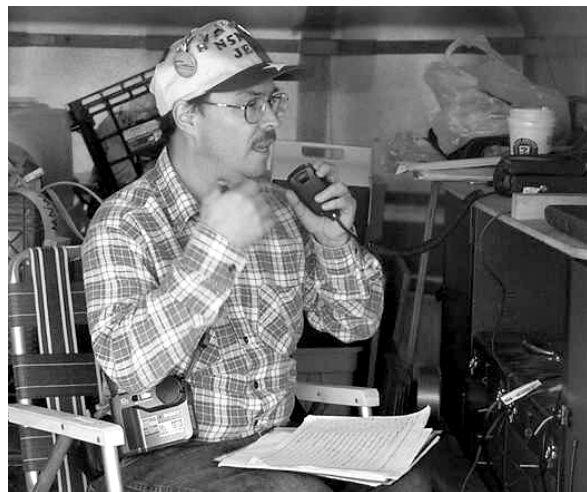
N5MNW - Jeff KG5O - John

Technical Crew:

N5PTN - Mike K5FOG - Joe
WD0ACD - Greg

Special Support:

Adam (son of KM5CT) – gopher
WD5IYT – Jim (Digis)
KA5IID – (more trackers)



“San Antonio STREET, not CITY!” Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW tries to clarify some information.



“Ahhh lunchtime, after a job well done!”

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

ARRL MONITORS TRACKING "YOSEMITE SAM" INTRUDER
 GLEN REID, K5FX

The ARRL Monitoring Service is hot on the trail of "Yosemite Sam", a sporadic intruder in the 80 meter ham band. Sam has again made his appearance on 3700 KHz. The double sideband, suppressed carrier signal is a repeating recording of the cartoon character saying his famous line "VARMINT, I'M A GONNA BLOW YA TA SMITHEREENS" preceded by a short data burst.

"SAM" showed up last year. After a short stint interfering with WWV on 10 MHz, he changed to virtually continuous, sequential transmissions on 3700, 4300, 6500 and 10500 KHz. The sequence of transmissions lasts about 10 seconds on each frequency, therefore repeating every 40 seconds. The ARRL Monitoring Service is specifically concerned for the interference in the Ham bands, however monitoring of the other frequencies has revealed valuable information regarding the propagation and nature of this intruder.

Indications are that the transmitter is located in the southwestern US, perhaps in New Mexico. Generally, 10500 KHz is the strongest signal locally.

So, if you have a few minutes and can monitor these frequencies, please take a listen for "SAM" and report your observations. Frequency, time, signal strength and compass bearing to the transmitter (if you can measure it accurately) are the important information. You can send reports to me (k5fx@arrl.net) or, better yet, send them to Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG (cskolaut@arrl.org) the ARRL Monitoring System staff liaison.

The ARRL Monitoring Service is a volunteer group which monitors the ham bands to locate and identify intruders in the amateur radio spectrum. The Monitoring Service is part of a global monitoring system within the IARU.

CLUB MINUTES

AARC Meeting, February 1st, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President John Suchyta, KG5O, at the Marimont Cafeteria on 38th and Guadalupe streets.

Visitors: No visitors but Roland Hightower, KD5RH, a new member was present.

Monthly Drawing Winner: There was no monthly prize drawing this month.

Minutes: The January 2005 meeting minutes were approved as published in the AARCOVER.

Officer Reports:

President Report: John Suchyta, KG5O reported on the 2005 goals that were set for the club. These goals include:

- Starting the planning for events earlier, such as Field Day, Radio Roundup, Christmas Party, etc.
- Having more events such as the Boat Trip we attempted last year, JOTA, Kid's Day, etc.
- Promote more Ladies events throughout the year.
- Increase Membership (Including an idea to introduce a lifetime membership plan)
- Promote the Hands-on-Hamming events more
- Consider emailing of the newsletter to save costs to budget.

Treasury Report: Jerry Jackson, N5UJ reported that current club balance is \$5153.71. We currently have 104 paid members and 18 paid family memberships for 2005.

Secretary Report: No report this month.

Technical Committee: Nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Events Committee: No Report

Programs Committee: Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV reports that the March meeting will be a presentation on AirMail by Lew Thompson, Upcoming events will be on Disaster /Flood Awareness and one on Cross Band Repeating.

Finance Committee: No Report. Still looking for a chair for this committee.

Technical Committee: No Report

Big Project Committee: Joe Fisher, K5EJL reports that LBJ school will be introducing an electronics course next year and that LBJ was the recipient of a \$2500 grant from Best Buy.

Membership Committee: No Report

Editor: Need Articles Please!

Ham of the Month: For her hard work as the Administrative AEC for Travis County ARES, Kelly Benner, KD5RQX was awarded the Ham of the Month for February 2005

Old Business:

The 2005 budget was introduced to the members for comment and approval. There were some items of discussion on the actual costs for printing and mailing the AARCOVER (Numbers presented were too low) and it was voted to return the budget to committee for review and amendment where needed.

New Business:

Roger Wines, W5WIA announced that a General License upgrade class with code will be held at the EOC starting on Monday February 7th. All interested hams are invited to participate. The second technician class they have held will be finishing up.

Joe Fisher, K5EJL, reports that the ARRL coordinator for the Big Project school program will be in the Austin area and plans on visiting LBJ school while here. He also reports that the kids will be on HF during the week of February 14th through the 19th for a

(Continued on page 7)

Smokey's Komer

By Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ

My base station is a 2 meter HTX242 w/companion mike. A good transceiver but Radio Shack doesn't sell them any more. When I have a chance to talk the HTX242 up, I do to no avail, big mistake. The mobile is two HTX202 and one HTX404 all with companion speakers, lapel mikes and amplifiers, 5/8 wave length antennas etc. But Radio Shack doesn't sell them any more, a big mistake. The HTX 202 and HTX 404 were some of the best intermod fighters in the industry. I hated that Radio Shack got out of the amateur end of the business. However I have seen some blunders before. For instance, everything they sold was put on sale in a timely manner after bringing out a new radio.

While talking on the mobile the other day, I heard a strange noise and discovered I had run over my 5/8 mag-mount and wondered where I was going to get another. Low and behold I found one still in the original blister pack at the last swap meet, also at a reduced price.

Radio Shack has one of the finest repair depots in the country. Getting out of the amateur end of the business was one big mistake. I have no reason to go into the stores anymore. I guess you can get toys, cell phones, audio equipment and small parts almost anywhere.

73 Smokey, K5RDJ

The QCWA QSO by Keith Zimmermann, K5WX

The March meeting will be at 2 PM on Saturday, March 19th at Denny's at 7820 Burnet Road. This Denny's location is on Burnet Road between Anderson Lane and Northcross Drive. This is the official "annual" meeting of Chapter 67 and elections for officers will be held. All QCWA members should plan to attend and pay their dues for 2005! But no matter what, everyone is always welcome to attend.

The program for the March meeting will be by Marcus Barnes, W5CN. Marcus toured the ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT and made a video taped recording of the tour. None other than the ARRL Laboratory Manager himself, Mr. Ed Hare, W1RFI, narrates the tour. For those of us who have never made the journey to Newington, CT, this is an opportunity to see it at Denny's! 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!

Our February meeting was on Home Security issues. We also had a surprise presentation for three of our Chapter 67 members. The Quarter Century Wireless Association Century Club is a special club for folks whose age plus their membership years in QCWA exceeds 100 years! Three members received framed certificates for the QCWA Century Club: Mr. Curt Goodson, W4QBU, Mr. Hal Henegar, W5MDL, and Dr. George John, W5TXP. Congratulations to you three gentlemen!

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. Call Keith, K5WX, at 258-7169 or e-mail to K5WX@QCWA.net if you have questions.



(Continued from page 6) Club Minutes

School Club Roundup contest and invites everyone to listen up and check in with them.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH announced that Jim Neely has asked to be replaced on the Copeland Fund Committee. The board will select a replacement at the next meeting. Stuart also announced that the local Red Cross chapter has a number of training opportunities coming up that are applicable to ham radio operators. Check their local website for details.

Web Site:

There are a number of new options on the website. You can now pay your membership dues online. You can make a request to be subscribed to the AustinHams email list. You can now also make donations to AARC online. As we are a 501c3 organization your deductions may be tax deductible. Need some deductions before April 15th? Check us out.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Freescale Marathon, Sunday February 13th, 2005

Capitol 10K, April 3rd, 2005

MS-150 Bike Race, April 16th and 17th, 2005

Texas Roundup Bike Race, April 30th, 2005

Program:

For the program, Jeff Schmidt N5MNW and his special guest Ed Travis (no call) presented a slide show on the Big Bend bike race that Jeff worked several weeks ago and then Ed followed up with some amazing panoramic images and overall camping and hiking information on the Big Bend area. It made a number of us want to pack our bags and head right out there. Ed also showed us a device he invented that rotates a digital camera in 360 degrees in steps that stop and take pictures to facilitate alignments for creating panoramic montages. He promised to come back and do another session on the mechanics of his device for us.

AARC Meeting Info.

Business Meeting

February 1st- John, KR4AH presenting computer simulations of flash flooding events and VHF/UHF propagation.

Hands on Hamming

February 8th - Lew W5IFQ demonstrating Airmail. This Amateur application of digital messaging enables (very) remote access to one's email account and provides HIPPA-required encoding, inside FCC rules.

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- March 5 & April 2
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- March 19 & April 16
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.

NOTE:A reminder to all Hams that have 2004 on their mailing label. It means I do not have a record of receiving their 2005 dues. We are about \$1600 behind on what is needed to meet this years budget. Please pay your 2005 dues before the end of March. Jerry Jackson, N5UJ AARC Treasurer

Calendar of Events

Mar 5 Brazos Valley ARC Swapfest- Sugar Land, TX
www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/ Ross W5HFF@juno.com
281-342-3340

Mar 12 3rd Annual Irving Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
www.irvingarc.org Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 W. Irving Blvd
Talk-in 146.72(-)110.9 Bill AC5BC@arrl.net

Mar 19-20 Midland Hamfest

Mar 26 Weatherford Hamfest

Apr 3 Capitol 10K run (28th annual) n5mnw@arrl.net or
255-6753 <http://www.statesman.com/sports/content/cap10k/>

Apr 16-17 MS150 Houston-Austin Bike ride benefiting
Multiple Sclerosis research www.HoustonHams.org

Apr 30 Belton Ham Expo - Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ
254-773-3590

hamexpo@tarc.org Register on the website! www.tarc.org

Mar.	Apr.	Austin Meetings/Happenings
1	5	AARC Meeting Marimont Cafeteria 7:00p.m.
12	9	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop* 11:00 a.m.
8	12	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
15	19	ATV Club Meeting, Marimont 7:00 p.m.
19	16	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00p.m.
28	25	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
22	No	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.

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

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Return Service Requested