



# AARCOVER

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

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April 2005

Issue 4-2005

## Osmosis Does Not Bring in New Hams

by KB7AQD Robert Homuth

We do some pretty strange stuff with radio waves, not obvious to the general public used to static-free, instant communications with premanufactured communications gear. We hams love radio for the sake of radio -- building rigs, mountain topping, reading propagation charts, and tinkering. We must focus on getting out the good works of ham radio one-on-one.

Ever tried Elmering -- introducing others to ham radio by personal attention? It's worked for me. Here's some suggestions!

- \* Leave ham radio magazines in your workplace break room.
- \* Carry an HT with you everywhere -- to work, at the bus stop, to the park, and to the mall. Most people will misidentify your rig as a fancy cell phone, but a few will ask questions, then you can promote ham radio.
- \* Invite non-hams to a ham fest, remind them that there's other things to shop for, buy, & eat, besides ham radio.
- \* Get behind the key and microphone at a museum station, and volunteer! The Arizona Science Center in Phoenix has one excellent demonstration station. Look up W7ASC, and follow the link!
- \* Donate a public safety scanner preprogrammed with local popular repeaters to a potential ham. My brother called

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Periodic Events

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+

(Continued from page 1)

me to tell me that his friends enjoyed tuning in to the local autopatch on Shaw Butte on 449.525- here in Phoenix. He and his friends were impressed by the excellent audio quality of narrowband FM, and the heft and quality build of the HT's, compared to their tiny, screeching digital cell phones!

\* As tempting as it is...do NOT denigrate CB, FRS, internet, cell phones and other popular telecom modes to promote ham radio as superior. You cannot shame a potential ham into getting a license! My brother worked his first DX on an FRS radio -- twenty miles with a half-watt UHF micro-HT, and now he's going for his ham ticket. On the other hand, I once made fun of CB, to prove that ham radio was "superior", and the CB op I was talking to was not happy, since he enjoyed shooting skip and getting directions on his 11M rig.

\* When promoting ham radio at a public gathering, dress like you are going to work, not changing oil in your lawnmower. The first time I saw a ham wear a "Ham Radio -- Help All Mankind" t-shirt, it was on his torn and stained undershirt hand lettered with a laundry marker...

I have tried all of the above, and my positive methods work! But, I've also been guilty of making fun of other radio and wired modes to promote ham radio....gotta stop that... When I did that, non-hams looked at me like I was crazy.

Here are some examples of what some of my friends have done that have worked...

\* Tom, the leader of the local Explorer Post 599, heard that my brother was intrigued by ham radio -- so he offered to take my brother to meetings.

\* A different Tom, N7RPZ, took me to his engineering class at Glendale Community College. I did a brief talk on ham radio, and Tom followed up with "Now You're Talking". Of his sixteen students that semester, fourteen obtained their Technician class license, and the other two upgraded to General. Tom promoted ham radio as a way to turn the engineering and physics concepts they learned in class to real equipment the students could use in the real world.

What have you done yourself to promote ham radio one-on-one? What works -- and what did not? If you have some ideas or have had some success with ones in the past, please share them with the club at the meetings or with the membership committee chair, Lori Schmidt KM5MQ ■

### Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

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

#### Technician Class Licenses Processed

Bryan T. Bible

Bryan M. McKenney

#### General Class Licenses Processed

Ira J. Morgan (no previous license)

Dennis M. Snyder, KD5BSX

#### Extra Class License Processed

Kevin J. Biediger, KB5KUK

#### Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Jerry Jackson, N5UJ Jim Lindley, K5EWS

Joe Makeever, W5HST Tom Nevue, W2MN

Kees Talen, K5BCQ Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Roy Walker, WA5YZD

#### Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

April 2nd - Murchison Middle School

May 7th - Murchison Middle School

**W5YI-VEC** - The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our March 19<sup>th</sup> session:

**Extra Class – none**

**General Class – David A. Whittle**

**Technician Class (all new licensees) –**

David D. Holsonbake

Three other applicants earned element credit without upgrading.

Our volunteer examiner were:

John Fisher, K5JHF Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Lloyd Goehring, N5TO Roger Pfluger, AC5IP

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Kevin Hill, KB5LMZ Thomas Visel, NX1N

Our next two sessions: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and May 21<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto: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.**

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
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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.**

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***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](mailto:jerry@gaj.com)**

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

**NØUJR and His Friends**

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



“Hi Dad...Mary and I stayed up and listened to the !\$#&@ 80 meter phone band last night, on your %\$#@#! HF radio, till almost !#@\$% midnight!”

## CLUB MINUTES

### **AARC Meeting March 1st, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by President John Suchyta, KG5O at 7:15 PM. Meeting was held at the Marimont Cafeteria on 38<sup>th</sup> street.

#### **Visitors, New Members and New Calls:**

There were no new members or visitors present but Alan Russell, who has been an active participant in club activities for a couple of years now has recently become licensed and is now to be called KE5DTR. Congratulations Alan!

#### **Monthly Door Prize:**

Jerry Jackson, N5UJ was the winner of our monthly door prize. Remember, you must be present to win one of our great prizes given away each month at the business meeting.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the February meeting, as published in the newsletter, were approved as printed.

#### **Officer and Committee Reports:**

**President:** John Suchyta, KG5O, thanked all for their help on the 3M Half Marathon and the Freescale Marathon last month. Both were successful events due, in no small part, to your efforts. John also announced that Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, would be filling the slot on the Copeland Fund Committee left by Jim Neely's resignation after many years of faithful service.

John also talked about wanting to have more events in 2005 and presented a list of existing events and suggestions that have been given to him. Those events are:

- Kid's Day, June 18<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL VHF Contest, June
- Field Day, June 24-26
- Boat Trip this summer!
- Summerfest, August
- JOTA, October 15-16<sup>th</sup>
- Radio RoundUp, November
- Christmas Party, December 13<sup>th</sup>
- Various volunteer opportunities & ARES

**Vice President:** Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW mentioned the great Skywarn class that had taken place the previous Saturday. As you know, this year the class was held at a new location on the campus of the JJ Pickle Research Center. Due to the more formal auditorium arrangement the problems of everyone being able to see the speakers or presentation were non-existent this year. Jeff reports that official attendance was 204 this year slightly down from last years 237. Ironically, it may have been the bad weather on Saturday that kept attendance down.

KXAN did its live remote from there on Saturday from 7 am to 9 pm and interviewed several club members during the broadcast. Burton Fitzsimmons, Time Warner Cable 8 News also interviewed Jeff Draper, N5SSI at the meeting. This year, we may have had almost all the major media meteorologists attend the session.

**Treasury Report:** Jerry Jackson, N5UJ, reports that the current treasury balance is \$5986.32. He also indicated that current paid membership is at 186 members signed up, including 18 family memberships and no student memberships. Remember that dues need to be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Secretary:** Lee Cooper, W5LHC mentioned the premier of the new IMAX film "Forces of Nature" opening at the Bob Bullock State Museum on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. This IMAX film focuses on Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Volcanoes and Earthquakes. KXAN will be on hand with a number of events for the kids at the opening, Noon on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Events:** Joe Fisher, K5EJL announced that there will be a Field Day planning session and BBQ at his house on Sun. evening March 6<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wanting to attend just needs to let him know so he can have enough food on hand.

**Programs:** Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW announced that next months meeting presentation will be Jim Allen, KE5AMB, who will discuss communications and Search and Rescue teams. The Hands on Hamming session will be on How to

setup a proper Cross Band repeater using your mobile rigs.

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

**Technical:** No report. Stuart Rohre, K5KVH has accepted to be the chair of 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

**Ham of the Month: Joe Fisher, K5EJL**

Ronnie Risinger, KC5EES submitted this recommendation: I would like to nominate Joe Fisher, K5EJL, for Ham of the Month. He has volunteered for almost an entire year, on almost a daily basis, at LBJ High School. His assistance to the school Amateur Radio club has been invaluable.

This past weekend, Mr. Fisher worked tirelessly to see that our students could compete in the School Club Roundup. He has worked to install our Cushcraft vertical antenna and also helped the kids log their contacts. The LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club, K5LBJ, was on the air almost 24 hours last week. They logged over 500 contacts, 50+ with other schools across the nation. None of this could have been possible without Mr. Fisher's support.

The Ham Community cannot survive without people like Mr. Fisher who go out and work to build the next generation of radio enthusiast. For his hard work, he should be honored as "Ham of the Month".

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** The club budget for the 2005 year was submitted to the membership for approval. The budget estimates an income from dues and fundraisers of \$10, 014.17 and expenditures of \$9,675.00. The budget was approved and passed by voting members.

Joe Makeever, W5HS presented the AARC with a check from the proceeds of the 2004 Summerfest Convention in the amount of \$600.

**Volunteer Activities** (See Swapnet for details):

- Capitol 10K – April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- MS-150 – April 16-17<sup>th</sup>
- Texas Roundup (Not swapfest, Bike event) April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Ham-Com, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> (Volunteer to help and get free admission)

**Announcements and Upcoming Meetings:**

DUES ARE DUE! Please pay by April 1<sup>st</sup>. You can pay online at [austinhams.org](http://austinhams.org)

ARES meeting at the EOC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March

State of Texas EOC Annual training conference in Waco , March 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> (Free for ARES volunteers, <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem>)

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

**Program:** The evening program was presented by John Meaker, KR4AH, and was titled "Preparing for Disaster". John presented a fascinating view of how GIS systems are used by the OEM and other agencies to plot layers of interactive maps to show the boundaries of the 100 year and 500 year flood plains, and explained the significance of the information and how it is used . One such use would be to prepare an detailed, street by street list of houses projected to be affected by a flooding events so that ARES or CERT could be dispatched to warn residents of the need to prepare to evacuate. He suggested the following website for obtaining more information:

<http://coagis1.ci.austin.tx.us/>

Respectfully Submitted;  
Lee Cooper, W5LHC

## The QCWA QSO

Keith Zimmermann, K5WX



The April meeting will be at 2 PM on Saturday, April 16th at Denny's at 7820 Burnet Road. This Denny's location is on Burnet Road between Anderson Lane and Northcross Drive.

The program for the April meeting will be on first aid and fire prevention. This is an important subject for everyone. All are welcome to join us for the meeting whether you are a member or not. 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!

We had another member join the Quarter Century Wireless Association "Century Club". This is a special club for folks whose age plus their membership years in QCWA exceeds 100 years! Mr. James Henson, W5BVN received a nice framed certificate. Congratulations!

Wednesday night continues to be Code Practice Night on the 146.94 MHz repeater. You can check your copy at [www.qcwa.net](http://www.qcwa.net). Bil, WB5SYS, starts the code speed at 3 words per minute and progresses to 10 words per minute (and sometimes faster).

Always check the QCWA Chapter 67 web site at [www.qcwa.net](http://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](mailto:K5WX@QCWA.net) if you have questions.

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## QCWA Elects New Officers

The new officers are:

President: Bil Henson, WB5SYS      V. President: Hank Belopavlovich, WA5ZLI  
Secretary: Keith Zimmermann, K5WX      Treasurer: Jerry Jackson, N5UJ

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## New ACTION PICTURE Competition!

In developing video to go along with the new audio PSA announcement, we discovered there are very few action pictures available. Hams get so involved in the radios that we forget to take good pictures of the activity. But a good action picture is literally worth 1000 words in any press release or media. So, we're starting a friendly competition over the coming months to encourage PIO's and others to take action pictures for ham radio.

Field Day is an excellent chance to get good ACTION pictures!

What's a good action picture?

For years a lot of the pictures

which have been sent in were like this:

It may be curious historically, but it's boring to any non-ham. Nothing moves. Other pictures were of people standing around. There's no story in the picture. There is nothing to capture attention.

Action pictures have a little story in them even without words. Something in the picture moves, captures the viewers' interest and attention. Here's a few examples of action:



In each of these there is a story.

### How to Enter

Between now and August 15<sup>th</sup> we are requesting any members to send us their best action picture relating to Amateur Radio.

The picture must be in .jpg format and at least 1024x768 resolution (preferably higher)

minimally 300 dots per inch. You may email the picture to: [actionpix@arrl.org](mailto:actionpix@arrl.org) along with your name, address, information telling us what it is about. **All submissions become the property of the ARRL.** Pictures must be received no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>. The pictures will be reviewed by a panel of editors and the winners will be displayed in the October issue of QST. *Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Pictures taken prior to 2005 will be accepted.* Judging will be based on quality of the photo, general interest, possible use in media about Amateur Radio and composition.

<mailto:actionpix@arrl.org>

**Be SURE to include:**

1. Picture itself
2. Your name
3. Your address
4. What it is about
5. Who took the picture

# Smokey's Komer

By Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ

## Support Your Local Sheriff

There are a bunch of perks that go along with membership in the club. First and foremost is the repeaters. The one on 146.94 MHz is open to the members and people passing thru the area. Next is one on 146.880mhz. which is also open and has autopatch. To complement the 88 repeater is another open repeater on 146.780 MHz that can also be used for autopatch. The next is a repeater on 224.80 which is also open and is used by the folks on 1¼ meters. The Repeater on 444,100 MHz is open and is utilized in many ways as a communication channel. Additionally there is an open repeater for data on 145.01 MHz. That is a total of six repeaters for the membership to use. Before any repeater can be installed, a proper site must be located. First the owner of the site must be receptive to having a repeater on their property. Normally the site host provides the electricity, but the two auto patch channels each require a telephone line to them. The price of these lines are about \$25 each month for a twelve month period. In doing the math you see an annual cost of \$600.00 per year.

The next perk is the presentations given at the meetings. They are of interest to not only our members. but to our Guests. There are two meetings each month. The first meeting is at an eating establishment where business is conducted. The second meeting is a hands on type of meeting for the purpose of teaching and elmering.

The AACROVER news letter is the next perk where by we read articles sent in by members and other sources on topic of interests. We stay abreast of upcoming events, not only in the Austin area, but in the state near and far. Gatherings can be conventions, swap meets, fun run, ETC..

Several Spin off clubs and special Interest groups are sponsored by the AARC. They are ARES, ATV, Packet, DX, Contest, ETC.. We encourage others. The Austin Radio round-up is a social/swap meet event sponsored by the AARC. Summer fest is an annual event sponsored by the AARC. An event of this magnitude uses a lot of volunteer help to make it a success. Field Day is a summer event which also uses volunteer work to make it a success.

Support your local club so it can continue to provide these member services. It takes a lot of money to do all these things remember to do these things by the numbers 1,2,3,4, Join, Support, Attend, and participate in that order. If we don't make a good showing to the amateur community, it is a direct reflection on you the Amateurs of Austin.

## *A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AACROVER FONT BY MILES ABERNATHY, N5KOB*

Back in about 1990, Richard Herndon, K5FNI, and I were editing the AARC-Over newsletter of the Austin Amateur Radio Club. There was an existing masthead that spelled out AARC-Over in electric sparks...I do not know who originally created it. Anyway, we were switching over to PageMaker page layout software and I decided it would be good if "AARC-OVER" were made of individual letters rather than one big graphic.

I mailed a copy of the masthead to a font author named David Rakowski, asking if he could use it as the start for a font. He did so, starting with the existing seven characters and creating the remaining 19. He named the resulting font AACROVER and released it into the public domain.

Nowadays whenever you obtain a collection of fonts, you are likely to see AACROVER as the first one on the list.

## **AARC Meeting Info.**

### **Business Meeting**

**7:00 pm at Marimont Cafeteria**

**623 W. 38th St. (Near Guadalupe St.)**

**April 5th-** Jim KE5AMB Search & Rescue (SAR) with K9, how Hams can assist SAR.

### **Hands on Hamming**

**7:00pm at ARL Labs**

**10000 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)**

**April 12th -** Jeff N5MNV Crossband Repeating for Fun and Practicality. It's not just for breakfast anymore!

### **Upcoming Amateur Exams**

**ARRL VEC- April 2 & May 7th**

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- April 16 & May 21st**

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.

**The 2005 Roster** comes out next month, make sure your address/phone number, etc. is correct. If you have moved recently and need to update your information or if you still need to pay your **2005 dues** contact Jerry Jackson, N5UJ at 832-5663 or [jerry@gaj.com](mailto:jerry@gaj.com) to get it taken care of.

## **Calendar of Events**

**Apr 3 Capitol 10K Fun Run** 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](http://www.HoustonHams.org)

**Apr 30 Belton Ham Expo** - Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ  
254-773-3590 [hamexpo@tarc.org](mailto:hamexpo@tarc.org) Register on the website!  
[www.tarc.org](http://www.tarc.org)

**Apr 30 TTN 7290/3873 Picnic** at Riverbend Park

**May 20-22 Dayton Hamvention**

**May 28 Second Annual Amateur Radio Military**

**Appreciation Day** Special Event- 1800-2300 UTC- HF, MARS, PSK31, APRS, and Echolink Node # 16686 or IRLP Node # 8380 [www.freewebs.com/kb9ibw](http://www.freewebs.com/kb9ibw)  
<http://www.dod.mil/americasupportsyou/america/stories/12756051.html>

Apr.	May	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
5	3	AARC Meeting Marimont Cafeteria	7:00p.m.
9	14	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop*	11:00 a.m.
12	10	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
19	17	ATV Club Meeting, Marimont	7:00 p.m.
16	21	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd.	2:00p.m.
25	23	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet	7:00 p.m.
No	23	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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