

# AARC OVER

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

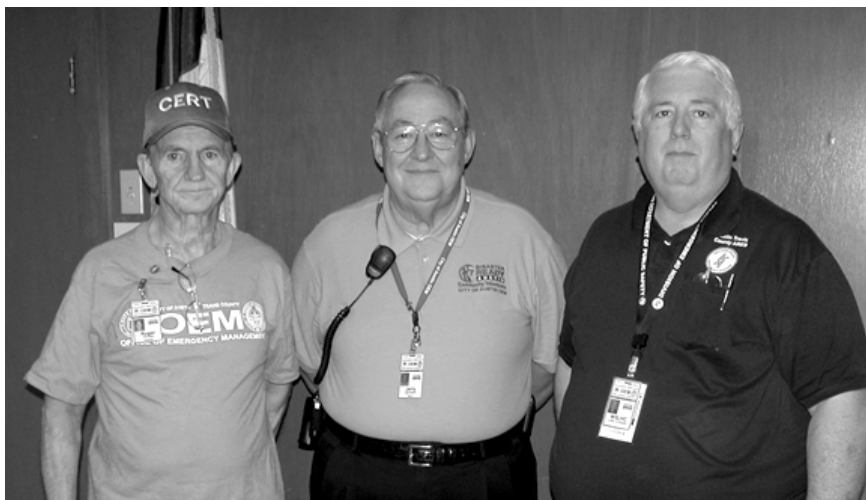
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May 2005

Issue 5-2005

## Congratulations!

Monday April 17 –Austin TX, Three members of the Austin Amateur Radio Club and Travis County ARES received, as part of National Volunteer Week, Presidential Service Awards recognizing their hours of volunteer service to the community through ARES, Disaster Ready Austin and CERT. Like the Olympics, the awards are grouped in Bronze (199-299 hrs), Silver (299-499 hrs) and Gold (499+).



Roger Wines, W5WIA, Jerry Jackson, N5UJ and Lee Cooper, W5LHC were awarded Pins, Certificates and a letter from the White House signed by President Bush. They have also been invited to attend a ceremony and reception honoring them, along with all other recipients at City Hall this coming Thursday (April 21st) evening.

President Bush has asked that all Americans volunteer up to 4000 hours during their lifetimes.

Roger Wines, W5WIA, Jerry Jackson N5UJ, and Lee Cooper, W5LHC.

## 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+

## Capitol 10K Runs Smoothly

By Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW

What a beautiful weekend to hold a footrace! The Capitol 10K was held Sunday with 13,000 runners and funny-hat wearers. Lori, myself and 35 of our best Ham Friends convened behind the Taco Cabana around 6:30AM. Lori's organizational skills really shined, as all the volunteers shirts, badges, etc. were neatly packaged in plastic bags for easy identification and quick handout.



The event started with 4-5 wheelchairs, followed by the competitive runners and then the 10,000 or so fun runners. Bright costumes and funny hats were in vogue this year. One had an ENORMOUS bat-hat, which looked hard to manage even in the light breeze. There were many colorful and a few political costumes.

Did I miss the nude runners this year? Only a few really serious medical issues unfolded. One was a broken ankle near Mopac, a runner down a mile from finish and another was a (survived) heart-attack that the MSET medical team addressed.

I was stationed near a water misting station that displayed a beautiful rainbow as the bright sunshine refracted in the droplets. A few TV and news camera crews took live shots of the runners and one particularly cute little girl as they ran through the rainbow.

Many thanks to all the Hams and spouses that helped. We had several hams run in the race, a few more couples and a larger than usual number of brand-new hams assist with communications.



The Vespa Patrol along Winsted Ln. prior to the race.

## Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

**ARRL VEC** – The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held at Murchison Middle School on April 2nd, 2005:

### General Class License Processed

David W. Dyess, KD5QIC

### Extra Class Licenses Processed

Craig G. Johnson (new-no current call)

Robert R. Romans, KD5SQF

### Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE

Joe Makeever, W5HS

Herb Nolen, W5HMN

Ron Parsons, W5RKN

John Stott, AC5ZT

Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Rick Trommer, W5RHT

### Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

May 7th - Murchison Middle School

June 4th - Murchison Middle School

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

**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 April 16<sup>th</sup> session:

### Extra Class –

none

### General Class –

Joseph E. Barr, K1GPL

Scott R. Chrestman, N5KRC

### Technician Class (all new licensees) –

Jason K. Doss

Another applicant earned element credit without upgrading.

Our volunteer examiner were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

John Fisher, K5JHF

Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Lloyd Goehring, N5TO

Dennis Murphy, W5KQF

Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Our next two sessions: May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 and June 18<sup>th</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

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
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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 Jerry Jackson, N5UJ, who mails the AARCOVER each month!***

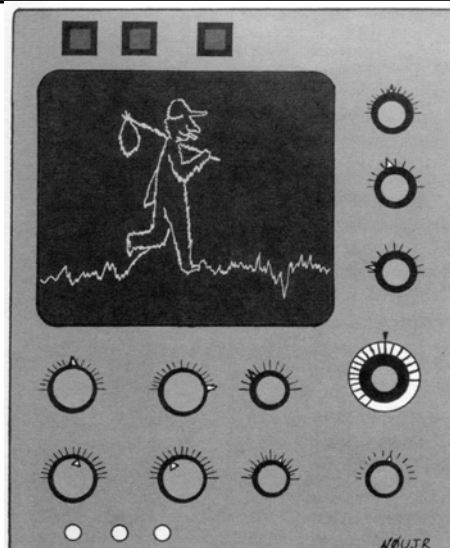
**For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:**

**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.**

## **NOUJR and His Friends**

**By Greg Trook, NØUJR**



**A digital storage scope records a 12 nanosecond AC line transient**

# MEETING MINUTES

## AARC Meeting, April 4, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President John Suchyta, KG5O, at the Marimont Cafeteria on 38<sup>th</sup> & Guadalupe St.

**Visitors:** AD5NQ (Bob) and KD5UHU (Connie) both from Kendall County. NH7WD (Paul), N5PDU (John – EC Lakeway), KE5AMB (Jim – EC Bastrop). KE5DTS and KE5DTP .

**Monthly Drawing Winner:** N5NMW Jeff Schmidt won a 7 function multi-meter.

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

### Officer Reports:

**President:** John Suchyta, KG5O, Thanks to everyone who helped with the weather net on Friday 3/25 and with the Capital 10K on Sunday 4/3.

**Vice President:** Jeff Schmidt, N5NMW, There are a lot of classes being offered. Many of the folks who took the General classes have taken and passed the test. Jeff has received requests for more technician classes to be scheduled along with some requests for an Extra Class. Jeff will work on the requests and communicate schedule as needed.

**Treasury Report:** No report this month. Treasurer was out of town. Please pay club dues if you haven't already.

**Secretary Report:** No report this month. Secretary was out of town.

### Committee Reports:

**Events Committee:** Joe fisher, K5EJL, Field Day planning meeting took place at Joe Fisher's home. It was determined that Anderson is still the best location to host field day. Joe has created a new yahoo group to use for field day planning, information sharing and general communication [austin\\_texas\\_fd](mailto:austin_texas_fd).

**Programs Committee:** Jeff Schmidt, N5NMW announced Hands on Hamming for April 12<sup>th</sup>: ARL JJ Pickle Crossband Repeating. Bring a handheld with you. They will show how a 2m HT can talk to someone on 440 thru crossband setup.

**Finance Committee:** No report **Technical Committee:** No report **Big Project Committee:** No report

**Membership Committee:** No report **Editor:** No Report **Ham of the Month:** There were no submissions for the month.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Thanks to Mitch and Smoky for AARCOVER articles.

Suggestion to event committee: to participate in Muster Day with the National Guard next March.

**Web Site:** No Report.

**Announcements:** There is a HAM Public Service Announcement on the ARRL website. Mitch ordered one to put on KXAN. Another member mentioned that a PSA has also been sent to KEYE.

Joe fisher, K5EJL, announced students are now using new radio room in LBJ. Mark Spencer from the Education Training Program in Dallas stated that this is the best funded program in ARRL. He encouraged the students to apply for grants to buy antenna software, etc.... As of 3/31 the ARRL website has more information on that program.

Bob AD5NQ – Announced a Code Practice Net that will begin on Monday, April 18, 2005 at 9pm on frequencies 147.380 PL162.2HZ and 147.140 PL179.9HZ. The net will run for about 3 weeks and provide details on how to pass the test as well as provide code practice. The net will be using some of the material from the ARRL CD's Your Introduction to Morse Code.

Participants should obtain a copy of the CD's to study in the mornings. For additional information contact: [ad5nq@arrl.net](mailto:ad5nq@arrl.net) or call Bob AD5NQ on 147.140 at 7:00 or 17:00.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- MS 150 April 16 & 17 -The course has changed slightly. A new breakpoint was added. Email N5NMW if you want to help. Per Roger, volunteer request have also been sent to DRA, CERT and other similar organizations.
- Texas Roundup April 30th
- HAM Com June 3<sup>rd</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Adjourned at:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

**Program:** KE5AMB (Jim Allen) Search & Rescue with K9's and how Hams help. Jim brought his golden retriever Zena. Jim used two different types of radios, he put a Rhino 110 on Zena for GPS purposes and he also showed us a Rhino 120 which was an FRS radio and GPS all in one. Other equipment he uses for search and rescue is a 24hr pack with a vest to include beads for measuring distance, first aid kit and a helmet with a light. He also has a 72hr pack that includes food and water for both him and Zena. Jim shared Zena's training log and certifications. The work expectancy for a dog when working with FEMA is 5 years and about 10 years in the private sector. The exercise Jim and Zena took us through during the meeting was cadaver imprinting. Jim had hidden some teeth in a jar and under a milk crate before Zena entered the room. Once given the order, Zena as expected picked the correct milk crate containing the jar of teeth from a choice of 3 crates. Zena communicated her find to Jim by barking and not leaving the site until Jim acknowledged her and rewarded her with lots of praise. We all enjoyed the exercise and appreciated Jim and Zena's time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly J. Benner - KD5RQX

## **Kid's Day**

### **-Perfect Alternative to the Cell Phone, Internet or Video Game**

Mark Spencer, WA8SME

The next Kid's Day is June 18.

Sure, it is always easier to lament that ham radio can't compete with everything that is going on in our children's lives; it is much harder to do something about it. So how do you compete? Try a little magic. The same "magic" that got you interested in ham radio is still magic; the only difference is that now it is your turn to be the magician.

On June 18, 2005, kids of all ages will experience the magic of ham radio. Kid's Day is one way that you can share the fun, excitement, and learning opportunities of ham radio. Many hams participate with their own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. This event isn't just for relatives though. Consider inviting the people you work with and their children, or your neighbor's family. Inviting adults and youth may result in future ham radio operators.

So you're not a magician? Oh yes you are. Don't forget the power and fascination of CW. Kids love the code so let them send their names on that old code practice oscillator in your shack. How about copying a CW QSO and "magically" convert the dits and dahs into meaningful words? Let the kids make a name bracelet using different sized beads for the dits and dahs ... they know what it says, but their parents might not ... that's magic. Want to be the "mad scientist"? Try dropping a small magnet through a conductive (copper) pipe and watch what happens (it isn't what the kids intuitively expect). The "hey that's cool" just might be the hook you need to get other questions going. What ever you do, make your activities centered on the kids.

The same goes for actual station operations. The Kid's Day operating event is centered on kids so if you want kids to have a great time (and be ready to come back for more) allow them to dictate the pace and duration of the event. Kid's Day should be fun for both of you. Do the kids appear to be losing interest while you tune around looking for a strong signal? Why not let them try their hand at tuning? If they are ready to leave, accept it. It is better to do 15 minutes of ham radio fun than to be forced into spending 1 hour at the ham radio transceiver when they want to be somewhere else. Besides, kids change their mind so often in a few minutes they may be sitting beside you again.

Since Kid's Day began in 1994, the comments from hams and kids haven't changed much: Though band conditions were tough, kids came by and at least two or three wanted to attend a license class. Neighboring clubs came by and assisted, much thanks to all who helped, members of San Gorgonio Pass Amateur Radio Club and Yucaipa ARC. Thanks to all stations who exchanged contacts with AE6JM.

We had 13 girls from my daughter's Brownie troop at my home today and successfully made contact with many. Everyone had a great time and I hope developed an interest in Amateur Radio. (My two have-for a while now-talked about eventually getting their licenses.) Great event!-Peter, W2PWS.

One of Camille's CQs was answered by KHØAC. We had quite a long chat with him about his QTH in Saipan-quite a thrill for Camille, hard as it is to impress kids with such things these days. Thanks to all for the QSOs-Kid's Day is wonderful!-Derek, AA5BT

I had a lot of fun today working all the kids. I'm looking forward to the one in the summer, as it is the same weekend as our Ham Campout so will most likely have more kids on the air. -Kevin McCoy, VE6KJM

## The QCWA QSO

Keith Zimmermann, K5WX



Fire Chief Gary Warren treated chapter members and guests to a program on fire safety and first aid. Chief Warren discussed subjects including fire extinguishers, burglar bars, low-water crossings, and even the new automatic defibrillators. Our thanks go to him for providing us with such a great program.

The May meeting of Chapter 67 will be at 2 PM on Saturday, May 21st at Denny's at 7820 Burnet Road. All are welcome to attend. This Denny's location is on Burnet Road between Anderson Lane and Northcross Drive. At this meeting, we will be discussing summertime plans including perhaps a picnic meeting or Field Day plans or whatever members wish to bring up. 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!

At least two QCWA Chapter 67 members helped with the MS150 bike ride. Bil Henson, WB5SYS, and Keith Zimmermann, K5WX, helped at the Bastrop lunch stop. Working with them on other stations were Terry Parker, KC5EFD, and Chanda (AD5IQ) and Dale (AA5DW)



Walker from northwest Houston. Bil and Keith mainly helped with the medical communications. It was a good test of Bil's emergency station that included voice, packet, ATV, weather beacons, Amateur Radio Positioning System (APRS) beaconing, and who knows what else. There was an incredible group of well-trained amateur radio

operators helping out with the communications for this massive two day event in which riders start in Houston, overnight in LaGrange and finish in Austin. Great job everyone!

Please remember that everyone is welcome to attend the QCWA meetings. To be a member, you only need to have been licensed 25 years ago. There is no requirement for continuous licensing for 25 years. Always check the QCWA Chapter 67 web site at [www.qcwa.net](http://www.qcwa.net) for meeting location and times. 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.



## Easy To Construct 40 Meter Wire Beam

By Gene Preston, K5GP

This antenna is an easy to construct wire beam for 40 meters. It is simply two dipoles fed by RG8X coax with an RG8X phasing section that is switchable so the beam is reversible with a SPST coax switch. It provides 20 dB front to back directivity in the CW band and 10 dB f/b in the SSB band. The SWR is less than 2 to 1 across the whole 40 meter band. It tunes much broader than an individual dipole. This configuration was studied in detail using EZNEC and the dimensions given here have the best directivity and SWR characteristics. The actual antenna was tested and found to have the gain and SWR performance predicted by the EZNEC program.

I suggest purchasing two standard 50 ft lengths of RG8X coax and a 25 ft length of RG8X coax with PL259 connectors already on the coax. You will need RG8X because of its high velocity factor of 80%. Then purchase center insulators made up for PL259 and an antenna switch for PL259 connectors. You will need a little less than 150 ft of wire for the dipoles. I used #18 copper weld wire so as to make my antennas as hidden as possible while being able to run them at a kilowatt. I also use 80 lb test fishing line and fiberglass insulators and a spring on each tree at the ends of the dipoles, so as to keep the tension constant and keep the antennas from breaking when the trees they are connected to sway in the wind. My dipoles are a little less than 15 feet high. The antenna was designed at 15 feet. The EZNEC program predicts that the performance is not greatly affected by the height.

When you put up the dipoles (with the 50 ft lengths of RG8X connected), carefully space them 34 feet apart, and try to make them parallel. Putting them closer together will degrade the front to back performance. Feed each dipole the same, i.e. no phase reversal. Start out with each leg of each dipoles 33' 8" feet long. This should be resonant below 7075 kHz. Trim the lengths so that each antenna has the lowest SWR on 7075 kHz. Do this even if you plan on using the antenna mostly in the SSB part of 40 meters. This is because the SWR and f/b are lopsided. The antenna has a rather sharp cutoff just below 7 MHz and the SWR and gain tune broadly above 7 MHz. When tuning each dipole, disconnect the coax connector of the other antenna, so the other antenna will not be resonant. When finished trimming the dipoles, put coax tee connectors on each end of the 25 ft RG8X phasing line and coil it up and connect the center of the tees to the SPST antenna coax switch. Connect the antennas to the remaining open positions of the tee connectors. The switch will reverse the direction of the beam. I have my 40 meter beam oriented so that it points either east or west. Since the forward lobe is broad, the exact direction of the forward lobe is not critical.

The beam is in a direction from the dipole of the 50 ft feed to the dipole with the 75 ft feed. The direction is reversed by switching the antenna switch to the opposite position, which reverses the 50 and 75 ft length feeds to the dipoles. Because the system is symmetrical, the SWR should be the same in the reverse direction so no retuning will be needed when doing front to back tests.

Since putting this antenna up, I have been able to consistently work 9Y4LT in Trinidad each morning and NP2DJ on a sailboat in St. Thomas in the mornings on 7050. When I ask others on frequency if they heard those stations, they say that the stations I am talking with are too light for them to copy. When I switch to a regular dipole or vertical, NP2DJ and 9Y4LT become too light for me to copy. The beam makes it possible to pull these stations out of the background noise.  
73 de K5GP, Gene

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## Volunteers Recognized by Mayor

Austin, TX, April 21st, 2005 - Austin Mayor Will Wynn honored and congratulated a group of about 200 volunteers representing the various departments and organization within the City of Austin at a special reception held at City Hall last night. The city brought together all of the volunteers that received Presidential Service Awards this week as part of National Volunteer Week. OEM Director Steve Collier thanks all the members of ARES and CERT that have been invaluable to the city and the Office of Emergency Management for several years. Each city department head congratulated their volunteers for all that they have done. City Manager Toby Futrell stated that over 125,000 hours of volunteer time were given to the City of Austin in 2004 alone.



Austin Mayor Will Wynn, Recognizes efforts of Volunteers at reception.

**AARC Meeting Info.**

**Business Meeting**

**7:00 pm at Marimont Cafeteria**

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

**May 3rd-** Open Mike - Favorite QSOs & Elmering Sessions.

**Hands on Hamming**

**7:00pm at ARL Labs**

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

**May 10th** - "Radar on Wheels" Aircraft WX avoidance radar, mountable to a truck.

**Upcoming Amateur Exams**

**ARRL VEC- May 7th & June 4th**

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- May 21st & June 18**

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 info.

**Missed an Issue???**

Text (only) & .pdf version of the current issue can be found on the Web <http://www.austinhams.org>

Join the Austin hams Yahoo Discussion Group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinhams/>  
We are now up to 55 members! It's free!

**Calendar of Events**

**May 7 Abilene**

**May 20-22 Dayton Hamvention** <http://tmedlin.com/cam.html>

**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)

[www.dod.mil/americasupportsyou/america/stories/12756051.html](http://www.dod.mil/americasupportsyou/america/stories/12756051.html)

**Jun 2-5 Republic of Texas Biker Rally-** Comm and Med Vols needed Ed Franks KE5CAX [rot@mset-tx.org](mailto:rot@mset-tx.org) or call

512-989-7448 <http://mset-tx.org>

**Jun 3-5 Ham-Com** Convention Center in Arlington, TX

**Jun 18 Amateur Radio Kid's Day**

Date: Saturday, Jun 18, 2005

**Jun 24-26 Field Day**

Austin- Anderson High School [K5EJL@arrl.net](mailto:K5EJL@arrl.net)

May	June	Austin Meetings/Happenings
3	7	AARC Meeting Marimont Cafeteria 7:00p.m.
14	11	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop* 11:00 a.m.
10	14	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
17	21	ATV Club Meeting, Marimont 7:00 p.m.
21	18	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00p.m.
23	27	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
23	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.

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