



AARCOVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs
Austin Amateur Radio Club

Austin Amateur Television Club

Austin Repeater Organization

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June 2005

Issue 6-2005

TAKE YOUR HT TO WORK DAY

Tuesday June 21, 2005

What's that?

The very best Amateur Radio recruiter is a ham. On June 21st we are encouraging all hams in the US that have an HT to take it with them to work. Wear it on your belt, put it on your desk or some other place where your co-workers can see it. We hope that it will raise curiosity and questions. This is a chance for you to talk to them about ham radio! At lunchtime, show them how it works. Make some contacts while they are watching. Even better, let them talk on the radio! Then invite your co-workers to come see you at Field Day weekend. There they can meet even more hams, see a full station in simulated emergency operations, learn more and get information so that they too can get their Technician license.

When it's all done, just mail in a report to:

HT Workday
ARRL
225 Main St
Newington, CT 06111

List four things:

1. your call sign
2. how many non-hams watched you make a contact during the day
3. how many non-hams were you able to get to talk on your radio
4. how many non-hams said they would come to your Field Day site

The people with the highest activity levels will be eligible for prizes including the new ARRL Handbook, or Antenna Book or Operating Manual.

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	146.94 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+

What else?

There will be monitors on various repeaters randomly scattered throughout the country. If you are heard during the lunch hour of 12 to 1 (your local time) participating in HT Workday, showing your radio to a non-ham, you just might have one of the special monitors come back to you telling you you've just won a new ARRL Repeater Directory.

And...

W1AW will be running via echolink and also checking into repeaters and sites across the country during their lunch hour of 12 to 1 p.m. local time. Bear, from the Christmas Toy Drive, and his friends will be giving away Repeater Directories to hams participating in HT Workday.

Summary

This is a chance to have a lot of fun, recruit new hams, invite people to Field Day, get publicity, and show off Amateur Radio. Many people would like to have the capabilities of ham radio in a crisis but don't know where to start. The best recruiter is another ham who can show, guide and explain how to get their Technician license, then link them to the right people in your area. I hope you have fun and make the most of it! ■



SOLAR UPDATE

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 24, No. 20
May 20, 2005

Solar flash Tad "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: Things got quite exciting last weekend. On Friday the Thirteenth at 1650 UTC, a tremendous explosion near Sunspot 759 blasted toward Earth. The impact on Earth's magnetic field was felt at 0230 UTC on May 15, producing an extreme geomagnetic storm. A geomagnetic storm is a disturbance of Earth's magnetic field.

The planetary K index reached 9 on Sunday, May 15. This is huge!. The middle-latitude, high-latitude and planetary A indices for Sunday were 44, 77 and 105 respectively--all very high values.

The A and K indices indicate the severity of magnetic fluctuations and, as a result, the disturbance to the ionosphere. K indices of 2 or 4 indicate unsettled or even active magnetic conditions--likely to be reflected in a degradation of HF conditions. An index of 9 represent a major storm that would result in an HF blackout.

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held at Murchison Middle School on May 7th, 2005:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Aaron J. Davis
Howard L. Wolff

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Howard Glueck, K5ZUA Larry Gunter, WB5BEK
Gene Hinkle, K5PA Joe Makeever, W5HS
Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH Tom Nevue, W2MN
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL/VE Test Sessions

June 4th - Murchison Middle School

July 9th - 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 May 21st session:

Extra Class –

James F. Allen, KE5AMB Lewis E. Rowell, Sr., WA5PAX

General Class –

Grant Bogue –new- David Underwood, KE5BJB

Technician Class -none-

Our volunteer examiner were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Chris Crane, K5CLC Tony Lyon, KJ5XF
John Fisher, K5JHF Roger Pfluger, AC5IP
Lloyd Goehring, N5TO Thomas Visel, NX1N

Our next two sessions: June 18th and July 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.

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.**

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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

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

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



“Yes, now seeing definite rotation at point 31...make that point 36...point 45...point 52...”

Club Minutes

AARC Meeting May 3rd, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President John Suchyta, KG5O at 7:10 PM. Meeting was held at the ARL Labs, 10001 N. Burnet Road, Austin TX.

Visitors, New Members and New Calls:

There were two visitors to the meeting tonight. They were KE5DFH John Massa and N6XQX Daniel Douglas.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the April meeting, as published in the newsletter, were approved as printed. Motion to approve was made by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ and seconded by James Robbins, N5OUJ.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President: John KG5O thanked everyone for all of their help with the MS-150 Race in April.

Vice President: Jeff N5MNV was traveling and not at the meeting, but he did call in via Cell phone and sent us a couple of images taken on his trip and emailed to John.

Treasury Report: Jerry Jackson, N5UJ, reports that the current treasury balance is \$5981.47. He also indicated that current paid membership is at 234 members signed up.

Secretary: No Report

Events: No Report

Programs: No Report

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

Technical: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH reported that they are working with other members of the technical committee and with KVUE to coordinate the move of the 146.94 repeater to the new HDTV tower. Roger W5WIA reports that we have time to organize the move properly.

Big Project: Joe K5EJL reports that they have a tower over at LBJ High school but it still has not been erected. The club spent the \$2500 Grant money they won from Best Buy to purchase some needed computer equipment for the shack.

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

Editor: No report. Mitch London, KD5HCV

Ham of the Month: **Roger Wines, W5WIA**

Old Business: None

New Business: As reported, the Marimont Cafeteria has closed. Until further notice all AARC Club meetings will be held at the ARL Labs. It was decided to plan to buy pizza for the meetings and collect donations so as to have food for dinner. Of course you may bring your own food to the meeting if desired.

Joe K5EJL reported on Field Day planning. FD will be at Anderson High this year and will be 2A Battery QRO. We plan on using the N3FJP logging software again this year. Joe has created an email reflector to ease communications on planning, The email group is Austin_TX_FD@yahoo.com . We will have a practice session at the Hands on Hamming meeting and a FD shake out along with the VHF contest at Anderson on the 11th. FD is the weekend of the 26th of June.

Volunteer Activities (See Swapnet for details):

Announcements and Upcoming Meetings:

Red Cross will be having training on the 9th -11th of June for all interested please contact Stuart Rohre, K5KVH for details.

Monthly Door Prize:

Marie, KA5HFH won the monthly door prize which was a Digital Multimeter.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Program: The program was an open mic night and there were several interesting stories of how folks got into ham radio, elmering given or received, etc.

Respectfully Submitted;
Lee Cooper, W5LHC

The QCWA QSO

Keith Zimmermann, K5WX



One facet that separates us from the animals is our ability to pass to the next generation ideas and concepts and techniques that work. We do that by verbal storytelling and teaching and through written historical records. New ideas are constantly tested against the old ideas. That's part of the innovation process that we use to improve our lives and the next generation. Sometimes, new technologies bring new methods that win out. Other times, the old methods continue to work as well or better than the new.

We saw a contest behind old and new communications on Jay Leno's Tonight Show two weeks ago. On Friday, May 13th, Jay Leno had a brief competition that pitted Morse code operators against mobile phone text message experts. This was one of those out of the ordinary events that allow to us compare two forms of communication developed over 100 years apart. Jay Leno invited two experienced CW operators, Chip, K7JA and Ken, K6CTW, to be on his show. Chip sat down in front of keyer paddles attached to a Yaesu FT-817 transceiver set to 432.2 MHz. Ken sat down in front of an FT-817 on the other side of the room with a pencil ready to copy. Likewise, Jay Leno invited two champions at the art of "text messaging" on mobile phones. One sat down with his mobile phone next to Chip while the other mobile phone operator sat across the room next to Ken who was receiving the code. A card was placed on the table face down with one sentence on it. The test was to see if the code operators could communicate the sentence faster than the text messengers.



The Morse code operators sent the sentence at about 25 - 30 words per minute and were finished in about 15 seconds. The text message people were still working on the last two words when the code fellows were done! In all three rehearsals prior to the telecast, the code operators won.

Does that mean text messaging on a mobile phone is worthless? Of course not. But it does indicate that Morse code was, and still is, an extremely efficient method of sending some information quickly and accurately.

The Austin Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association is interested passing along the old skill of Morse code communications by helping people learn and practice and improve their Morse code skills. We continue to send code practice every Wednesday night at 8:00 PM on the 146.94 MHz repeater. You can check your copy at www.qcwa.net. Bil, WB5SYS, starts the code speed at 3 words per minute and progresses to 10 words per minute (and sometimes faster).

The June meeting will start at 2 PM on Saturday, June 18th at Denny's at 7820 Burnet Road. This Denny's location is on Burnet Road between Anderson Lane and Northcross Drive. Some folks arrive at 1 PM for lunch. All are welcome!

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.

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

<http://www.ac6v.com/73.htm#cq>

Has a wide and very interesting series of discourses on abbreviations and codes in use today. Historical background is given for most. (Rick Herndon K5FNI)

<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=1084>

Ever wonder about how many hams are in the USA vs. Britain and Japan? The site below has this and fascinating info about breakdowns of licenses by class and number within a state. (Stuart Rohre, K5KVH)

A Low Cost Ham Station

Sent by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

(I keep this posted in my station to keep things in perspective.)

Cheap Station by Pete Peterson, WY7Z

To those who think a ham station must cost a bunch of bucks and have space for elaborate antennas: If you don't like \$500 or \$1000 stations, how about building one that costs \$9, or \$13 with improvements?...I did.

In 1982 I saw a Hallicrafters S-38 receiver with a \$5 price tag in a Salvation Army store window. It looked abused and the knobs didn't match, but on a whim I bought it. For an antenna I ran a scrap of wire from the S-38 to the aluminum frame of the bedroom window. Surprisingly, it worked. I listened to foreign broadcasts and hams, read some QSTs in the library and decided to get a Novice license. I studied, copied CW from W1AW and hams on the S-38 and was licensed in May '83.

Total cost so far was \$5.40 including sales tax. I think the license was free.

For a transmitter I bought a '40s Packard Bell five tube broadcast receiver for 50 cents at a garage sale. It worked but the plastic case was broken. I discarded the case and stripped the chassis of everything but the tubes and sockets, tuning cap and volume control (for the off-on switch). I built an 80-meter crystal oscillator around the 50L6 audio amplifier, using wire from the loop antenna to wind an RF coil on a toilet-paper roll tube. At an electronics second-hand store I got a box of crystals for \$1, several of which worked on 80 and 40 meters. It took two weeks to get (the transmitter) working.

The transmitter wouldn't load into one window frame so I connected the window with two more window frames in series. This required scrap wire and a 98-cent package of alligator clips from Radio Shack. By now I was up to about \$8.

My telegraph key was made from basement junk: scrap plywood, screws and nuts, and half of a hacksaw blade. The tuning indicator was a neon bulb (from a broken hair curler) and a loop of wire taped to the antenna lead in. Odd hardware cost another buck.

Later, in a moment of fiscal recklessness, I bought 100 feet of wire for \$3, made some insulators from a plastic 7-Up jug and strung an antenna between two trees. Some other tweaking and improvements brought the total cost to about \$13.

With this rig I worked about 26 states and eight countries. I haven't the foggiest idea what the SWR was, or any of the other numbers that hams concern themselves about. Power output? I don't know, maybe about 2-3 watts. No one argued when I said I was QRP.

Now, before you run out and buy an S-38, you should know it's a very old five-tube set and its selectivity, sensitivity, S/N ratio and any other measure you can think of are all bad. My station was an absolute minimum and it looked UGLY. I could have afforded better, but it seemed in keeping with the S-38 to scrounge and improvise. Each contact provided great satisfaction.

Since then I've upgraded the station several times and now have a modern solid-state station with Yagis on a tower and lots of other neat stuff. I thoroughly enjoy my present station but I don't regret starting as I did.

So, a station doesn't have to be expensive, or work perfectly, or look good; it just has to work. Try it. 73 and good luck.

(Reprinted with permission from Worldradio.) This was found in Low Profile Amateur Radio by Jim Kearman, KR1S Published by The American Radio Relay League.

Brian N0XFE

Brian R. Olson
N0XFE
Bloomington, MN

Cell Phone Towers Attract Scrutiny Worldwide

Concerns and contentions that emissions from cell phone towers may imperil health continue to make headlines. In Portugal, the mayors of Cimbra and Maja Municipal Councils, the Institute of Telecommunications, and the nation's three wireless telecoms-Optimus, TMN, and Vodafone have jointly signed agreements to set up remote electromagnetic field monitoring networks in the two municipalities. The effort will be known as Project monIT and will be managed by the Institute of Telecommunications. It is intended to provide the public with relevant information about levels of exposure to electromagnetic fields, in particular those generated by cell phone towers. The results of systematic monitoring will be made available to the general public.

Meanwhile, far from the Iberian Peninsula, some residents of South Bend, Indiana, have filed suit against the owner of a communications tower, who leases space to local wireless telecoms. Residents allege a variety of health problems including nausea, sleep apnea, and skin lesions. They also contend that during power surges that small appliances burst into flame and that light bulbs explode in their sockets. In total, the suits claim damages for personal injuries, weakened immune systems, sleep disturbances, loss of peripheral vision, recurring headaches, chronic fatigue, and diminished property values. In response, a local county councilman has agreed to create a taskforce to examine the health implications of electromagnetic fields and low frequency noise. For an interesting Australian website on this issue, go to ...

www.environment.sa.gov.au/epa/basestation.html.

Civil Air Patrol teams up with Amateur Radio

CAP to sign formal agreement with ARRL during Dayton Hamvention

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. - When thousands of Amateur Radio operators converge on Dayton May 20 for their annual Hamvention, they'll find Civil Air Patrol to be a major presence.

The Hamvention is an annual event sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, in cooperation with the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. In conjunction with the Hamvention, CAP's national commander will sign a formal Memorandum of Agreement with Jim Haynie, W5JBP, President of the ARRL, to help leaders of both organizations better use and integrate their resources in exercises and emergencies.

"Civil Air Patrol has one of the largest unified communications networks in the nation," said Lt. Col. Maurice Thomas, CAP, who is also an avid ham radio hobbyist, N3ADV. "Federal, state and local agencies call on CAP members every day for communications support in search and rescue missions and disaster relief. CAP needs 'implementers' for its communications technology, and the highly skilled ham radio operators throughout the nation are a natural resource."

On May 20, CAP's national commander, Maj. Gen. Dwight Wheless, will join Haynie for the official signing of the CAP-ARRL agreement at 10:15 in Room 2 at Hara Arena.

"Radio hobbyists are called 'amateurs' only because they're not paid for their work," Wheless said. "In truth, many of these hobbyists are highly skilled and knowledgeable about the latest in communications technology."

According to Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, 2.5 million people throughout the world are ham radio operators. Some 675,000 of those live in the United States. ARRL, with more than 150,000 members, is the nation's leading advocate for ham radio.

Pitts says volunteerism is a tradition for ham radio operators. "We look forward to educating our members about CAP, and CAP members about ARRL," Pitts said. "It's the love of learning, not money, that drives the ham community. From Morse code to high-speed digital algorithms, a wire up in a tree to their own satellite communications systems, hams love to make it happen. The slogan, 'when all else fails - ham radio!' is more than just words. They know ham radio communications worked again and again when other systems failed. One way or another, hams get their messages through."

Communications plays a major role in all of CAP's operations, including homeland security, damage assessment, search and rescue, and disaster relief. Radio communications was key in CAP's impact assessment missions during last year's hurricanes in Florida, ice storms in Arkansas and New York, and floods in Missouri.

"In many emergency situations, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and other Amateur Radio emergency groups have found themselves working side by side with CAP members," Pitts said. "This formal agreement between our two groups acknowledges the reality that in a disaster, we all work for the common good."

AARC Meeting Info.

Business MeetingNew Location!****

7:00 pm at ARL Labs

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

June 7th - John Basilotto W5GI- "Mystery Antenna", as published in the July, 2003 issue of CQ magazine <http://w5gi.com/cqmagarticle.pdf>

Hands on Hamming

7:00pm at ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)

June 14th - Field Day Layout, Equip, Software and Sign Up

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- June 4th & July 9th

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- June 18 & July 16th

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

Jun 2-5 Republic of Texas Biker Rally- Comm and Med Vols needed Ed Franks KE5CAX rot@mset-tx.org or call 512-989-7448 <http://mset-tx.org>

Jun 3-5 Ham-Com Convention Center in Arlington, TX (Fri-Sun) ARRL West Gulf Division Convention www.hamcom.org Want to volunteer and get in free? Visit: www.hamcom.org/cgi-bin/ccp51/cp-app.cgi?pg=volunteers

Jun 18 Amateur Radio Kid's Day Saturday, Jun 18, 2005 1800 to 2400 UTC. Call CQ Kid's Day on: 28.350-28.400, 21.380-21.400, 14.270-14.300 Mark Spencer, WA8SME, ARRL Education & Technology Program Coordinator m Spencer@arrl.org

Jun 24-26 Field Day Austin- Anderson High School K5EJL@arrl.net WWW.FieldDay05.Com

June	July	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
7	5	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium	7:00p.m.
11	9	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.
14	12	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
21	19	ATV ClubMtg. Chez Zee on Balcones*	7:00 p.m.
18	16	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd.	2:00p.m.
27	25	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet	7:00 p.m.
No	26	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud.	7:00 p.m.

*ATV Club now meets at Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones Dr. 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
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Time Value Newsletter

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