

AARC OVER

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

ISSN 1067-0262

January 2006

New Meeting Location See Back Page

Issue 1-2006

Christmas Party a Hit!

All 80 or so who attended the AARC Christmas Party had a great time visiting, eating and watching or participating in the various contests, silent auction & raffles. Lots of familiar faces and many new ones were seen. Lew W5IFQ handily won the QLF contest, the tabletop decoration was won by Milly N5WQG, who made a Ham House. Honorable mention for uniqueness goes to Mitch KD5HCV for the "Two Meater" antenna, comprised of two types of frankfurters... A new contest Mitch created- a DXCC country prefix quiz was won by Hugh NT5O, Terry Parker, KC5EFD, Pete Jordahl, K5GN, and Stuart Rohre, K5KVM. Mickey WX5U walked away with the Grand Door Prize- a Yaesu FT-2800. "The Pit" BBQ was outstanding, the pot-luck desserts were incredible, George WB5FBJ's music was, as always, entertaining and the company we all shared will be remembered for some time. The AARC 2005 Christmas Party was a special event in

lots of ways, thank you all for making it so. de AARC Officers and Board.



See more pictures
From the party on
Page 4!

**Christmas Party
attendees enjoying
the BBQ dinner.**

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	146.64 MHz - (162.2)
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 -
Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Bastrop ARES Net	443.750+ (114.80)
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+

Mobile Power Cords and Fuses

Martin Campbell, KB0HAE

(Forwarded by Pete Jordahl, KG5O and reprinted with permission)

One con of almost all modern radios is that the power cords are NOT suitable for mobile operation or operation from emergency battery power. Things are fine when the engine is running, or running from a 13.8v power supply.

The problem lies in the cheap fuse holders and fuses used in the factory power cords. I first noticed this problem a few years ago with my Icom 706MKII in the car. Things were fine with the engine running, but with the engine off, I got reports of distorted audio unless I reduced power to a few watts. After double-checking the antenna and coax, I realized that the problem went away when I started the engine.

This led me to check the voltage at the radio side of the fuse holders when transmitting full power (100 watts FM into a dummy load). The voltage was 12.56 VDC on receive. When transmitting at 100 watts FM into a dummy load, the voltage dropped to 10.79 VDC. I then measured the voltage on the battery side of the fuse holders under the same transmit conditions. It measured 12.54 VDC. that meant that there was a 1.75 cumulative voltage drop across the 2 fuses and holders.

Thus on transmit at full power, the radio was operating a less than its specified input voltage. I replaced the factory fuse holders and fuses with 30 amp automotive spade fuse holders and 20 amp spade fuses. Then I measured the voltage drop again under the same transmit conditions. There was only 0.5 cumulative voltage drop, a significant improvement.

At the time, I was using gold plated ring terminals soldered to #10 THN wire to connect to the battery, and connecting to the 3 foot shortened factory cord with 30 amp Anderson PowerPole connectors.

The voltage drop could probably be cut even further by using #8 wire and gold plated fuses and holders as are used in car stereo installation where large audio amps are used.

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Colorado Room on December 3rd, 2005:

Technician Class License Processed

Fred T. Mason, KE5GTU

General Class Licenses Processed

James D. "Danny" Turner, N5PAO

Gilbert E. Vitek, WA5PBD

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE Curt Goodson, W4QBU

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Joe Makeever, W5HS

Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Roy Walker, WA5YZD

Next two ARRL VE Test Sessions

January 7th - LCRA Colorado Room

February 4th - LCRA Colorado Room

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

W5YI-VEC - 12-10-2005

The South Austin W5YI VE team completed its thirteenth year of monthly amateur radio exam sessions and congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded licenses at our December 10th meeting:

Extra Class –

<none>

General Class –

Matthew J. Marbury, KE5CKR

Hector M. Roman, N5YEP

Technician Class (all new) –

Nick F. Athey

Another applicant earned element credit without upgrading.

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

John Fisher, K5JHF

Tony Lyon, KJ5XF

Lloyd Goehring, N5TO

Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Dennis Murphy, W5KQF

Thomas Visel, NX1N

Our next two sessions: **December 10th & January 21st** 2005 at 2 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University.

Exam fee is \$14.00

Please bring two forms of identification plus your social security number.

Sessions are accessible to handicapped applicants.

No pre-registration is required.

Walk-ins are welcomed.

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., PO BOX 4739, AUSTIN TX 78765-4739, Web site: <http://www.austinhams.org>

President	John Suchyta	KG5O	261-4931	kg5o@arrl.net
Vice President	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNV	255-6753	n5mnw@arrl.net
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ARRL Public Information Officer	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net

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

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. has a membership dues of \$20.00/calendar year (\$30.00 family to the same address)
The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. AARC maintains the following repeaters. An open autopatch and emergency power on 146.78 MHz and an emergency HF/VHF station at the American Red Cross building. Persons residing or working within the coverage area are expected to join the club, if they use the autopatch. Non-residents on short visits are welcome to use this autopatch. 146.88MHz (-600) with autopatch; 146.94 MHz (-600) used for Weather Net when called, and Travis County ARES. It is also used for Swapnet and Newline @ 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.

Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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.

“NOUJR and His Friends” is reprinted with permission by Greg Trook, Trook Enterprises. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission. For information: <http://incolor.inebraska.com/n0ujr>.

“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.

Wanted: Public Information Officers and Reporters

Do you like to write? Are you interested in working with the media?

I have a number of ideas and projects I want to pursue in 2006 and I am looking for members that can help me “tell the story” or work with me on some special projects.

If interested contact Lee w5lhc@arrl.net or see me at one of the meetings.

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

<http://www.eham.net/articles/12626>

The best pile of good info I've read in a while for PSK31, tips and discussion for new users. –Rick Herndon

You can create your own Morse Ringtone on this site:

<http://www.planetofnoise.com/midi/morse2mid.php>

Original article as seen on QRZ:

<http://www.qrz.com/ib-bin/ikonboard.cgi?act=ST&f=3&t=102587>

I had issues listening to the resulting ~1k .wav file using Windoze Media Player 10 (update needed on work comp?), but Lori's WMP, Quicktime (home comp) worked and it loaded on her phone fine.

73 de N5MNV

More Pictures from the Christmas Party!



George Toone, WB5FBJ provided music for the party!



The winning table top decoration by Milly Nunis, N5WQG.



Johanna Preston, W5JLP tries her left foot a try at the QLF contest.



DXCC Match-Up winners...Pete Jordahl, K5GM; Terry Parker, KC5EFD; Hugh Brown, NT5O and Stuart Rohre, K5KVH.

Travis County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) holds Mini-SET.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Cooper, W5LHC

Austin TX – The Travis County ARES group has been working closely with the City of Austin Office of Emergency Management for several years to develop an effective backup communications plan and system to track and report patient status during a large scale mass casualty event. This effort has come to known as the ARCHES program.

The program from its initial inception had used a combination of a front end packet client such as Winpack and would connect and transfer data to a backend database known as ARESDATA. While we developed this program and ran a number of successful simulated emergency drills over the years with it, we also recognized that there were limitations to the application and potentially a steep learning curve in the intricacies of packet communications that kept a number of our members from being more involved with it.

In 2004 a new program was being looked at by the ARRL Field Organization that was to become the recommended application for data transfers during events. This application was called Winlink 2000. There are two clients that work with this program. One is Winlink and the other is AirMail. Travis County ARES researched both of these and came up with two conclusions. The first is that since either client works like and has the look and feel of a standard email client it becomes more flexible to use and has a much easier training curve with it. Because it requires no costs for the software and does not require additional infrastructure on your system and works on more legacy operating systems we chose to go with the AirMail version of the application. We have installed this on the hospital systems and have been training with it for all of 2005.

In November we wanted to test what we saw as a unique feature that AirMail gave us for our ARCHES installations. Both Winlink and Airmail are capable of, and have been tested with, using internet gateways called Telpac nodes to send and receive email with attachments to and from standard commercial internet email addresses. This means that you can send a message from your ARCHES station with a local Winlink email address of W5OEM@winlink.org to an emergency management official at something like OEMSteve@yahoo.com and receive one back from him directly to your station. This means that we could activate a single hospital and have that station send and receive messages to the OEM **without** having anyone manning the EOC station. A storm spotter, with packet capabilities and Airmail loaded, could potentially send reports directly to Larry Eblen at the NWS!

But what if there were no Telpac nodes operating? What if we needed to send /receive traffic from a site that did not have an operator on location yet? For the November SET we wanted to test two things, 1) the ability to connect direct station to station from the EOC to each of the ARCHES stations without any Telpac, and if possible, digipeater in between and 2) The ability **from the EOC** to push out an instruction sheet or a blank excel data sheet that could be filled out by someone at the hospital and put back in the outbox and then retrieved by the EOC **by polling the station** rather than it being sent by the hospital ARCHES station! The November SET was meant to be a test of that capability.

On November 22nd about 30-40 Travis County ARES members along with several Williamson County ARES members helped us to test this concept. Instead of our regular meeting at ARL Labs members from each Hospital ARCHES team instead deployed to their hospitals and activated their stations and waited. In some cases they waited and waited and waited, but eventually, with a few exceptions, Lew was able to connect to each site and deliver a spreadsheet and a set of instructions. You filled out the sheets per those instructions and “posted” them back into the Airmail client for Lew to them come by and poll for and retrieve back into the EOC email box. As we were polling each station sequentially and not doing a group email type of operation this took longer than some may have anticipated but it was important for our objectives for it to be done the way we did. It also helped us identify some important “gotchas” that we would have been caught unaware of if this had been the real deal. It helped us prove Airmail can be a very useful tool without having any Telpac nodes or perhaps not even having any digipeaters available.

What did we learn? The biggest thing I believe was that if each station lets Airmail auto-assign a numeric number to their messages such as message one, or message two then the possibility of the same number being assigned at multiple stations is high. When we polled each station Airmail sometimes would not take the email because it thought it had already done so based on the message number. The solution, it appears, is to pre-assign message count blocks to each station and to set those starting numbers up in our setup options. There were some other items we learned also and those will soon appear on the tcares.org website along with the message number assignments.

Again, I would like to thank those that came out and helped us prove a valuable concept and prove it could be done if needed. This is the reason we do these drills and why we are able to be successful when called upon. I think it was also a great opportunity for many of our newer members to become acquainted with their hospitals and with how Airmail works. Thanks for a job well done! -W5LHC

CLUB MINUTES

AARC Meeting December 6th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President John Suchyta, KG5O at 7:08 PM. Meeting was held at the ARL Labs, 10001 N. Burnet Road, Austin TX.

Visitors, New Members and New Calls:

Jack Heiss, WB0VMZ were in attendance at the meeting.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the November meeting, as published in the newsletter, were not approved as the newsletter has not yet arrived for all to read.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President: John, KG5O thanked all for their efforts for the past year and invited all to attend the club Christmas party next week. He also thanked everyone that participated in the TCARES mini-set that was held a few weeks ago.

Vice President: Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV discussed briefly the letter that he is putting together to send to Viacom. They are owners of the new joint HDTV tower that KVUE will be sharing and they want to charge AARC \$100 per month fee to have an antenna on the tower. We are attempting to get a waiver as a community service organization.

Treasury Report: No Report **Secretary:** No Report **Programs:** No Report **Finance:** No report. Club is seeking someone to chair this committee. **Technical:** No Report **Big Project:** No Report **Membership:** No report

Editor: Mitch London, KD5HCV, asked that will all of the meeting changes going on that folks keep him notified so he can make sure the newsletter is accurate. He is always looking for articles, club reports, etc for the newsletter.

Ham of the Month: Lewis Thompson, W5IFQ

Nomination: I nominate Lewis Thompson, W5IFQ for his work on the latest ARES mini-SET. For over a year he has demonstrated how to use AirMail and prodded us to use it in our ARCHES stations. His tireless efforts before the November SET, during the exercise, and in the post mortem gave us all a high level of confidence that AirMail is an effective tool for emergency communications. This nomination also recognizes the great support and guidance he gives all year long. Respectfully submitted by KG5O

Old Business: We congratulate the 2006 slate of officers for the club. They are:

President – Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV

Vice- President – Thomas Visel, NX1N

Treasurer – Jerry Jackson, N5UJ

Secretary – David Rivenburg, AD500

New Business: Starting in January 2006 the club will be moving its business meeting (First Tuesday) to the Mangia's Pizza and Restaurant, located at 12001 N. Burnet Road (Gracy Farms). They serve Pizza, Pasta, Burgers and Sandwiches. Meetings will be at 7 pm but since they are a full service restaurant and not a cafeteria it is suggested to get their earlier and get your order in.

There is parking around the side and in the back. We will be meeting in the room on the left as you enter the restaurant. The Hand on Hamming training sessions will still be at ARL Labs.

Volunteer Activities (See Swapnet for details):

Trail of Lights, December 11th-23rd

Jingle Bell 5K, December 18th

Skywarn Training, January 14th

3M Half Marathon, January 29th

LZ Class, February 11th

Freescale Marathon, February 19th

MS-150, April 2006

Announcements and Upcoming Meetings:

There will be a new CERT class starting on January 17th. With current funding this may be the only chance in 2006 to go through the training. Contact Tiffany.Taylor@ci.austin.tx.us to get registered.

Roger Wines, W5WIA announced there WILL be an ARES meeting in December. It will be on the 27th at ARL labs. This meeting's primary focus will be to discuss 2006 needs and goals and Roger asks that you try to make it and to bring your brainstorming cap with you.

Mike Lay, N5PTN announced that the weekend of April 14th will be the 2005 MS-150.

Joe Fisher, K5EJL announced that the Red Cross will be receiving a couple of truckloads of used computer equipment being taken out of service from the Hurricane operations. The Red Cross is seeking some help from anyone that can work to identify and label the equipment as it comes in and to assist in determining its operational status. Some of this equipment will probably be given away to local volunteers. He will keep us informed of the details as he gets them. If you can help out, please contact Joe at k5ejl@arrl.net

Door Prize: The monthly door prize drawing, Six raffle tickets for the Christmas Party, was won by Frank Jared, KD5MWN.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Program: Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV gave a recap of the year's events and club happenings.

Respectfully Submitted;

Lee Cooper, W5LHC

The New Club in Town

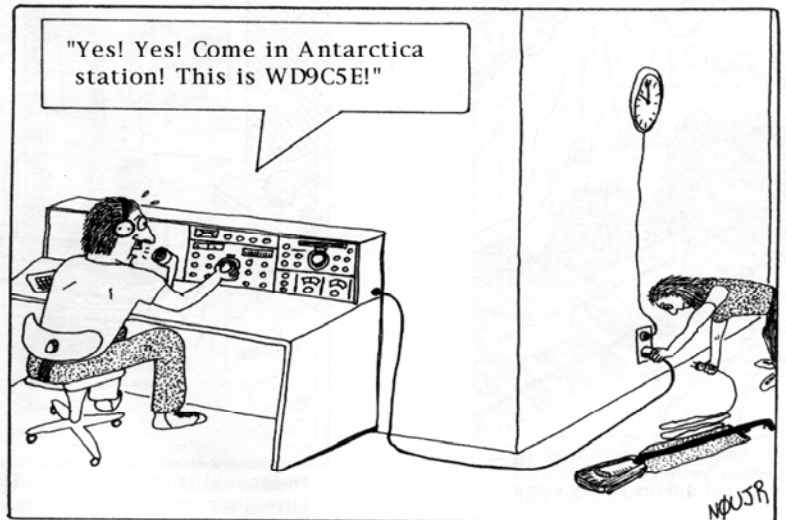
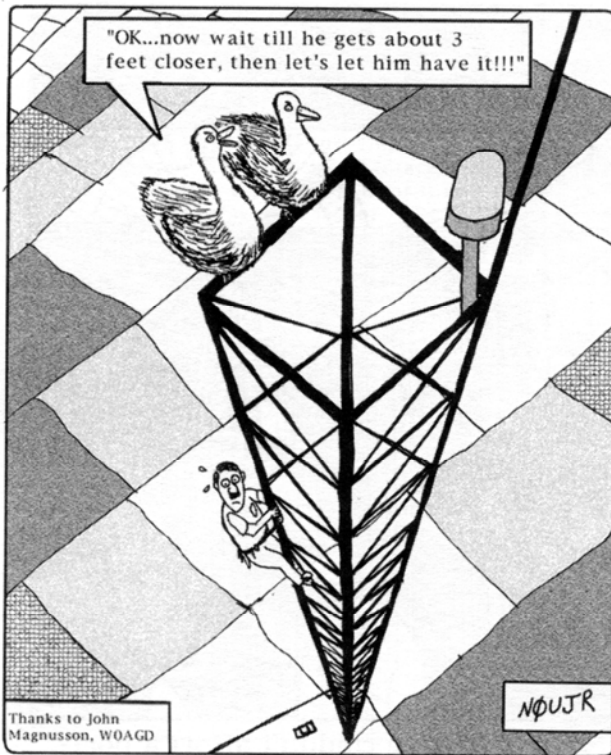
My name is Tina Risinger, and I am in charge of the new ham radio station at Deep Wood Elementary in RRock. We anticipate having the club up and running by the start of January. We would love for hams to come and volunteer an hour or so of time once in a while to help children experience ham radio. And, if you have any prior experience with elementary ham clubs, PLEASE let me benefit from your wisdom.

Also, Deep Wood will have its Science Fair on January 19 and 20, 2006. If you would like to be a judge, we would love to have you. You may pick either day, and it shouldn't last past lunch. Breakfast and lunch provided!

Interested in our activities? Please email me! Hope to have you at our school soon!!
Tina KC5BZA

NØUJR and His Friends

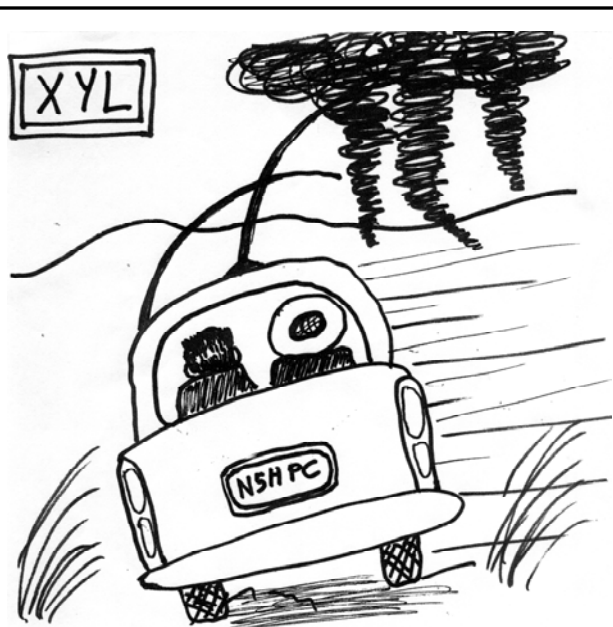
By Greg Trook, NØUJR



"We're chasing WHAT?"

XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



AARC Meeting Info.

Business Meeting

7:00 pm at Mangia Pizza

*****NEW LOCATION!!!*****

120001 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)

January 3rd - the first Tuesday (business) meeting will be held at Mangia Pizza at Gracy Farms and Burnet Rd. Mangia is a full restaurant, serving much more than just great pizza! Please consider yourself invited to come join us for dinner at ~6PM and be ready for the business meeting at 7PM.

7:00pm at ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

January 10th - TBA

Watch www.austinhams.org for more info.

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- January 7th & February 4th

New Location9a.m. at **LCRA Complex** 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for information. \$14 exam fee.

W5YI VEC- January 21st & February 18th

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.

Calendar of Events

Jan 8 Kid's Day 1800 to 2400Z Suggested Freqs- 28.350-28.400, 21.380-21.400, 14.270-14.300

Jan 14 San Antonio Swapmeet- Little Joe's Country Gold 7405 Old Pearsall Road www.w5sc.org/

Jan 14 16th Annual Lou Withrow SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotter Training 8:30AM-4PM Commons Building - Big Tex Auditorium.

www.utexas.edu/depts/grg/kimmel/SKYWARN2006.html

Jan 14 TSARC Swapmeet & Breakfast Harlingen Elks Lodge #1889 1426 South Commerce Harlingen, Tx Bob W6LUI 956-421-3173 LMSHYRAY@aol.com

Jan 15 2nd Annual Big Bend 50 Ultra run New courses- Glenn Springs 50K (31mi) & Black Gap 25K (15.5mi) Contact Carroll Voss (Fleet Feet Sports) on www.bigbend50.com

Jan 29 3M Half Marathon

Jan.	Feb.	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
3**	7**	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium	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 Mtg. Mangia Pizza	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.
24	28	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud.	7:00 p.m.

**ATV Club now meets at Mangia Pizza on Burnet Rd, North of the ARL Labs. Go North until you almost hit 1325, Mangia's on right.*

***AARC Business Meeting is at Mangia Pizza 120001 Burnet Rd..*

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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Time Value Newsletter

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