

AARC Meeting Info.

Business Meeting

7:00 pm at Mangia Pizza

Get there early and order dinner!

120001 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)

March 7th - Topic- A guest speaker will discuss the pandemic flu.

7:00pm at ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

March 14th – Topic—Mitch London, KD5HCV, will show how to make a 3 element yagi tape measure antenna. Come build one yourself for just \$5, bring a soldering iron and solder, everything else except connector is provided.

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- March 4th & April 1st

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- March 18th & April 15th

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

Mar 4 Cap 10K Info Packet Stuffing Party -Two shifts 8AM-1PM and 1PM to 6PM (or til finished). Upon completion, Cap 10K will write AARC a check for 2000!!! Jeff N5MNW@ARRL.NET or 255-6753, leave message.

Mar 4 5th Annual BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest Sugar Land Community Center 226 Matlage Way Mike N5VCX@arrl.net 713-771-4625 713-826-6917 Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 103.5) www.bvarc.org

Mar 4-5 Midland St. Patrick's Day Hamfest New location- Midland Downtown Lions Club building- 200 Plaza Ave New, lower price table rentals- only \$10 per table <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>

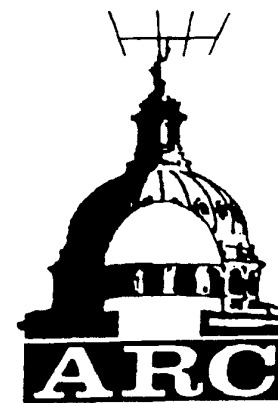
Mar 10-11 46th Annual Acadiana Hamfest Rayne Civic Center 300 Frog Festival Drive, Rayne LA 70578 47th Annual Acadiana Hamfest will be held on March 9-10 2007 www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/index.html

Mar.	Apr.	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
7**	4	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium	7:00p.m.
11	8	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.
14	11	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
21	18	*ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza	7:00 p.m.
18	15	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd.	2:00p.m.
27	24	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet	7:00 p.m.
28	25	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.



AARC OVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club

Austin Amateur Television Club

Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

March 2006

New Meeting Location See Back Page

Issue 3-2006

Did you see it? By Lee Cooper, W5LHC

For the past month a strange entry has been lurking at the very end of the "What's in store for 2006" calendar. The climax of the "Hello!" campaign. Did you notice? What is it?

WHAT: It is a thematic campaign in 2006 based on the word "hello" targeted to (a) give the public a positive, friendly face for Amateur Radio, (b) provide basic information about -- and interest non-hams in exploring- Amateur Radio, (c) utilize the convergence of 100 years of voice over the air with expected license restructuring.

"Hello"

That's possibly the most pleasant word in any language.

BACKGROUND

Several trends and expectations are converging to position the ARRL in a unique position to have a more effective impact on not only how Amateur Radio is perceived by others, but also to effectively encourage more people to investigate Amateur Radio as a pleasant hobby. Among these are:

The expected restructure of licensing by the FCC which will eliminate the perception of a "code barrier" for entry level people. Hopefully also include entry HF opportunities.

2006 is the 100th anniversary of voice over the air. This can (and should) be promoted by hams everywhere and also involve the National Association of Broadcasters. In addition, it opens up possibilities for special TV and radio shows.

Recognition that, despite Internet and other technologies, the possibility of talking to common folks in foreign, exotic places coupled with the surprise, art and uncertainty of DX work, remains a major reason for new people to have interest in ham radio which cannot be matched by Internet.

On a psychological basis, there is a satisfaction with direct voice communication that cannot be exchanged in type.

THE IDEA

(Continued on page 4)

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+

Time Value Newsletter

Permit No. 2942

Austin, TX

U.S. Postage Paid

Non-Profit Organization

Return Service Requested

March 2006

Austin, TX 78765-4739

Box 4739

Austin Amateur Radio Club

AARCOVER

"SUITSAT-1" DESIGNATED AO-54, SPONSORS CALL IT "TREMENDOUSLY SUCCESSFUL"

From the ARRL Letter
Vol. 25 No. 6

Released into Earth orbit February 3, the novel SuitSat-1 Amateur Radio transmit-only spacesuit turned satellite has been heard around the globe, but those hoping to hear it using a hand-held transceiver or scanner have been disappointed. From the start, SuitSat-1 has been quite weak, and reports this week indicate its already-puny 145.99



MHz FM signal may be getting even weaker. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), the project's sponsor, remains very interested in obtaining any valid voice telemetry reports (post to AREX@amsat.org).

"The telemetry is transmitted about 30 seconds after the SSTV image stops," explains ARISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. Ransom says the transmission order is SSTV image, 30 seconds of silence, voice identification, mission time, temperature and battery voltage. "The battery voltage is of most importance," he added.

At week's end, SuitSat-1 was reporting a battery voltage of 26.7 V. Based on that figure, Lou McFadin, W5DID, of ARISS and AMSAT, has calculated that SuitSat-1 is likely to last a little more than nine days total. That means it could stop transmitting as early as February 12. ARISS Secretary Rosalie White, K1STO, says the ARISS team is especially interested in telemetry reports "near what we think may be the end, to help us track battery power and how the suit will finish up life."

Consisting of a discarded Russian Orlan spacesuit equipped with ham radio gear, SuitSat-1 was released by International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 12 Flight Engineer Valery Tokarev as he and Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, began a spacewalk. The crew had stuffed some of its laundry into the spacesuit to help it to keep its form as it orbits Earth. AMSAT-NA has designated SuitSat-1 as AMSAT OSCAR 54 (AO-54).

"Seldom has an Amateur Radio event captured the public's imagination and evoked so much positive news media coverage as SuitSat has," said AMSAT-NA's Bill Tynan in announcing the AO-54 designation.

(Continued on page 3)

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 February 4th, 2006:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Neil Fetty, KE5HHE
Steven Long, KE5HHF
Shawn Scovel, KE5HHD

General Class Licenses Processed

Jeff Leonard, KE5GFS
Malcolm Robertson, KE5GYW
Alan Russell, KE5DTR

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Tony Davee, KM5JH
John Fisher, K5JHF
Howard Glueck, K5ZUA
Larry Gunter, WB5BEK
Joe Makeever, W5HS
Ron Parsons, W5RKN
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

March 4th - LCRA Colorado Room
April 1st - LCRA Colorado Room
TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

W5YI-VEC - 2-18-2006

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our February 18th session:

Extra Class –

Hector M. Roman, N5YEP
George L. Williamson, III, KD5ZVT

General Class –

Robert D. Wolf -new-

Technician Class (all new) –

Derek L. Gill Graham G. Kyle, III Matthew Woerndell

Two other applicants earned element credit without upgrading.

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Rick Bartel, AD5HT Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
John Fisher, K5JHF Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Lloyd Goehring, N5TO Dennis Murphy, W5KQF

Our next two sessions will start at 2 PM in room 109 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University on March 18 and April 15, 2006. For additional information regarding our amateur radio examination sessions, please contact Jim, AB5EK at (512) 327-6184 or by e-mail tohamradioexams@hotmail.com or visit our web page at <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.



Roger Wines, W5WIA, Emergency Coordinator 2006, presents outgoing EC, Don Dudley, AC5YK with a plaque of appreciation.

Western Union Ends Telegrams

After 145 years, Western Union has quietly stopped sending telegrams.

"Effective January 27, 2006, Western Union will discontinue all Telegram and Commercial Messaging services. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you, and we thank you for your loyal patronage. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a customer service representative."

The decline of telegram use goes back at least to the 1980s, when long-distance telephone service became cheap enough to offer a viable alternative in many if not most cases. Faxes didn't help. Email could be counted as the final nail in the coffin.

Western Union has not failed. It long ago refocused its main business to make money transfers for consumers and businesses. Revenues are now \$3 billion annually. It's now called Western Union Financial Services, Inc. and is a subsidiary of First Data Corp.

The world's first telegram was sent on May 24, 1844 by inventor Samuel Morse. The message, "What hath God wrought," was transmitted from Washington to Baltimore. In a crude way, the telegraph was a precursor to the Internet in that it allowed rapid communication, for the first time, across great distances.

Western Union goes back to 1851 as the Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company. In 1856 it became the Western Union Telegraph Company after acquisition of competing telegraph systems. By 1861, during the Civil War, it had created a coast-to-coast network of lines.

Other company highlights:

1866: Introduced the first stock ticker. **1871:** Introduced money transfers. **1884:** Became one of the original 11 stocks tracked by the Dow Jones Average. **1914:** Introduced the first consumer charge card. **1964:** Began using a transcontinental microwave beam to replace land lines. **1974:** Launched Westar I, the first U.S. dedicated communications satellite.

On Jan. 26, the last day you could send a telegram, First Data announced it would spin Western Union off as an independent, publicly traded company.

Government Revises Tornado Ratings Scale

By DANIEL YEE / Associated Press

The government is changing how it categorizes tornadoes after finding that it doesn't take 300 mph winds to disintegrate homes and turn cars into missiles a 200 mph twister can do just as much damage.

The National Weather Service said Thursday it had changed the Fujita Scale, a three-decade-old system of ranking a tornado's strength, to align wind speeds more closely with actual damage.

"It was apparent that many of the speeds used in the estimates were too large, said Joe Schaefer, director of the service's Storm Prediction Center. "The scale guiding wind speeds wasn't in tune with reality."

The change was introduced at the American Meteorological Society meeting in Atlanta. However, the new system will not fully go into effect until February 2007, giving weather scientists time to adjust to it.

Under the old system, created in 1971, an F-5 tornado considered the most powerful of tornadoes was capable of destroying a typical frame house, with wind speeds estimated at 261 mph to 318 mph. Since then, engineering studies have shown that much slower winds could cause the same damage.

"It doesn't take 300 mph winds to totally destroy an ordinary frame house," said Greg Forbes, a former member of Penn State's meteorology department who studied tornadoes under Theodore Fujita, the University of Chicago professor who created the scale. Forbes now works for The Weather Channel.

Under the new system, an F-5 tornado which can disintegrate a strong frame house after lifting it off its foundation or badly damage reinforced concrete buildings has wind speeds of at least 200 mph.

Because the new system still uses actual tornado damage to estimate wind speeds, officials said it is not likely that the new system's lower wind speed rating for the F-5 tornado will result in more tornadoes being classified with the nation's top tornado rating.

The old system rated tornadoes only based on damage to homes. The new system classifies tornadoes based on damage to 18 other types of structures, including trees, mobile homes and other types of buildings.

"If a tornado went over a row of trees and didn't hit a house, there was no way to estimate the scale," Schaefer said.

CENTRAL TEXAS QCWA CHAPTER 67 AUCTION

April 1, 2006 - 10:00

Church of the Resurrection - 2008 Justin Ln - Austin, Tx

Contact Information: <www.qcwa.net> <<auction@qcwa.net>>

Hank Belopavlovich - hank@satman.com (512) 219-1335 or Roger Wines - w5wia@arrl.net (512) 453-2193

QCWA AUCTION RULES - 2006

Ham equipment or Ham related equipment **ONLY**. Each seller will complete and submit a form for each 'lot' to be auctioned. Forms must be received by March 30 to be included in the auction, and will be added to the bottom of the list. Forms submitted by March 18th will be cataloged, listed and the list available for preview in advance of the sale. A 'lot' can be a single item or a combination of items to be sold for one price. When submitting a lot to be sold, it can be donated and QCWA will keep the proceeds. The lot can be designated to have a minimum amount acceptable to the seller. If not sold, the item(s) will be returned to the seller and a handling fee of 5% of the minimum will be charged to the seller.

There will be a 'premium' of 10% added to every item auctioned, which will be added to the total price for the buyer to pay. Settlement must be made in full immediately upon the completion of the auction by cash, cashier's check, certified check, bank or postal money order, or personal check, or cash. All persons desiring to bid must be registered and have obtained a bidder's number prior to bidding. Buyers will sign in and receive a bidding number if expected to bid. Anyone bidding without a number will be assigned the next available number. Each lot will be designated with a corresponding number as on the catalog listing. Payment can be made to the cashier once all items they have bid on are logged and totaled. No item will be removed during the auction. All sales are final! All items are sold as is, where is with no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied. The auctioneer nor QCWA nor any other person shall be responsible for correct description, authenticity, genuineness, or defect in any lot and makes no warranty in connection therewith. Any descriptions or representations are for identification purposes only and are not to be construed as a warranty of any type. It is the responsibility of the buyer to have inspected thoroughly the merchandise and to have satisfied their self as to its condition and value and to bid based on that judgment solely. Payments to the seller will be made by QCWA, and paid within ten days of completion of the sale. The auctioneer maintains sole authority to resolve disputes. Their decision shall be final and absolute. They will announce the sale price and buyers number for each lot. Any disputes will be settled at that time - before moving to additional lots. All persons attending preparation, inspection, sale or removal of merchandise assume all risks whatsoever of damage or loss to person and property and specifically release the auctioneer, QCWA, and the Church of the Resurrection from all liability therefore. No charge cards will be accepted.

QCWA AUCTION April 1, 2006 10:00

Set up Friday 18-21:00 & Sat 7-8:00 ~ Buyer Registration & Preview Sat 8-10:00

>>>>>Complete one form for each lot. Keep a copy and send this to:<<<<<<

QCWA Chapter 67 - 2709 Steck Ave - Austin, Tx 78757 or auction@qcwa.net

LOT DISCRPTION: _____

SUBMITTED BY: (name) _____

(call) _____ (mailing address) _____

(city) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (tel) (_____) _____

(e-mail) _____

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE \$ _____ or Donated _____ (initialed)

Items without a minimum will be sold to highest bidder without regard to seller's desire of price. Any item accepted in the auction and not sold will be returned to the owner and 5% of the minimum amount assessed for handling.

- - - - - (office use) - - - - -

Date received ___/___/___ by _____

Assigned Lot # _____ Cataloged _____ Sold \$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____

_____ Not sold - Returned & assessed (5%) \$ _____ Pd _____

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

President	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNW	255-6753	n5mnw@arrl.net
Vice President	Thomas Visel	NX1N		thomas@neuric.com
Treasurer	Jerry Jackson	N5UJ	832-5663	jerry@gaj.com
Secretary	David Rivenburg,	AD5OO	821-3143	driven@onr.com
Editor, AARCOVER	Mitch London	KD5HCV	326-3096	kd5hcv@arrl.net
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818	edgolla@hotmail.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 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.

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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 Alan Russell, KE5DTR, who helps me with getting out 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.

(Continued from page 2) Suit Sat

Several reception reports on the SuitSat Web site <<http://www.suitsat.org/>> indicate SuitSat-1 audio has been retransmitted via the NA1SS crossband repeater aboard the ISS. While the NA1SS Phase 2 station has been configured to retransmit SuitSat's 145.99 MHz signal on 437.800 MHz, Ransom says he tends to discount the validity of the signals heard via the UHF repeater. "Since it hears everything, people are reporting every little squeak and whistle," he said, adding that any reports posted are "very hard to verify" at this stage. Several reports mention hearing packet signals, but SuitSat-1 carries no packet gear. All telemetry transmissions are by digital voice. Ransom urged all Earth stations not to transmit on SuitSat-1's 145.99 MHz frequency--which is also the normal packet uplink channel--until the SuitSat-1 experiment ends.

ISS Commander McArthur remained upbeat about a future SuitSat mission. "Where there's a will there's a way," he philosophized during a post-spacewalk contact recorded by Scott Avery, WA6LIE. "We've got more suits that need to be jettisoned."

ARRL International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, proclaimed SuitSat-1 "tremendously successful," its weak signal notwithstanding. "We have captured the imagination of students and the general public worldwide through this unique experiment," he said, adding that the media attention alone has been some of the best ever for Amateur Radio.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1) Hello

Develop a coordinated campaign, involving several areas of the ARRL plus others, in a campaign for 2006 based on the word "Hello" and having a positive, upbeat tone which highlights the international capabilities of Amateur Radio.

(Think of the old Coca-Cola "teach the world to sing" commercials with their happy, positive people.)

This is expected to include (but is not limited to):

- Development of a graphic to be used consistently in 2006
- Development of 30 second PSAs (video and audio)
- Development of a longer video to be used for meetings, presentations, and talks -and which can be broadcast freely.
- Coordination with other organizations, including manufacturers of equipment, other magazines, advertisers and associations
- Promotion of the campaign through contact with the NAB / RTNDA
- Use of the campaign in marketing
- Special operating events
- Development of additional activities which can be done on a local basis
- Creation of a unique and simple website center providing very basic info and referring on to service clubs or mentoring programs
- Initial publication of a 4 page brochure linking Amateur Radio and the centennial and providing the non-ham with basic info about Amateur Radio. A larger one will be released later.

WHO

The concept and research has been "in the works" for many months and the campaign was approved in the January Board of Directors meeting. While the planning was delayed by a boisterous lady named Katrina, it is back on track and being implemented. The ARRL's PR Committee is enthusiastic and heavily involved. Managers at ARRL HQ are working together to make it all happen in 2006. It is, simply, the largest PR campaign that ham radio has ever attempted.

WHY

President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was very correct in stating that the Main Street of today is not the same as the Main Street of yesteryear. To reach out today, the very first requirement is that the group be perceived as friendly and trustworthy. That's a true PR goal and the prime focus of the campaign. Simply lamenting the loss of past decades in which our numbers increased effortlessly is not going to help. Only our combined, effective action will do that. This campaign gives hams the tools they need to reach out in their communities to the NON-hams and influence the perception of Amateur Radio.

WHEN

The campaign will begin in April 2006 and elements will be added as things go along. It is planned to climax with the centennial of the very first radio broadcast. While Reginald Fessenden did his 1906 broadcast on Christmas Eve, we will be targeting the week in between Christmas and New Year which is normally a "dead" news period and media are looking for something to report. We will provide them plenty!

WHERE

This will be a national campaign. But it will take the efforts of PIO's, clubs and groups everywhere to succeed. The campaign can bring curious people into contact with ham groups, but it will be up to the local people to make them truly welcome. In addition, we have already gotten inquiries from several international Amateur Radio groups who desire to use edited forms of our materials in their own countries.

We all say we want to make a change for the better for Amateur Radio and get others interested. This is the time, this is the chance. Stay tuned... More to come! For more information locally, please contact tcares.pio@gmail.com ■

(Continued from page 3) Suit Sat

Bauer further notes that SuitSat-1 has successfully carried student artwork, signatures and voices into space, and "the students are now space travelers as the suit rotates and orbits the earth." SuitSat-1 also has shown that a spacesuit could be deployed and orbited from the ISS, "demonstrating to the space agencies that this can be safely done," Bauer noted.

"Pioneering efforts are challenging. Risk is high. But the future payoff is tremendous," Bauer concluded. He was able to hear one overhead pass that included at least part of the English-language ID, recorded by his daughter, Michelle. "Keep your spirits up, and let's continue to be optimistic," he urged later in an official SuitSat-1 status report. "And please keep monitoring!"

More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>. ■

CLUB MINUTES

AARC Meeting February 7th, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:23PM by Jeff Schmidt N5MNB. There were 34 people in attendance. Thanks to James Robbins N5OUJ for taking the time to count! One notable absence was VP Thomas Visel NX1N who was out of town on business.

Visitors, New Members, and New Calls: There was one visitor tonight, Charlie Gunn KE5AY. Alan Russell KE5DTR finally got his General ticket on the last day that his code test was valid! Ricky Trommer W5RHT upgraded to an Extra ticket and became W5NR.

Due to the delayed meeting start there was no door prize tonight. The minutes as they appeared in the last AARCOVER were approved.

Officer and Committee Reports: Jerry Jackson N5UJ gave the treasury report. Summed up: pay your dues!

The new equipment fund has \$2500.

Stuart Rohre K5KVH gave the technical committee report. The spectrum of the output of the 146.94 repeater was examined and everything checked out ok. The conclusion therefore is that the tone id unit itself is bad. The interference causing the 444.1 repeater to kerchunk has apparently gone away.

Old and New Business:

On the old business front, the Viacom letter was given a boost from Joe Arellano of the NWS praising amateur radio for its contribution to keeping an eye on the weather as it happens.

For new business, it was suggested that the officers check out the Burger Tex on Airport Blvd. Mangia's is the official meeting place and will continue to be, but it wouldn't hurt to have a backup.

Announcements and Reports:

The HLARC ham slam class was a stunning success. Out of 14 students, ten became new Technician class operators and two became General class! One of the new techs is none other than Darlene Schmidt KE5HIU. If it were not for her, we would not have our inimitable president, Jeff Schmidt.

Speaking of Jeff, he nominated Sanford Musgrove W5FIT for ham of the month for his numerous and longstanding contributions to the Austin ham scene.

Roger Wines W5WIA announced that the next ARES meeting is on Feb. 28 at the Applied Research Labs on Burnet Rd. As a reminder, the ARES meetings are now the 4th Tuesday of *every* month instead of every other month as they have been in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

The presentation for the evening was given by yours truly, Dave Rivenburg AD5OO. It was supposed to be an overview of the APRS system, but a rather large and persistent frog made its home in my throat. I hope there was some useful information that sputtered out from time to time.