



AARCOVER

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

ISSN 1067-0262

June 2006

Roster In This Issue!

Issue 6-2006

BPL IS COMING TO AUSTIN!

The City of Austin has a plan to test Broadband over Powerline (BPL) on the Austin Electric network.

What we know now:

WHEN: The plan is to turn up the BPL test around September.

WHERE: The test location has not been chosen at this time.

WHO, WHAT & HOW: The City IT Department will lead the test with the help of AE. The BPL technology and vendor is not yet known.

The BPL787 Group is already in contact with the City Council, the City Telecomm Commission, the IT Department and Austin Energy. We are mustering resources to assist the City and AE to minimize BPL RFI.

BPL787 IS NOT OPPOSED TO BPL! WE SIMPLY WISH TO AVOID THE POTENTIAL FOR RADIO INTERFERENCE TO LICENSED RADIO USERS, CAUSED BY BPL SYSTEMS, IN OTHER AREAS!

The BPL787 Group will:

1. Monitor the deployment of broadband over power line (BPL) in the areas served by Austin (TX) Energy.
2. Counsel the City and Austin Energy to insure a practical, efficient BPL test that minimizes the potential interference to licensed radio users.
3. Ensure compliance with applicable regulations that govern unlicensed BPL implementation.

If you are interested in keeping informed on the test or assisting with this effort, please join with BPL787 Group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bpl787/>

Or contact:

GLEN REID

k5fx@arrl.net

512 263 5700



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	9:00 p.m.	2m SSB Net	144.250 (USB)
Thu	11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m.	Lunch, Waterloo Ice House	444.1 MHz+
Fri	8:00 p.m.	6m SSB Net	50.230(texasvhf.org/)
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+

ARRL VEC – The following are results of ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Colorado Room on May 6th, 2006:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Eugene C. Delp KE5IJV James W. Jones III KE5IJU Robert M. White, Jr. KE5IJW

General Class Licenses Processed

Larry G. McCoy, KD5FEP David L. Warren, KD5GJF

Extra Class License Processed

John W. Benedict, KE5RS

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE Tony Davee, KM5JH Curt Goodson, W4QBU
Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Jerry Jackson, N5UJ Joe Makeever, W5HS
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

June 3rd - LCRA Colorado Room
July 1st - LCRA Colorado Room

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

W5YI-VEC - 4-22-2006

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our March 22nd special session at Southwestern University in Georgetown:

Extra Class – none

General Class – none

Technician Class (all new) –

Julian N. Elmur Ben R. Lake William N. Mann William P. O'Brien, Jr.

Another applicant earned element credit without upgrading.

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Rick Bartel, AD5HT Dennis Murphy, W5KQF Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Joe Thiel, N5SMN

5-20-2006

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our May 20th session:

Extra Class – Ronald B. Schroer, KR4SG

General Class – Eugene C. Delp, KE5IJV

Technician Class (new) – John R. Stratton

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Rick Bartel, AC5HT John Fisher, K5JHF Hugh Brown, NT5O
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Thomas Visel, NX1N

5-23-2006

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our May 23rd special session in Bastrop:

Extra Class – Robert K. Wright, Jr., KS4JH

General Class – none

Technician Class (all new) –

Steve P. Dunn Gary D. Hicks David N. Fleming Rhonda D. Holmes
Lee Anne F. Gaspard Michael J. Neese Roger R. Hewitt Ann J. Smith Lynn C. Kellogg

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Jim Allen, KE5AMB Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Hugh Brown, NT5O Thad Johnson, W5IRQ

Our next two regular sessions will start at 2 PM in room 204 of Moody Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University on June 17th and July 16th.

For additional information regarding our amateur radio examination sessions, please contact Jim, AB5EK at (512) 327-6184 or by e-mail to hamradioexams@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.

President	Jeff Schmidt	N5MNV	255-6753	n5mnw@arrl.net
Vice President	Thomas Visel	NX1N		thomas@neuric.com
Treasurer	Jerry Jackson	N5UJ	832-5663	jerry@gaj.com
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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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Published monthly by the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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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.

Over the WWWaves... A variety of interesting websites submitted by our readers.

http://www.musiciansfriend.com/document?doc_id=100290&src=3NL6DRB&c_lid=b3

A Good article on Bob Heil, link sent by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Here is free software for studying AC circuits: <http://www.egpreston.com/ac.htm>

See pages 3 and 4 of <http://www.egpreston.com/AC.doc> for the best example.

73 de K5GP, Gene

This won't work with boatanchor tube gear that weighs a ton, but I'm thinking that with sturdier side supports the technique will likely work. And it will work with newer gear, but how to do the mounting adapters to the equipment is an exercise left up to the student. <g> Some modern gear has rack-mounting adapters available from the manufacturer for a fee.

<http://www.engadget.com/2006/04/11/how-to-rackmount-your-gear-for-cheap/>

Forwarded by Rick Herndon, K5FNI

Boat Anchor Night-Light (or What to do with those Old Vacuum Tubes)

By Phil Salas – AD5X

Introduction

If you do any work on old radios, you've probably accumulated a few extra vacuum tubes of various types. In my case, I like to solid-state the power supplies of old radios so I have a collection of 5U4, 5Y3, 5R4, and 6AX4 vacuum tube rectifiers. But for those of you who don't do this, you can find old tubes very inexpensively at flea markets. So what to do with your old tubes? You can throw them away, but why not build a nightlight out of them? I know, I know – night lights only cost a dollar or two. But for only about \$30 in parts and shipping costs, you can recycle your old tubes into a dim but usable night light!

The Design

As stated above, I elected to use rectifier tubes in my night light. Both 6.3V and 5V filament rectifier tubes are common and easy to find, but 5-volt filament transformers are not. Therefore, I decided to use a 12.6 VAC center-tapped with one 6.3V secondary used for 6.3V filaments, and the other 6.3V secondary used with a 1/2-ohm dropping resistor for 5V filaments. Of course, you can put 6.3V directly on a 5V filament and the night light will be brighter. But the filament life of the tube will be reduced. The schematic of my design is shown below. This circuit permits using any of the popular 5V rectifier tubes, as well as some of the popular 6.3V tubes.

Building your night Light

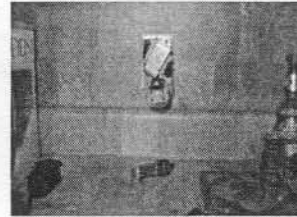
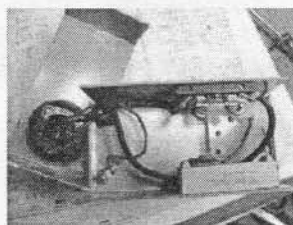
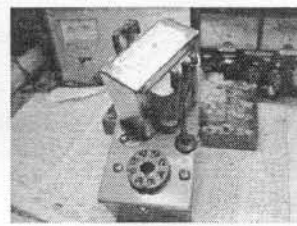
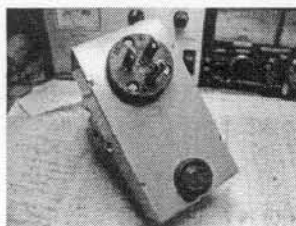
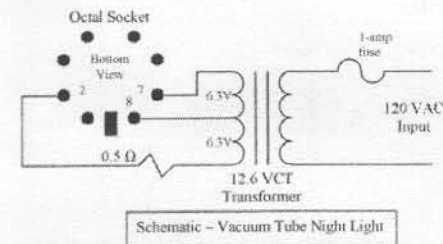
The photos show the way I constructed my night light. You will need both a 1-inch and 1.25-inch chassis punch for ease in cutting the holes for the octal socket and AC plug. If you have an octal socket with mounting ears on it, you can easily mount this in the 1-inch hole. However, since I used the pc-mount octal socket called out in the parts list, I had to piece of printed-circuit board to make a sub-board to hold the pc socket. Then the subboard was mounted with #6 hardware. The AC plug called out in the parts list can be easily disassembled, and then the housing can be used as a retainer to hold the plug in place on the aluminum box.

Parts List (Some substitutions may be made)

QTY	Description	Source	Price
1	12.6VCT 3-amp transformer	All Electronics TX-123	\$8.25
1	Fuse Holder	Mouser 441-R345A	\$0.93
1	1-amp Fuse	Mouser 504-GMA-1	\$0.24
1	PC Board	All Electronics PCB-46	\$2.00
1	0.47 ohm 2-watt resistor	All Electronics 0.47 2-watt 3/	\$1.00
1	3-Prong AC Plug	All Electronics ACP-8	\$2.50
1	Octal Socket	All Electronics OCT-PC	\$1.00
1	Aluminum Box	Mouser 537-00-P	\$5.69
Misc.	Hardware, wire, solder, and heat-shrink tubing		

Conclusion

I've described a vacuum tube based night light that can be easily built. Obviously, the design can be modified to use any vacuum tube you may have. Yes, it is expensive and not very bright. And yes, it is bulky and dissipates a fair amount of power (up to 19 watts with a 5U4). But it resolves the question: "What do I do with those old vacuum tubes?"



ARES THANKS STEVE COLLIER

The April ARES meeting was held at the Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center (CTECC) on Tuesday April 25th. The first thirty minutes was spent watching a special TV program produced by KXAN (Channel 36) concerning flooding in Central Texas.

Travis County ARES honored Steve Collier, who is retiring as Director of the City of Austin Office of Emergency Management, with a plaque commemorating his service as an outstanding individual who helped ARES to be a major player in the EOC and the city and county emergency plan. In addition to the plaque, he received an emergency 'crank' radio, a Travis County ARES tee shirt, and the 'Now You're Talking' book so he can study at his leisure in his upcoming life as a cattle baron to become a ham.

Collier will continue to be available for an indefinite time while acclimating his replacement, Mr. Otis Latin to the task(s) at hand, including the ARES relationship. We heard from Otis about his past of many years' experiences - primarily as Fire Chief in various locations, including Washington D.C. It is our plan to meet in the near future to review our position with him and the OEM operation.

At this meeting ARES also welcomed several new members joining T.C.ARES, gave a short informative orientation meeting, took pictures for I.D. badges, disseminated information, made more assignments to committees, and conducted a lot of socializing in the 'after-meeting' gathering. The attendance at the meetings is growing every month - a very encouraging sign that we will have the necessary members to carry out our tasks as needed. Currently we are at 38% of the year long goal of verified membership (those active and badge holders).

The next orientation meeting is scheduled for June 1 - 19:30 - CTECC/EOC for new members (and returning members that would like to attend). Get the basic information about the operation, what is expected of the members, and what can be expected from the organization. Pass the word and plan to attend.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Dallas KD4HNX is updating the website. Check it out here: http://www.tcares.org/_demo.html. Dallas said he would accept suggestions to make it even better. Good job thus far. More updates are forthcoming. Keep an eye on the latest.

NEW ARES APPLICANTS:

7/9/05	Jere McAlister	N5DFW	Data Base (been a member - application lost)
12/27/05	Michael Broussard	KE5GIZ	Orientation
1/16/06	Marcus Gellner	W5MEG	NYA
3/1/06	Shawn Scovel	KE5HHD	NYA
3/12/06	George Walden	KG4LQX	HF nets (NTS)
3/20/06	Shane Hale	KE5HSS	Weather Nets
3/28/06	Rick Bartel	AD5HT	NYA
4/25/06	Michthell London	KD5HCV	NYA
4/25/06	Alan Russell	KC5DTR	NYA
4/25/06	ay Hoffman	KA5OST	NYA
4/25/06	Eric Rabinowitz	KG6GAN	NYA

I hope we haven't missed someone. This has just recently been tracked. Welcome these folks to the organization when you meet them on the air or in person. Let them know how they are needed. Everyone needs an assignment to their interest.

NEW DAYTIME MEETINGS

It has been noted for a loooooong time that some folks cannot make a Tuesday evening meeting - for one reason or another. This is notice to let those individuals know there will be a regularly scheduled 'day-time' meeting beginning June 22 - 10:00 (a.m.) at Denny's (back room) - Burnet Road at Anderson Ln. This meeting will be for anyone that cannot make the regularly scheduled AARC, ARES, or REACT meetings. The format will be about what the group will want - month to month. Come have 'a cup' with us and let's discuss how this might benefit you as a Ham by associating with the group. This will be attempted for 3 months, and will continue IF there is a group that wants it.

CLUB MINUTES

AARC Meeting May 2nd, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:09PM by President Jeff Schmidt N5MNW. Preceding the call to order was some well deserved Capitol 10K humor

Visitors, New Members, and New Calls

Visiting with us tonight were John Coultas NR0J, Russell Pothast WA0YEI, and Jim Shaffer KE5AL. There were no new members or new calls, however a local ham Brad Jackson KA5CB, who was not present, had recently upgraded to an Extra class ticket.

The door prize drawing this evening was a bit unconventional as a kiddie seat was used to hold and shuffle the tickets. This worked in favor of Rick Kirchof KD5ABM who won a 7.5AH gel cell battery.

Officer Reports

The minutes as they appeared in the March Aarcover were approved.

Jerry Jackson N5UJ have the treasury report and our balances have not changed significantly from last month.

There was no news from the technical committee by Stuart Rohre K5KVH.

Old Business

Mike Wenglar has received the Viacom letter concerning the new 149.94 repeater site, but as yet no response has been received.

New Business

Since the first Tuesday in July falls on Independence Day, a motion was made to hold the business meeting on July 11th along with the normal Hands-on-Hamming session. Motion was approved.

So far about 50 club members have not renewed their membership, and a few friendly folks will be making phone calls to gently remind them to do or find out why they choose not to.

The AARCOVER mailing list is 22 entries short of being able to receive bulk mailing rate, so hopefully the renewal reminders above will help fill this list back up.

Mitch London KD5HCV proposed that the AARC should have some signs made for events and general public awareness of the club. A motion was made that he investigate, and the motion was approved.

An informal proposal was made for a "mini field day" to promote amateur radio, but no official action was taken regarding that.

Ham of the Month

Jeff Schmidt N5MNW nominated Mike Lay N5PTN for Ham of the Month for his contributions to the MS150 bike ride event.

Announcements

Jeff Schmidt N5MNW gave a report of the MS150 bike ride.

Joe Fisher K5EJL summarized the Field Day preparations. See <http://www.austinhams.org/> or http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Austin_TX_FD/ or email Joe directly at k5ejl@arrl.net for further information.

Mitch London KD5HCV has AARC pens available, 3 for \$1.

Roger Wines W5WIA made several announcements:

- the boy scouts request assistance for receiving their radio merit badge
- the week of may 29 a radio demo will be held at the Bluebonnet school
- next Tuesday a radio presentation will be given to the Central Texas school districts
- this year is the 100th anniversary of voice on the airwaves

Stuart Rohre K5KVH stated that May 27th is the AM radio military appreciation day

Jeff Schmidt N5MNW reviewed the club loaner equipment status, then adjourned the meeting at 8:10PM.

Tonight's presentation was from Tom Whiteside discussing the digital radio communications that Airmail and the Winlink system provide.

Respectfully submitted,

David Rivenburg AD5OO, AARC Secretary

AARC Meeting Info.

Business Meeting

7:00 pm at Mangia Pizza

120001 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)

June 6th - AARC Biz meeting Come join us for dinner at ~6PM and be ready for the biz meeting at 7PM

Topic- Thomas NX1N's microwave project

7:00pm at ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

June 13th - "Hands-On-Hamming"

(Pizza \$1/slice drinks 50c or bring your own snack)

Topic- Field Day 2006 equipment and logging software familiarization.

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- June 3rd & July 1st 9a.m. at LCRA

Complex 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS

(345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$14 fee.

W5YI VEC- June 17th & July 15th NOTE

TEMPORARY LOCATION CHANGE ***2p.m. in room

204, Moody Hall, St. Edwards University. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184)

<http://texasparadise.com/w5yi-austin> for more info.

Calendar of Events

Jun 1-4 Republic Of Texas Bike Rally Travis County Expo Center 7311 Decker Lane Comm Center need to staff communications personnel 24 hrs/day, all 4 days Ed KE5CAX Communications Officer MSET-TX home (512) 989-7448 Please signup at www.mset-tx.org

Jun 9-10 Ham-Com- NOTE LOCATION CHANGE to Plano! 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway Plano Centre in Plano, TX Barry WA5KXX 972-596-4669 wa5kxx@verizon.net 147.18 (PL 107.2) www.hamcom.org/

Jun 17 Kid's Day 1800 to 2400Z Suggested Freqs- 28.35-28.40, 21.38-21.40, 14.27-14.30 Call "CQ Kid's Day" Suggested exchange: Name, age, location, favorite color

Jun 23-25 ARRL Field Day

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Austin_TX_FD/

June	July	Austin Meetings/Happenings
6	4*	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium *
10	8	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
13	11	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
20	18	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 7:00 p.m.
17	15	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00p.m.
26	24	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
27	25	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.

*AARC Business Meeting will be held @nd Tues. due to meeting falling on a holiday.

**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.



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June 2006

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Box 4739

Austin Amateur Radio Club

AARCOVER

Time Value Newsletter

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