



AARC OVER

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

ISSN 1067-0262

July 2006

Issue 7-2006

QRP Across the USA

The trip to a log cabin at the 8,000' AMSL in the New Mexico Jemez Mountains in the Santa Fe National Forest was very fun. I'd expected more days by myself, but all turned out okay. I arrived on Thursday, April 27th and with brief assistance by my in-laws, I had the 90' of 24 ga. stranded hookup wire from Radio Shack up into a 40' pine tree before dark. They immediately returned to Albuquerque. I had the station grounded to the house's safety ground for the satellite dish. The wire came in through a wooden window and sill and I tied a string to a hook in the ceiling and let the wire drop directly to the tuner in the middle of the dining table.

I could have kicked myself for bringing the old Heathkit micromatic keyer instead of a paddle. I'd forgotten that the rig had a built-in keyer. The very old keyer managed to cause RFI to the point I abandoned it very soon.

It took me the first night to get comfortable at all with the FT-817 arcane menu system. I do believe that the engineer who designed the firmware for the menu system was NOT a user of the rig. For instance, having the memory frequency write function TWO levels over from where you put in the repeater tone frequency makes saving local repeater frequencies VERY difficult and time consuming. Due to my remote location and the rig's low power, I could not reach any repeaters. I did hear several well.

My HF operations were mostly on CW. I made one voice contact. I used the J-38 straight key I bought in 1960 for \$1.50 at a surplus store in San Angelo. Surely did bring my keying ability back up to par. I'll have to say, though that the low chair and high, central pillar dining table did not make for comfortable keying for the hours I spent with the key.

I copied CW on a tablet with a 0.7 mm pencil for actual QSOs, but did copy some for practice with W1AW using the IR keyboard from Palm on my Palm Tungsten E2 and the Memo function of the Palm. I had logging software on the E2 that

(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	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+

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 June 3rd, 2006:

Technician Class License Processed - Michael D. Haney, KE5JDK

Technician Class License/w/HF Processed - Jack B. Woods, KB3EIG

General Class License Processed - Herbert H. Searcy, WA5RAH

Extra Class License Processed - William P. Robertson, KE5FBK

CSCE Element 3 Credit Processed - Michael D. Gaines, KE5FJK

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

John Fisher, K5JHF Jerry Jackson, N5UJ Joe Makeever, W5HS Jimmy Mercer, N5WDR
Ron Parsons, W5RKN Joe Thiel, N5SMN Roy Walker, WA5YZD

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held at the American Red Cross Response Maintenance Center on June 15th, 2006:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Charles W. Allen Leroy C. Anderson Rebecca M. Anderson
Richard C. Fravel Chong C. Ho Daniel R. Hoffmann
Stephen G. Hornbuckle Cecelia A. Ramsey Michael B. Smith
Bo J. Thompson Stanley J. Wang

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Howard Glueck, K5ZUA Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Gene Hinkle, K5PA
Joe Makeever, W5HS Kees Talen, K5BCQ

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

July 1 - LCRA Colorado Room

August 5 - AUSTIN SUMMERFEST - Red Lion Hotel (now Crowne Plaza Hotel)

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

W5YI-VEC - 6-17-2006

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our June 17th session:

Extra Class – Robert D. Wolf, KE5HLS

General Class –none

Technician Class (all new) –

Charles D. Gage Matthew Hill Stephen J. Trudell Terry N. Trudell Richard N. Worley

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Rick Bartel, AC5HT Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO
Hugh Brown, NT5O Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
John Fisher, K5JHF Tony Lyon, KJ5XF Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

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.

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

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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

ISSN 1067-0262, CODEN AAOVE3. ©Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Published monthly by the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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.

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“XYL” is printed with permission by Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission.

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.spc.noaa.gov/climo/torn/monthlytornstats.html>

Very interesting page with graphs of monthly tornado numbers.

-Sent by Rick Herndon, K5FNI

Latest monthly calendar and training opportunities in Disaster Services and projects at the Red Cross:

http://redcrossaus.web105.discountasp.net/centex/RCM/rcm_june.htm

-Sent by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

<http://www.batteryuniversity.com/partone-21.htm>

The Do's and Don't of Batteries.

-Sent by Curt Goodson, W4QBU

(Continued from page 1) QRP Across the USA

was not the best, but sufficed for the duration. It is called "QSO-73" and suffers mightily for not having a way to get the data out of the Palm for documentation and QSL preparation. Also, it is not designed for keyboard use (i.e., I couldn't hit TAB and get to the next field). Every time I tried to use the scratchpad aspect of the logging program to copy CW, it locked up the Palm and required a soft reboot. So, that software will NOT be a part of any future trips.

I woke up Saturday morning to find the ground covered with snow! Now that was a surprise, but it was all gone by 11 a.m. Temperatures ranged from highs of 45 to 65F during the day and 20-40 at night. The cabin's wood stove with catalytic converter provided plenty of heat for the stay.

I really couldn't get anyone to answer CQs, so I concentrated on my usual mode of answering other folks' CQs and tail-ending strong-signal QSOs with a call to one of the stations. When the first DX station came back to me, I almost let out a yell. He was about 30 km from Paris...France. During the trip I worked France, Italy, Ukraine, Canada and many U.S. stations. If I'd been serious about it, I could have worked MANY more stations, but I was also interested in reading books and magazines, as well as taking advantage of the low-RFI remote location to SWL and utility listen.

I found the bottom 15 kHz of 20m and the bottom 7 kHz of 30m to provide almost all my contacts. The antenna did not work well on 40m and 80m and there was much static or QRN.

My trip to Corpus Christi for the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church (I accompanied my wife, Patti, who is a pastor at Ganado and Louise, TX) was a ham radio bust for me. I'd planned to operate HF with my FT-817 from the 14th floor of the OMNI Bayfront hotel just across the street from the beach. The 14th floor is actually the 13th floor, so it is about 130' above ground level. I had three strikes against me:

1. the room they put us in was exactly centered above the swimming pool, which was occupied from early till 10 p.m. every day.
2. there was a crew of window washers making their way inexorably toward our room, making stealth use of my antenna impossible.
3. there were VERY gusty winds, which whipped my antenna to the point of making Patti very nervous that we were going to cause injury or death to someone below by deploying the antenna system. It did not get deployed.

I had purchased a 20' stick of 1" PVC pipe and had it cut into 4 pieces. I bought collars to allow it to be put back together. Just before we left home, I used my drill press to drill holes in each collar for passing #10 bolts through the PVC, where they'd be capped by nylon locknuts. The whole assembly was NOT very stiff, so the winds made it whip around a lot. If there had been no wind, all would have been okay. I pre-installed my 22 ga. stranded wire through the center of the pipe before assembly. The plan was to use a counterpoise to allow loading. The pipe was to be shoved out between the concrete and the bottom of the balcony railing...not an optimal RF environment for single-wire feed of RF.

When I gave up on the HF system, I left two 5' pieces of the PVC tied together and used my roll-up 2m J-pole antenna and taped it to the side of the pole, which I bungee corded to the balcony railing. I fed the coax through the sliding glass door, which I sealed with the foam 1/2" window sealer with sticky back that was recommended on the Austin QRP group email list. I taped a kitchen 'fridge magnet to the reed switch that kept the air conditioner from working with the door open. The door was sealed well with the foam, so there was no loss of conditioned air to the outside breezes.

Maybe a good deal for next year's Methodist conference in Corpus Christi at the Omni Bayfront. <http://www.bwantennas.com/ama/ap10b.ama.htm> and \$90 for it, which dwarfs what I spent on this year's effort...but it will likely work for me.

Sincere thanks to KC5RWP, Bill Rakowitz, for the use of his antenna tuner and soldering iron.

73,
Rick Herndon
K5FNI
Ganado TX

Editors Note: To learn more about QRP visit <http://www.qsl.net/kq5rp/>

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 25, No. 23
June 9, 2006

The Republic of Montenegro, which declared its independence June 3, has applied for United Nations membership, according to The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>>. The move paves the way for the tiny Balkan nation to join the ARRL DXCC list.

"Once Montenegro is accepted into the UN or obtains a call sign prefix block, DXers will have a new DXCC entity," says ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG.

The division of Serbia and Montenegro eliminates what remained of Yugoslavia. Serbia's parliament this week declared Serbia a sovereign nation as heir to the former Serbia-Montenegro union. Assuming that Serbia continues to hold its current seat in the UN, it will remain on the DXCC list as a pre-existing and continuing DXCC entity, Mills explained.

A decision on whether to admit Montenegro into the UN must go before the UN Security Council and then to the UN General Assembly. A UN spokesperson could not say how long the process might take, The Daily DX said.

POTENTIAL THREAT TO AMATEUR BANDS IN UK CITED

AMSAT-UK warns that proposals under consideration in the UK to provide wireless broadband in rural areas could pose a threat to Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services there. A recently published report from telecoms regulator Ofcom <<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/research/technology/overview/ese/exempt/>> explores various options to bring broadband to countryside communities. One option calls for the use of wireless broadband. The systems would require high power to cover the large geographical areas involved, however. The Ofcom report proposes power levels of up to 80 W EIRP in the 2.4 GHz band and 200 W EIRP in the 5 GHz band.



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"It is hard to see how amateurs would be able to continue using these frequencies when faced by the high levels of interference from the high power applications envisaged by this report," an AMSAT-UK spokesperson said.

Ofcom notes that unlicensed broadband operators now may run 100 mW on 2.4 GHz and 2 W EIRP on 5.8 GHz. Both bands have Amateur Radio allocations, and AMSAT-UK worries that the high power levels outlined in the report could cause serious interference to radio amateurs operating in those bands. The problem could be particularly severe on the 2400 to 2450 MHz band, used by "weak-signal" amateur satellites and amateur TV repeaters. The report makes no mention of Amateur Radio operation on the 2.4 GHz band.

AMSAT-UK notes that four amateur satellites currently under construction will use 2.4 GHz to provide worldwide communications. The Amateur Radio P5-A Mars orbiter, due to launch in 2009, will rely on 2.4 GHz as well. Also under threat would be a planned 2.4 GHz Amateur Radio video link from the International Space Station to schools as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) educational outreach.--RSGB ■

CLUB MINUTES

AARC Meeting June 6th, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by President Jeff Schmidt N5MNW.

Visitors, New Members, and New Calls

A new ham and first time visitor with us tonight was Lee Anne Gaspard, KE5ITK. Congratulations to two new Extra class licensees, Bill Jones KE5IJU and Bob Wright KS4JH.

The door prize, a DVD of the movie "Frequency", was won by a lovely young lady whose name I did not have ready by press time. Stay tuned to next month's minutes for a correction of this oversight.

Officer Reports

The minutes as they appeared in the last AARCOVER were approved.

Our stand-in treasurer Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ reported that the club checking balance was \$2542.42 and the equipment fund balance was \$4500.48.

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

Old Business

The Viacom letter concerning the new 146.94 repeater site has not yet received a response.

New Business

Lew Thompson W5IFQ reported that the EOC now has two new Telpac stations which are tied in to the Winlink email system. They are W5TQ-10 on 145.73MHz and W5TQ-12 (formerly W5IFQ-10) on 145.07MHz.

Stuart Rohre K5KVH moved that the current trustees for the scholarship fund be carried over to next year's term. The motion was approved.

A quick overview of the upcoming ARRL Field Day event on July 24-25 was given by Jeff Schmidt N5MNW.

Ham of the Month

Terry Parker, KC5EFD was nominated for ham of the month for giving an on-the-air amateur radio demo on ESPN 1280AM, and for his longstanding record of service in the amateur radio community.

Announcements

Roger Wines W5WIA is going to HamCom and offers to share a ride to and from the event.

Mitch London KD5HCV has researched the cost of having signs made and a hundred 12"x18" signs would cost \$160.

Alan Russell KE5DTR had several Altoids tins available for the taking.

Jeff Schmidt N5MNW reviewed the club loaner equipment status, summarized the upcoming events, and adjourned the meeting at 7:43PM.

Tonight's presentations was from our Vice President Thomas Visel NX1N who gave us an in-depth overview of his design for a tri-band microwave transceiver.

Respectfully submitted,
David Rivenburg AD5OO
AARC Secretary

This Just In!

An alternate TCARES meeting, for those who cannot attend the regular Tuesday evening meetings, will be held at 10AM this Thursday at the Denny's on Burnet Rd. Please contact Roger W5WIA@arrl.net 453-2193 or see www.TCARES.org for more info.

It's official, the Nov 3-4 Austin Radio Roundup will be held, as last year, at VFW Post 8787, just North of Braker on IH35 N access rd. Details still in the works but similar to 2005!

Friday night vendor setup, Dinner Party & Entertainment

Camping & RV parking welcome! \$5 RV Hookups, \$5 to dump- 836-8767 (VFW)

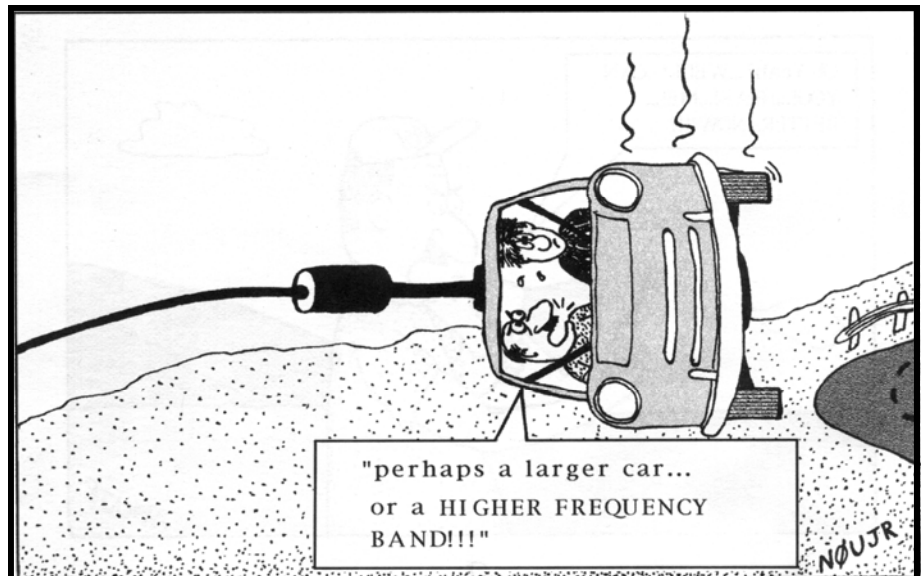
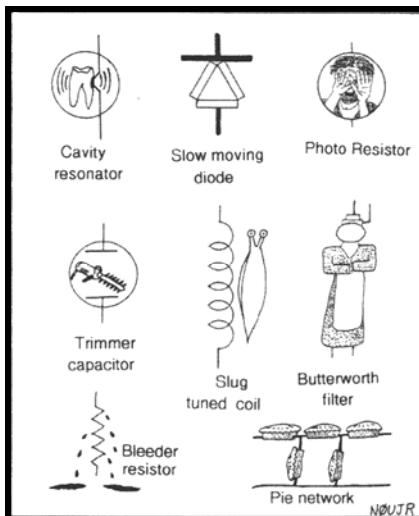
Sat setup 7AM, open to public 8AM-noon Talk-in 146.94(-)

Fri & Sat Grand Prizes- TBD

Swapfest table reservations- Lori KM5MQ@arrl.net 512-255-6753

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



Little known standard electronic symbols.

AARC Meeting Info.

Business Meeting

7:00 pm at Mangia Pizza

120001 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)

July 4th - This meeting will be held the second Tuesday at ARRL Labs

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 Break Down, what went right, and what needs work.

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- July 1st & August 5th(Summerfest) 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- July 15th & August 19th 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

Jul 8 Tidelands Amateur Radio Society Texas City Doyle Convention Center 2010 5th Avenue North Talkin-147.14 (PL 167.9) Joe AA5OP 409-945-6794 aa5op@arrl.net <http://www.tidelands.org>

Aug 4-5 Austin Summerfest Red Lion Hotel 6121 North I-35 Austin Joe W5HS (512) 345-0800 w5hs@arrl.net Talkin-146.94 <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

Aug 26 Cook County ARC Gainesville Civic Center 311 South Weaver Street Gainesville Talkin-147.34 & 442.775 (both PL 100) James N5ZPU 940-668-7511 jfloyd@swbell.net

Oct 7 Belton Ham Expo - Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ 254-773-3590 hamexpo@tarc.org Register on the website! www.tarc.org

July	Aug	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
4*	1	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium	*
8	12	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.
11	8	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
18	15	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza	7:00 p.m.
15	19	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd.	2:00p.m.
24	28	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet	7:00 p.m.
25	29	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud.	7:00 p.m.

**AARC Business Meeting will be held 2nd 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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Permit No. 2942
Time Value Newsletter

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Austin Amateur Radio Club
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July 2006
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