

**AARC Meeting Info.
Business Meeting**

**7:00 pm at Mangia Pizza
120001 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)
September 5th- Rick Kirchhof, KD5ABM will be
talking about repeaters and repeater technology.
Hands on Hamming
7:00pm at ARL Labs
10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183
September 12th - "Hands-On-Hamming"
(Pizza \$1/slice drinks 50c or bring your own snack)
Topic- To Be Announced**

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- September 9th & October 14th 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- September 16th & October 21st 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

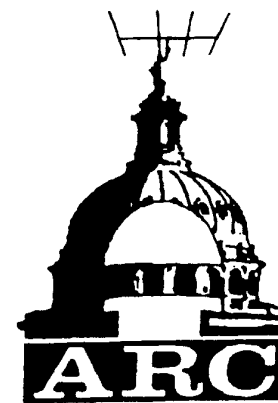
Oct 7 Belton Ham Expo - Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ
254-773-3590 hamexpo@tarc.org Register on the
website! www.tarc.org
Oct 14 CLARC (Central Louisiana ARC) Hamfest 8AM-
3PM Kee's Park Hwy 28 East in Pineville, La. Talkin-
147.33(+1)73.8 Scott KD5DFL@hotmail.com
318-484-6744 www.clarc.us/hamfest.html
Oct 14 Ham Association of Paris Paris, TX Sherry
KE5DGO 903-783-0968 sherrylenoir1@yahoo.com Talk-
In 147.040+ (PL 100.0) www.paristexasradio.com
Oct 20-22 H.L.A.R.C. Ham Slam Class Burnet Library
www.hlarc.org/
Oct 21 Brenham Swapmeet Washington Co.
Fairgrounds 7AM-2PM w5aum@yahoo.com or
ka5bkg@arrl.net

Sept.	Oct.	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
5	3	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
9	14	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.
12	10	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
19	17	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza	7:00 p.m.
16	21	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd.	2:00 p.m.
25	23	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet	7:00 p.m.
26	24	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud.	7:00 p.m.

***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.*

AARCOVER
Austin Amateur Radio Club
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Austin, TX 78765-4739
September 2006
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AARCOVER

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

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September 2006

Issue 9-2006

Former Club benefactor SK

Back in the 70's, a manufacturer started an antenna company in snowy Minnesota. However, his R&D efforts were stymied each Fall when the first snows buried his prototypes that were lying on the ground, until Spring when he could again find them.

Thus, Don Newcomb, W0DN, came to move to the Austin area to set up his company, Butternut Antennas; in a climate more suited to antenna experimentation in the Winter!

Sadly, the following was just in the ARRL Bulletin:

Donald R. Newcomb, W0DN, SK: Don Newcomb, W0DN, of Henderson, Nevada, died July 27. He was 71. Newcomb founded the Butternut Company, manufacturer of a series of highly regarded antennas, and he held several patents in antenna design. A bit of a renaissance man, Newcomb also was an accomplished musician, held a doctorate in French and was a university professor in Minnesota before he started Butternut in the late 1970s. In 1994, Newcomb sold Butternut to Bencher, Inc and retired to Nevada. -- tnx Bob Locher, W9KNI

Long time AARC members will remember Don coming to AARC and giving programs, and

(Continued on page 2)

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+

donating two Butternut Verticals for a long discussed Field Day antenna project: Could one phase a couple of multiband verticals and do better than the traditional ladder line fed doublet used on multi bands at Field Day?

After AARC meetings in those days, the antenna debaters would adjourn to first the Holiday House for dessert, after meetings at Luby's. Then, the intrepid band of late nighters, would adjourn to Lala's Little Nugget Mexican Restaurant and Bar, for pitchers of lubrication, while they discussed antennas, and planned for future projects to work the best DX, or score the highest in Field Day with the latest antenna brainstorm. The interesting thing about Lala's back room, was that besides the ladie's portraits on the walls; in the back room it was always Christmas! The decorations and tree were up year around!

I can remember many a pitcher and many a ham gathered around that table in the back of Lala's, along with Don Newcomb, as he told us of why his all band vertical was better than those that had gone before.

Don's had high Q traps which contributed to its lowered losses, as compared with some attempts at a coil loaded vertical. Don eventually, called them other than traps to distinguish their lower loss.

Don set up his company down near Lockhart and Luling, and then used his nearness to the border to dabble in Maquilladora-- manufacturing part of the antenna in Mexico, and finishing them in TX. However, various component problems, and the inevitable customer relations problems of small companies, took the joy out of antenna building. Don sold his company to Bencher and retired to Nevada.

Thanks Don, for your support of AARC, during your years in TX, and the good memories you left us.

-Stuart Rohre
K5KVH

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

ARRL VEC – The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in The Red Lion Hotel during AUSTIN SUMMERFEST on August 5th, 2006:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Samuel A. Alexander, KE5JXG Dana A. Bocoock, KE5JXP
Scott Ashton Brown II, KE5JXK Richard J. Harvey, KE5JXJ
Thomas M. Hughes, KE5JXJ
Craig R. Markley, KE5JXR (w/HF privileges)
Monte E. McCollum, KE5JXH
Michael S. Messersmith, KE5JXQ
Nicholas A. Rooch, KE5JXL Megan M. Steinhardt, KE5JXF
Joan R. Stennett, KE5JXM Matthew R. Stennett, KE5JXN
Eric J. Winchester, KE5JXO

General Class Licenses Processed

Eric A. Feistel, KA5OID Edward C. Ringgold, N5LVQ

Extra Class Licenses Processed

David K. Gilpin, W5FUY Johnnie D. Nelson, KE5FRY
Warren L. Rowe, WR1TX James G. Thompson, N2LJJ

Element 3 CSCEs Issued

(General Class Written Exam)

Paul F. Farrington, KE5FRX Justin A. Chomel, KC5FPC

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Pete Brunet, WS4G Tony Davee, KM5JH

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Gene Hinkle, K5PA

Jerry Jackson, N5UJ Herb Nolen, W5HMN

Robert Raynor, W6LUY Malcolm Robertson, KE5GYW

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

September 9th - LCRA Colorado Room

October 14th - LCRA Colorado Room

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

W5YI-VEC - 8-19-2006

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our August 19th session:

Extra Class –

Eugene C. Delp, KE5IJV William C. Moyer –new-

General Class –

Don A. Hart, KE5JRS

Technician Class (all new) –

Michael J. Carter Patrick B. Howard

Louis Saldana

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Rick Bartel, AD5HT Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO

Hugh Brown, NT5O Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

John Fisher, K5JHF Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Our next two exam dates are September 16th and October 21st, 2006. For additional information regarding our amateur radio examination sessions, please contact Jim, AB5EKat (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.



Carlos, WA5SUP, works a weak Italian DX station. Jeff, KE5GQM, logs as Tamara, KD5DJZ looks on.

Erec Hillis, Jonathan Hillis, Jeff Conaway, Herakles Boardman, and Zach Hooks.

In late July, SCR sponsors notified K5LBJ members that they achieved first place in the high school division. Returning members of the team hope to continue the momentum and remain the best Amateur Radio club in America.

(Continued from page 6)

During the contest, the LBJ students spoke with 424 other stations. They contacted stations in 45 states, 4 Canadian provinces, and 5 DX (foreign) countries. Student Carlos Greaves used his Spanish skills while making contact with stations from within Mexico. He had the most fun, however, making contact with an Italian station whose signal was very weak. Students also contacted 42 other schools during the competition and eight clubs, including those operating from the FBI and Pentagon.

Members of the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club's 2006 SCR team included Kalish, Greaves, vice-president Tamara Sevier, Ally Reid, Mitchell Wilkinson,



K5LBJ unleashes its School Club Roundup 2006 secret weapon: 2 YL's on the air! Ally, KE5GQR, creates a pile-up while Tamara, KE5DJZ waits to log.

(Continued from page 3)

New Business

There was no new business at this time.

Ham of the Month

Hugo Sanchez, N5JGX nominated Chris Crane, K5CLC for his help with setting up his station antenna and ground system.

Announcements

Roger Wines W5WIA reminded us of the ARES meeting on Sunday concerning the formation of emergency response teams.

Roger also brought up that a Homeland Security emergency communications bill includes a role for hams, showing them as first responders for the first time.

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV announced that the club had received a donation of HP signal generators, which had been magically converted into a \$30 check presented by Joe Canfield, N5HPC.

Jeff reviewed the club loaner equipment status and adjourned the meeting at 7:48PM.

In lieu of the presentation on the Gibson Ridge weather software from Shane Hale, KE5HSS, which had to be rescheduled, tonight's presentation was from Glen Reid, K5FX who gave an overview of Austin Energy and the BPL systems it is considering.

Respectfully submitted,
David Rivenburg AD5OO
AARC Secretary

LBJ High School Club Wins National Amateur Radio Contest

By Ronny Risinger, Sponsor of the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club

On Valentine's Day of this year, while many students were preoccupied with flowers and candy hearts, ten high school students were focused on radio waves and ionospheric propagation. These students, members of the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club, using their callsign K5LBJ, competed in the annual "School Club Roundup" (SCR). This contest pits school teams from all over the nation against one another to see who can make the most radio contacts using Amateur Radio equipment. Last year, in its inaugural entry into the SCR, K5LBJ came in second place among all high schools. This month, they learned they are the #1 High School Amateur Radio Club in America.

K5LBJ Stats

Number of Total Contacts: 424

45 States

4 Canadian Provinces

5 Foreign Countries

23.96 Hours on the Air

42 Schools

8 Clubs



LASA Asst. Dir. Theresa McCorquodale, center, visits K5LBJ during School Club Round Up.

School Club Roundup is an event held each February. It is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Relay League, the national organization for Amateur Radio, and the Council for the Advancement of Amateur Radio in the New York City Schools. Schools from elementary thru university level fire up their radios to see how many contacts they can make operating a maximum of 24 hours in a single week. Points are awarded for each contact with additional "multipliers" for each school, state, Canadian province or country contacted.

In April 2004, LBJ High School formed its Amateur Radio club under the sponsorship of Ronny Risinger, a Social Studies teacher within the Liberal Arts & Science Academy (LASA). LASA is Austin I.S.D.'s magnet school for gifted and talented students. After initially operating out of Mr. Risinger's classroom, school

administrators soon saw the value of putting science into application and granted K5LBJ a room in the school's basement. Operating from their 'Radio Room', LBJ students use their lunch period to practice their operating skills. Under the leadership of club President Noah Kalish, K5LBJ grew to include many students interested in electronics, building their own equipment, and contesting.

For the 2006 SCR, under the tutelage of mentor Joe Fisher, members of K5LBJ manufactured an 'Inverted V' style antenna. This antenna was then placed atop the school's highest point to allow maximum efficiency. Students then mapped out a schedule to maximize their operating time. Their hard work paid off.



Jeff Conaway, KE5GOM, has fun logging in as Nash Kalish, KD5VDO, works a pile-up on

(Continued on page 7)

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.**

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Club Minutes

AARC Meeting August 1st, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:16PM by President Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW.

Visitors, New Members, and New Calls

We had one visitor with us tonight, Terry Parker, KC5EFD.

This month's door prize, a 7AH gel cell battery, was won by Glenn Currie, KD5MFW.

Officer Reports

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

Our stand-in treasurer for the stand-in treasurer Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW reported that the club checking balance was \$2430.22 and the equipment fund balance was still \$4500.48.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH had no news from the technical committee.

Old Business

The G.E. voter system approved at the last meeting will be purchased on August 6th.

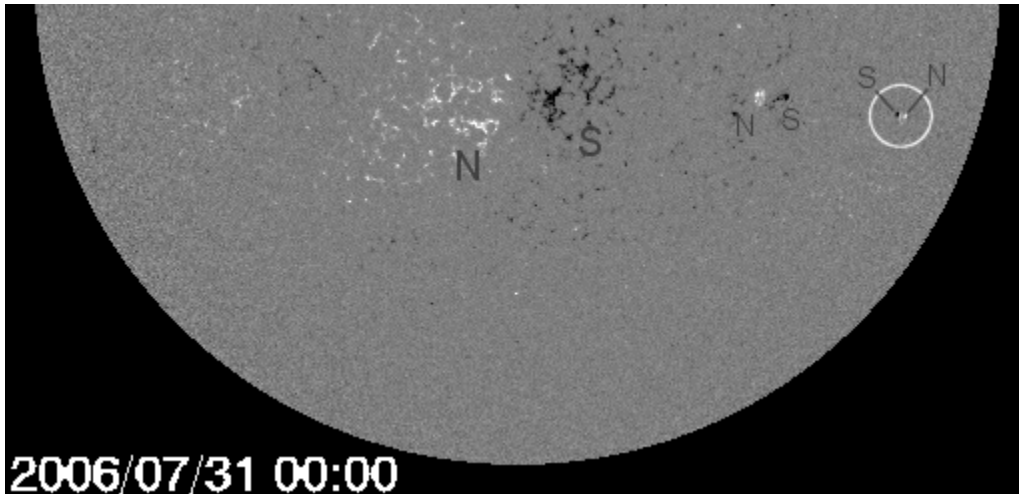
The Next Big Sunspot Cycle?

On July 31st, a tiny sunspot was born. It popped up from the sun's interior, floated around a bit, and vanished again in a few hours. On the sun this sort of thing happens all the time and, ordinarily, it wouldn't be worth mentioning. But this sunspot was special: It was backward.

"We've been waiting for this," says David Hathaway, a solar physicist at the Marshall Space Flight in Huntsville, Alabama. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

"Backward" means magnetically backward. Hathaway explains:

Sunspots are planet-sized magnets created by the sun's inner magnetic dynamo. Like all magnets in the Universe, sunspots have north (N) and south (S) magnetic poles. The sunspot of July 31st popped up at solar longitude 65° W, latitude 13° S. Sunspots in that area are normally oriented N-S. The newcomer, however, was S-N, opposite the norm. A picture is worth a 1000 words. In the magnetic map of the sun, below, N is white and S is black. The backward sunspot is circled:



Above: A SOHO magnetogram of the sun. July 31, 2006.

This tiny spot of backwardness matters because of what it might foretell: A really big solar cycle. Solar activity rises and falls in 11-year cycles, swinging back and forth between times of quiet and storminess. Right now the sun is quiet. "We're near the end of Solar Cycle 23, which peaked way back in 2001," explains Hathaway. The next cycle, Solar Cycle 24, should begin "any time now," returning the sun to a stormy state. Satellite operators and NASA mission planners are bracing for this next solar cycle because it is expected to be exceptionally stormy, perhaps the stormiest in decades. Sunspots and solar flares will return in abundance, producing bright auroras on Earth and dangerous proton storms in space: full story. But when will Solar Cycle 24 begin?

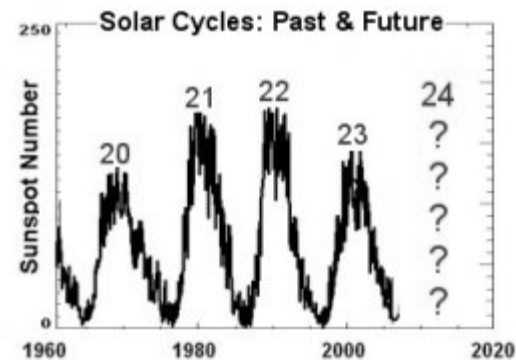
"Maybe it already did--on July 31st," says Hathaway. The first spot of a new solar cycle is always backwards. Solar physicists have long known that sunspot magnetic fields reverse polarity from cycle to cycle. N-S becomes S-N and vice versa. "The backward sunspot may be the first sunspot of Cycle 24."

It sounds exciting, but Hathaway is cautious on several fronts: First, the sunspot lasted only three hours. Typically, sunspots last days, weeks or even months. Three hours is fleeting in the extreme. "It came and went so fast, it was not given an official sunspot number," says Hathaway. The astronomers who number sunspots didn't think it worthy!

Second, the latitude of the spot is suspicious. New-cycle sunspots almost always pop up at mid-latitudes, around 30° N or 30° S. The backward sunspot popped up at 13° S. "That's strange." These odd-isms stop Hathaway short of declaring the onset of a new solar cycle. "But it looks promising," he says.

Even if Cycle 24 has truly begun, "don't expect any great storms right away." Solar cycles last 11 years and take time to build up to fever pitch. For a while, perhaps one or two years, Cycle 23 and Cycle 24 will actually share the sun, making it a hodgepodge of backward and forward spots. Eventually, Cycle 24 will take over completely; then the fireworks will really begin.

Meanwhile, Hathaway plans to keep an eye out for more backward sunspots.



Professors Revive Country Music Chestnuts

Retired professors Bill Malone and Rod Moag banded together not long ago to record and independently produce an album honoring the music of the Bailes Brothers. Now the CD, *Remember Me*, has been nominated as "recorded event of the year" in the International Bluegrass Music Association's annual awards.

Moag, who calls himself "The Pickin' Singin' Professor," hosts *Country, Swing, and Rockabilly Jamboree* on KOOP-FM in Austin, Texas. Malone also hosts a radio show, *Back to the Country* on WORT-FM in Madison, Wisc. The two met at a lecture on country music in Austin, where they discovered their shared affinity for the music of the Bailes Brothers, a popular country-music act in the 1940s and '50s.



Building a Vacuumformed Table

I found this tonight while wandering the Web. Looks like the thing to do to build simple, custom cases and widgets needed to hold things only hams would want to hold.

<http://www.studiocreations.com/howto/vacuumtable/index.html>

Reports back on actual tables built and projects completed would be nice. Send to my call sign at ARRL.net.



Example of widget case: I remember Central Texas Computer Assn. (circa 1982) had some company make a vacuumformed case for a VERY large buy of IBM Selectric typewriters with solenoid boards attached to create early computer output devices with style, elan, AND changeable fonts. The typewriters as purchased came with no cases. With the solenoid boards under the chassis, the typewriter would no longer fit into the original case, even if we had them.

TNX ES 73, Rick Herndon, K5FNI

ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION GEARING UP

A big "Thank You" goes to the hundreds of ARRL members who have already contacted us about the first ARRL On-Line Auction, expressing their support for and interest in this exciting event. We have already begun receiving some very generous donations that will surely make the first ARRL On-Line Auction an event to remember.

The auction will run from Monday, October 23 through Friday, November 3.

Individuals who wish to participate will need to register on-line approximately one week prior to the event. An update announcement will appear on the ARRL Web site when the ARRL On-Line Auction site "goes live."



USGS Map Viewer - Steve, N5BOY

Here is a link to a USGS map viewer that can give the exact elevation of any address in the US. The find a place tab on the left side of the viewer allows you to zoom to an address. There are layers available on the right, turn on structures and the location of buildings and homes appear. Go to the elevation tab on the left and you can click on any location and the viewer will display the elevation of the spot you clicked on. My house is at 85 feet and is about as high as it gets in Silsbee. If you are about to buy a house it would be a good idea to visit this site and check out the elevation of the address and the surrounding area.

<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/viewer.htm>