

**AARC Meeting Info.**

**Business Meeting**

**7:00 pm at Mangia Pizza  
120001 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)**

**November 7th - TBA**

**Hands on Hamming**

**7:00pm at ARL Labs**

**10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183**

**November 14th - TBA**

**Upcoming Amateur Exams**

ARRL VEC- November 11th & December 9th 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- November 18th & December 16 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**

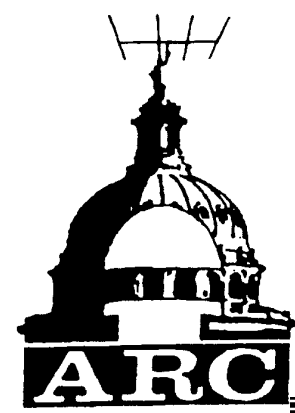
**Nov 3-4 Austin Radio Roundup** VFW Post 8787- N. Of Braker on IH35 N access rd. Details still in the works but likely same as last year! Camping & RV parking welcome! \$5 RV Hookups, \$5 to dump- 836-8767 (VFW) Friday night vendor setup, Dinner Party & Entertainment Sat setup 7AM, open to public 8AM-noon Talk-in 146.94 (-) Fri & Sat Grand Prizes- TBD Swapfest table reservations- Lori KM5MQ@arrl.net 512-255-6753  
**Nov 11 Tri-County ARC & City of Azle DPS Swapfest** David KB5YLG kb5ylg@yahoo.com 817-444-5165  
**Nov 11 South Texas ARC Swapfest** Corpus Christi Mark Mireles, AD5CA n5crp@arrl.net 361-855-9634  
**Nov 11 N. Central TX Emergency Comm Hamfest** Tri-County ARC of North Texas, Paul 817-444-0448  
**Nov 10-11 Texas Mission of Mercy**, TMoM Friday-Saturday, Dell Diamond [www.wc-ares.org/](http://www.wc-ares.org/)

Nov.	Dec.	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
7	5	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
11	9	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.
14	12	Hands on Hamming ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
21	19	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza	7:00 p.m.
18	16	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd.	2:00 p.m.
27	25	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet	7:00 p.m.
28	26	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  
Box 4739  
Austin, TX 78765-4739  
**November 2006**  
*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Austin, TX  
Permit No. 2942  
*Time Value Newsletter*



# AARCOVER

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

ISSN 1067-0262

**November 2006** **Happy Thanksgiving** **Issue 11-2006**

## Blankets Needed for Texas Mission of Mercy

By Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

Calling all Hams:

Williamson County – ARES will simulate an ARESMAT event November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Thirty hams per day are needed to cover all shifts. From the ARRL web site: The ARESMAT concept recognizes that a neighboring section's ARES resources can be quickly overwhelmed in a large-scale disaster. Since this is really a Public Service Event, WC-ARES, has chosen to simulate an ARESMAT event and recruit hams from neighboring counties not neighboring sections. For more info on ARESMAT check out the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch3.html>

So what kind of Public Service Event needs 30 hams per day? For the third time, a multitude of volunteers will gather their collective talents to hold a Texas Mission of Mercy Event, in Williamson County at the Dell Diamond.

Texas Mission of Mercy, TMoM, in partnership with the Texas Dental Association, the Smiles Foundation, and volunteers, of Williamson and the surrounding counties will attempt to provide emergent and primary dental care to over 1,200 Williamson County residents that don't have access to oral health care. Plus, they will do

*(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 -
Tues.	7:30 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.	<b>2m SSB Net</b>	<b>144.250 (USB)</b>
Thu	11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m.	Lunch, Waterloo Ice House	444.1 MHz+
Fri	8:00 p.m.	<b>6m SSB Net</b>	<b>50.230(texasvhf.org/)</b>
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+

hearing screenings for 200-300 residents.

Just a little background info: Last October the Highland Lakes/Burnet Co. ARES and the Sun City Amateur Radio Society helped with a TMoM event that provided dental care to approximately 700 people. Like the up coming Williamson County event, theirs was for two days and require at least two, six-hour shifts per day. They provided the equivalent of 42 hams serving for six hour shifts (some did multiple shifts). The Williamson County event is expected to provide dental care to 500 additional people and 200-300 hearing screenings.

Dick Lenning , KE5AGG, of WC-ARES as volunteered to be the Assistant Emergency Coordinator, AEC, to meet with the TMoM staff and coordinate our rolls in this event. We have just over one month to coordinate getting approximately 60 shifts filled.

To get this many Hams, Williamson County - Amateur Radio Emergency Service, WC-ARES, will use the TMoMs event to simulate an ARESMAT event and request additional Ham Radio Operators from the surrounding ARES groups.

We will try to give each volunteer as much information about their assignment prior to the event but everybody has to remain flexible as assignments may change. The current list of assignments and volunteers are posted on the WC-ARES web site along with a list of frequencies to be used.

Start at the WC-ARES home page and work your way through the web site:

<http://www.wc-ares.org>

Or to just volunteer:

[http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom\\_event\\_friday\\_morning.html](http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_friday_morning.html)

[http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom\\_event\\_friday\\_afternoon.html](http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_friday_afternoon.html)

[http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom\\_event\\_saturday\\_morning.html](http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_saturday_morning.html)

[http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom\\_event\\_saturday\\_afternoon.html](http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_saturday_afternoon.html)

73 Dallas, KD4HNX

### 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 October 14th, 2006:

#### Technician Class Licenses Processed

Jack I. Doebbler, KE5KWG  
William G. Ferrell, Sr., KE5KWF  
Glenn M. Olson, KE5KWH

#### Extra Class Licenses Processed

Phillip J. Fertitta, KI5RT     Herbert H. Searcy, WA5RAH

#### Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE     Tony Davee, KM5JH  
Curt Goodson, W4QBU     Jerry Jackson, N5UJ  
Joe Makeever, W5HS     Herb Nolen, W5HMN  
Ron Parsons, W5RKN

#### Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

November 4th - LCRA Colorado Room  
December 2nd - LCRA Colorado Room

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

#### W5YI-VEC -

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur Radio licenses at our August 22<sup>nd</sup> special session at Applied Research Labs:

**Extra Class** – Matthew W. Schmerer, KC2JZQ

**General Class** – none

**Technician Class (all new)** – Douglas R. Heyden

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK     Stu Rohre, K5KVH  
Bob Wright, KS4JH

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our October 21<sup>st</sup> session:

**Extra Class** – none

**General Class** – none

**Technician Class (all new)** – Andrew T. Cave

James T. Coutre     Dennis J. Featherstone  
Damian E. Ramirez     Gordon L. Tallman

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

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

Our next two exam dates are September 16<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.**



## News from the UT Amateur Radio Club

It's been a big couple of weeks for the Amateur Radio Club!

1. The moving of our towers this Saturday to comply with building code has again been postponed until at least the 21st of October. We are considering reconnecting at least some of the antennas so the shack can be functional until this move actually happens, on the chance there will be even further delays.

2. I'm proud to announce that we have been awarded a Student Organization Grant of \$500 from the Friends of Alec in support of our capital improvements project. The Friends of Alec is an annual giving program in the College of Engineering established by alumni to fund the College and provide student scholarships. Look for an article featuring our club and relocation project, and possibly some photographs, in the next Ramshorn newsletter produced by the College.

3. But I've saved the best for last. The Amateur Radio Club will be coming home to the Electrical and Computer Engineering department. ECE has generously offered us the use of a room on the 4th floor of the ENS building to use as the home of N5XU!

This is a great long-term solution for the club, as the offered space is not only larger than our future space in WRW, but even has a window. It is also in the vicinity of the Wireless Networking and Communication Group, will give us better exposure to potential members for the club, and by extension will be more convenient for members to use the shack.

We must first thank Prof. Ted Rappaport N9NB of ECE for approaching the ECE department on our behalf, and to Prof. Tony Ambler (no call.. yet!), ECE chairman, for not only offering us the valuable space in his building, but being very enthusiastic about having the ham radio club set up shop in his department.

Ted and fellow faculty member Bill Bard have also generously offered to support the capital improvements to ENS that will be necessary to erect the towers on the roof, and to route feed lines down to the 4th floor.

Thanks also must go to the Aerospace Engineering/Engineering Mechanics Department, which has generously given us a home since the club relocated to WRW in 1970. Special thanks to Prof. Robert Bishop, Chairman, and Bonnie Northcutt, Executive Assistant, who worked to find us space in their building after the roof penthouse was deemed unsuitable by the fire marshal.

There's still plenty of work to be done to get ENS prepared for us to move. Our faculty advisor, Prof. Mike Becker KW5F, has already been in contact with building personnel in pursuit of that goal. We don't have any kind of timetable yet for our move, but I hope it's not more than on the order of months. Stay tuned!

Kevin Kane AD5RA  
President  
UT Amateur Radio Club

**(For more information on the UT Amateur Radio Club, please visit [www.n5xu.ae.utexas.edu](http://www.n5xu.ae.utexas.edu))**

## Old Business

There was no old business this month.

## New Business

The director of the Applied Research Labs, where the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday meetings are held, stresses that the meetings are to be concluded before 9PM.

## Ham of the Month

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH nominated Jerry Jackson, N5UJ, for his contributions to the hurricane Katrina relief effort.

## Announcements

Joe Fisher, K5EJL announced that the ARES Simulated Emergency Test is being held Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> and that the School Club Roundup will be held from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Roger Wines, W5WIA announced that the Christmas party will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> this year.

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW announced that club officer nominations are being accepted during October and November and that the elections will be held in December.

Jeff then reviewed the club loaner equipment status and upcoming events, and adjourned the meeting at 7:53PM.

The presentation this evening was given by Thomas Visel, NX1N who gave a demonstration of the software brain that his company is developing.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Rivenburg, AD5OO  
AARC Secretary

## QCWA QSO

Remember the Eyebank Nets? The net coordinated the transportation of donated eyes between hospitals. What other mode of communications could get a message to so many individuals in such a short time as Ham Radio? An eyeball had such a short useful time-being that they became useless if handled any other way.

A hospital would notify a member as soon as an eye was available, or there was a need for an eye, and the radio operator would announce the availability or need. The eye was put in a special container and taken to the airport and handed to no one other than the senior pilot of a plane going to the city of need. Or if the plane was not going all the way, the pilot would hand-carry the container to the pilot who was flying to the city of the hospital. In such a rare case where the eye did not get to the proper place in time it was rerouted to a research lab. When there was a need the hospital would announce the need, giving the age of the patient and other vital statistics. There are many people seeing through an eye that was handled in that way. I don't know how it is handled now by the internet. It must be faster, but here were many good hams that kept a good system working.

James D. Henson W5BVN

*The local Chapter 67 QCWA meets on the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 at the Denny's by Northcross Mall. Guests are always welcome, and new memberships are encouraged.*



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
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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.**

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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.**

## CLUB MINUTES

### AARC Meeting October 3rd, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:13PM by President Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW.

### Visitors, New Members, and New Calls

We had two visitors with us tonight. The first was Joseph, possibly KD6RYU, who left before I was able to verify his callsign. Also with us was the prestigious Jim Russell, NQ5L, who is the Emergency Coordinator for Williamson County ARES.

The door prize was an LED flashlight and was won by Bill Oakley, WA5ET.

### Officer Reports

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

We did not have a treasury report tonight, however it was noted that a \$600 check was written to the VFW to secure the site for the upcoming Austin Radio Roundup.

From the technical committee, it was reported that the 147.36 repeater had lost its power on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> and went to battery backup. Please give any operational status reports to Bob Morgan, WB5AOH.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Where are the Kids?

In reply to a query from Jim Musgrove:

By Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Jim,  
MAYBE kids are the same, but they surely have many other activities competing with ham radio. Not all are physics oriented. When we came into ham radio in the 1950's; for many of us, there were no soccer teams for kids. There were no martial arts classes. There were and are Scouts, and other groups like them. There is now a Baptist substitute for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownie Scouts, Boy and Girl Explorer Scouts, Campfire Girls, etc. etc. There are more Boys and Girls Clubs. Big Brothers, Big Sisters and their activities for kids. More single Moms unable to chauffeur the kids as much as when Dad was the breadwinner.

Now you have electronic games, Internet games, internet chat, internet study, crafts classes, regular sports from schools, band, orchestra, church, swimming, acrobatics especially for girls, tennis, etc. There is folk dancing, square dancing, ballroom dancing, modern dance, cheerleading squads and classes, (more than just the school cheerleaders), and many more activities.

Some of these were around for high-schoolers in the old days, but now they start them early in all the sports. Pop Warner Football, kid softball, Little League, other ball programs, volleyball, basketball teams, etc. etc.

Many I have listed are either school connected, or done at home, at the computer, or in large groups. Ham radio is best mentored with one on a few students, so it takes more effort to mold a long term ham.

In our Novice Days, someone in the family took us to Novice Class, (I was 8th grade, no driver), and to ham club. When ham club meeting was over, we had to call a parent to pick us up. Not many kids in my school joined the Novice Class with my best friend and I. In fact, he got me into it, by taking me to meet his Elmer, who demo'd ham radio to us both. Kids today would still have to have a driver, or someone like the Elmer to get rides to ham class or events. Other activities like some churches, sponsor buses to pick up kids for their activities.

Now another thing, notice I said there are a lot more Activities for kids today. Organized active things involving exercise.

Looking at us average hams today, most parents of kids would not see anything to encourage them that their kid would be in an Activity, as opposed to a sedentary pursuit leading to the usual ham syndrome. Now, I know most hams are not that active on the air that their plight comes from a sedentary nature of operating a radio; but it does not help with our image that we are not by nature, big sports/ exercise participants, and have added pounds since the days we climbed towers for our Elmers.

The optimum age for catching a kid's attention seems to have been Jr. High in my time. That may have shifted earlier today, and although we have some new high school ham courses/ programs; what we need are more at elementary schools. Even the early grades find kids computer savvy, and able-- probably better, to program a HT than myself.

By the time most of us think to support a program for kids, they are already in many of the activities listed above. We have lost them. I guess we need to develop programs from 5th grade or even 4th, when I remember my first science classes.

FM operation is so much like FRS or telephone that it does not awaken much spark in me, much less a newcomer. With prevalence of cell phones, the magic of repeaters is lost on today's kids. HF on the other hand, and instant gratification of hearing voices from DX, might catch their fancy. Even CW is said to appeal to the love of codes and doing something adults cannot follow in kids of age 9, 10 or so.

I have not yet mentioned TV; there was no TV at home when I started to be a ham. There were only a couple of stations, and no cable. No TV movies save late night, and no educational or cartoon channels aimed at kids.

I still marvel at the magic of voices coming out of a box that pulls tiny signals from the air. That is coupled with the marvel of, that box was built with my own hands, and sometimes from my own plans. I think that might be the hook that we can offer kids. Building and operating simple DX radios.

But that is going to take a Novice like HF entry, and willing Elmers to mentor the kids. I think also, that real ham education classes must be offered before the testing, not just memory sessions. Theory must be taught, projects built, experiments demo'd to a class. They must learn to solder in class, build something that works before they pass a license. THEN we might hold on to them, or at least give them some life skills they would come back to, perhaps at retirement.

And, we need to celebrate the longer lives of our generations. Seek out the retirees, and offer classes in parallel with school classes, to our Senior centers. Show them a useful volunteer role they can serve in emergency communications, and with their greater disposable income than kids, they will contribute to the ham economy which helps us all.

73,  
Stuart Rohre  
K5KVH

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### Austin QRP Take Part in QRP Afield

On September 16, a crack contesting team from the Austin QRP club assembled at McKinney Falls State Park to participate in the 'QRP Afield' contest. This annual event is sponsored by the New England QRP Club. 2006 marked the first year for the Austin club to participate. The group used the club callsign, 'KQ5RP', and completed 22 QSOs, with stations in 15 different states, while running about 5 watts. The club participated in the 'multi-single' category, meaning the operators took turns at a single operating position. The transceiver used was an Elecraft K2 built by Monty Northrup, N5ESE, and the antenna was an 82' end fed. The participants also enjoyed seeing a software-defined transceiver project being developed by Bob Hillard, WA6UFQ.



The operators participating included John Fisher (K5JHF), Dick Foster (W5TA), Bob Hillard (WA6UFQ), Scott McMullen (W5ESE), Monty Northrup (N5ESE), and Ed Popp (K5BOT).

Dick Foster, W5TA completes a contact for the KQ5RP team

Happy Thanksgiving!

