

AARCOVER

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

ISSN 1067-0262

December 2006

Happy Holidays

Issue 12-2006

BROADCASTERS INTERVENE TO SUPPORT ARRL IN BPL COURT APPEAL

ARRL Letter Volume 25 Number 46

The Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in support of the ARRL in its court appeal of the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules.

The motion to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is dated November 9 and states: "MSTV and NAB believe that the regulations under review are arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and will adversely impact their members by, among other things, permitting unlicensed users of radio spectrum to interfere with licensed uses of the spectrum."

MSTV and NAB are entitled to intervene as a matter of right, so the Court is expected to grant the motion. As expected, some BPL proponents are seeking to intervene on the side of the FCC.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, welcomed the support of MSTV and NAB. "It is gratifying that these two prestigious broadcasting organizations recognize the danger posed to all FCC licensees by the FCC's flawed BPL rules. It's good to have them on our side."



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.	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+

CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

Who: You!

When: Tuesday December 12 6-10PM

Where: 2008 Justin Ln., Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Banquet Hall (see map)

What's for Dinner: BBQ dinner supplemented with K5EJL Fried Turkey and Pot Luck Desserts, bring your favorite!

What Else? Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Tabletop Decorating and QLF contests etc.,

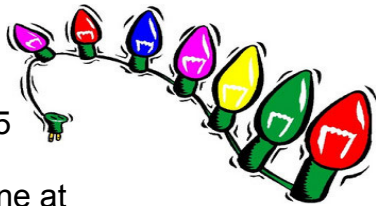
Cost: Tickets: \$8/\$15 couple prior to December 5th, \$10ea. after that and at the door.

Purchase tickets prior to December 5th you will receive 3 extra door prize tickets! Extra door prize tickets can be bought for \$1 each, six for \$5

Bring desserts and festive attire!

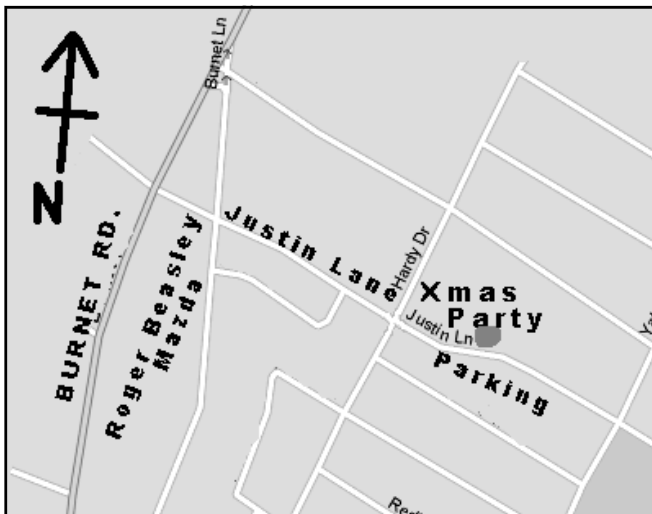
Make your checks out to AARC and mail them to:

Mitch London
5601 Lewood Dr.
Austin, Texas 78745



Or you can pay online at
www.austinhams.org/xmaspartyregistration

Directions to the party...



Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Colorado Room on November 4th, 2006:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Tommy Hollingsworth, KE5LFR
Mike McMinn, Jr., KE5LFS Bam Rubenstein, KE5LFT
Jose Rubio, KE5LFU

Element 3 (General Class) CSCE Issued

Jose Rubio, KE5LFU

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Gene Hinkle, K5PA Jerry Jackson, N5UJ
Joe Makeever, W5HS Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

December 2nd - LCRA Colorado Room
January 6th(2007) - LCRA Colorado Room
TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

W5YI-VEC - 11-18-2006

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

Extra Class -

Scott R. Chrestman, N5KRC

General Class -

none

Technician Class (all new) -

Vickie B. Amidon Bridget N. Boswell King
Cody K. Day David N. Hein
Matthew S. Jordan Flynn D. O'Brien

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
John Fisher, K5JHF Tony Lyon, KJ5XF
Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Sam Mihalik, KM5MY

Our next two exam dates are December 9 and January 20, 2007. 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.

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

President	Don Dudley	AC5YK	340-0778	ac5yk@yahoo.com
Vice President	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	424 5491	w5lhc@arrl.net
Treasurer	Jerry Jackson	N5UJ	832-5663	jerry@gaj.com
Secretary	Alan Russell	KE5DTR	851-1806	arusell@lcra.org
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ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord.	Roger Wines	W5WIA	453-2193	w5wia@arrl.net
ARRL Public Information Officer	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	424 5491	w5lhc@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 Newslines @ 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** using 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.

"NOUJR and His Friends" is reprinted with permission by Greg Trook, Trook Enterprises. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission. For information: <http://incolor.inebraska.com/n0ujr>.

"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.

The link brings up a 5-minute YouTube video, a country song written by some hams about amateur radio. The performers are posed on an antenna. Steven Polunsky, KE5GDR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMpN8EVXdfg>

Worth reading if you use APRS significantly, and interesting even if you don't.

Pete Jordahl, K5GM

<http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/aprs/fix14439.html>

To Err is Human

<sigh>

How easy it is to be wrong. <hangs head> I discovered the unabridged dictionary's number table at some point in my early teens, when I began to expand my love of words and mathematics. I'm sure I looked up things a number of times, eventually tending to commit some of the table and words found in it to memory.

The table went all the way to: centillion

or 10 raised to the 303rd power in the American method of counting. In case you're wondering, I never found much use for this large number, but collected it as one of those words I have in my head for crossword puzzles and to fill the file drawers with SOMETHING in my brain.

Just yesterday I took delivery of an SD memory card with <very exciting> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, ELEVENTH Edition (which includes the New Franklin Thesaurus). <Now I can proof material almost anywhere, since I seldom am away from my Palm Tungsten E2, which is where I use the special memory card.>

As I was exploring the facets and features of this new tool today, imagine my surprise to learn that I had misremembered one of the main levels of American counting! Here's what I found that I'd misremembered: quattuordecillion

or ten raised to the 45th power in the American method of counting. I had that in my mind's file drawer as quattrodecillion"! I'll guess that comes from not knowing French, which only seems to get me into trouble in crossword puzzles in my daily life.

So, watch your step: you never know when an error is lurking about your mind.

Pax,
Rick Herndon, K5FNI

The Origin of "SK"

"The May-June 2006 issue of the RAC magazine "Canadian Amateur" contains a handy new Q-signal courtesy of ZL1AN.

QHK - How many knobs does your radio have?

QHK 31 7 - My radio has 31 knobs, but I only understand 7 of them. He also quotes Louise Ramsey Moreau, a notes Morse historian, as saying that the prosign SK derives from the number 30 in American Morse. The "3" was didididahdit and "0" was an extra long dash, so "30" was sent as didididahditdahhhhh. In the International Morse code, this sounded like SK or VA. You learn something new every day, like it or not."

Omnibus Report

The FCC's Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140, the "omnibus" proceeding that, among other things, greatly expanded the voice sub bands on 75, 40 and 15 meters, was published today in the Federal Register.

Since the new rules take effect 30 days after publication in the Register, the effective date the new phone band limits is December 15, 2006.

The appropriate pages in the Federal Register may be viewed at

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2006_register&position=all&page=66460

As of December 15, the 75-meter phone band will begin at 3600 kHz, the 40-meter phone band will start at 7125 kHz and the General Class phone band on 15 meters will begin at 21,275 kHz.

A summary of the new band plans as well as other major features of the ruling appears on page 2 of the December issue of CQ, which is in the mail now to subscribers, and should be on newsstands soon as well.

W5YI

Skywarn Recognition Day 2006

It's getting to be that time of year again when the NWS and ARRL gather to celebrate as a team - Skywarn Recognition Day 2006. It's usually set for the first Friday-Saturday in December, so this one will begin on December 1 and end on December 2.

We'll operate on: 80 meters, 40 meters, 20 meters, 15 meters, 10 meters, 6 meters, 2 meters, and 440 MHz. We'll use the following modes: SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK, FM, and EchoLink. Our station call sign is KD5UMW (supposedly stands for "ugly mean weather".) Times for the event will be:
from 6 pm CST to 10 pm CST on Friday, December 1, and
from 8 am CST to 5 pm CST on Saturday, December 2.

This has now become an annual tradition for us. We will not only demonstrate the amazing world-wide capabilities of Amateur Radio communications and how critical they are to the NWS, we will also get a chance to share some coffee, sodas and snacks and visit face-to-face. Please come share the event with us this year again.

As always it will be held at the NWS Austin/San Antonio Forecast Office, located at the New Braunfels Airport, at 2090 Airport Road. I've attached a first try on our QSL card for the event and a map on how to get to the office from IH-35 and IH-10.

Please send me an e-mail and let me know if you will be attending on Friday evening and/or Saturday daytime. We are likely to be in at least a low level security mode and I'll need to get a list of guests together.

There's never a doubt about my attitude toward Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio Operators when I go out to talk to the public and emergency planners. I am your biggest fan and strongest advocate. After all, you are absolutely critical to what we do.

You ARE the "eyes and ears" of the National Weather Service. Thank you for all you do.

Larry
Larry.Eblen@noaa.gov

Low Wire Contest Club

The reason I put this on this list is because of the ruggedness of Ten-Tec gear under a wide variety of impedance loads. Please respond if you are interested.

The purpose for starting this club is to encourage participation in contests and competition among contesters with either budget constraints or covenants (or even a very fussy XYL) that only allow them to have single element wire antennas (definition expanded below). The proposed club would enter teams (probably with no realistic hope of winning) mostly for the camaraderie, fun and personal improvement.

I would define a low wire antenna as a single element antenna, with an average height of no more than 50' and a length no longer than a half wave at the lowest band operated (about 250' for 160M). The wire can be an L, a dipole, a vertical (aluminum okay), a vertical or horizontal loop, an inverted V, Windom or any other antenna that meets the single-element and height and length limitations. Multiple antennas are ok, no limit per se on the area the antennas must occupy. Antennas can be used on as many bands as desired. In that the antennas are pretty basic and low, power categories will probably be low power and QRP, either SO1R or SO2R, but high power operators are encouraged to join. At the end of the contest, members would submit claimed scores which would be compiled in club email.

Members would be encouraged to share information on their antennas, and any other operating challenges (stealth appearance, RFI, etc). Official final scores would be those published by the contest sponsor.

I would hope to find folks around the country and the world that operate under these restrictions, and put together national or regional teams if participation allows. I think this might be a good way to recognize a lot of folks that otherwise might not receive a lot of attention, and also promote basic contest operation and participation. We might be able to sponsor a mailing list with archives, or even a website.

I appreciate your interest and any thoughts and suggestions you might have regarding this endeavor.

Paul Shaffenberger, K5AF

Radio Round Up Wrapped Up!

The 200 or so who attended the Austin Radio RoundUp all seemed to have a good time. Almost all the tables were claimed but we could have used more in attendance. All four commercial vendors reported low sales, we have to find ways to get more motivated buyers to attend these events, lest swapmeets become part of the past...

Please support your local Hamfest!!!

As a reminder to support these businesses, our Radio RoundUp vendors were:

Austin Amateur Radio Supply- Johnny WA5BGO and Grace Paul (with Barbara!)

<http://www.aaradio.com/>

Jubilee Enterprises- Mike Williams KK5SC <http://www.shopjubilee.com/>



Alan Russell, KE5DTR and Jeff Scmidt N5MNW pull tickets for the next prize.



Norm Sprott, KE5DTP sets up his chili

Bob-and-Linda (actually Flash the wonder Pom) Amateur Accessories- Bob Elder N7WWK

<http://n7wwk.com/store/catalog/>

DF Electronics- Don WB5BBU

Friday's Grand Prize winner was Chuck Inks W5KNA, winning a Yaesu FT-60 dual-band HT, although it was Mickie K5IOJ who was clutching it as they left after dinner.

Saturday's Grand Prize winner was Lee Cooper W5LHC, who walked away with a Yaesu FT-7800 dual-band mobile with separation kit.

The Friday night Chili Cookoff was a real hoot. Louis

KE5KCD was the lead Chili Judge.

He solicited help from Miss Ellie (Don WB5BBU's better half) and MSET's Dan KC5SWU.

They sampled all seven Chili Chef's wares and came up with three placing winners.

1st - Norm KE5DTP with "Road Kill Red"

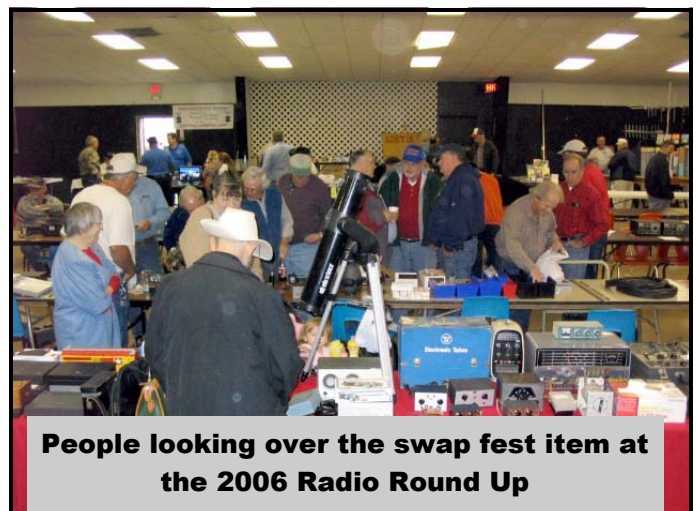
2nd - Mitch KD5HCV with a spicy Fajita meat offering

3rd - Don AC5YK with a truly tasty entry

Honorable Mention was made to Thomas NX1N for "Mild and Meaty", which boasted *"a sealed container of hot sauce waved over the pot"*.

Thanks to all the volunteers that made this event happen. Talk-in, Door admission, Security, etc. were all taken care of by hard-working folks. Members from Highland Lakes, Williamson County, MSET, and many from AARC assisted in various places and moved tables during set up and cleanup, making short work of a big job.

-Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW



People looking over the swap fest item at the 2006 Radio Round Up

Austin Amateur Radio Club

Membership Form for year ending December 31, _____
Application for: (check applicable box or boxes and include payment)

- AARC \$20 single \$30 family (all at same mailing address)
 \$5 student (thru 12th grade, no AARCOVER by mail)
 ARRL \$24 (first time membership) \$22 (senior first time)
 \$34 (renewal thru AARC) \$32 (senior renewal)
 QCWA \$6 (Local chapter 67 annual dues)

- Check One:** Information changes Renew membership
 New member (never before registered)

Call sign: _____ License class? E A G T+ T N (circle one)
 First name: _____ Last name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____
 Mobile Phone: _____ Pager: _____
 Email Address: _____

If the family box is checked please list family members below.

2nd Call: _____ Name: _____ ARRL?
 3rd Call: _____ Name: _____ ARRL?
 4th Call: _____ Name: _____ ARRL?

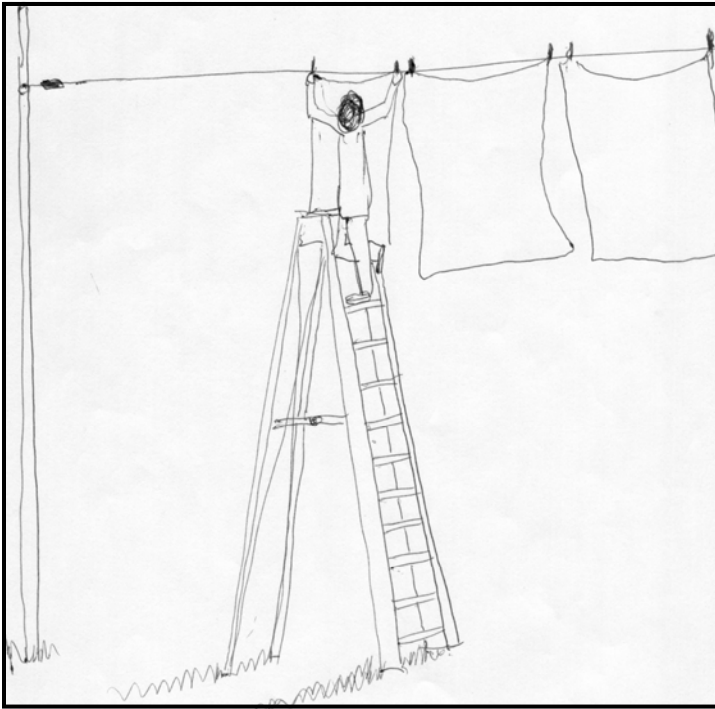
I/We have interest in the following:

- Monthly meetings Field Day Working events Transmitter hunts
 2 meters FM DXing Newsletter Holding Office
 Presenting programs CW Net control Emer communications
 Holding ARRL office Education Public Awareness Working with Youth
 Other _____

Mail this form with payment to:

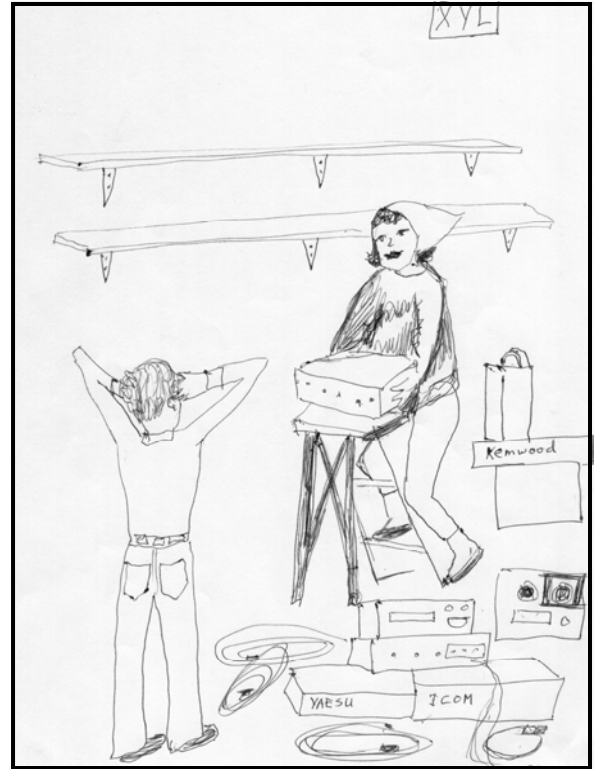
AARC - P.O. Box 4739 - Austin, TX 78765

or: Bring it to the next meeting (See <http://www.austinhams.org>)



“The SWR is really up - Janine, what are you up to?”

XYL by Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



“I’m alphabetizing these for you!”

AARC Meeting Info.

Business Meeting

7:00 pm at Mangia Pizza

120001 Burnet Rd. (North of 183)

December 5th - Topic - TBA

Hands on Hamming

7:00pm at ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

December 12th - AARC Christmas Party - *See**

Page 2 for more information***

Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- December 2nd & January 6th 2007 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- December 9th & January 20 NOTE
TEMPORARY LOCATION CHANGE ***2p.m. in room
204, Moody Hall, St. Edwards University. Contact Jim
Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184)

******* DUES ARE DUE!!! *******

Dues must be paid by April 15, to be included in the
annual Roster. Membership form on page 7. Contact
Jerry Jackson (512) 832-5663 jerry@gaj.com or you can
pay dues online at www.austinhams.org/join

Calendar of Events

Dec 12 AARC Christmas Party - see page 2



Dec.	Jan .	Austin Meetings/Happenings	
5	2	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
9	13	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.
12	9	Hands on Hamming See Page 2	7:00 p.m.
19	16	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza	7:00 p.m.
16	20	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd.	2:00 p.m.
25	22	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet	7:00 p.m.
26	23	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.*

Non-Profit Organization
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Time Value Newsletter

AARCOVER
Austin Amateur Radio Club
Box 4739
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December 2006
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