

AARC Meeting Info.

*****NOTE Meeting Changes*****

ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

Officers Meeting

6:00PM

Regular Business Meeting

7:00 pm

March 6th- Glenn Currie, KD5MFW will give a presentation on the Austin High Speed Multimedia Ham Project

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- April 7th & May 5th 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- April 21st & May 19th 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.

*******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

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

2007 Calendar of Events

Apr 14 Belton Ham Expo - Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ 254-773-3590 hamexpo@tarc.org Register at tarc.org
Apr 21-22 MS-150 Houston to Austin Bike tour Austin-area Hams, contact Jeff N5MNV@arrl.net or 255-6753 Houston-area Hams, contact Mike 713-826-6917 N5VCX@arrl.net www.HoustonHams.org
www.ms150.org/ms150/

Apr 28 7290 Picnic Riverbend Park in Smithville
May 19-20 Tour de Cure- American Diabetes Association Benefit bike ride. Two-day ride from San Antonio, overnight in San Marcos, Finish line at Akins High School in South Austin. Austin Area Hams contact Jeff N5MNV@arrl.net or 255-6753 San Antonio Hams contact Shane NS5D or Lee N5NTG

Jul 26-29 Central States VHF Conference in San Antonio <http://www.csvhfs.org/conference/index.html>

| Apr. | May | Austin Meetings/Happenings |
|------|-----|---|
| 3 | 1 | AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium** 7:00 p.m. |
| 7 | 12 | Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m. |
| 10 | 8 | ARES Training -LCRA Hancock Bldg 7:30 p.m. |
| 10 | 8 | High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m. |
| 17 | 15 | ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m. |
| 21 | 19 | QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00 p.m. |
| 23 | 28 | Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m. |
| 24 | 29 | Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m. |
| 25 | 30 | Packet Set-up Lab @ Red Cross* 7:00 p.m. |

*Red Cross Located at 2218 Pershing Dr. Austin

**AARC Business Meeting is at ARL Labs 10000 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
April 2007
Return Service Requested



AARCOVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club

Austin Amateur Television Club

Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

April 2007

2007 DUES ARE DUE!!!

Issue 4-2007

ARMY MARS NEEDS YOU

Texas Army MARS needs more members in Austin area. There are presently only two local members, myself, and Tony Lyon, KJ5XF-AAR6AI. There are presently three Army MARS stations in the Austin area that need staffing, State EOC-AAN6ETX, Camp Mabry, and CTECC. The State EOC has just received funding to build an ECV (Emergency Communications Vehicle) that will also need MARS members. Please see: <http://www.txarmymars.org/require.htm> for membership information and please contact me for further information and assistance in joining this exciting organization. We need your help. The below message exchange between the Army MARS Chief and the DHS Director of Technology Support describes some of the exciting things happening in Army MARS. 73
 Lew, W5IFQ, AAR6UK Cell – 512-587-9944 W5IFQ@austin.rr.com

SUBJECT: Army MARS and Winlink 2000 CMS Installation at DHS

All Army MARS Members,
 Our efforts to make Army MARS "Relevant to First Responders Today and Tomorrow" are paying off with big results. The Department of Homeland Security has studied our efforts with Winlink 2000 and well understand its utility when coupled with Army MARS HF capability. DHS has completed installing and activating its own hardened Winlink Message Server, called a Common Message Server (CMS), in its Headquarters on Nebraska Ave, Washington D.C. This is the 4th hardened CMS in the Army MARS Winlink 2000 network.
 All four Army MARS Winlink 2000 CMS' mirror 100% of all Army MARS Winlink message traffic. This redundancy will assure the unrestricted availability to all Winlink message traffic during even the most catastrophic conditions to support Emergency Relief efforts.

DHS is the first Federal Agency to adopt the Army MARS Winlink messaging strategy to maximize a Low Cost, Readily Available, and Highly Reliable Army MARS HF/e-mail capability. Soon, other Emergency Response Agencies will leverage the capability and reliability that Army MARS and its Winlink system provides.

(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 **NEW FREQ!*** | 444.150 + (114.8)*** |
| Tues. | 8:00 p.m. | Bastrop ARES Net | 443.750 + (114.8) |
| Wed | 8:00 p.m. | Code Practice | 146.94 MHz - |
| Wed | 11:30 a.m. | Ham Social Luncheon, Jim's | 146.94 MHz - |
| Thu | 9:00 p.m. | 2m SSB Net | 144.250 (USB) |
| Thu | 11:30 a.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 | 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+ |

In This Issue

| Story | Page |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Copeland Scholarships Awarded | 4 |
| New Austin BPL Test Site | 5 |
| Club Minutes | 6 |
| Membership Form Dues Are DUE!!! | 7 |
| Iraqi Ham Radio | 7 |

See the e-mail below from Mr. Joe Hennigan, Director of DHS Technology Support. His message to me says it all.

Thanks to all of you for your dedication to and preparation for Emergency Response.

"It's a great time to be in Army MARS"

Stu
STUART S. CARTER
Chief, Army MARS (AAA9A)
Deputy Director, Current Operations (G3)
NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army)
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613
"Army MARS - Voice of the Army"

From: Hennigan, Joe
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 11:13 AM
To: Chief, Army MARS

Subject: The Department of Homeland Security Sponsorship of Winlink 2000 for the Military Affiliate Radio System.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Operations Coordination Directorate (OPS) has made great strides over the last 3 months in support of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). In cooperation with Army MARS, and DHS Transportation Security Agency, DHS Operations Coordination Directorate (OC) has installed a WinLink 2000 system, to include hosting one of four redundant, mirror image, Common Message Server (CMS) Hubs, a Radio Message Server (RMS), and end-user client applications for HF Operations. WinLink 2000 is a COTS application suite, allowing users the ability to extend an e-mail capability and GPS Positioning data between an HF Radio and the internet. DHS has the capability to literally pass data from anywhere in the world, no matter how austere. DHS is one of many Government Agencies with HF radio capabilities, but this particular solution provides DHS with a unique set of extended capabilities.

The WinLink 2000 system consists of many different components, making it very stable and reliable in times of need. WinLink 2000 is utilized by many Emergency Response Agencies, including the Department of Defense (DoD). The MARS Winlink 2000 radio messaging system can both be contacted through this application via conventional HF/VHF/UHF radio communications, or via standard e-mail through the MARS Winlink 2000 radio e-mail system, to any number of operators throughout the world to get messages promptly delivered where normal standard e-mail does not exist. This is critical to any emergency response requirement.

This capability is proof positive of the DHS's commitment to enhancing emergency communications.
Best regards,
Joe Hennigan,
Director, Technology Support
Operations Coordination Directorate
Department of Homeland Security

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Colorado Room on March 3rd, 2007:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Philip D. Hughes, KE5NCD Isaac A. Loose, KE5NCE
Steven D. Tonnesen, KE5NCC

General Class Licenses Processed

Glenn R. Currie, KD5MFW Antonio Forenza, KE5MRG
Gregory T. Eubank, KE5NCH
Robert W. Heath Jr., KE5NCGRichard M. Huff, KD5RAI
Damon W. Johnson, K5DWJ Jerome W. Powell, KE5NCF
Norman Sprott, KE5DTP Chris A. Williams, KE5FNX

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Frederick D. Engelkemeir, KD5SVO
Tommy D. Hollingsworth, KE5LFR

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE Tony Davee, KM5JH
Curt Goodson, W4QBH Larry Gunter, WB5BEK
Joe Makeever, W5HS Tom Nevue, W2MN
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

April 7th - LCRA Colorado Room
May 5th - LCRA Colorado Room
TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

W5YI-VEC 3-17-2007

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our St. Patrick's Day, March 17th session:

Extra Class –

David W. Desormeau, KD5RHL Michael Riggs, -new-
Richard D. Vance, -new-

General Class –

Fredrick G. Brunell, KD5DKBStephen J. Kuhn, KC5KVN
Justin A. Chomel, KC5FPCMMichael D. Maurice, -new-
Barbara M. Desormeau, KD5SVX
Flynn D. O'Brien, KE5LOK Mark E. Florian, KD5PSR
Terry L. Parker, KC5EFD Wilson F. Jared, KD5MWN
Terry A. Settergren, KE5FCX
Richard E. Kirchhof, III, KD5ABM
Carlos A. Uribe, KE5DFK Susan A. Wreyford, KE5LAV

Technician Class (all new) –

Keith E. Allyn

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Tad Danley, K3TD Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO
John Fisher, K5JHF Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

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.

AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY SHUT DOWN IN IRAQ

The ARRL Letter - Vol. 26, No. 11 - March 16, 2007

Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, has informed ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves. The ham radio blackout began this week.

Sayah says the suspension affects both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners, including military personnel and contractors – who have been on the air from Iraq identifying with YI9-prefix call signs. It does not affect the operation of Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) stations, however, since they operate on military frequencies, not amateur frequencies. The IARS is informing its member to stay off the air, although some Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes like IRLP and EchoLink still are okay to use, as long as they don't involve transmitting a signal over the air.

The request to halt all ham radio activity and the issuance of licenses in Iraq originated with a letter from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as part of the new Baghdad security plan, Sayah said. He received subsequent confirmation via the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to shut down ham radio activity, although he allows for a possible misunderstanding on the part of government officials as to the nature and purpose of Amateur Radio.

"I'm waiting an answer from the Office of Prime Minister, because I requested a meeting with him through e-mail," Sayah told the League. He said the government expressed concerns over the difficulty of identifying "enemy" as opposed to "friendly" radio traffic, the potential for revealing military movements via radio and eavesdropping.

Sayah said the government also wanted radio amateurs in Iraq to send all ham radio equipment to the IARS until the security situation improved, but he's advising hams in Iraq to hang onto their gear. "Because we had the security plan going, no one can carry his equipment, and all checkpoints belongs to the Ministry of Defense," he said. "Besides, the location of our Society is not safe to keep members' equipment in one place."

Sayah also has reached out to the worldwide Amateur Radio community to use its influence to reverse the Iraqi government policy.

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)
- ARRL \$5 student (thru 12th grade, no AARCOVER by mail)
- \$24 (first time member) \$21 (senior first time)
- \$37 (renewal thru AARC) \$34 (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+ N (circle one)

Year First Licensed: _____ Date of Birth*: _____

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>)

* Required by ARRL for student and senior discounts.

CLUB MINUTES

Meeting called to order: 7:07pm

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV, showed slides of the Cap10K Packet stuffing, along with a thank-you recap of the event. Jeff also presented information and a call for volunteers for the Cap10K race itself.

Housekeeping announcements: ARL security, restroom locations, food.

Visitors: Jyrki Penttinen, OH2NZP (Finland); John Rupprecht, K3NOQ; Bonita Rupprecht, N3EIH; Tim Stevens, KD5WML; Carolyne Chandler, KE5ETY; Thaddeus Danley, K3TD; Roy Miyasaki, AD5EA; Juanita Miyasaki, KD5OIE.

Minutes: approved as written in the AARCOVER.

Officer Reports:

President: talked about attempt to update by-laws.

Technical: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, talked about work to improve PA system in the ARL meeting room; Jeff Schmidt talked about purchasing a new controller for the .94 repeater, addressed ownership changes of TV towers the .94 repeater could be located on.

ARES: Roger Wines, W5WIA, listed several upcoming events for hams.

Don Dudley, AC5YK, discussed meeting presentations: planned and “what do you want to see.”

New members: none

New Calls: none

Upgrades: Stewart Morrill, KE5BWA, upgraded to Extra.

Old Business: Lee Cooper, W5LHC, presented in-progress plans of SwapFest & Christmas Party: combine the two, move the venue, charge for tailgating, increase vendors, main thing is to not lose money, dinner becomes Christmas party, non-typical prizes (ex: full packet station), year-long raffle, and casino night.

New Business: none

Ham of the Month: Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ.

Slides/discussion of upcoming events: all listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter or at www.austinhams.org.

Announcements: Time change coming up Sunday, March 11, 2007: spring forward.

The club extends its condolences to Mitch London, KD5HCV, whose mother passed away recently, and “Duie” Roth, K5KZQ, whose wife passed away recently.

Presentation: Jeff Draper, N5SSI: Doppler Radar & GRLEVELX.COM

Have You Paid Your Dues for 2007?

The AARC dues are still \$20 for a single and \$30 for family membership. Special student (high school and below) membership is available for \$5 per year. In addition to the usual cash and checks, you can now pay by PayPal. Simply use the form on the AustinHams.org web site (or, if none of your pertinent information has changed, just submit your check or PayPal payment. Note that the PayPal link is in the middle of the AustinHams.org home page under “Membership Dues for 2007 are due”. AARC Treasurer Jerry Jackson, N5UJ, will gladly accept your form and/or payment.

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 | arussell@lcra.org |
| 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. | 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 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.

“N0UJR 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.

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.

2-24-2007 Special Ham Test

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our February 24th special session in Bastrop:

Extra Class –

Stewart W. Morrill, KE5BWA Dan J. Pike, N5TLM

General Class –

Morice D. DeHart, KD5TUP Dennis Featherstone, KE5KZX Edgar A. Holland, KE5KAL
Andrew Lee, KD5PNT Steven A. Long, KC5WXT Michael A. Meador, KD5VHF

Pat S. Patrick, KD5ZRH

Technician Class (all new) –Douglas F. Allen

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Jim Allen, KE5AMB Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Charlie Claiborne Thad Johnson, W5IRQ
Tad Danley, K3TD Ben Worrel, NE5B

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 April 21st and May 19th

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/>

Copeland Scholarships Awarded

The Jesse Copeland Memorial scholarships for 2007 totaled \$21,000 in grants from the fund, to amateur radio operator scholars from the Greater Austin area, and Austin Amateur Radio Club, (AARC). The Copeland Scholarships are an over ten year old project of the Austin Amateur Radio Club. They were made possible by the generosity of the late Jesse Copeland, W5TQ, and his wife.

Each recipient has to have, and maintain, a B average, (3.0 on a 4.0 scale or better). Each must be an FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator. The Scholarships are unrestricted as to major field of study.

The applicants also have to list their assets, activities, and awards, and are they or their family, members of Austin Amateur Radio Club or area amateur radio clubs?

Applications are made to the Austin Community Foundation, and must be postmarked and complete before January 31, of each year of the grants. Transcripts and copies of the amateur radio license are required.

There were eight applicants for Scholarships this year, but only six were qualified to the Copeland Fund standard requirements.

All 2007 recipients have previously been Copeland Fund scholars, except for one. Four are returning this year, having received 2006 Copeland Scholarships as well. One has received Copeland Scholarships in prior years.

The newest Copeland Scholar is Richard Kirchhof, KD5YRF. He plans to attend school here in Austin.

Returning Copeland Scholars include Johanna Preston, W5JLP, attending the University of Texas at San Antonio Medical School.

Also, Shawn McCoy, KD5OUQ, and Matt Youngblood, KD5FGE, who have attended TX A&M.

Attending Park University is Nhi Thu Pham, KE5DWI.

Tamara Sevier, KE5DJZ, is attending college out of state.

Tamara and Shawn both graduated from the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club, and both have been welcome operators at the Austin Amateur Radio Club Field Days. Also a Field Day veteran, is Johanna Preston, who even brought a French, ham operator visitor to one of the AARC Field Days!

The board would like to point out to potential applicants that the Scholarships are for the Greater Austin area amateur radio operators, or persons related to family in the Austin Amateur Radio Club. In addition, revised IRS regulations on Scholarships means that the Copeland Fund minimum of a B average is strictly enforced. No recipient can be related to Board members who vote on the scholarship, and Board members themselves are not eligible for scholarships. By the contract between Austin Community Foundation and AARC, the Fund is considered ACF funds, and the Board approves who receives scholarships and the amounts. Scholars must reapply each year to get additional funding; only the earnings on the Fund investment can be granted. Thus, as the Fund depends on the stock market, and grants may vary from year to year, and are not guaranteed in any year.

-Stuart Rohre
K5KVH,
for the Copeland Scholarship Board members

NEW AUSTIN BPL TEST SITE ANNOUNCED, EQUIPMENT INTALLED, NOISE TESTING BEGINS

By Glen Reid, K5FX

The new test area for the City of Austin BPL deployment is located on the east side of IH35 between 2nd St. and 5th St. and between Elkhart St. and Waller St. as shown in Figure 1.

The area contains numerous City owned facilities including Fire Station #7, a Communications Technology Management office and a neighborhood COA Health Clinic. Additionally, the City of Austin's Public Safety and Emergency Administration office and the RBJ Fuel Cell unit will be connected to the BPL network via access points on Austin's 45Mb WiMesh radio network.

The plan is to provide these locations with a Demand Side Management (DSM) system that includes programmable communicating thermostats and smart relays (for water heaters and other high energy usage appliances) for conducting load control events as well as broadband services including Internet and Internet telephony. These locations will also be likely candidates for AMR electric and/or water meters. The electric and water meter sites are being determined with a focus on hard to read meters. There will also be a pilot utility Internet portal for customer viewing and control of the respective BPL network information and remote devices.

The area also includes 2 parks -- Saltillo Plaza and Comal Park -- which will be sites for BPL-enabled cameras and Wi-Fi Internet service.

In addition to these facilities, the pilot will include an office, in the Saltillo Lofts located at 5th St. and Comal, to showcase DSM, Broadband, VOIP, VOD, AMR and other applications. The office will allow site visits and demonstrations as deemed appropriate while eliminating the need to have interested parties visit operating COA offices.

Austin Energy will implement a separate trial at the Downtown Cooling Plant 2 (DCP2) site on Sabine and 5th Street. In-building BPL network covering 2 floors that will provide for data and voice building communications and also have a BPL injection point between the facility and one of it's current customers, the Marriott Hotel on Trinity and 4th St., that will provide two way communications.

In early March, K5GP conducted an inspection of the test area and determined that BPL equipment has been installed on power pole in the area. The map in Figure 1 shows the location of the test area. The numbers indicate the locations of BPL gear.

Figure 2 shows Corinex BPL gear installed on a pole within the Austin test area.

Monty Northup, N5ESE conducted a "drive by" noise assessment in the test area using a K2 and mobile antennas. The results of Monty's survey can be viewed in the "Files" section of the BPL787 Yahoo group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bpl787/files/>. Monty confirmed that the area is noisy on certain ham bands, even without BPL

On March 7, the City began its own RF noise survey of the test area to determine the BPL deployment level of RF noise in the test area. At this writing, the results of that survey are not available.

A TYPICAL CORINEX BPL
INSTALLATION IN THE AUSTIN
BPL TEST.

