

AARC Meeting Info.

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

ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

Officers Meeting

6:00PM

Regular Business Meeting

7:00 pm

May 1st - Jeff Schmidt will present HF-101. Some basic information about the HF bands and how to operate on them.

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- May 5th & June 2nd 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.

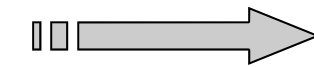
W5YI VEC- May 19th & June 16th

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.

JOIN



2007 Calendar of Events

May 4,5,6 **Marble Falls Ham Slam** www.hlarc.org/

May 19-20 Tour de Cure- American Diabetes Assoc. Benefit bike ride from San Antonio, overnight in San Marcos, finish line at Akins High School in South Austin Contact Jeff N5MNW@arrl.net or 255-6753

May 26 ARMAD (Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day) 9AM-Noon KC9HAJ@yahoo.com www.armad.net

Jun 8-9 Hamcom Plano Center in Plano 469-361-2143 www.hamcom.org

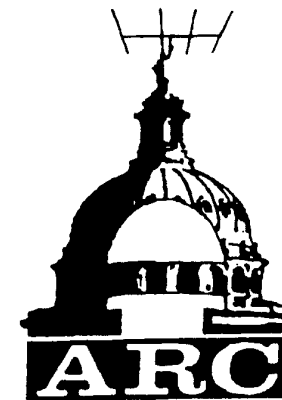
Jun 22-24 Field Day weekend.

May	June	Austin Meetings/Happenings
1	5	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium** 7:00 p.m.
12	9	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
8	12	ARES Training -LCRA Hancock Bldg 7:30 p.m.
8	12	High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m.
15	19	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m.
19	16	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00 p.m.
28	25	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
22	26	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
23	27	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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

Austin Amateur Radio Club

Austin Amateur Television Club

Austin Repeater Organization

ISSN 1067-0262

May 2007

The AARCOVER is Going Digital, See Page 5

Issue 5-2007

APPLICATION AVALANCHE UNDER WAY AS NEW

CODELESS TESTING REGIME RAMPS UP

From The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 09

The avalanche of Amateur Radio license and license upgrade applications prompted by the FCC's elimination of Morse code as a licensing requirement is well under way with no end in sight. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that paperwork from upward of 450 Amateur Radio exam sessions, most held since the new rules went into effect February 23, arrived this week, more than her department sees in a month under "normal" circumstances. The ARRL VEC has had to add personnel and schedule extended hours to keep up with the workload.

"We've been seeing some of the largest brand-new Technician sessions ever," Somma said. "These examination sessions are huge, and a ton of new Technician license applications has been coming in -- sometimes 60 or 70 at a clip." Somma says license upgrade traffic also has been brisk, and, with some 650 examination sessions already on the calendar for March and more arriving daily, it doesn't look like the pace will slacken anytime soon.

New Amateur Radio rules are driving the demand for new licenses and upgrades. Effective February 23, the FCC no longer requires Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test to earn operating privileges

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

AARCOVER
Austin Amateur Radio Club
Box 4739
Austin, TX 78765-4739
May 2007
Return Service Requested

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(texasvfh.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
Field Day 2007 Preparations	2
Club Minutes	4
AARCOVER Going Digital!	5
Over the WWaves	6
Membership Renewal Form	7

Field Day 2007 Preps Already Under Way!

Field Day is coming up the weekend of June 23 and NOW is the time to prepare for it! Don't wait until the final weeks and expect that you will be able to get people to act on a moment's notice.

The 2007 Field Day package is up on the web. While it is hard to write a specific press release months ahead of the event, (we had to stay pretty generic) the package includes the first of what will be several releases and more timely materials made available to PIOs as we get closer to this event. To see all the FD materials already available, go to <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>
Logo Info

This year's Field Day logo is going to be very popular. As a result, we're likely to get the usual requests for the rights to place the logos on T-shirts, etc. I asked Bob Inderbitzen, Manager of Marketing, about the rules governing this year's logo. His response . . .

The ARRL Field Day logo may be used on newsletters, flyers (including posters directing people to an ARRL Field Day site), or on club Web sites.

Permission is required for any other use. If it is not clothing related, it usually is given, but you need to ask. Write MWeinberg@arrl.org.

It is a really neat logo and I hope you enjoy it, but it is copyrighted and part of Marketing's annual campaign. It may not be used for any embroidery, silk screening, or other use on apparel or products.



Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Colorado Room on April 7th, 2007:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Rishi S. Aggarwal, KE5NUK
Conrad H. Klahn, KE5NUM
Jack G. Stewart, KE5NUJ
Robert L Warfel Jr, KE5NUL

General Class Licenses Processed

Thomas W. Chandler, KE5COH
Paul F. Farrington, KE5FRX
Gaylord G. Henry, KD5LQS
David K. Miller, KE5CAL
Eric L. Rabinowitz, KG6GAN
William E. Sims, KD5OET
Scott Sutherland, KE5NUN

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Mark E. Florian, KD5PSR
Richard E. Kirchhof III, KD5ABM
Steven D. Tonnesen, KE5NCC

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

John Fisher, K5JHF
Jerry Jackson, N5UJ
Joe Makeever, W5HS
Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Tom Nevue, W2MN
Roy Walker, WA5YZD

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

May 5th - LCRA Colorado Room
June 2nd - LCRA Colorado Room
TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

W5YI-VEC 4-21-2007

Not Available at Time of Printing



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.

(Continued from page 4) Club Minutes

Technical: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, stated BPL testing will start soon in parts of Austin and would like the club to utilize some monitoring equipment to record the BPL effects.

ARES: Roger Wines, W5WIA, is working on a disaster plan; is talking with the TSA about a partnership involving HF; and mentioned training coming up in Galveston

New members: Bridget Boswell King, KE5LOP

New Calls/ Upgrades: none

Old Business: discussion of the 146.94 repeater – problems and planned work.

New Business: 444.1 repeater is experiencing some problems

Ham of the Month: Roy Walker, WA5YZD.

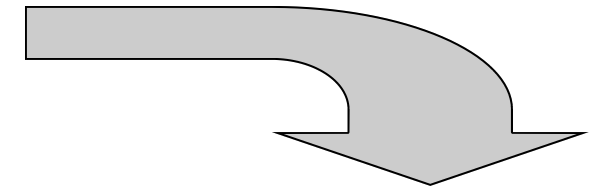
Slides/discussion of upcoming events: all listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter or at www.austinhams.org.

Announcements: none

Adjourned: 7:47pm.

Presentation: Glenn Currie, KD5MFW, and High-Speed Multimedia Networks.

DUES ARE DUE!!!



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+ 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.

Over the WWaves...

A Collection of Various Websites sent in by members.

OK, so I have had a few of these piling up over the years, so here ya go! -Ed.

<http://ka1fsb.home.att.net/jpole.html>

This is one of the best construction articles I've seen for antenna building for newbies. And you wind up with a very useable antenna for a popular band. Worth a read!

- Rick Herndon, K5FNI

<http://www.kk5dr.com/mice.htm>

Modified Mice for use as PTT buttons.

- Rick Herndon, K5FNI

http://www.tek.com/Measurement/App_Notes/XYZs/

How to use an Oscilloscope

- Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

www.pdfpad.com

Anybody here need a Smith Chart or some graph paper?

- Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

<http://www4.plala.or.jp/nomrax/hammaps.htm>

Here is a URL for maps of interest to Hams - ITU Zones, CQ Zones, Maidenhead Grid Squares, etc.

- Rick Herndon, K5FNI

<http://www.qsl.net/ng3p/haminfo/desoto/cover.html>

Adventures of Short Wave Radio Operators

- Rick Herndon, K5FNI

<http://home.comcast.net/%7Ebuck0/led.html>

Ham Shack Lighting Ideas

- Rick Herndon, K5FNI

http://elm-chan.org/works/rsm/report_e.html

-Shawn Rutherford, KD5SQH

<http://onlinemetals.com/merchant.cfm?pid=1080&step=4&showunits=inches>

Aluminum for Antennas

- Pete Jordahl, K5GM

<http://www.antennalaunchers.com/antlaunching.html>

Hope this is cool for publication in the AARCOVER newsletter. It surely caught my attention when forwarded by my buddy, Carl, K7UFO, who works for NASA JPL out in CA.

-Rick Herndon, K5FNI

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
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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 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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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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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.

Radio Shack Back in Business???

Forwarded by Curtis Goodson, W4QBU

"I don't know if this has been posted here or elsewhere yet, but a friend who is a Radio Shack manager said that some recent corporate communications sent to him bode well for hams and other experimenters. The new CEO of Radio Shack has openly questioned why RS ever thought that cutting back or getting out of the small parts business was a right thing to do. Further, he has expanded the "buy" allowance for store inventories, and encouraged (read "required") all stores to eventually carry ALL of the parts in the RS small parts corporate inventory. The CEO stated to the store managers what we all knew to be true before: the sale of small parts leads to other sales, AND the aggregate profit margin for small parts is actually greater than the margins for iPods, etc. The bottom line is that RS will be expanding the small parts lines and doing more to ensure that all stores have all items. My friend says that it may take a few months to fully implement, but that change is on the horizon. I'll take that as rather good news any day.

My source on this info is someone I know to be trustworthy.
Steve W9HC

below 30 MHz. As of the same date, Technician licensees who never passed a Morse code test gained new CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and new CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Since the Technician ticket has not required a Morse code test since 1991, most current Technician license holders will face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges. As of February 25, there were approximately 324,200 Technician licensees in the US -- more than any other license class.

Technicians may begin using their new privileges without having to apply for them. No other license class acquired new privileges as a result of the new rules that went into effect February 23, however. All license upgraders must first apply at an examination session, pay any application fee and either successfully pass the appropriate written test or present valid exam element credit.

ARRL VEC personnel must go through "every single piece of paper" that arrives from an examination session, Somma explained. Before keying application data directly to the FCC's licensee database, the staff must make sure that session paperwork is in order, each application is filled out correctly and signed and any element credit is attached. If an applicant took an exam element, ARRL VEC must ensure that the test questions came from the correct question pool and that the applicant indeed passed. She said it typically takes up to 90 seconds for staff members to key in an application for a new licensee, but only about 30 seconds in the case of a license upgrade.

Among the growing stack of incoming paperwork February 28 was a package from a session held in the Bahamas for 56 US citizens -- more than likely retirees and members of the cruising and sailing communities in the Caribbean. Somma said it included applications for 12 new Technician licensees. The rest were upgrades.

Normally with a staff complement of six, ARRL VEC now has as many as eight full-timers plus three part-timers to handle the rush. Somma says her team by and large has been able to review each application and transmit license and upgrade application data to the FCC within three or four days of receipt. She also had words of praise for the Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams.

"I want to thank the VEs," Somma said. "Most of the paperwork is neat and orderly, and this makes it easy for us to just key it to the FCC." She did caution VEs to make sure they include any proof of prior element credit - usually a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination or CSCE -- when submitting applications.

Some VE teams have been sharing observations and photos from their examination sessions. "We're enjoying those," Somma said. "Keep 'em coming." ■

CLUB MINUTES

Meeting called to order: 7:09pm.

Housekeeping announcements: ARL security, restroom locations, food.

Visitors: Vincent Marriott, no call; Derek Bridges, no call.

Minutes: approved as written in the AARCOVER.

Officer Reports:

President: relayed topics discussed during the officers meeting.

Vice-President: discussed proposed SB157, SB11, and HB3233 filed in this session of the Texas Legislature. Each has aspects that will affect hams. A search can be done at www.capitol.state.tx.us for those wanting additional information.

Treasurer: club total is now \$9113.30; mentioned need for MS-150 volunteers.

Editor: Explained planned changes to AARCOVER mailing - working to have the newsletter on the website instead of paper copies through USPS .

(Continued on page 7)

The AARCOVER is Going Digital!

by Mitch London, KD5HCV

-AARCOVER Editor

The time has come. The date has been chosen. The crowds, were on their feet! Yes, it is the dawning of a new age, the age of Aquarius...oh wait, sorry, no this is the dawning of the age of AARCOVER!

After much discussion with the officers, and discussions of pros and cons, it has been decided that in 2 months time starting with the July issue of the AARCOVER, it will be available as a .pdf file on the www.austinhams.org website. There are reasons this was decided, and no it was not because I am lazy, heh. Here are some of the reasons why this was decided.

1. It will save the Austin Amateur Radio Club money, approximately \$150 per month in printing and mailing costs, as well as mailing supplies like labels.
2. Since the AARCOVER will be a .pdf file, it will allow me as the editor to have more freedom with how the AARCOVER is made. I will for example, be able to make it in color. I will also be able to make it however big I need it to be incase there are times when a very large article prevents me from printing it without having to break it up, or just put a link in the Over the WWWaves section.
3. It will also allow for more leniency when it comes to article submission deadlines.
4. I no longer have to rely on the postal system getting your AARCOVER to you in a timely manner.
5. Also, if mistakes are found, I will be able to correct them and put up the latest information on the website, rather than having to wait a month and say oops, I made a mistake.
6. Each year around the time comes to renew membership, for a few months it gets difficult to print out enough copies of the AARCOVER to satisfy the Post Offices required number of letters to qualify for the bulk mailing rates. Last year I ended up sending myself a dozen copies of the newsletter just so we would not have to triple the cost of mailing that month.

I can hear your thoughts...What about the yearly Roster? What about copies for new hams? What about Summerfest! What if I can't access a .pdf?

In the words of the Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy...DON'T PANIC! There will still be a few copies printed up each month for use to hand out to new hams at testing sessions, and we will still send out a yearly roster. We will also mail out paper copies to those who need one, and also so we have some for our archives, and some extras to hand out at meetings.

As time goes by, I think you will enjoy being able to access the latest ALL COLOR version of the AARCOVER on the web, and also coming soon, we will have an archive of past issues on the web. This issue will be discussed at the next couple of club meetings I am sure and I will be there along with the officers to try and answer any questions.

