

AARC **COVER**

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

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Look for photos from Field Day 2007 in Next Issue!

Issue 7-2007

Cedar Park Boy “Hams” it Up

(Reprinted with Permission)

Amy Fowler, Hill Country News

In an age where children can send a text message - complete with fully animated graphics - faster than most adults can dial a telephone, 10-year-old John Longoria is learning Morse code. On Monday, he got official word that he is a licensed amateur radio operator, or “hammy,” after he passed the technician-level exam.

Standing in the kitchen of his parents' Cedar Park home on Wednesday, he put on a shy smile as he imitated his reaction to the news. “When the guy came to tell me that I passed, he didn't even tell me that,” he said. “He just said ‘Do you want to take the next level?’”

John, who will turn 11 next week, had been studying for the 35-question test since February, taking whatever time he had between practicing the piano and going to school to read the study guide. He even used it to fulfill a homework assignment which required him to read for 20 minutes every day.

Test questions were taken from a pool of almost 400 possibilities about regulations and technical know-how. The “technician” level covers the most basic information. Above that are “general” and “extra” level tests. Each level grants more privileges and allowable frequencies. The Morse code requirement for upper level licenses was eliminated in 2007, but John is still working to perfect his usage. He said he is up to about five words per minute, not anywhere near the 20 wpm that used to be necessary.

(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	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
Exam Results	2
MSET Needs Vols	4
Lightning Damage	4
Club Minutes	5
Is the Band Open?	6
ICOM Raffle	7

One question that was definitely not on the test was the origins of the term "ham radio." Neither John nor his parents were really sure where it started, but according to Wikipedia.com, it was handed down as an insult to a new medium. In the time of the telegraph, "ham" was slang for "incompetent." So, telegraph operators would refer to their radio counterparts as hams. Eventually, amateur radio operators adopted the term as a badge of pride.

By becoming a hammy, John is following a family tradition. His mother Debra also holds a technician-level license, and his father Sergio is an extra-level operator. John's younger brother David hopes to follow in his footsteps. The 6 (and a half)-year-old said that he will get his license when he is 10.

Sergio said he had always been interested in ham radio, but didn't get his license until after he and Debra married in 1993.

In 1995, Sergio got his first chance to use his skills to benefit the community. He and his wife were living in Oklahoma City at the time, and after the infamous bombing, he used his ham radio to help people locate loved ones, find directions and provide other information when more traditional communications failed.

Unlike telephones, ham radio does not require any wires to function, so it is often the medium of choice in an emergent situation. Because of this, Sergio said it is a shame to see neighborhoods banning ham radio antennas for aesthetic reasons. His own antenna is hidden in the attic and doesn't function as well as it should.

"I think that the communities short-changed themselves," he said. "In an emergency, ham radio would get them out of a bind."

John plans to upgrade his license as soon as he is ready. He hopes one day to become an extra-level hammy like his father, though he does not know what he will do after that. According to his mother, his dream was to work on jet airplanes, but that was about six months ago. His father hopes that he will one day join the Air Force, but John just shrugs. While he said he would someday like to be like his father, who was in the Air Force, he is not ready to think that far into the future. For now, he just wants to start middle school and play the trombone.

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Colorado Room on June 2nd, 2007:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Jesse Y. Alexander, KE5OVH
Scott C. Partridge, KE5OVG
Phillip H. Richardson, KE5OVI

General Class Licenses Processed

Lee H. Cooper, W5LHC
Roy G. Gray, KC5SUZ

Extra Class License Processed

Michael L. Fruit, KE5MJV

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Ted Danley, K3TD Tony Davee, KM5JH
Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Jerry Jackson, N5UJ
Joe Makeever, W5HS Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

July 7th - LCRA Colorado Room August 4th - Wyndham Garden Hotel (Austin Summerfest)

TNX ES 73
Joe

6-16-2007

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our June 16th session:

Extra Class –

Russell Croman, KE5OLU
Brian K. Totten, KE5OLS

General Class – James P. Maligeorgos, -new-
Scott C. Partridge, KE5OVG Debra S. Stinson, KE5OLP
Matthew A. Woerndell, K5THX Dale W. Zett, KC5VXK

Technician Class (all new)

–Cesar D. Jaime, -new- Rosendo V. Molina, -new-
Pauls M. Nicholson, -new- Donald K. Rodgers, -new-

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Bud Blackburn, KC5IAJ Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Hugh Brown, NT5O Charlie Lowe, N0BO
John Fisher, K5JHF Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO Sam Mihalik, KM5MY

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on July 21, 2007 and, August 18, 2007 in room 204 of Moody Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University.

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/>

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
Editor, AARCOVER	Mitch London	KD5HCV	326-3096	kd5hcv@arrl.net
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Ed Golla	K3AHS	255-4818	edgolla@hotpop.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

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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 20th 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.

(Continued from page 4)

The floor joists had ignited where the feed lines come through the sill and there was plenty of light. I grabbed one of my fire extinguishers, took what seemed like an eternity to pull the safety pin from the trigger, and went to work on the fire. It did not take long to knock it down, but what a mess - smoke everywhere, burned craft paper floating in the air and now a real need for the flashlight which I had dropped in the off position on the floor.

Then I had to hunt up a spare telephone to call the fire department. All the normally connected phones had been fried. We had a lot of collateral damage, but not too much structural. All consumer electronics were history as were the garage door openers, and most of the lights and much of the house wiring. It took a long time for the professionals to rid our house of smoke. Fire is a scary thing! I think I used up a years allotment of adrenalin.

NO DAMAGE TO THE RADIO GEAR OR RADIO COMPUTERS!! They were about the only things electrical that survived intact. Morals of my story - Never leave work early, unplug if you aren't operating, fire extinguishers are very nice to have.

Keith, AC9S

MSET in Need of Volunteers!

All,
The following is a request from our friends with MSET-TX for communication volunteers for the upcoming Texas Heat Wave Auto Show July 20-22. <http://www.heatwaveinc.com/>

As Dan KC5SWU mentions, details are still being firmed up, so please look at the www.mset-tx.org website for MSET-TX contact info and updates.

MSET hams can also be heard/contacted on the 147.36 repeater.

Thanks,
Jeff N5MNV

Some net control folks are needed for the up coming Texas Heat Wave event at the Travis County EXPO Center on July 20-22. This event is generally from 7 am til about 10-12 pm in the evening. We haven't verified the times yet we will find out later this week.

We will be using commercial radio during the event, no need for a license for those who aren't HAMS and want to help. This would be a good time for those folks to hone their skills as a NET control person and at times operating under busy conditions, like MS gets to be at times. There will be a sign up area going up on our web site shortly.

The things that are happening out at the site, car and truck shows along with concerts at night, stereo, car jumping (where they see how HIGH they can make the front end jump), and lots of vendors (some they may like). If you can help or anyone else please sign up and can you pass around this information and I will keep you updated.

Thank you,
Dan Ogilvie
Past President
Motorcycle Special Events Team

Event Coordinator for the Texas Heat Wave

Lightning Can Cause Serious Damage: Take Precautions!

Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

OK guys - I guess I'll weigh in with my lightning stories, even though They aren't particularly TenTec oriented. My conservative approach to Lightning began when I moved to Boulder, CO for grad school. We lived in the mountains at about 8000'; my wife taught at the local school and I commuted to CU. I kid you not we had a thunderstorm form over the divide and move our way about 1:00 to 3:00 every, (ok - how about 4 out of 7 days). Our very first day in our little mountain cabin (as newly weds) a ball of lightning came down the TV feed line, went off with a cannon blast and burst of blue light destroyed the TV and power supply for my EICO 753 - now that was mighty fine junk! The first lesson of my married life was radio oriented – unplug everything if I wasn't sitting at the rig. During our last 35 years in Illinois (in the middle of the red zone on the NWS map) our house has taken 4 very close hits. We have had fires twice and never a single loss of ham gear. I unplug everything when I am not in the shack - feed lines, AC, Computers, use a LAN for internet connections, I even isolate from the ground.

Once around 10 years ago I was fried (bad metaphor) at work and came home early under a clear sky with nothing but nice in the forecast. One isolated little black cloud followed me home and threw an enormous bolt into our house. All the lights went out, my dog wrapped herself around my legs and I thought that was a close one when I smelled smoke. I grabbed a flashlight and checked downstairs where the radios are located. No need for the flashlight!

(Continued on page 3)



Elmers Wanted!!!

There are a lot of people interested in ham radio but many of them do not know what to do or how to get started. You can help!

We are trying to pair up elmers with adults and youngsters interested in getting into ham radio. If you would be interested in giving a helping hand to the future operators of Austin contact Jerry Jackson and he will work out the details of how you can help. Call 832-5663 or E-mail Jerry at jerry@gaj.com

CLUB MINUTES

Meeting called to order: 7:05pm.

The Vice-President conducted the meeting since the President was unable to attend.

Visitors: Scott (who had tested that Saturday), Paula, Tom Vittek, and Greg Baker.

New Calls/Upgrades: none mentioned.

Minutes: approved as written in the AARCOVER.

Officer Reports:

Vice-President: Dues can be paid online once again. The club website needs some corrections made and some missing links added. The newsletter will be in .pdf form on the website with an archive of older newsletters. The Radio Roundup and the Christmas Party will be at a new venue on Decker Lake Rd. this year, and will include a Casino Night and raffle for an ICOM IC-7000. Tickets are \$10 each and only 250 will be sold.

Treasurer: Stated account amounts of \$523.78 for checking and \$7721.60 for savings.

Editor: The AARCOVER will be sent via regular mail two more times. Make sure Jerry Jackson has your email address so you can receive the .pdf version of the AARCOVER.

Secretary: During May, Joe Missildine, WB5FUA, donated a 40' Rhone Tower and Yaesu radio, but we would have to take it down. Tower is down and items claimed. Malfred Edward's, W5GVL, daughter contacted the club to sell, and possibly donate, all of his ham equipment since he no longer lives in Texas.

ARES: A hurricane evacuation drill was to be held in mid-June and volunteers were needed. Roger Wines, W5WIA, has the club's loaner antennae analyzer.

Old & New Business: none.

Announcements: Club has loaner equipment. Joe Canfield, N5HPC, mentioned a new background check for the new ARES badges. Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, reported the City of Austin did purchase the radio equipment for the club as they said they would. Senate Bill 11 is now in effect.

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

Ham of the Month & Door Prize: none this month.

Adjourned: 7:43pm

Presentation: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, with a discussion of Field Day.

How to Tell if a Band is Open: Information for Before, During and After Field Day

By Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Such a simple question often has a simple answer, you listen for other signals.

However, in today's altered sun spot conditions, sometimes the bands are so variable that you have difficulty in an event like Field Day picking a band to use.

The propagation conditions are broadcast via NIST stations WWV and WWVH, and they themselves serve as beacons.

IF you can hear them at the various standard frequencies, the band is open next to their frequency for whatever station you hear. (WWV is in CO, while WWVH is in HI).

But what if you are at FD and want a quick rule? Listen to the lowest active band. It may not be great, but its band noise will be higher than a "dead" band above it. Also, on a truly "dead" band with low noise, you begin to hear the artifacts of the radio you are using. If you only hear steady signals known as "birdies" spaced across the dial as you tune a band, you can be assured the AVC has opened up the radio sensitivity to max, and there just are no signals coming from the ionosphere.

Today, I checked past 1 PM (Field Day start time) and listened to the higher bands on HF. There was almost no band noise on 10m, and 12m, and even 15m,-- no signals, nada. 20 was open to the midwest (SSB), and then I checked 17m. It was not great but there were a couple of signals and one very good one. He was telling his contact that today the band was "very bad". That for the past 3 days he had worked DX "like the good old days" on 17m, and that today things had gone into the bucket. So with a few signals on 17, and none on 15, you can be confident that 15 and 10 would not be useful to call CQ upon when 20m was functioning to an extent for cross country contacts. Thus, as expected this time in the sun cycle, 20m would be the band of choice for Saturday afternoon Field Day.

For closer in contacts, one could try 40m, but its NVIS propagation has been lower than the bounds of 40m. However, today, there were a couple of nets being heard, although their signals did not make the S meter jump.

FD may indeed involve more ground wave contacts that do not depend on the reflections usually used for HF.

But, conditions do change and especially over a 24 hour period. You keep your options open, and if the band on HF is in the tank, take a walk to the VHF station and see if 6m, "The Magic Band" has put in one of its spectacular short openings. Some of the best 6m conditions happen during solar minimums. You listen to the band and suddenly the noise background changes, and you call CQ and a multitude of stations may come back to you.

Late night, the lower bands 160, and 80, may keep you up all night with transcontinental contacts, even on an NVIS antenna as we saw 2 years ago on 80 SSB.

Thus, there is no best time for this year's FD operations, the variability of propagation keeps you ever alert for what may be a golden opportunity to operate. Come and enjoy the comadarie of your fellow hams, and try your hand at HF fun!

73,
Stuart
K5KVH

**Only 250 Tickets
to be Sold!**

ICOM IC-7000 HF Mobile Radio Raffle

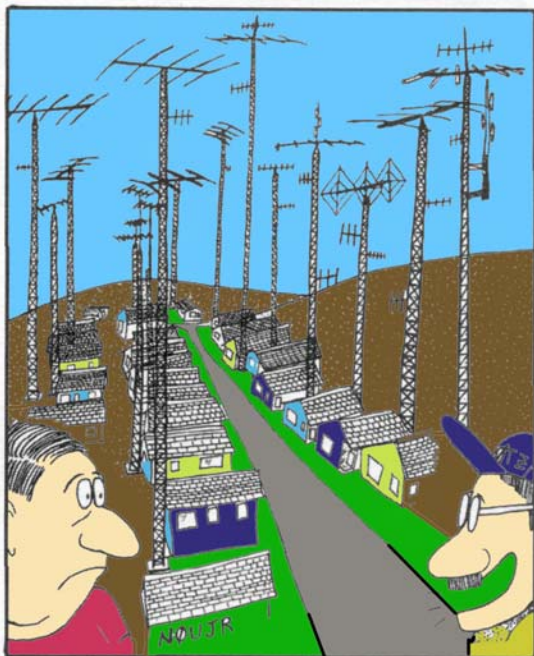


The Austin Amateur Radio Club is having a fundraiser event this year! We are raffling off a brand new ICOM 7000 Mobile HF Radio! This is the latest offering from ICOM. We will be selling ONLY 250 tickets in all! The drawing will be held at the AARC Radio Round Up Swapfest banquet in Austin, Texas on December 7th. Winner need not be present to win!

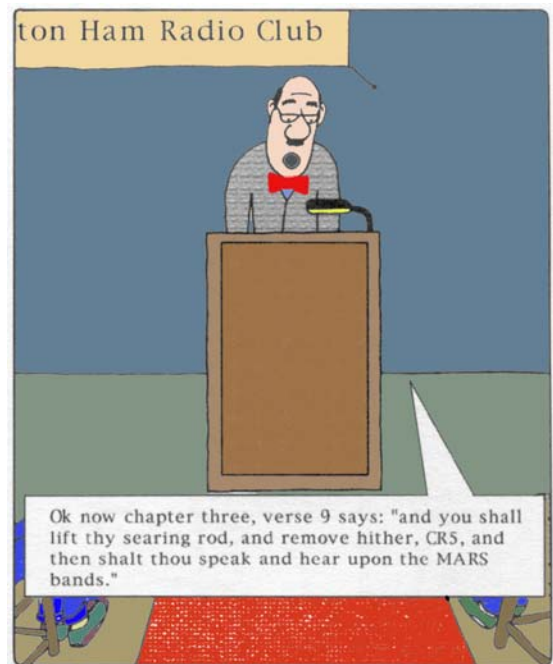
For More Details Visit...
www.austinhams.org

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



“Actually sir, this is a hams only community. Covenants here *require* at least one tower per household.”



Reading passages from the book entitled: “The Ultimate Radio Modification Bible.”

AARC Meeting Info.

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

ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

Officers Meeting 6:00 PM

Jack in the Box across the street from ARL Labs. Come by and eat dinner first if you like and listen in.

Regular Business Meeting 7:00 PM

July 3rd - AARC Movie Night. This will be a great way to relax after having another successful Field Day. Bring some popcorn!

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- July 7th & August 4th *(To be held at Austin Summerfest - www.austinsummerfest.org) 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- July 21st & August 18th 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

Jul 14 Tidelands Amateur Radio Society Hamfest
Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Avenue North,
Texas City Talk-In: 147.14/167.9 alt 442.025 (PL103.5)
<http://tidelands.org/>

Jul 20-22 Texas Heat Wave Car Show
www.heatwaveinc.com The Motorcycle Special Events Team-Texas is providing BLS & Emergency Medical and Communication/dispatch Services Ham & non-Ham Volunteers are encouraged! www.mset-tx.org

Jul 26-29 Central States VHF Conference in San Antonio Omni San Antonio Hotel, 9821 Colonnade Blvd
147.38/443.875 MHz (PL 162.2)
www.csvhfs.org/conference/index.html

July	Aug	Austin Meetings/Happenings
3	7	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium** 7:00 p.m.
14	11	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
10	14	ARES Training -LCRA Hancock Bldg 7:30 p.m.
10	14	High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m.
17	21	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m.
21	18	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00 p.m.
23	27	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
24	28	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
25	29	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.

Non-Profit Organization
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Time Value Newsletter

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Austin Amateur Radio Club
Box 4739
Austin, TX 78765-4739
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