

AARC COVER

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

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Bumblebees

Scott McMullen W5ESE



A favorite contest of many QRP enthusiasts occurs each year in July. It is known as 'The Flight of the Bumblebees', and is sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society. Stations participate in one of two categories; home-based or portable. Portable stations are designated as 'bumblebees', assigned a bumblebee number, and agree to walk, bicycle, or paddle to their station site. The purpose is to encourage operators participating as bumblebees to assemble a compact QRP station that can be carried to a remote location in a backpack or bicycle pannier. All stations that participate operate at QRP power levels (less than 5 watts output), and use CW on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, near the QRP calling frequencies. During the contest, all participants can work each other, with the number of bumblebee stations worked providing a multiplier.



Bumblebee #55, W5ESE, Pedernales St. Park

(Continued on page 5)

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+

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Amateur Radio Now Legal in all Texas Public Schools

ARRL Letter Vol 26 No. 28
July 13th 2007

In what can only be termed a huge victory for the future of Amateur Radio in Texas, Governor Rick Perry signed Senate Bill 11 (SB11) into law in June. Among many disaster response specifications, the new law contains two important Amateur Radio-related provisions: State employees who are ham radio operators may take up to 10 days of paid leave while participating in a disaster response or training exercise, and Amateur Radio is now allowed in all Texas public schools.

A single sentence in Article 2 of SB11 modifies the legal definition of a banned paging device by adding the following ham radio exception: "The term does not include an Amateur Radio under the control of an operator who holds an Amateur Radio Station License issued by the Federal Communications Commission."

Texas is the first state to enact such a sweeping change allowing school-based ham radio programs statewide. It is hoped that similar measures will be enacted in other states. Local clubs in Texas are urged to contact their school boards and encourage them to bring school policies regarding student possession of RF devices into compliance with the new law.

A decades-old provision in the Texas Education Code (Section 37.082) long ago granted Texas schools blanket authority to ban student possession of all RF devices, including ham radios. The old law was originally enacted with the best of intentions, but had unintended negative consequences both for student safety and for the cause of Amateur Radio. More than 20 years ago Texas -- like many states at the time -- passed a law granting schools sweeping authority to ban student possession of "paging devices." The original intent of the law was to prevent on-campus drug dealers from communicating with one another using now-obsolete numeric pagers. Cut off their communication, the logic went, and drugs on campus would be seriously curtailed.

The old law broadly defined a prohibited "paging device" as any RF device which had the ability to vibrate, emit a sound, display a message, or in any way convey a communication to the possessor. There

(Continued on page 3)

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Hancock Building Boardroom on July 7th, 2007:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Malinda A. Hollingsworth, KE5PMD
Thomas Silva, KE5PMC
Benjamin E. Trimpey, KE5PME

General Class License Processed

Jesse Y. Alexander, KE5OVH

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK Jerry Jackson, N5UJ
Joe Makeever, W5HS Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Bob Redoutey, N5KF Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

August 4th - Wyndham Garden Hotel (Austin Summerfest)

September 8th - LCRA General Office Complex (Location to be Determined)

TNX ES 73

Joe

7-21-2007

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

Extra Class –

(none)

General Class –

Dennis M. Delaurier, -new-
Grant S. Friday, KD5PRF
James D. Hollings, -new-

Technician Class (all new) –

Thomas A. Bizzell

Sarah E. Lowe

James E. Webb

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

John Fisher, K5JHF Charlie Lowe, N0BO

Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on August 18, 2007 and September 15, 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/>

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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 at 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.**

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.

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 .

(Continued from page 2)

was no exception for school-based Amateur Radio programs or clubs.

Practically all Texas schools immediately exercised their newly granted right by banning all RF devices to the maximum extent allowed by law -- and sometimes to a greater extent than the law allowed.

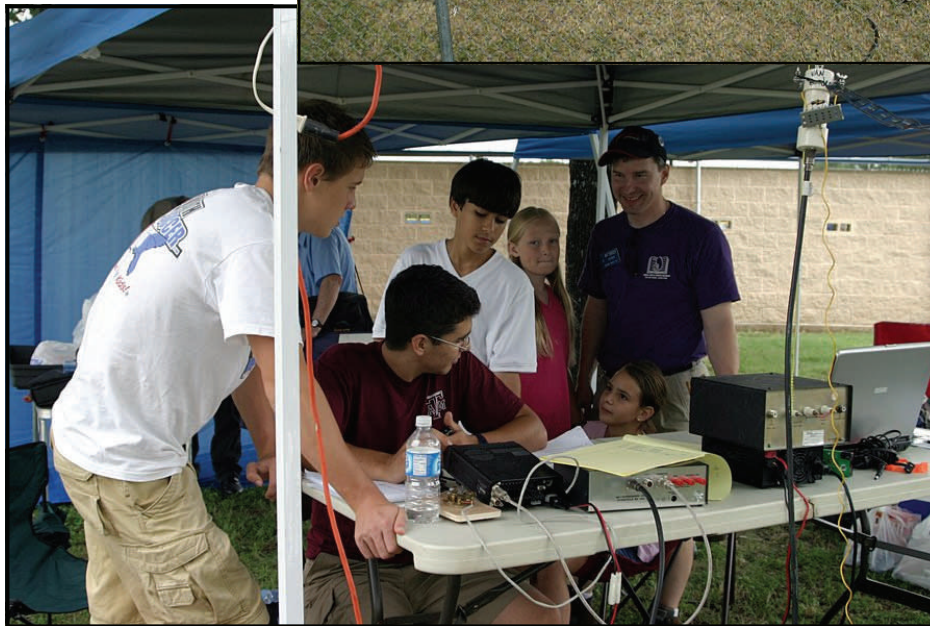
The result of the old law was that in most Texas schools, starting a ham radio club was simply out of the question. Existing ham radio programs were even removed from some San Antonio area schools as a direct result of the old law.

Although schools can still have basic rules of classroom decorum to insure that ham radio activities do not disturb academic instruction, SB 11 effectively puts ham radio programs on the same legal footing with all other student-initiated clubs and activities. Texas school teachers are now free to start ham radio programs. Students are now free to form school-based ham radio clubs. Individual students who have a ham license are even legally allowed to possess ham radios at school regardless of whether a club exists yet. SB11 takes effect on September 1.

James Alderman, KF5WT



A Big Thank You to
Everyone Who
Helped Make This
Years Field Day
Possible!



GOTA Station

UHF and VHF Station



HF Band Voice Operation



(Continued from page 1) Bumblebees

Last year, I participated as a bumblebee station from Pedernales Falls State Park, near Johnson City. I arrived at the park shortly after it opened, so that I could walk to my site during the morning, while it was still cool. The location I chose required a 2 ½ mile hike, which took a little over an hour.

After I arrived at the site, I suspended a tarp from some juniper trees to provide some shade. Late July in central Texas is a hot time to participate in an outdoor radio contest! I also prepared and brought a couple quart bottles of iced tea to provide additional relief from the heat. I suspended a wire antenna (an inverted 'L') from a couple trees, and lay out some radials on the ground.

The contest began at noon, and the first call I encountered was a good friend from the Austin QRP Club:

Morgan, K5HWT, operating as a bumblebee on 40 meters from Big Bend. On 20 meters, there was a lot of activity, arrayed above and below the 20 meter QRP calling frequency. Band conditions changed during the contest, providing opportunities to contact stations in different parts of the country.



MFJ Cub 9315K and TiCK3 Keyer

I used a collection of single band QRP rigs; a Small Wonder Labs SW+ for 40 meters, a Ten-Tec TKIT 1320 for 20 meters, and an MFJ Cub 9315K for 15 meters. The radios are all simple analog single-conversion super heterodyne kits, and are easily powered by a small battery. I also used a TiCK 3 memory keyer, Whiterook MK-44 paddles, and an Emtech ZM-2 transmatch.

The contest lasted four hours. By the time it was over, I had completed 34 contacts with stations in 19 different

states, plus Ontario. 24 of these were with other bumblebee stations.

The 'Flight of the Bumblebees' occurs this year on July 29, and lasts from 12-4 p.m. Look for activity centered around 7040 KHz, 14060 KHz, 21060 KHz, and 28060 KHz. The complete rules are at:

http://www.arsqrp.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb_rules.html

Over the WWaves...

A variety of interesting websites submitted by our readers.

The list has recently had posts concerning the importance of decent probes to get the most out of your oscilloscope. But, the ground lead connection between the probe tip and the circuit under examination cannot be ignored.

I've provided a few photographs illustrating the importance of short ground connections to your scope probe in my July 10th comments at <http://www.cliftonlaboratories.com/Updates.htm>.

-Sent in by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

http://www.micropersuasion.com/2007/03/google_maps_zoo.html

This looks cool as cool can be. I will be trying this out as soon as I get the time. Who knows, maybe we can see DX ham stations' antennas! DXpeditions, if they were there when the photos were taken, on remote islands.

-Sent in by Rick Herndon, K5FNI

AARC Meeting Minutes: July 3, 2007

Meeting called to order: 7:09pm.

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, and Don Dudley, AC5YK, performed a comedy skit; followed by "housekeeping" announcements.

Visitors: Jeff Stinson and Marilyn Oliva.

New Members: Todd Kanning, KE5OAK; Debra Stinson, KE5OLP; Steve Jones, KC5AER.

Minutes: last meetings minutes approved as written in the AARCOVER.

Officer Reports:

President: Gave update on the Radio Roundup and reminded members to check the website for all the details such as the IC-7000 raffle, carpet needed, and bring desserts.

Vice-President: Quickly mentioned upcoming presentations and more are needed.

Treasurer: Account amounts: \$1,467.53 in checking; \$7728.05 in equipment fund.

Editor: Explained why the newsletter and roster were sent out late; mentioned the July newsletter will be the last one mailed out, after that it will be on the website; send articles; and will look into getting more old AARCOVER's to the Austin History Center.

ARES: Lee Copper, W5LHC, announced meeting times for the month; talked about a good convention held by the Driskell Children Hospital in Corpus Christi; and need volunteers to man a table and talk-in for Summerfest.

Tech Committee: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, recapped Field Day by comparing our points and contact numbers with those of W1AW; other mentionable items where the solar panel trailer we had use of, no sunspots, wet weather, GOTA station, and everyone hard work and efforts. Thank-you to all who helped.

Other: Jeff Schmidt mentioned Marshall Spear, KB5BGT passed away; the next test will be in a slightly different location so check the website; and tailgating will be allowed at Summerfest.

Old Business: none.

New Business: John Stratton, KE5ISX, has been appointed club attorney. This is mainly to help the club with important documents and filing them on time.

Ham of the Month: John Boone, KB5LXS.

Announcements: Check the website and swapnet, do not depend strictly on the slides presented during the monthly meetings. Slides and discussion of upcoming events: all listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter or at www.austinhams.org.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50pm

Presentation: Lee Copper presented Movie Night. It was a collection of Ham related videos found on the Internet.

**Only 250 Tickets
to be Sold!**

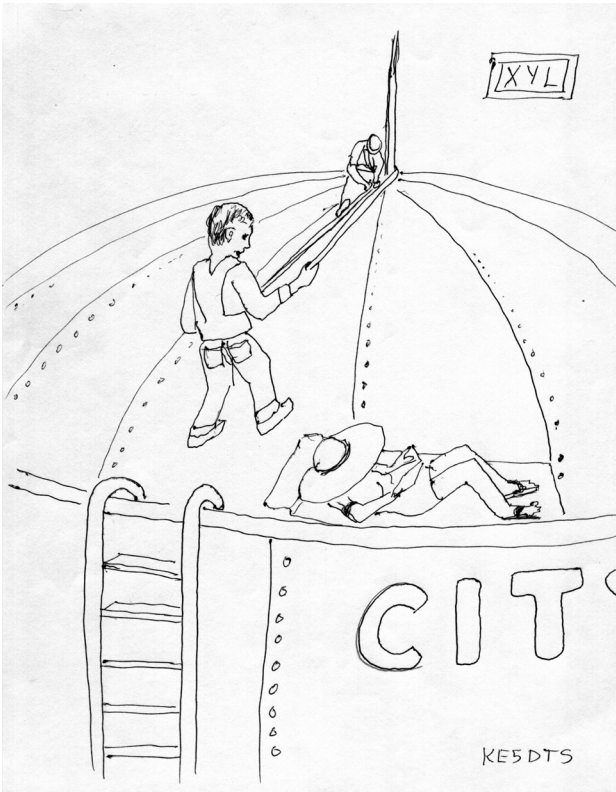
ICOM IC-7000 HF Mobile Radio Raffle



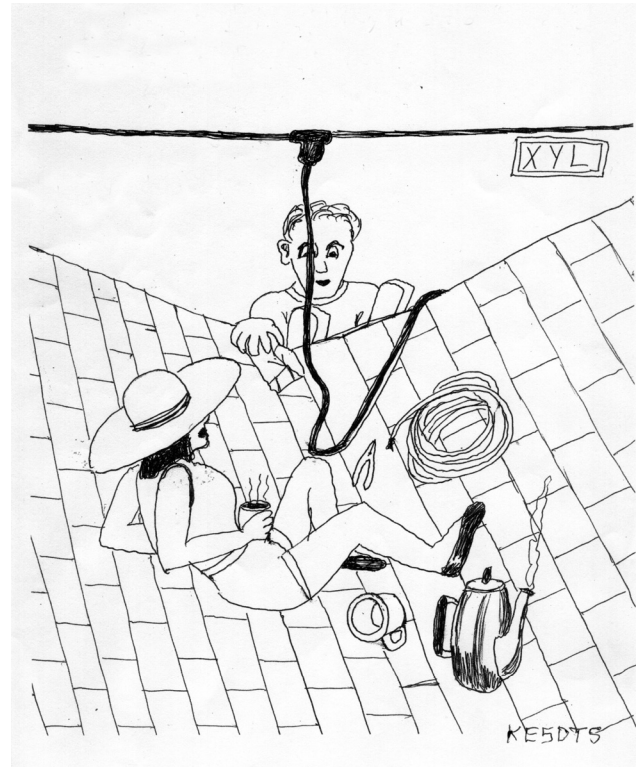
The Austin Amateur Radio Club is having a fundraiser event this year! We are raffling off a brand new ICOM 7000 Mobile HF Radio! This is the latest offering from ICOM. We will be selling ONLY 250 tickets in all! The drawing will be held at the AARC Radio Round Up Swapfest banquet in Austin, Texas on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

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

XYL by Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



“Janie! We thought you were down in the car!”



“Baluns? I thought you said “Bagels” so I brought coffee!”

AARC Meeting Info.

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

August 7 - Army MARS and Mobile HF Installation

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- August 4th *(To be held at Austin Summerfest - www.austinsummerfest.org) and September 8th 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- August 18th and September 15th 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.

2007 Calendar of Events

Aug 3-4 Austin Summerfest Wyndham Garden Hotel – Austin 3401 South IH-35 & Woodward St. Joe W5HS@arrl.net (512) 345-0800 austinsummerfest.org/
Aug 16-17 GAREC-07 (Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference) Embassy Suites Hotel 800 Monroe Street Huntsville, AL www.arrl-al.org/GAREC07.htm
www.iaru.org/emergency/
Aug 18-19 Huntsville, AL. Hamfest and ARRL National Convention Von Braun Center in Huntsville www.hamfest.org/ Don W4NO DonTunstill@hamfest.org
Aug 25 Gainesville Hamfest Gainesville Civic Center, 311 South Weaver Street, Gainesville, TX. James N5ZPU jfloyd@swbell.net

Aug	Sept.	Austin Meetings/Happenings
7	4	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium** 7:00 p.m.
11	8	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
14	11	ARES Training -LCRA Hancock Bldg 6:30 p.m.
14	11	High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m.
21	18	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m.
18	15	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00 p.m.
27	24	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
28	25	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
29	26	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.

JOIN



Non-Profit Organization
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