



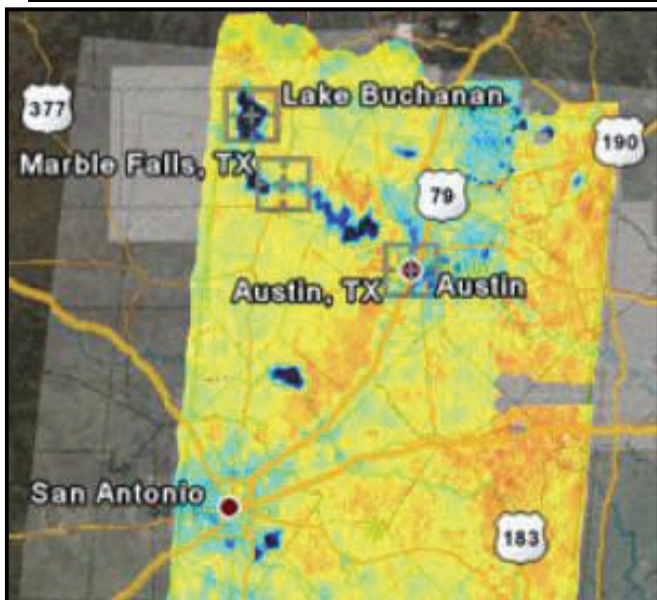
AARC OVER

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

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NASA Helps Texas Respond To Most Widespread Flooding In 50 Years

Science Daily (www.sciencedaily.com)

On July 3, a NASA aircraft equipped with a state-of-the-art sensor provided emergency response officials with critical soil moisture data for several regions across Texas that were threatened by flooding. NASA responded to the heavy rains and flooding in Texas by redirecting a NASA research aircraft, the P-3B, to Texas after it completed an interagency project in Oklahoma.

The aircraft had been flying a sensor developed by the University of Colorado at Boulder, NOAA and U.S. Department of

Agriculture that could provide detailed maps of ground surface water. At the request of researchers at the University of

Colorado's Center for Environmental Technology, which built the sensor, NASA detoured the plane to Texas to help emergency response teams there better track the areas subject to flash flooding.

(Continued on page 4)

NASA P-3B on July 3 over flood-prone areas of Texas. The imagery was delivered to the Texas Office of Emergency management for flood relief planning within less than 24 hours time from observation. Soil saturation in flood-prone regions near San Antonio, south of Austin, and northwest of Corpus Christi are seen here in darker blue. (Credit: University of Colorado)

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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Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on August 4th, 2007 during AUSTIN SUMMERFEST, the ARRL Texas State Convention:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Hans-Juergen Hartung, KE5PXN
David M. Hooper, KE5PXK
Charles D. Land Jr, KE5PXW
Sachiko Peet, KE5PXQ
Frank W. Raffaeli, KE5PXU
Albert L. Satterfield, KE5PXM
Andrew L. Whitman, KE5PXL

Andrea A. Hankins, KE5PXP
Joanna M. Hunsberger, KE5PXV
Alonda M. Montgomery, KE5PXS
Rafael Perez Magana, KE5PXR
Edward A. Rupp, KE5PXO
Stephen W. Shugart, KE5PXT

General Class Licenses Processed

Christy L. Brewer, KD5SPV
Pedro F. Dilan, K5PFD
Jon R. Dunn, KD5KOT
K. B. Hallmark IV, KE5COU
Paul R. Harrison, WB5CEY
Michael S. Ritchie Sr, KD4ITY

Michael D. Cave, KE5PXX
Jason H. Dunn, KD5LMG
Peter W. Flynn, K5BCG
Michael A. Hankins, KE5NNG
Joseph O. Peet, KE5PXY
Robert H. Truitt, KE5OFK

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Jesse Y. Alexander, KE5OVH
Gaylord G. Henry, KD5LQS

Thomas C. Harper, N(0)MKC
Robert E. Rush, KC5PQC

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Jim Dear, W5LOG
Gene Hinkle, K5PA
Malcolm Robertson, W5RME
Carol Thiel, N5TLY
Roy Walker, WA5YZD

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK
Jerry Jackson, N5UJ
George Shamblin, WA5CSH
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

September 8th - To Be Determined
October 13th - To Be Determined
TNX ES 73
Joe

8-18-2007

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

Extra Class –

Robert C. Baker, WA5KVB Michael D. Cave, KE5PXX

General Class –

David M. Hooper, KE5PXK

Technician Class (all new) –

Rupert A. Taylor John A. Van Dresar
Sherri L. Van Dresar

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
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 **September 15 and October 20, 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>

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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. (AARC) has annual membership dues of \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per family. AARC maintains the following repeaters:

Frequency	Autopatch	Use
146.780	Yes	General
146.880	Yes	General
146.940	No	Most Popular, WX, Swapnet and Newsline
224.800	No	
444.100	No	

Persons using the repeaters are asked to join the club to help support these valuable resources. To use the autopatch, announce your call sign, press * and dial the phone number then release the PTT. 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.

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“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 1)

On June 13, a low-pressure weather system entered Texas from the Rocky Mountains and persisted until July 7, triggering storms across the state that flooded every major river basin. The state received more than three times the average rainfall for the period. Nearly two dozen people were killed in the flooding. At one point during the crisis, officials measured 19 inches of rainfall in just 24 hours. Eight inches of rain fell in one hour over Marble Falls, a town 70 miles west of Austin.

During the first week of July, Texas officials accepted an offer from the University of Colorado and NASA to fly the sensor over a large area. During the day-long mission, the Polarimetric Scanning Radiometer, an airborne remote-sensing system, enabled researchers to quickly create soil moisture maps identifying areas where additional rainfall could lead to flooding.

"During the floods, the instrument aboard NASA's P-3B aircraft flew over areas where the greatest rainfall had been forecast and informed us of the degree of saturation of the soil in urban and rural locations at a time when we had no other means of making those judgments for such a broad area," said Gordon Wells, program manager at the Center for Space Research at the University of Texas, Austin. "The data enabled the state to stage Coast Guard and Department of Public Safety helicopters in those areas to stand by for search-and-rescue should it have been necessary."

"We're always concerned about when and where the next flooding conditions may occur, especially if it may affect major metropolitan areas like Austin or San Antonio, or a remote, hard-to-access rural area where only air evacuation may be possible," said Wells. Wells works with state officials regularly in search-and-rescue emergencies, overseeing field teams that must decide what resources to deploy -- including several hundred boats and several aircraft -- depending on the nature and extent of the crisis.

According to Wells, NASA's P-3B and the onboard sensor contributed to officials' full awareness of the flood situation, and became an extra tool they used to make decisions. "It's important to pre-plan how to prevent casualties and injuries. So the more we know and the sooner we know it, the more casualties can be avoided," said Wells.

State officials typically would have relied on reports of flooding on roads and highways to help them predict the likelihood of future flooding in the affected areas, as well as imaging radar data to identify the location of pooled water and the level of reservoirs. "The first-cut data product sent to Wells' team from the P-3B provided them with images of precise, geographically identifiable points of concern for flooding," said Al Gasiewski, principal investigator for the sensor at the University of Colorado and director of the school's Center for Environmental Technology.

"Our team has worked with NASA over several years to develop airborne microwave mapping technology. We're pleased to see it used for humanitarian purposes." "From the Sabine River near the eastern Texas-Louisiana border to the Nueces River in the southwest, the Red River to the north and the Colorado River that cuts across the state, heavy rains these last few weeks unleashed some of the worst flash flooding this state has seen. We're very pleased and grateful that NASA and the university offered to assist with a mission that very well may have helped save lives," said Wells.

"This was really a joint effort between NASA, the University of Colorado and the University of Texas of which all of our organizations can be proud," said Gasiewski. "It was an important demonstration of new technology, close teamwork, rapid response, and interagency coordination. There are many positive lessons that can be learned from it."

Note: This story has been adapted from a news release issued by NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center. ■

Getting That Vintage Look on Old Headphones

By Tom Curtola, VA3TY

(Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH)

Sometimes, you want to refurbish thread bare headphones of the high impedance type that were used for tube type and crystal radios. They still make fine communications phones for voice or CW due to their limited frequency response to the CW tones or voice frequencies. And, the high impedance means they will work with low power audio stages giving plenty of volume. And with crystal diodes, that must have high impedance phones to create adequate audio in simple crystal sets. But, the cloth often is beyond any simple repair. How to make it look good, or get a new cloth outer cover for the pair of head phone wires? See the email answer below:

"I made a reproduction cotton covered cable for an old headset using of all things those thick woven shoe laces. They cost about \$2.00 for a pair. You can remove the nylon cord inside of them and you are left with a nice hollow woven cotton covering. Slip your modern wire through that and voila, you have something that looks like the 1930's."

Tom Curtola
VA3TY
Toronto, Ontario - Canada

Big Bend 50 Looking for Volunteers

Intro by Mitch London, KD5HCV

Main Article by Charles Land, KC5NKK

The Big Bend 50 is a 50K and 25K run through Big Bend National Park, and believe me when I say there is nothing like it! This is the only race permitted to be run in a National Park. Like the Capital 10K, ham radio volunteers are placed along the course to provide communications to a net control operator. Unlike the Capital 10K, this race takes place in the desert of Big Bend National Park. Don't be fooled by the word desert though, the first race I went to the temp. got down to 13°, the next year it was cool but rainy, so when going to the Big Bend you need to be sure and pack for various weather conditions. Be sure to pack your cameras as well because this is some of the most beautiful country there is, with plenty of hiking trails and even a natural hot spring you can take a dip in, it is most definitely worth taking a few extra days before or after the race to enjoy what the area has to offer.

Below are excerpts from an e-Mail sent from Charlie

Land, KC5NKK, who heads this every year and does an admirable job of getting hams from all over together to make this a safe and fun event. If you have questions, ask me or Jeff (N5MNV) or Lori Schmidt (KC5MQ) who have both helped out with this event. - Mitch



We had our first organizing meeting for the Big Bend 50!!! The only material change from last year is that we would like to have the shuttle vans equipped with radios. There is an opportunity here – if you'd like to drive a shuttle van you can pick it up here in San Antonio and have your gas paid for. Milton did that last year and it worked out very well. There will be at least 3 vans this year – possibly 4 if the number of runners is up so we need 2-3 more operator/drivers. These vans offer runners transportation from San Antonio and are used to shuttle runners to the start and back from the finish line. The vans are rented from Enterprise. They leave San Antonio Saturday morning and return on Monday, MLK's birthday. In past years, there have only been about 10 runners who wanted transportation from San Antonio. Many of us operators would like to go down Friday or sooner to do a little sightseeing and/or stay over another day or two after the race. Logistically, there is no reason that one or two of the vans couldn't go sooner (only need two for runners). Carroll is hesitant about paying rent on the vans for another day or two just for our convenience (so we can go down and be tourists), but if someone wanted to offer to pick up the van rental for the extra time involved, I suspect a deal can be made. We need mature drivers who can install a mobile in a 15 passenger enterprise van, drive it to Big Bend and back, and be available when needed for shuttle services while there.

Some of the changes that were forced on us last year turned out to be good changes and will be continued. Last year the school bus service cancelled at the last minute, so the starts were staggered (the 25K folks started a hour later) and the vans did double duty taking people to the start – worked really well and saved significant \$\$.



Mitch London, KD5HCV and Alan Russell KE5DTR, set up along side the race course at Black Gap.

Patti and I will plan to be the camp kitchen again this year. I will start a list of those who are planning to go this year. For now, I'll send emails to the whole group, but in a couple months I will just send updates to those who are going – so I don't spam the boxes of those who know that they aren't – and keep the bigger list to start next year again. At the moment, I have Mitch, Alan, Shane and Milton who have told me verbally that they are in. Others, please respond. If you can't go, please let me know that also. That way I know you are getting the emails.

The race trails are not for street bikes or cars, – 4wd or high clearance vehicles only. All, please feel free to pass this on to friends who may be interested. I will up date the "Intro to BBP50" paper that I used last year which is a much longer description of the trip and event for newbies. Maybe the Javelina will be back this year to entertain the camp. The race is **January 20th** (the day before MLK's birthday – so some have a holiday off to rest up).

AARC Meeting Minutes:

August 7, 2007

Meeting called to order: 7:12pm by President Don Dudley, AC5YK.

Visitors: Mark Pelts and James Talbot, Jr., KE5NRH.

Upgrades: Pedro Dilan, K5PFD.

New Members: Barry Boyce, KC7BZC.

"Housekeeping" announcements were made and a brief discussion was had concerning members who would still need paper copies of the AARCOVER sent to them.

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

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, talked briefly, but positive, about the New Ham Orientation held at Summerfest.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Talked about the clubs participation in Summerfest.

Vice-President: Update on the raffle ticket sells; give him your presentation idea.

Editor: Send articles; going to an electronic newsletter is already saving the club money; there is an issue being resolved involving addresses listed in the electronic newsletter – the computer programs are making them into hotlinks that spammers can find and use.

Tech Committee: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reported a problem antenna at Red Cross will be changed out.

ARES: Joe Canfield, N5HPC, reported we now have a digi-peater up and running at the Austin Surgical Hospital.

Old Business: Update and discussion from the Radio Roundup Committee; the .94 repeater will stay under O.B. for now; discussion on the 444.1 repeater needs to be replaced; a motion to replace the 444.1 repeater was approved. As a side note: discussion was held concerning putting motions in writing first. This is an effort to better track under approved motions what actions exactly need to take place, how much total club funds are earmarked, and what is complete versus what is outstanding.

New Business: HSMM was mentioned and a D-Star repeater system was discussed. Johnny Paul will donate a D-Star repeater, 1.2GHz, if the club will take ownership and use it. The Williamson County and 3M clubs will help and work with us on it. As part of the package, a 440 D-Star repeater could be purchased for a discounted amount. Many available towers offer possible locations. And, it is recommended we cap the spending on this project between \$1000-\$1500/year so we do not drain funds from other projects. A motion to pursue the D-Star system was made and approved. It was also discussed and agreed upon that members could bring items for trade/sell/give-away before and after the meeting, as long as we do not turn the parking lot into a tailgating event.

Ham of the Month: Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX.

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

Announcements: Mitch London, KD5HCV, informed the members that a new CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) class will be starting soon, contact Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, for information. Lee Cooper, W5LHC, announced September is National Emergency Preparedness Month.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04pm

Presentation: Lewis Thompson, W5IFQ & AAR6UK, did two presentations. HF/VHF Field Operations, Army MARS.

Only 250 Tickets
to be Sold!

ICOM-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

Update! Over 100 Tickets already Sold!!! Get Yours Soon!

XYL by Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



Uh Oh! That's a Nasty Divorce!

NØUJR and His Friends

By Greg Trook, NØUJR



30 years from now, Internet "Virtual Ham Radio" replaces all RF communications. Software simulates band characteristics, equipment characteristics and even interference.

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

September 4th - Joe Fisher, K5EJL will give a presentation on mobile Installation Tips

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- September 8th & October 13th 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- September 15th & October 20th 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

Sep 8 Highland Lakes Amateur Radio Club

Swapmeet- Kingsland Community Center 3451 Rose Hill Drive Kingsland, TX Talk-In: 146.66 (PL 88.5)
Roy Acuff K5WSC 512-715-0717 k5wsc@arrl.net
www.hlarc.org

Oct 6 Temple Amateur Radio Club HamEXPO

Bell County Expo Center 301 W Loop 121 Belton, TX
Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 123.0) Mike LeFan WA5EQQ 254-773-3590 mlefana@vvm.com www.beltonhamexpo.org

Oct 13 The Ham Association of Paris Red River Valley Fairgrounds. Paris, TX Talk-In: 147.040+ (PL 100)
www.paristexasradio.com/hamfest/

Oct 27 Brenham Swapmeet 7AM-Noon Washington County Fairgrounds www.alpha1.net/~w5aum

Sept.	Oct.	Austin Meetings/Happenings
4	2	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium** 7:00 p.m.
8	13	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
11	9	ARES Training -LCRA Hancock Bldg 6:30 p.m.
11	9	High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m.
18	16	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m.
15	20	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00 p.m.
24	22	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
25	23	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
26	24	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



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