



# AARC OVER

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

ISSN 1067-0262

January 2008

Happy New Year!

Issue 1-2008

## 5th Annual Radio Round Up a Success!

By Mitch London, KD5HCV

A new location did not stave off people from coming not only to the Friday night Christmas Dinner, but there was also a good crowd on hand for the Saturday Swapfest. A lot of work put forth by the Round Up Committee was a big helping hand to the success of this years event. The swapfest was held at the Sons of

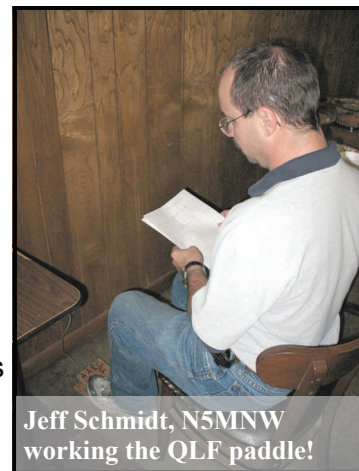


People coming in to get tickets

Hermann Mixed Lodge out on Hog Eye Road south of Decker Lake Rd. Friday nights activities started with setting up the hall for the event, which meant pulling in dozens of pieces of carpet and then when the tables arrived, they were set up. Not long after, the food arrived and they set up bringing in pan after pan of chicken fried steaks, salad, potatoes, gravy and all the goodies. Desserts were provided by members of the club. Among the soon to be devoured, were pecan pie, cookies, banana cream pie, grape pie, and more! Believe me, no one went home hungry for lack of food!

During dinner, some people went over to try their luck at blackjack, craps, or the wheel of fortune (not the game show). The QLF

*(Continued on page 7)*



Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW working the QLF paddle!

### 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	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 Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on December 1st, 2007 in the Hancock Building of the LCRA General Office Complex:

**Technician Class Licenses Processed** Jeff T. Blumenthal, KE5RST

Thomas R. Walden, KE5RSU

### General Class Licenses Processed

Charles C. Camden IV, K5DZR

Benjamin A. Delaurier, KE5RSW

Mark J. Delaurier, KE5RSV

### Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Howard Glueck, K5ZUA

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK

Jerry Jackson, N5UJ

Joe Makeever, W5HS

Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Joe Thiel, N5SMN

### Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

January 5th, 2008 - LCRA Hancock Building, Board Conference Room

February 2nd, 2008 - LCRA Hancock Building, Board Conference Room

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS , Joe

**\*\*\*NOTE:\*\*\***The Austin Amateur Radio Club ARRL VEC amateur radio examinations will no longer be held in the LCRA Colorado Room. The location for the remainder of the monthly tests in 2007 will be held at the following location:

LCRA General Office Complex  
Hancock Building, First Floor Main Entrance, Board Conference Room  
3700 Lake Austin Boulevard  
Austin, TX 78703

Go along Lake Austin Boulevard to the low-lying limestone main entrance wall to the General Office Complex driveway on the east side of the road .It will show "3700" and "LCRA" on it. Go up the driveway to the Visitors' parking spaces (both on the south side and the north side of the driveway. Find a parking spot, then go up the main entrance walkway to the north. Signs along the walkway will direct you to the Hancock Building. Go up the stairs and into the front entrance of the Hancock Building. You will be directed to the test room location from someone near the front entrance.

**12-17-2007**

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our December 8<sup>th</sup> session:

**Extra Class** –none

**General Class** – Robert J. Czepiel, K4HLB

**Technician Class (all new)** – Theresa E. Beck, KE5RUQ  
Eric K. Gonzales, KE5RUR      Connor P. Hanrahan, KE5RUO  
Sean C. Smith, KE5RUX      Heath B. Thompson, KE5RUT  
Brandon S. Williams, KE5RUV

Jonathan J. Curtis, KE5RUW  
Travis C. Shields, KE5RUU  
James T. Walker, III, KE5RUP

All of the above license upgrades were granted on Tuesday, December 11, 2007.

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO

Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

John Williams, AD5VV

Our next amateur radio exam session will start at 2 PM on January 19, 2008

in room 106 of Fleck 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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ARRL Public Information Officer	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	424 5491	w5lhc@arrl.net

Please contact a club officer, attend a meeting, mail us to join the organization, you can also join or renew online.

**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 & 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.**

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**For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:**

See Jay Hoffman, WA5OST (512) 388-4404 [jayhoffman@yahoo.com](mailto:jayhoffman@yahoo.com)

**Jay handles all changes for AARCOVER mailing labels & membership information .**

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## **AARC OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2008**

At the regular monthly meeting in November, nominations ceased for officers and elections were held. Congratulations to our slate of officers for 2008! They are...

<b>President:</b>	<b>Don Dudley, AC5YK</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Lee Cooper, W5LHC</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Jay Hoffman, KA5OST</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Alan Russell, KE5DTR</b>

And taking a cue from Jeff Foxworthy, here are some guidelines for all of us. **You might be a ham if...**

**You use Penetrox instead of Vick's Vapo-rub for a chest cold**

**Nervous tic means worrying about your ring rotator**

**You make your candy and snack selections based on whether they come in something you can use for a building project**

**Your retinas detect antennas a mile away behind trees - in the dark**

**You are perfectly happy listening to broadcast stations obscured by static, sky-wave, and mobile flutter. You barely even notice!**

**Your wedding gift registry is at Ham Radio Outlet**

**Santa ever asked you as a youngster to "not be quite so technical"**

**No appliance is ever discarded at your house with a perfectly good power cord still attached**

**The nifty recipe holder the kids made you winds up on the workbench as a soldering aid**

**You can with dispatch a flying insect with one well-aimed squirt of Freeze Mist**

**Hitchhikers open the passenger door, take one look, and close the door again**

**"Temporary" really means "Until I die or we move"**

Happy Holidays, everybody!

73, Ward Silver, N0AX (Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH)

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December 5, Associated Press - (Northwest)

**Officials: ham radio operators are storm's 'unsung heroes.'** When parts of Oregon were overwhelmed by wind and water during the recent storm, vital communication often was lacking, with trees down and across phone lines and cell coverage limited. Even the state police had difficulty in reaching some of their own troops. But ham radio worked.

In fact, amateur radio operators were heralded by state emergency officials as heroes. Ham radio is more than just a hobby to some. It can set up networks for government and emergency officials to communicate when other communication services fail. "One of the problems in this is always communication," said Oregon's governor Tuesday. "I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators.

These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." A network of at least 60 volunteer amateur radio operators working along the coast and inland helped from keep crucial systems such as 911 calls, American Red Cross and hospital services connected. They relayed information about patient care and relayed lists of supplies needed in areas cut off by water. In addition to getting an FCC license to operate, certain groups of operators are cleared by the federal government to work as emergency responders. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said the radio operators were tireless in their efforts to keep the systems connected. It was ham radio that kept New York City agencies in touch with each other after their command center was destroyed on 9-11, according to the National Association for Amateur Radio. When hurricanes like Katrina hit, amateur radio helped provide life-and-death communication services when everything else failed.

(Forwarded by Skip Cameron, W5GAI)

## Ten-Tec Turns 40!

By STAN VOIT, Editor

SEVIERVILLE - At one time that industrial park across from Sevier County High School was alive with manufacturing plants, cranking out product for shipping around the world.

It's not that way today. But one staple of the industrial park remains. Ten-Tec Inc. heads into 2008 celebrating 40 years of making equipment for the amateur and commercial radio operator. It's one of the few manufacturing plants remaining in Sevier County.

Behind the tan brick walls of the building that faces the high school, more than 70 employees work to make short-wave radios and component parts, and while some steps in the process are automated, much remains done by hand. That attention to detail has kept Ten-Tec in business despite pressure from foreign makers of similar products.

"Our primary customer is the amateur radio operator," Jack Burchfield, president of Ten-Tec and an employee for all 40 years, said. "We also supply receivers that are used by commercial and government users."

Some of Ten-Tec's products are used by branches of the U.S. government for ... well, let's just say secretive work. Burchfield, operations manager Jim Wharton and vice president Gary Barbour understandably don't feel comfortable talking about that side of their business too much, but imagine radio transmitters, U.S. government and secrecy and you get as much of the picture as you need to know.

Mostly, though, Ten-Tec makes the radios and related equipment used by amateur radio operators.

Ten-Tec was founded by the late Al Kahn, an amateur radio enthusiast himself. Kahn sold his Michigan company, Electro-Voice, and moved south, looking for something new to do. He figured out that by combining his own passion for radio with the need to make quality parts for those who have the same hobby, he could come up with products both needed and marketable. He bought the land on what is now Dolly Parton Parkway and put up the building that has since been expanded twice to accommodate the growth of the business.

Electro-Voice, by the way, got its name from legendary Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne, who wanted a voice-amplifying system so he could stand on a tower and shout instructions to his team during practice. The microphone and other Electro-Voice equipment later were used by troops in World War II. The company is still in business.

Kahn, who died in 2005 at the age of 98, would be impressed with how Ten-Tec has evolved. Forty years ago the prevailing method of manufacturing the parts was solid state and transistors. Today's it all computerized.

"It's software-driven today," Barbour said. "It's a much better product."

Maybe it is, but there are Ten-Tec owners around the world who are still using equipment they bought 30 or more years ago. The company repairs every piece of equipment it has ever sold, so it still maintains parts to fix those solid-state transmitters from decades ago - and the people trained to repair them.

"When we started," Burchfield said, "we were the only ones making transceivers. Today we have competition from the Japanese."

Burchfield came to Sevierville in 1968 after working with Kahn for 10 years. Burchfield had left Kahn's company and was working in New Jersey when his former boss called and told him about the plans for the Sevierville plant.

"I came down then as an engineer," Burchfield said. "I've been here ever since."

While some U.S. manufacturing has gone away due to foreign competition, Ten-Tec has remained.

"We don't go head to head with the most popular items," Barbour said. "We go for niches. We focus on high performance."

Between 10 percent and 20 percent of the company's business is with government.

"We're one of the two companies left making amateur radio equipment in the United States," Wharton said.

Ten-Tec continues to do it all, from product development, research and manufacturing. It does buy some of the parts used to make the equipment, but mostly it's all made and done in house.

"We do everything here," Barbour said. "From manufacturing to demonstration to distribution. We outsource some stuff like circuitboards, but many, many things are done here."

Ten-Tec also has a retail store where consumers can buy equipment as well as how-to manuals for getting into the amateur radio game. It is the only radio-related activity that still requires a Federal Communications Commission license, and Ten-Tec sells the study guides for helping persons learn the material and pass the test.

*(Continued on page 6)*

Wharton and Barbour figure there have been more than 1,000 people employed at Ten-Tec over the last 40 years.

"Most of our jobs pay well above minimum wage," Barbour said. "We do have some skill jobs, such as electrical technicians and electronics engineers."

Some of the employees have been with Ten-tec almost from the beginning - like Elizabeth Castle, who adds components to circuit boards.

"It's a good-paying job and I really enjoy it," she said. "I wouldn't have stayed here for so long if I didn't enjoy it,"

Each piece of equipment leaving Ten-Tec is tested to be sure it's working. Many of the transceivers are made to order, containing features requested by an individual customer. But it all must pass muster with one of four trained technicians who test the equipment all put together before it leaves Sevierville. Most companies that mass-produce electronics test only selected models.

"I think it helps us do business and stay in business that we do this," Barbour said.

Ten-Tec maintains a repair division to fix everything it sells.

Barbour, Burchfield and Wharton are all amateur radio operators, as are roughly 20 percent of the employees. Each September Ten-Tec hosts a "ham fest," drawing thousands of amateur radio operators from around the country who see new products, sell each other equipment and tour the plant to see the latest items for sale. Ten-Tec does not charge anyone to be part of it, unlike similar ham fests around the country.

Ten-Tec equipment is expensive. Amplifiers sell for as much as \$4,300. You can buy a receiver for as little as \$359 or as much as \$4,295. Transceivers run from as low as \$2,195 to as much as \$4,295. It's an expensive pastime.

"Ham radio is still a relatively stable hobby," Barbour said. "It hasn't grown much, but it hasn't declined either." Today there is the Internet, cell phones and other more inexpensive ways to communicate with people around the world. Ten-Tec has seen more retirees get into the game, seeing it as a good way to spend time, make new friends and have some fun.

Barbour and Burchfield feel good about the future of the company and its place in Sevierville, although Burchfield does have concerns.

"There are not enough highly technical people coming out of our schools," he said. "Generally we have to import them. And transportation is tough. We have trucks come in here from all around, and they find it tough to get here at the appointed time. But you run into that everywhere." ■

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## Over the WWWaves...

A Collection of Various Websites sent in by members.

Another potpourri of URL's from Bill N4LG. He observes that, "I can't think of better Christmas gifts than good climbing safety gear." He went on to provide the following list of Web sites from which he had obtained or learned about climbing safety equipment. (Forwarded by Pete Jordahl, K5GM)

SitePro (good selection & prices) [http://www.sitepro1.com/store/cart.php?m=product\\_list&c=69](http://www.sitepro1.com/store/cart.php?m=product_list&c=69)

Great Climbing Boots with a steel shank <http://tinyurl.com/yrw97y>

Climbing Safety Fall Protection Equipment by GMESupply <http://gmesupply.com/index.php/cPath/31>

Midwest Tower Safety Equipment <http://www.midwestunlimited.com>

Elk River Fall Protection Gear <http://elkriver.com>

MSA Lanyards- fall protection [http://msafetyproducts.com/fall\\_protection.htm](http://msafetyproducts.com/fall_protection.htm)

SnugHarness Co <http://www.snugharness.com/Harnesses>

Tessco Safety Gear <http://tinyurl.com/yr5rju>

Understanding Fall Arrest [http://gmesupply.com/about\\_fall\\_protect.php](http://gmesupply.com/about_fall_protect.php)

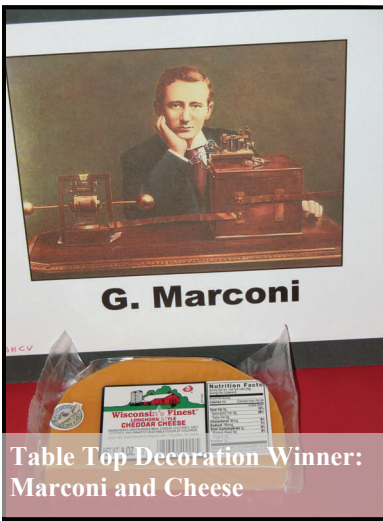
Helmet [http://www.sitepro1.com/store/cart.php?m=product\\_detail&p=1293](http://www.sitepro1.com/store/cart.php?m=product_detail&p=1293)

# ICOM IC-7000 HF Mobile Radio Raffle Winner!!!



**Congratulations to the winner of  
the ICOM 7000 HF Radio:**

**Mike Cave, AE5DV**



**Table Top Decoration Winner:  
Marconi and Cheese**

contest had 5 entrants this year to see who had the fastest foot, and the table top decorating contest was a close race. We were also entertained by wonderful “a capella” music by Sweet Adaline. After a while of fun, some door prizes were given out and people went home to prepare themselves for Saturday’s Swapfest.

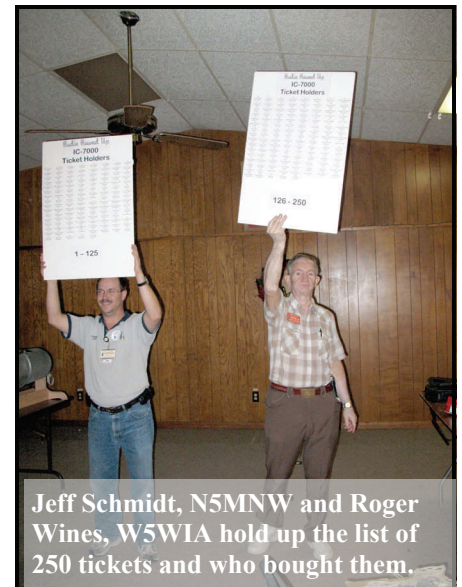
Early Saturday morning, the doors of the Sons of Hermann Lodge opened up for vendors to bring in their wares, radios and other assorted things. Coffee and Round Rock doughnuts kept the people going while bargains were sought after. Everything from candles to radios, to boat anchors, to the newest rigs were found. There were some great door prizes, including handbooks, jackets, clocks, and of course the grand prize and MFG 259 analyzer.



Throughout the year the Austin Amateur Radio Club was selling tickets for the ICOM 7000 drawing. With the final regular door prize given out, the time had come to empty out the ticket tumbler and put in 250 special tickets of which one name would be drawn as the winner. With the lid securely placed on the tumbler, the tickets took a death defying spin like a clothes dryer going out of control, until finally it slowed down and finally came to a halt. The door was opened, a hand went in, a little more shuffling of tickets and then one was selected. It was hurried over to the emcee who read aloud the name of the winner...Mike Cave AE5DV....no loud cheering, no cries of joy...probably because Mike was at home watching TV



when he should have been at the Round Up! Oh well, I am sure he did his share of jumping up and down when he got the news about the radio he won. So congratulations to him, and a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make our first (and hopefully not last) radio drawing fundraiser a success. An even bigger thank you to all those who helped set up and help run the event, and cleaned up after the event on Friday and Saturday. It would not have been possible with out everyone's assistance! 73!



**Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW and Roger Wines, W5WIA hold up the list of 250 tickets and who bought them.**

## **AARC Meeting Info.**

**ARL Labs \*Location change  
coming soon!**

**10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183**

### **Officers Meeting**

On hold pending location change

### **Regular Business Meeting 7:00PM**

**January 8\*\* - Jerry Champkis, KB5WZP-**

*The Fun and Amazing Kosmosphone*

\*\*NOTE: January meeting will be Jan. 8th due to New Years Day falling on the 1st!

### **2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

ARRL VEC- January 5th & February 2nd 9a.m. at LCRA Complex 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. \*\*\*See page 2 for location change. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$14 fee.

WSYI VEC- January 19th & February 16th 2p.m. in room 106, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184)

\*\*\*See page 2 for location change.

#### **\*\*\*\*\*DUES ARE DUE!!! \*\*\*\*\***

Dues must be paid by April 15, to be included in the annual Roster. Contact Jay Hoffman, KA5OST (512) 388-4404 or jayhoffman@yahoo.com or you can pay dues online at... [www.austinhams.org/join](http://www.austinhams.org/join)

## **2008 Calendar of Events**

**Jan 12 San Antonio Radio Club's Amateur Radio Fiesta 2008** 8AM-2:00PM NEW location: Schertz Knights of Columbus Hall, 509 Schertz Parkway, Schertz TX Admission \$3 advance, \$4 at the door (Free admission for children <age 12) Dealer Tables \$12 each Flea Market Tables \$7 advance \$8 at door Tailgate Spaces \$5 each in advance \$6 at door <http://w5sc.org/>

**Jan 20 Big Bend Ultra 50**, Big Bend Amateur Radio Club [www.bigbendarc.com](http://www.bigbendarc.com)

**Feb 9 10th Annual Landing Zone Safety Training Class** Shoreline Christian Center, 15201 Burnet Rd., Austin, Tx. Check-in @ 7:30am; class start @ 8:30am. Multiple helicopters will be landing starting @ 8:00am. Contact Barry Jucha, [pio@mset-tx.org](mailto:pio@mset-tx.org)

Jan.	Austin Meetings/Happenings
8*	12 AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium** 7:00 p.m.
12	9 Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
9	13 ARES Training -LCRA Hancock Bldg 6:30 p.m.
9	13 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.
29	26 Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
30	27 Packet Set-up Lab @ Red Cross* 7:00 p.m.

\* January meeting moved back one week due to New Years Day

\*\*AARC Business Meeting is at ARL Labs 10000 Burnet Rd.

Location change coming in February.

*Return Service Requested*  
**January 2008**  
Austin, TX 78765-4739  
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Austin Amateur Radio Club  
AARCOVER