

AARC COVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

April 2008

Ham Radio Demo Location Pg 7

Issue 4-2008

Picking an NVIS Frequency

Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH (Thanks to Bonnie, KQ6XA, noted NVIS proponent)

"In this part of the solar cycle, hams only have the following NVIS bands in the mid-latitude parts of the world, this includes North America, Europe, Australia, etc:

- 30 meters (10MHz)
- 40 meters (7MHz)
- 60 meters (5MHz)
- 75 meters (3.8-3.9MHz)
- 80 meters (3.5-3.7MHz)
- 160 meters (1.8-2MHz)

If we are looking at the FoF2 NVIS map on the web, we see contours of colors for the optimum NVIS frequency (MHz) over our QTH: <http://hfink.com/propagation>

For the "optimum NVIS Ham Band" using the FoF2 map, here is my conversion chart:

KQ6XA Rule of Thumb: Optimum Ham Band to FoF2

MAP color> Ham BAND

(Continued on page 6)

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 March 1st, 2008 in The Quarries sports complex:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Diane M. Culp, KE5TGJ

Ronald C. Troster, KE5TGI

General Class License Processed

Michael R. Wilson, KE5TGK

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Tony Davee, KM5JH

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK

Jerry Jackson, N5UJ

Joe Makeever, W5HS

Tom Nevue, W2MN

Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

April 5th - **The Quarries** sports complex

May 3rd - **The Quarries** sports complex

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

AUSTIN ARRL/VEC FCC EXAMINATIONS MOVE TO NEW LOCATION

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are moving the testing location for the ARRL/VEC tests performed on behalf of the Austin Amateur Radio Club from its LCRA General Office Complex location on Lake Austin Boulevard to **The Quarries** sports complex at 11400 N. MoPac Expressway.

Testing at this location will commence at 9:00 AM on the following Saturdays:

March 1st - April 5th - May 3rd - June 7th - July 5th

Testing for August will be on August 2nd at the Wyndham Garden Hotel during **Austin Summerfest**. It will start at 12:30 PM in a room across the hallway from the convention registration desk.

From the intersection of West Braker Lane and the northbound MoPac access road (yes, that's the access road on the east side of MoPac heading north toward Round Rock) stay in the center lane of the access road and follow it along underneath MoPac. Take the first right turn off of the access road as you go underneath MoPac. There is a sign next to the entrance gate that is marked **THE QUARRIES** but it doesn't show up well due to its drab colors. The access road to the sports center parallels the Missouri-Pacific railroad tracks. You will pass over three 25 MPH speed bumps and eventually come around to a lake (the old quarry pit) and a two-story building. Take the driveway around to the front side of the building and park in this parking lot. Come in through the front door and you will find directions to the room where the testing will take place.

Go to <http://www.hpbc.org/cms/index.php?section=149> for detailed directions on how to approach this complex from out of town.

3-15-2008

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our March 15th session:

Extra Class –

Partha S. Kuchana, KE5SED Dale W. Zett, WA5BUD

General Class –

Jerry Fye, KE5DWK

Albert B. Kirchner, KE5OIZ

Robert P. Whitman, Jr., KE5SEF

Technician Class (all new) –

Alan J. Brumley

Aaron J. Dooley

Douglas J. Greenleaf

Robert M. Lederman

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Robert O. Blackburn, KC5IAJ

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO

Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on April 19th

and May 17th 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>

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|----------|-----------------|
| President | Don Dudley | AC5YK | 340-0778 | ac5yk@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Lee Cooper | W5LHC | 424 5491 | w5lhc@arrl.net |
| Treasurer | Jay Hoffman | KA5OST | 388-4404 | ka5ost@arrl.net |
| Secretary | Alan Russell | KE5DTR | 851-1806 | arusell@cra.org |
| Editor, AARCOVER | Mitch London | KD5HCV | 326-3096 | kd5hcv@arrl.net |
| Technical (Repeater Contact) | Stuart Rohre | K5KVH | 255-3932 | k5kvh@arrl.net |
| 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, 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 | |
| 146.480/+1.0 | No | 2m D-Star Repeater (Cedar Park Area) |

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 Jay Hoffman, KA5OST (512) 388-4404 ka5ost@arrl.net

Jay handles all changes for membership information .

Search and Rescue Needs Assistance from CERT Members

Travis County Search and Rescue has a search dog component which practices on a regular basis. CERT members that are interested in attending practice and hiding for the search dogs, should contact either Sue White at sue@tcsar.org, 512/480-9274 or Sandra England at sandra@tcsar.org, 512/423-2663. They coordinate the team practices and will let you know when and where each of the next practices will be. For planning purposes, it would be helpful if you let them know when you are going to attend.

You can find out a little bit about our team by visiting www.tcsar.org. There is a waiver form on the website under 'Requirements, Responsibilities & Joining' that you need to sign and bring to your first practice.

When you show up, be sure to wear your CERT t-shirt and dress appropriately for wilderness environment. Bring plenty of drinking water. Although not required, if you have a GPS, an FRS radio and flashlight, you can bring them with you.

The best thing about hiding is that you get to play with the dog when they find you.

TEXAS HAMS NOW HAVE SIMPLIFIED LICENSE PLATE RENEWAL PROCESS

The Special Registration Branch of the Texas Department of Transportation has confirmed that Texas amateur radio license plates ("Radio Operator") will now have a combined registration and special plate renewal notice beginning with March 2008 renewals.



Licensed amateur radio operators will no longer have to send in the \$1.00 special plate renewal annually and then process a separate registration renewal. This should also resolve the confusion of multiple vehicles bearing the same call sign which resulted in only registration for one vehicle being sent. Now, everything will be handled as a single renewal/registration for each vehicle.

The Special Registration Branch began sending the combined notices for March renewals with only two weeks prior to expiration. April and May renewals should have at least 3 weeks notice prior to expiration and by June the system should be on track with at least a month's notice prior to expiration.

Texas amateur radio operators who would like to obtain Radio Operator plates (the application fee is only \$2.00 plus the vehicle registration) can find more information plus an application form at <http://rts.texasonline.state.tx.us/NASApp/txdotrts/SpecialPlateOrderServlet?grpId=80&pltid=132>

Ham Radio Demonstration a Breeze

By Mitch London, KD5HCV

Last month the Austin Amateur Radio Club held its first demo of ham radio at Zilker Park. Alan Russell, KE5DTR and Mitch London, KD5HCV got an early jump on the morning and started setting up at 8 am. Reinforcements came not long after in the form of Lee Cooper, W5LHC, Don Dudley, AC5YK and Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW. We had a few people come by the set up and see what we were doing. We even had one fellow show up because he heard us on a scanner as we were announcing that we were holding a demonstration at Zilker Park and he decided to show up. We had a lot of fun and even made a few contacts. If you want to join us on our next outing see page 7 for details! 73.



Left: Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, Lee Cooper, W5LHC and Alan Russell, KE5DTR.

Above: Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW talks to some visitors while Lee Cooper, W5LHC and Mitch London, KD5HCV make some contacts.

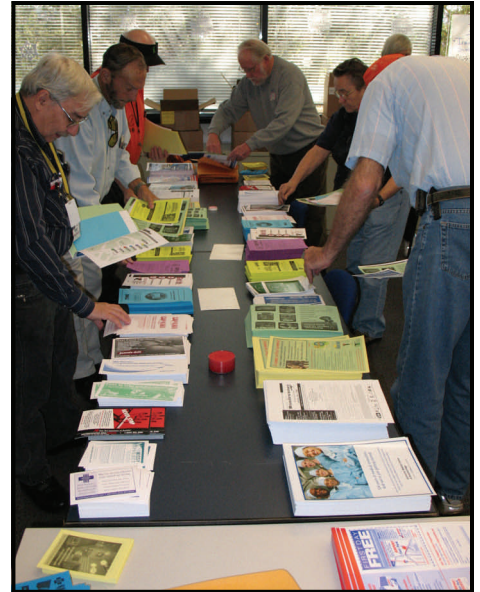


Packet Stuffing!

The Austin Amateur Radio Club volunteers came out for a day of packet stuffing at the Austin American Statesman. Start before 8 am the hams came rolling in ready to work! Thousands upon thousands of empty packets lay in waiting for eager hams to start down the lines of flyers and various inserts for all the runners to enjoy when they get their packet. To help get them going, coffee was made, bagels were brought in and doughnut holes were the fuel for these busy bees , that is until lunch time

rolled around and that's when the pizza showed up! Lot's of it from Sam's Club (very tasty pizza, I might add). Packets were being churned out at near 200 per hour! 16,000 packets in all were done in a assembly line fashion

and with efficiency that would make Henry Ford proud! For all that hard work the AARC is to be rewarded with a hearty congratulations, oh and a big honkin check! Thanks to everyone who volunteered, and thanks to Jeff for buying the first round at Scholz's!



AARC Meeting Minutes: March 4, 2008

Meeting called to order: 7:01pm by President Don Dudley, AC5YK.

Showed agenda and mentioned we are using a FM transmitter to broadcast the meeting.

No visitors or new calls at this meeting.

New Members: Andrew McGown; Juanita Miyasaki, KD5OIE; Roy Miyasaki, AD5EA.

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

OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer: \$1603, checking account; \$7585, equipment fund; paid memberships at 125; compiling list of club assets; please join ARRL so the club has 51% of its membership in ARRL for affiliation; reminder of our reimbursements policy; Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, sold for the club \$400 of equipment donated from an estate.

Editor: to save more club money, printing out the AARCOVER himself.

Tech Committee: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH: the inventory list is over 100 items now and a lot of older computer equipment is being found and still in use.

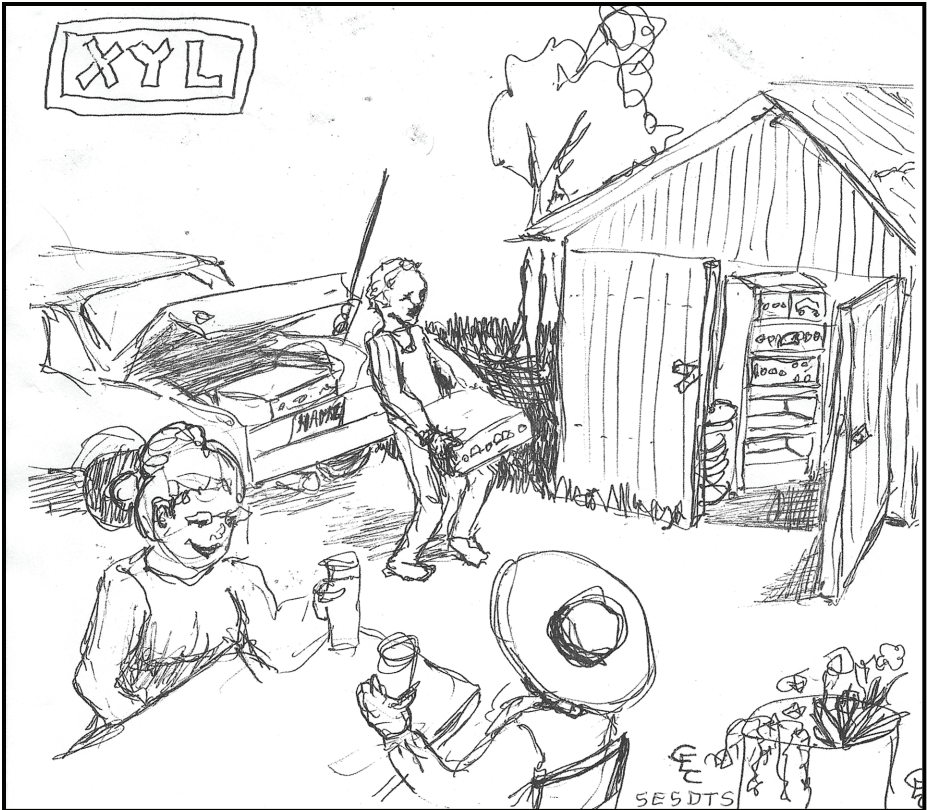
ARES: Roger Wines, W5WIA: there will be a S.E.T. on April 14; meeting next Tuesday.

Promoted next month presentation along with slide of upcoming presentations.

New Business: The club is doing the same raffle this year as we did last year, as of now.

Ham of the Month: Mitch London, KD5HCV.

(Continued on page 6)



By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS

I think he's building an aircraft carrier in there, piece by piece.

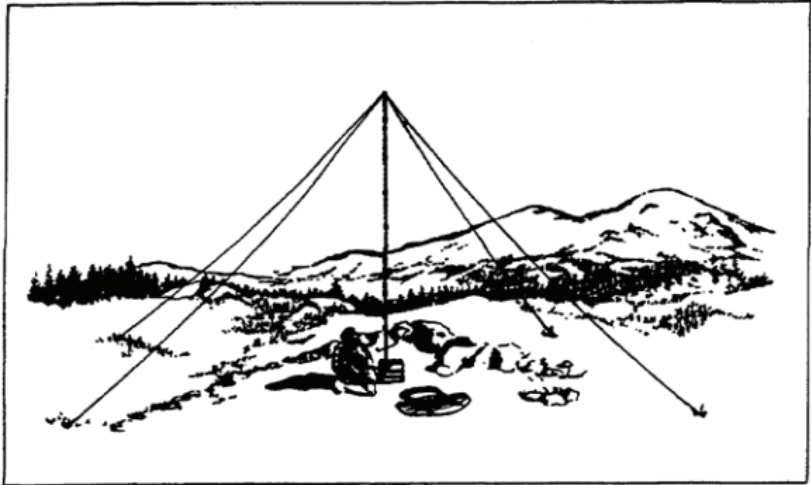
Slides and discussion of upcoming events: all listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter, at www.austinhams.org, or at the Yahoo user group. This includes the Cap10K Packet Stuffing Party and race itself, volunteers still needed for both.

Announcements: Joe Fischer, K5EJL: you can call the Red Cross if interested to receive training to be a Dormitory Director. Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, has set up a list serve email system, and briefly explained what it does. Mitch London thanked everyone that participated in the Amateur Radio demonstration held at Zilker Park on March 1st; also mentioned future plans to do it at the South Austin Farmer's Market. QCWA meets every 3rd Saturday at Denny's on Burnet at 1pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:23pm

Presentation: SLOOH.com (online amateur astronomy) by Tierney O'Dea. ■

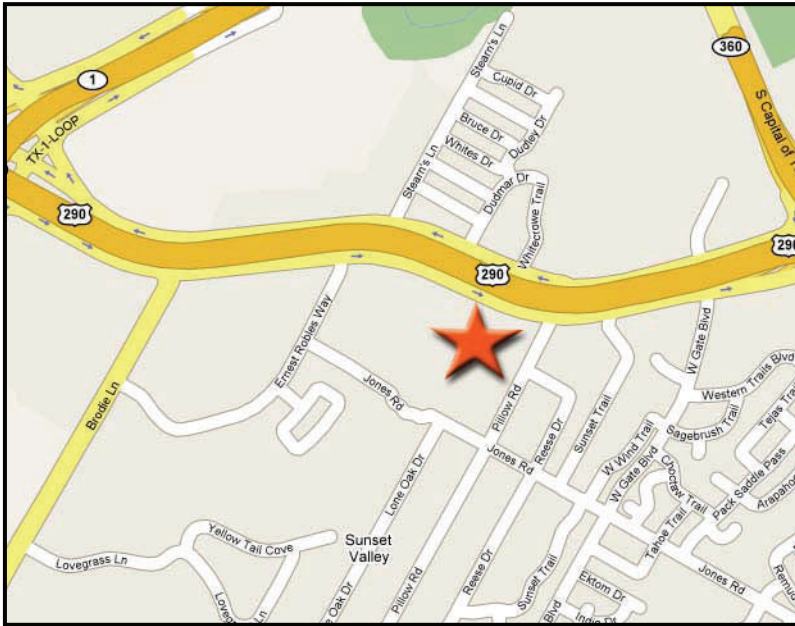
- 12MHz => 30meters
- 11MHz => 30meters
- 10MHz => 30meters
- 9MHz => 40meters
- 8MHz => 40meters
- 7MHz => 40meters
- 6MHz => 60meters
- 5MHz => 60meters
- 4MHz => 75meters (3.9MHz)
- 3MHz => 160meters (1.9MHz)
- 2MHz => 160meters
- 1MHz => None



Since hams have bands rather than Continuous general coverage MHz channels, we have some gaps in the optimum frequency coverage. So, we need to pick the "best Ham Band" rather than the exact "optimum NVIS frequency".

73 Bonnie KQ6XA

AARC Ham Radio Demo at Sunset Valley Farmer's Market April 5th!



**Sunset Valley Farmer's Market
Toney Burger Center
3200 Jones Rd.**

Starting at 9am on Saturday April 5th, the AARC is going to set up an informal demonstration area for the general public to come find out about Amateur Radio. On the map above is where we will be. The Sunset Valley farmer's Market is letting us set up another station like we did for the 100th anniversary of radio. The great thing about this location is there will be lots of people! The Farmer's Market draws hundreds of people every Saturday and I want us to take advantage of this opportunity to show people what we do! So, what we need from you is for you to show up and have a good time! Like I say this is informal so we will have some radios, for people to look at and even operate, as well as some flyers. We will have hams on hand to answer questions for people.

@

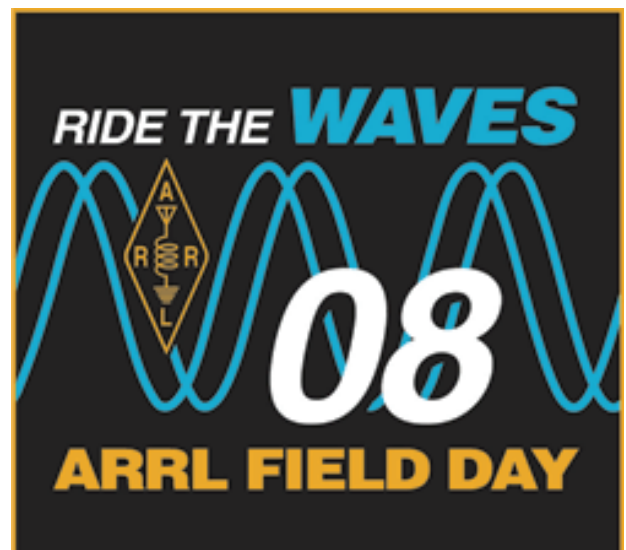
Come on by and show your support for Amateur Radio. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at kd5hcv arrl.net.

73 Mitch London, KD5HCV

2008 Field Day Web Page Good to Go:

The official 2008 ARRL Field Day Web page <http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay> is up and running. The page includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos and reference links.

There is also a link for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, pins and other supplies. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said supplies will begin shipping in early March, but it's not too early to place a pre-order now. Radio clubs are encouraged to order early.



AARC Meeting Info.

Waterloo Icehouse

****NEW LOCATION!!****

8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183

Officers Meeting

April 15th 6pm Waterloo Icehouse

Regular Business Meeting 7:00PM

April 1 - P25 and DSTAR

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- April 5th & May 3rd 9a.m. at The Quarries.
***See page 2 for location change. Contact Joe Makeever,
W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$14
fee.

W5YI VEC- April 19th & May 17th 2p.m. in room 106,
Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University. Contact Jim
Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184)
<http://texasparadise.com/w5yi-austin> for more info.

*******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 ka5ost@arrl.net or you can pay dues online at...
www.austinhams.org/join

2008 Calendar of Events

Apr 12-13 BP MS-150 Houston-LaGrange-Austin

Bikeride www.HoustonHams.org

Apr 19 Belton Ham Expo Mike WA5EQQ

mlefan@vvm.com 254-773-3590

www.beltonhamexpo.org www.tarc.org

May 17-18 Tour De Cure San Antonio to Austin bikeride

www.tourdecuretexas.org/

San Antonio Hams contact- Lee N5NTG

info@sanantonioghams.org

Hays/Caldwell contact- David KD5MML

david@nwwin.com

AustinHams contact- Jeff N5MNW N5MNW@arrl.net

May 16-18 Dayton Hamvention- 57th show

www.hamvention.org

| April | May | Austin Meetings/Happenings |
|-------|-----|---|
| 1 | 6 | AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House** 7:00 p.m. |
| 12 | 10 | Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m. |
| 8 | 13 | ARES Training -CTECC 6:30 p.m. |
| 9 | 14 | High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m. |
| 15 | 20 | ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m. |
| 19 | 17 | QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 1:00 p.m. |
| 28 | 26 | Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m. |
| 22 | 27 | Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m. |
| 23 | 28 | Packet Set-up Lab @ Red Cross* 7:00 p.m. |

****AARC Business Meeting is at Waterloo Ice House 8600 Burnet Rd. See Page 7 for details.**

Return Service Requested
April 2008
Austin, TX 78765-4739
PO Box 4739
Austin Amateur Radio Club
AARCOVER