



AARC COVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

May 2008

Issue 5-2008

BPL Gone???

I am pleased to report that on Saturday (April 5) I visited the east Austin BPL test area and can confirm that the BPL racket has completely disappeared from the HF radio spectrum.

The BPL boxes remain on, at least, some of the poles, but there is no RFI evidence that they are active.

Perhaps we have heard the death knell for BPL in Austin. I certainly hope so. Thanks to all those who assisted in the effort.

Special thanks to Gene Preston, K5GP and Bob Morgan WB5AOH for their technical expertise.

And, to ARRL BPL Guru, Ed Hare for his excellent support and advice.

Glen Reid
K5FX
BPL787
The ARRL Austin BPL Team



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+

In This Issue

Story	Page
Mapping Programs	4
ARDF Championships in Bastrop	4
Club Minutes	6
Ham Poetry??	7
Antenna Analyzers	7

Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on April 5th, 2008 in **The Quarries** Sports Complex:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Anonymous KE5TWE
Jeremy W. Arntz, KE5TWG
David Matheny, KE5TWF
Whitney J. Williams, KE5TWD

General Class Licenses Processed

Peter M. Maurer, KE5TWI
Daniel J. Millett, KE5TWH
Linda S. Schreier, WB5IIE
Allan R. Tiemann, KE5SSG

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Clinton P. McClure, AE5GT
Michael R. Wilson, KE5TGK

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Pete Brunet, WS4G
Howard Glueck, K5ZUA
Gene Hinkle, K5PA
Joe Makeever, W5HS
Tom Nevue, W2MN
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

May 3rd - **The Quarries** Sports Complex
June 7th - **The Quarries** Sports Complex
TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

4-19-2008

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our April 19th session:

Extra Class – Thomas H. Arcy, W5THA

General Class – Chris D. Hanson, KB9KZI

Technician Class (all new) – Michael K. D'Elia

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Hugh Brown, NT5O	Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO	Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

At a special session held at the City of Austin CTECC on April 6th, these new hams earned their Technician Class licenses:

Edward G. Cates, KE5TWU	Paul C. Mott, KE5TWQ
Chris R. DeRusseau, KE5TWR	Stephen R. Ogletree II, KE5TWS
Rex A. Gressett, KE5TWX	Nicholas A. Reed, KE5TWW
Byrolyn R. Hope, KE5TWZ	Maria E. Rodríguez, KE5TWY
Clarissa N. Marcee, KE5TWT	Kevin M. Thornton, KE5TWW

Their licenses were granted on April 10, 2008. The administering volunteer examiners were Bud Blackburn, KC5IAJ, Jim Greenwood, AB5EK and Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ.

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on May 17th and June 21st 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

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 & Newslite
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

ISSN 1067-0262, CODEN AAOVE3. ©Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Published monthly by the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers.

Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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 Jay Hoffman, KA5OST (512) 388-4404 ka5ost@arrl.net
Jay handles all changes for membership information .**

Over the WWWaves...

A Collection of Various Websites sent in by Rick Herndon, K5FNI

<http://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Hand-Driller-Coil-Winding-Machine-with-Digital/Homebrew-Coil-Winder>

<http://ca.youtube.com/watch?v=6ypVUoRVv3U>
Bluetooth headset for your AM/FM & SSB operations

<http://www.auroralchorus.com/bbb4.htm>
VLF emissions listening

A Map by Any Other Name

By Rick Kirchhof, NG5V

Maps differ by source. One site may have good "satellite" views while another is missing the sky view or it is deeply fuzzy for your location of interest.

Here is a trick to link a number of mapping resources together on a single page so you can quickly switch between them. (Remember that <shift> <click> will open in a new window on most browsers.)

Look up a city in Wikipedia. Austin is convenient so here is the link:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin%2C_Texas

In most cities, a Wikipedia entry will have a location link that shows up as a lat/lon. Clicking this link will open a page with multiple mapping resources all centered on the same Lat/Lon. Here is the Austin example:

< http://tools.wikimedia.de/~magnus/geo/geohack.php?pagename=Austin%2C_Texas¶ms=30_16_N_97_45_W_city >

Once this page is up, you can modify the original lat/lon to whatever you need by changing the URL. Just adhere to the dd_mm_ss format as it exists. The mapping page that results will show a large number of direct links for that same GPS location.

At least one of these (Flash Earth) shows several mapping results in a slick flash presentation that scrolls easily. You can also change the resource between providers without ever leaving that page. Another (Acme Mapper) includes Topos and Radar.

The best part of doing this trick is that you don't need to bookmark anything or remember a URL. Just start Wikipedia and search for a city. You can use the "bookmark this page" feature on several of the maps to generate a lat/lon based on whatever map location you are currently viewing.

Try it... It's amazing how different the results are and even more amazing how much map data and photography is available.

ARDF Championships in Bastrop

Bastrop State Park in Central Texas will be the site for this year's USA championship of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting. Fans of this international sport -- also called foxtailing, radio-orienteeing and Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) -- are making travels plans now. They want you to join in.

Interest and participation in ARDF has been growing every year since stateside hams first competed at the World Championships in 1998. Beginning in 2001, we have held annual national championships to see who is best at the sport and to select our team members for the World Championships. The Texas ARDF group and the Houston Orienteering Club are combining to host this year's events to be held the second weekend of May.

Thursday, May 8 is scheduled for arrival and equipment testing; 2 and 80 meter transmitters will also be on the air near the event headquarters. There will also be a get-acquainted meeting and drawing for the starting order. The 2 meter contest will take place Friday morning. Competitors will start in small groups made up of different age and gender categories, in the drawn order.

The 80 meter event will be early Saturday morning with starts in reverse order, highest numbers first. After everyone returns from the woods and the results are tallied, medals will be presented for first, second and third place in each category. There will be ample time for everyone to return home in time for Mother's Day activities.

On both bands, each of the five foxes transmits for 60 seconds at a time in numbered order on one frequency, and then the cycle repeats. Fox #1 continuously sends "MOE" in Morse code, then #2 sends "MOI," #3 sends "MOS"

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

and so forth. Knowledge of Morse code isn't necessary, because the number of dits reveals which fox is on. Find your required foxes in any order and then head for the finish, following your map or the continuous beacon transmitter on a second frequency.

Organizing co-chairs for the 2008 USA Championships are Kenneth Harker, WM5R and Jennifer Harker, W5JEN. Both have competed at four USA Championships and have won medals on both bands at the 2007 combined USA and IARU Region 2 Championships near Lake Tahoe. The Harkers organized the first Texas ARDF Championships in October 2005.

Finding Foxes in the Lost Pines

With rolling terrain and woods full of loblolly pines, Bastrop State Park is an ideal orienteering venue. Locals call these trees the Lost Pines, because they are over 150 miles from the large forests of East Texas. Deer, raccoon and armadillo make their homes there, as well as more than 250 bird species.

ARDF competitors navigate through the forest from the starting corridor to the finish line, a distance of 4-10 kilometers. They plot their field bearings on orienteering maps showing terrain features and elevation contours. Color codes indicate vegetation density and ease of running. The Bastrop course sites are now off limits to anyone who will be competing, ensuring fairness for all.

If you plan to travel to the championships by plane, you will get closest by landing at the new Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (IATA code AUS). It is 25 miles from the park and provides non-stop service from 46 airports around the country. A variety of lodging options are available in the area, as well as overnight camping. You must find your own transportation between the airport, your lodging and the park. You can probably arrange to carpool if you coordinate with other attendees ahead of time.

Competitors are responsible for bringing their own direction-finding sets. Extra gear might be available for loan from other attendees, but inquire ahead of time. Receivers must not radiate signals that can be heard by others. Transmitting on the course is forbidden, except in emergencies.

Y'all Come!

As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone of any age who can safely navigate the woods. A ham radio license is not required, so encourage your unlicensed-but-athletic friends and family members to join in. Each person competes as an individual; there is no teaming or person-to-person assistance allowed on the courses. Using GPS as a navigation aid is also forbidden.

Our annual ARDF championships are an ideal opportunity to watch and learn from the best radio-orienteers in the country, as well as visitors from around the world. Previous USA championships have drawn experts from Australia, China, the Czech Republic, England, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Registration for the 2008 USA championships is now open. A \$70-per-person package includes the practice session, both competitions, Friday dinner and a T-shirt. Check out the Texas ARDF Web site for detailed schedules, frequencies, lodging information and registration forms. An e-mail reflector is available for Q&A, as well as for coordinating transportation and arranging equipment loans.

If you have never participated in an international-style transmitter hunt, you will find all the basics at my Web site -- Homing In -- including the rules and signal parameters. You will get equipment ideas for 2 meters and 80 meters. You can also determine your own age category. The pages of photos from our previous championships will help you decide what gear to carry (the lighter, the better) and what to wear.

On to Korea

ARDF Team USA will travel to South Korea for the 14th World Championships of ARDF from September 2 through 7. Team positions will be offered to best performers in each age and gender category at Bastrop in May, and at Lake Tahoe last September. A maximum of three persons per category may be on a nation's team.

This is the first time that the Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL) has hosted the World championships. It is only the second time that the ARDF World Championships have taken place outside Europe. KARL has selected forested sites in the Gyeonggi province, about 30 miles from Seoul. Participants will be housed and fed in a nearby resort hotel.

An individual entry fee of US \$400 covers double-occupancy room and board for the entire World Championships competition period, plus a sightseeing day and souvenirs. Team USA's competitors and spectators are responsible for this fee plus their own transportation to and from Seoul.

As ARRL's ARDF Coordinator, I will submit USA's roster of travelers to the Korean organizers this summer. If you wish to represent our country at the ARDF World Championships and cannot attend the USA Championships in Texas, please contact me via e-mail to discuss your interest and qualifications.

AARC Meeting Minutes: April 1, 2008

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm by President Don Dudley, AC5YK.

Agenda quickly covered (slide shown).

Visitors: Alisa Salley (no call, yet); Danny Turner, N5PAO.

New Members: Ross Russell, WI0N.

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

OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer: \$1516, checking account; \$10230, equipment fund; paid memberships at 137; we got paid the \$2000 for the Cap10K packet stuffing and more of the donated equipment has sold; let the Treasurer know if you have any AARC equipment, he is still compiling a list of club assets; again, please join ARRL so the club keeps its affiliation.

Tech Committee: Stuart Rohre, K5KVVH: (fyi) Time Warner Cable is removing the weather radar channel; Stuart read the letter TWC sent in response to request by some hams urging them not to remove it; otherwise, no real problems to report.

ARES: Lew Thompson, W5IFQ: looking for more volunteers capable of doing packet to participate in the S.E.T. on April 14 at ABIA.

Promoted next month presentation, an fyi of SIG's & other groups/club, along with slide of upcoming presentations.

Old Business: Don Dudley: the club will be purchasing soon ~\$5800 worth of equipment for D-Star, but for only \$2000.

Ham of the Month: Jim Greenwood, AB5EK.

Slides and discussion of upcoming events: all listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter, at www.austinhams.org, or at the Yahoo user group. This included the Ham Demo Tent being put up April 5 at the Sunset Valley Farmer's Market, with live coverage by KXAN.

Announcements: Lee Cooper, W5LHC: the club will receive \$25 for putting a HamCom button on our website, and could win \$100 if enough people click it. Mitch London, KD5HCV: selling 12V batteries he got from work for \$10, which is donated to the club.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20pm

Presentation: P25 by Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, and D-Star by Jim Trulove, WB5EMI.

2008 ARRL Field Day T-shirts, pins and other Items are available for delivery now! www.arrl.org/new

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – **and ALL about FUN!**

Field Day Station Locator

2008 Field Day Forms and Rules

Order Field Day t-shirts, pins, supplies

And, MORE resources at www.arrl.org/fieldday



Ham Poetry

Here's the only poem I've ever seen dedicated to the wireless/radio operator aboard ship, composed by Burt Franklin Jenness:

From OCEAN HAUNTS, edited by Burt Franklin Jenness,
Empire Publishing Co., New York, US, © 1934, p. 64.

SPARKS

Like a great magician staging
All his lightning tricks and ruses,
Where the seven seas are raging,
Works the wizard of our cruises;
In his tiny realm of wonder,
In a maze of coils and wire,
From which mimic tempests thunder
And the blue flames spit and fire;
With his ear attuned to crashes
Of the sound waves on the air;
In his world of dots and dashes,
You will find him sitting there
With his head gear strapped on tight,
And his hand upon the key –
Through the watches of the night
Toils this man of mystery.

While we keep the old craft steaming,
With our work-a-day routine,
We must be content with dreaming
Of some distant voice or scene;
But the great shore world is speaking
Day and night in old "Spark's" ear,
And the aeriels are shrieking
Out its pathos and cheer.

How each heart bounds as it catches
Bits of news by wireless,
How we cherish little snatches,
As we quiz old "Sparks" at mess!
Ev'ry ship and port seems nearer,
To a lone sea-going gob,
Ev'ry human tie seems dearer,
When old "Sparks" is on his job.

de Jim KG5SV

Why Waste Money on Portable Antenna Analyzer?

By Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Because, it is PORTABLE. I don't need to try to carry a computer up the tower, or outdoors, while testing and assembling antennas.

The portable Antenna Analyzers such as Autek and MFJ will easily give you any frequency in their range you want. Just turn a knob. Of course, they have a special purpose computer inside, but much handier than a PC.

You can read the digital display to greater accuracy than a graph. Graphing is nice if you want to see a trend, but with use, you can easily dial in a few selected frequencies in a given ham band with the MFJ or Autek, or others, and see the trend.

And it is nice to be able to make a permanent paper record with a pencil and a chart from your portable analyzer read-outs. Later, if you wish you can plot the points into a graph to be filed in your logbook. Then, you can refer to all your antenna information without needing a battery, line cord, monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc., etc.

In actuality, most hams don't need to worry about more than that their antenna is in the band, as the almost universal use of tuners will match it even if its resonance is not in the band, but close.

I think hams are forgetting or never learning skills when they rely on a computer to do everything for them.

Computers DO ease the task of modeling an antenna, and have made possible a relative short process of what used to be a labor intensive or impossible process of mapping antenna performance and fields.

But nothing beats a portable pocket or belt pack instrument to do a quick "reality check" be it on the voltage of your mobile rig power source, or the resonance and match to a new or old antenna. And field strength readings on an actual antenna trump all the models.

In short, while computer programs are nice to have; a ham can expand their understanding and knowledge if they become proficient with the wide variety of stand alone and portable instrumentation available now, at low costs compared to anytime in ham history.

-Stuart
K5KVH

AARC Meeting Info. **Waterloo Icehouse**

8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183

Officers Meeting

April 15th 6pm Waterloo Icehouse

Regular Business Meeting 7:00PM

May 6th - Special Interest Groups Reports. Come talk about your Ham Radio SIG.

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- **May 3rd & June 7th** 9a.m. at The Quarries.
Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$14 fee.

W5YI VEC- **May 17th & June 21st** 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.

2008 Calendar of Events

May 17-18 *Tour De Cure*

San Antonio to Austin bikeride www.tourdecuretexas.org/
SA, Hays/Caldwell and AustinHams cooperate, providing Ham Radio coordinated SAGs and rest stop comms

San Antonio Hams contact- Lee N5NTG

info@sanantoniohams.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

Jun 13-14 *Ham Com* at Plano Center

469-361-2143 www.hamcom.org

May	June	Austin Meetings/Happenings
6	3	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House** 7:00 p.m.
10	14	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
13	10	ARES Training -CTECC 6:30 p.m.
14	11	High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m.
20	17	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m.
17	21	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 1:00 p.m.
26	23	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
27	24	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
28	25	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
May 2008
Austin, TX 78765-4739
PO Box 4739
Austin Amateur Radio Club
AARCOVER