

# AARC COVER

Keeping Austin Wireless for Over 90 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

April 2009

Issue 4-2009

## Hurricane Conference in Austin!

CQ CQ,

As many of you are aware, this year the National Hurricane Conference hosted by the good folks from the National Hurricane Center is being held in Austin Texas. It will be at the Austin Convention Center from April 6th - 10th. As has been noted on this and other email reflectors, the cost to attend is \$300 a person with no provisions for discounts for volunteers. The cost prevents many of us from attending the entire event. But,

The ARRL is one of the sponsors of the event and has made arrangements to have a special Tuesday afternoon sessions to be open and FREE to Hams.

These presentations will be hosted by :

Dennis Dura K2DCD, Manager, Emergency Preparedness & Response ARRL HQ,  
Hurricane Watch Net,  
VoIPWX Net,  
WX4NHC-National Hurricane Center ,

*(Continued on page 4)*

### 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 -
Mon.	7:30 p.m.	STX ARES Net	3.873 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
Over the WWWaves	3
Minutes	5
The Voice of WWV	6
CERT Classes	7

## Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on March 7th, 2009 at the Bethany United Methodist Church:

### Technician Class Licenses Processed

Philip R. Barcelon, KE5ZSI  
Noble A. Hatten, KE5ZSF  
Ji W. Kim, KE5ZSH  
Kevin D. Stout, KE5ZSG

Wyatt C. Bellis, KE5ZSB  
Jared S. Hunter, KE5ZSJ  
Robert W. McReynolds, KE5ZSD

Benton R. Greene, KJ4KEO  
Andrew K. Kennedy/ KE5ZSC  
Peter Z. Schulte, KE5ZSE

### General Class Licenses Processed

Keita C. Bryce, KE5VYA

William H. St. Clair, KE5VXR

### Extra Class License Processed

Christopher J. Kelley, KE5ZEL

### Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Howard Glueck, K5ZUA  
Tom Nevue, W2MN

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK  
Larry Runyon, W5SBE

Joe Makeever, W5HS  
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

### Next ARRL VE Test Session

April 4th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213

May 2nd - Bethany United Methodist Church. Disciple Bldg. Room 213

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

### 3-21-2009

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

#### Extra Class – none

Thomas R. Preston, KE5YUV

Herbert L. Tate, KC5HMC

#### General Class –

Britt W. Hackemack, KE5ZIP

William D. Simpson, KE5ZIT

#### Technician Class (all new) –

Samantha E. Fleming

Michael T. Wilmore

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO

Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Sam Mihalik, KM5MY

Anthony Lanni, AE5JQ Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on April 18<sup>th</sup>  
and May 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hamradioexams@hotmail.com) or visit our web page at <http://texasams.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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90th Anniversary Chair	Alan Russell	KE5DTR	851-1806	<a href="mailto:ke5dtr@arrl.netlcra.org">ke5dtr@arrl.netlcra.org</a>

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**

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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.**

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

**See Jay Hoffman, KA5OST (512) 388-4404 [ka5ost@arrl.net](mailto:ka5ost@arrl.net)**

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### **Over the WWaves...**

A Collection of Various Websites sent in your friendly neighborhood hams...

#### <http://retr0bright.wikispaces.com/>

From Rick Herndon, K5FNI Remember the old computers and how their cases would always yellow to a nasty color that looked like it had been chain smoking 5 packs a day for 25 years? Well, this is a relatively cheap and easy way to clean it up!

From Stuart Rohre, K5KVH Take a look at this incident, where a work crew cleaning up after a fire, think they found a pipe bomb in a ham's house! (They had to be really dumb in that they took it to the nearest fire station themselves, before a bomb squad was called.) Too bad the firehouse, (next door!), had not been observant enough to know a ham lived in the house that burned, and that it was part of his antennas! A simple label on the pipe of your antennas might prevent needless damage and expense of the bomb squad.

#### [http://www.kptm.com/Global/story.asp?S=9911221&nav=menu606\\_24\\_5\\_1](http://www.kptm.com/Global/story.asp?S=9911221&nav=menu606_24_5_1)

IRESC.

This is an opportunity to attend the conference with focus on sessions geared toward amateur radio. Dennis has asked me to let you know of this opportunity and hopes you will be able to attend. The sessions run from 13:30- 17:30 on Tuesday April 7th.

ALSO,

The Austin Amateur Radio Club would also like to invite you to attend our monthly meeting that same evening. Dennis Dura has arranged for him and several of the presenters from the conference to be speakers at the meeting that evening. We will be providing a Texas Style BBQ dinner during the meeting. This is a great opportunity to come and hear a number of great speakers, enjoy some good BBQ and meet members of the club. If you would like to attend but do not want to partake in the BBQ that is okay too.

### Details

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost for dinner: \$12 per person

Non-Members :Cost to attend meeting (no dinner) \$5.00 (help cover cost of facility)

AARC Members: Free for meeting only, Dinner is still \$12 per person

To be able to accurately order the proper amount dinners we will be asking for dinners to be pre-purchased. Details and registration information will be posted on [www.austinhams.org](http://www.austinhams.org)

If you have any questions please email me at [w5lhc@arrl.net](mailto:w5lhc@arrl.net)

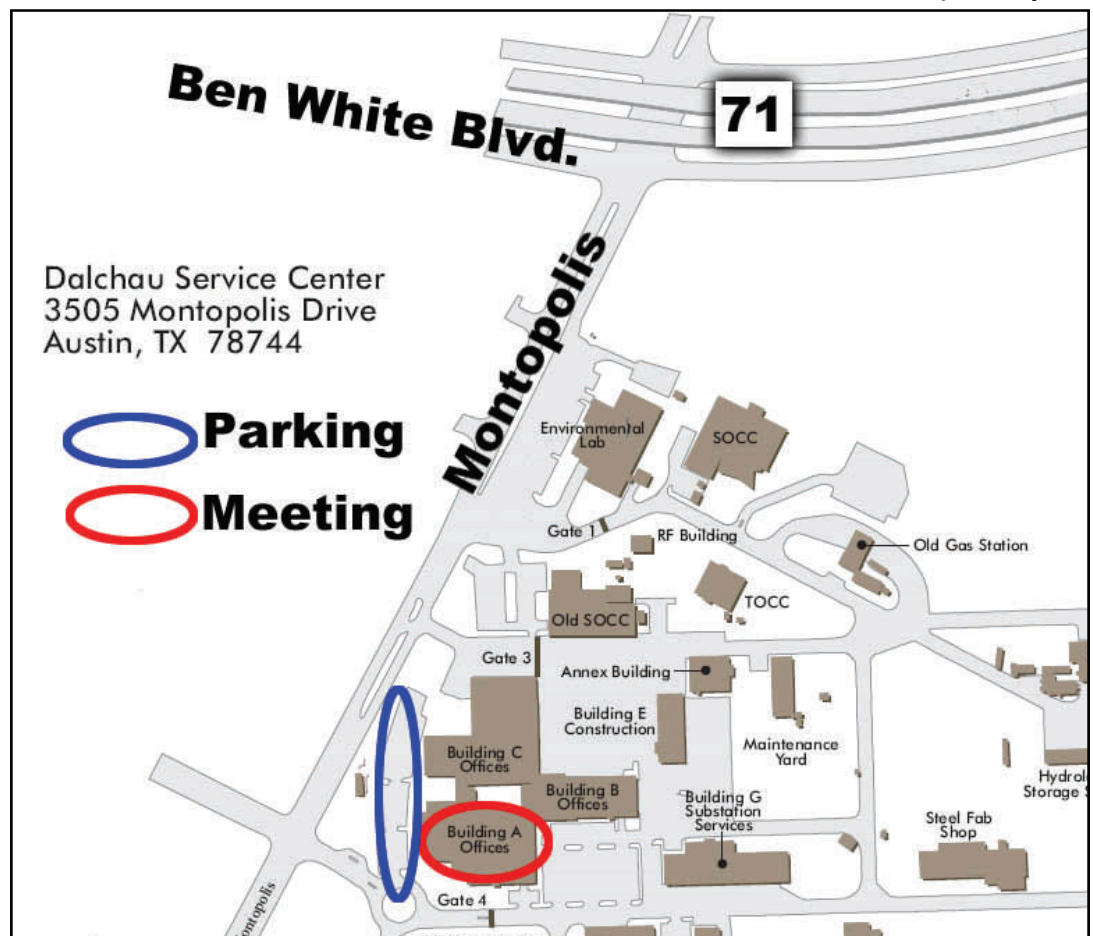
I hope you will be able to come and attend the afternoon session at the Conference and especially look forward to having you join us for dinner and more great sessions that evening.

### Meeting Location

will be at the LCRA facility

Dalchau Service Center  
Building A Room A504/  
A505  
3505 Montopolis Drive  
Austin, TX 78744  
Parking would be in the lot south and lot west of the building

73,  
Lee Cooper, W5LHC  
President, AARC  
For the latest  
information,  
go to  
[www.austinhams.org](http://www.austinhams.org)



Club Minutes

AARC Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2009

**Meeting called to order:** 7:05pm by President Lee Cooper, W5LHC.

The FM transmitter system was not available; but, two display monitors were in use.

**Visitors:** Sue Judson, WD5EOH

**New Members:** Bill & Darla Summerfield, both working on getting their ticket.

**Upcoming Events/Presentation:** Packet stuffing on the 7<sup>th</sup> for the Cap10K at the Austin American-Statesman, which nets the club \$2000, and the race itself on March 29. DEM Homeland Security Conference, March 23-26. National Hurricane Conference, April 6-10. April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm will be a free session geared toward Hams. The club meeting that evening will be held at an LCRA facility in South Austin with a catered BBQ dinner (\$12) and speakers from the conference. All of the presentations for 2009 have been booked. The above items, other upcoming events, and scheduled presentations are listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter, at [www.austinhams.org](http://www.austinhams.org), and on the Yahoo user group.

**Minutes:** last meeting's minutes approved as written in the AARCOVER.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reported the Copeland Fund took a small hit due to the recent Stock Market decline. He also recommended the re-appointment of Joe Canfield, N5HPC, and election of James Brice to the Copeland Fund board. Joe was re-appointed and James was elected.

The proposed 2009 Budget was presented, discussed, and the approved by the club.

**Ham of the Month:** Kees Talen, K5BCQ, for his work selling the disbanded IBM Radio Club's equipment so the money could be donated to area ARES groups.

Paul Harvey (1918-2009) passed away recently. He was not a ham, but a friend of the ham community. An audio clip was played of Harvey praising the ham community as "unsung heroes" in times of emergency.

Howard Deroy, AA5R, won the door prize, which was not available at time of meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:35pm

**Presentation:** "Power Inverters: Their Care & Feeding" OR "Their Capture, Taming, & Training" by Joe Fisher, K5EJL.

### ***Triangular Holes with a Round Drill Bit??!? What the... How the...***

by Curt Goodsen, W4QBU

Editors Note: Curt sent this to me a while back and I have always noticed that I do get a sort of rounded triangular hole when drilling into metals. I just left it as a mystery of the universe. It got annoying though when trying to do some precision type drilling for a round bolt that was a tight fit because of my triangular hole. So here is what Curt had to say.

Only idea I have at the moment is an old hint that a German machinist gave me in Brazil, on how to drill a larger size hole [1/4" and up] in a chassis or panel without it becoming sort of triangle shape:

Drill a couple of pilot holes of about 1/8" in a piece of aluminum [standard procedure anytime].

Then, without using a drill press, perhaps clamping in a vise to hold the piece against a piece of wood for back up, drill enlarge one of the holes with a hand-held drill, using a 1/4 or 3/8" bit. It will probably be at visibly triangular in shape rather than circular. If you hand held the piece rather than clamping [not recommended procedure] it will probably be even more triangular.

Wrap the bit tip in a rag - I have even used a piece of sand paper when a rag wasn't handy - fit it against the 1/8" hole and drill it. See the difference? Don't ask me why, but it works for me. YMMV.

## The Voice of WWV Passes On

Forwarded By Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

The recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has fallen silent. This with word that announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia, who gave WWV its human touch passed away on Thursday, February 19th.

Known in the broadcast world as Don Elliot, Heald had distinguished career that ranged from work at Atlanta Georgia's WSB to his automated and internationally heard WWV broadcasts on shortwave. He was also the voice of the Audichron telephone dial-in Time-Weather- Temperature service and of the Protestant Hour radio show for over 40 years. For nearly five decades Heald narrated the televised Christmas Eve service from Atlanta's Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, where he served as a vestryman, junior warden and senior warden.

Heald was originally from Massachusetts, but came to Atlanta via Lakeland, Florida. He was a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville and began his broadcast career after graduation when he accepted a position at WRUF where remained for three years. In Atlanta he spent much of his spare time devoted to public service work with charities and civic clubs.

A Service of Celebration of Don Elliot Heald's life took place on Tuesday February 24th at the Cathedral of St. Philip. He is survived by his wife Sara Farmer Heald of Atlanta, GA; sons and daughters-in-law David and Deborah of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, Tom and Evelyn Heald and Frank and Mary Heald of Atlanta. Don Elliot Heald was 86.

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## Odds & Ends

Get the Fix...Switch to 406

121.5 and 243 MHz emergency beacons will no longer be monitored by satellite after February 1, 2009 Long time aviation emergency locators on 121.5 and for the military, 243 MHz, are phased out of service. Satellite beacon monitors will now monitor the 406 MHz frequency.

This from the U. S. Coast Guard web page.

-Stuart Rohre

K5KVH

I was looking for some quick test today to make sure a \$1 Dollar Tree "computer headset" combined both audio channels into the one earphone supplied for my front-panel computer earphone jack. I discovered this very nice audiometer software that did much more than I needed. I recommend it for tests if you think something might be wrong with your hearing and you want to do some simple tests BEFORE you take it to the professionals (always recommended).

[http://www.archive.org/details/tucows\\_256588\\_Home\\_Audiometer\\_Hearing\\_Test](http://www.archive.org/details/tucows_256588_Home_Audiometer_Hearing_Test)

Then, I got to thinking that the sound card in a home computer surely would make a nice audio generator for testing more than my ears. That led to finding this signal generator software (freeware)

<http://www.tucows.com/preview/422687>

It provided me with extreme accuracy and lots more, including "pink noise" generation. You can use this with an oscilloscope to test filter frequency cutoff among other things.

If you have a computer around the ham shack or workshop and need a generator for simple tests, this doesn't litter up your registry. You can just execute the program, wherever you keep it on your hard drive or a thumb drive (Gosh, who knows? You might even keep it on <gasp> a floppy disk!). It would make a good addition to a thumb drive arsenal of programs to run tests on computers that come in the door with unknown problems.

Rick Herndon, K5FNI



Hi everyone,

Our 2009 CERT training schedule is now available! You can find training dates and application here: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/disasterready/application.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/disasterready/application.htm). For more information about the City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management CERT program please visit: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/oem/cert.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oem/cert.htm).

For questions please email me at [tiffany.taylor@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:tiffany.taylor@ci.austin.tx.us). Once you submit your application, you will hear back from our office with in a week. If you are not contacted please follow up as mail and faxes do get lost. **We are only offering one CERT training class in 2009 and expect demand to be very high. Preference will be given by application date so apply early!**

In addition, we will be working closely with a new volunteer program called NET Guard. NETGuard volunteers will be required to go through CERT training in addition to other advanced training modules. Participating in NETGuard is open to new and existing CERT members. Read more about NETGuard below.

*The City of Austin has recently received a grant that will allow it to expand its Technology Response Team (TRT) volunteer program. As part of this grant the City will be receiving funding for equipment which will allow the program to expand it's support to include not only the City of Austin but any entity within Hayes, Travis, and Williamson County providing critical infrastructure to the region.*

*In order to participate in the NET Guard program you must have attended the CERT training classes (and NET Guard class) as well as have a up to date background check, and sign a non-disclosure agreement with the City of Austin. The NET Guard class will occur sometime in late April, or early May.*

*After these requirements are met you will be certified in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) as well as the NET Guard program. You will have the opportunity to work on either of the teams during a disaster affecting the region, although if there is a need for the NET Guard program you will be assigned to it first.*

*Please go to the following website: <http://www.netguardaustin.org/netguard> to find out more about the program.*

## **AARC Meeting Info.**

### **Waterloo Icehouse**

**8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183**

#### **Officers Meeting**

**March 21st 6pm Waterloo Icehouse**

**(unless otherwise mentioned)**

#### **Regular Business Meeting**

**Special Meeting Location See Pg 1**

**April 7th - Hurricane Conference Meeting. Special Meeting Location See Pg 1 for details**

### **2008 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

**ARRL VEC- April 4th and May 2nd 9a.m.** at Bethany United Methodist Church. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$14 fee.

**W5YI VEC- April 18 th & May 16th 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.

**\*\*\*\*\*2009 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](http://www.austinhams.org/join)

## **2009 Calendar of Events**

**Apr 4 ARC of Parker County's Weatherford HAMFEST 2009** [www.w5pc.org/index.htm](http://www.w5pc.org/index.htm)

**Apr 6-10 National Hurricane Conference** [www.hurricanemeeting.com/index.asp](http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/index.asp)

**Apr 18 Temple Amateur Radio Club's HamEXPO** [www.beltonhamexpo.org](http://www.beltonhamexpo.org)

**Apr 18-19 MS-150 (BikeMS BP150)** SA Ham volunteer contact- Lee N5NTG [lee@besing.com](mailto:lee@besing.com) AustinHams volunteer contact- Jeff N5MNW@arrl.net

**Apr 25 Red Poppy Bike Ride in Georgetown**

**Apr 25 Arkansas ARRL State Convention**  
Rogers First Church of the Nazarene 4911 W. Pleasant Grove Rd. Rogers, AR

<b>Apr.</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>
7 \$	5	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House* 7:00 p.m.
11	9	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
14	12	ARES Training -CTECC 6:30 p.m.
8	13	High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m.
21	19	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 6:30 p.m.
18	16	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval 1:00 p.m.
27	25	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
28	26	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
29	27	Packet Set-up Lab @ Red Cross* 7:00 p.m.

*\*AARC Business Meeting is at Waterloo Ice House 8600 Burnet  
Come early and grab dinner before the meeting.  
\$ Special Meeting Location, See Pg 1 for details.*

*Return Service Requested*  
**April 2009**  
Austin, TX 78765-4739  
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Austin Amateur Radio Club  
AARCOVER