



# AARC COVER

Keeping Wireless Austin for Over 90 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

December 2010

Christmas Party See Pg. 4

Issue 12-2010

## High Speed Multi Media -MESH 4.0

The day has come. The official 0.4.0 release of HSMM-MESH is now available.

This is a major upgrade from previous versions, and it is incompatible with older firmware so the upgrade is required - but you will find that it is certainly worth the trouble. Here is an overview of the new features you will find:

- upgraded to OLSR version 0.6.0
- added a Mesh Status page which shows current and previous neighbors, remote nodes, and their advertised services
- available services (such as web, ftp, video, etc.) can now be advertised
- advertised services can appear as a clickable link where appropriate
- a new DMZ mode was added to get around the trouble that some services have with NAT
- a help page is now integrated into the node web interface
- the firmware can now be incrementally patched instead of having to do a full install



Go to <http://hsmm-mesh.org/> to get the firmware and new usage instructions.

73  
ad5oo

### 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	11:00 a.m.	Lunch, Pokey Joe's 183&Great Hills	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 November 6th at Bethany United Methodist Church :

### Technician Class Licenses Processed

Jared L. Gergen, KF5IWQ  
Ramon L. Rivera, KF5IWR

Chester C. Green III, KF5IWO  
Jacquelyn A. Zehner, KF5IWS

David W. McNiel, KF5IWN

### General Class License Processed

George D. Martin, KF5IWP

### Extra Class License Processed

Jeffrey K. Whisnant, AE5VA

### Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE  
Joe Jelinski, KC2KG

Curt Goodson, W4QBU  
Joe Makeever, W5HS

Gene Hinkle, K5PA  
Chris Salles, NK5U

### Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

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

January 8th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS  
Joe



### 11-20-2010

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our November 20<sup>th</sup> session:

#### Extra Class –

Stefan Brunner, KF5IEB

#### General Class –

Jay M. Cooper, KD5UHZ

Zachary A. Whitaker, KF5HCE

#### Technician Class (all new) –

Steve A. Aenthaneay  
James H. Staff

Jason E. Hanks  
Joe B. Taylor

Michael K. May

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW  
Hugh Brown, NT5O  
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Anthony Lanni, AE5JQ  
Tony Lyon, KJ5XF  
Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on December 18<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> in room 118 of Fleck Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University. All sessions are walk-in and the exam fee is \$14.

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	Paul Gilbert	KE5ZW		president@austinhams.org
Vice President	Mike Brumleve	KC8VSE	513-850-8585	vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST	388-4404	treasurer@austinhams.org
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Editor, AARCOVER	Mitch London	KD5HCV	326-3096	AARCover@austinhams.org
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	255-3932	k5kvh@arrl.net
ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord.	Don Dudley	AC5YK		ac5yk@arrl.net
TC ARES PIO	Steven Polunsky	W5SMP		tcares-pio@gmail.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
146.940 107.2 PL Tone	No	Most popular, WX, Swapnet & Newline
224.800	No	
444.100	No	
146.480/+1.0	No	2m D-Star Repeater [W5KA C]
1293.200/-20	No	23cm D-Star Repeater[W5KA A]
1248.200	No	23cm D-Star DD (data, simplex/reversible) [W5KA A]



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.

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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 .**

## Big Bend Ultra Marathon Looking for Amateur Radio Volunteers

**WHAT:** 2011 Big Bend Ultra Run  
**WHERE:** Big Bend National Park  
**WHEN:** Sunday, 1/16/2011 (MLK Weekend)  
**WEB SITE:** <http://www.sahams.org/alamosag/2011BB50-About.html>  
**HOW TO JOIN:** <http://www.sahams.org/alamosag/2011BB50-Join.html>



### ABOUT THE 2011 BIG BEND 50 ULTRA RUN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

\* What is the Big Bend Ultra Run Big Bend National Park?

Also known as the Big Bend 50, or BB50 for short, this is a trail run through the desert of Big Bend National Park. Originally it started as a 50 mile run, then got shortened to 50K and 25K races. This year they have added a 10K run. The last time the race was held was 2007 so after a 3 year hiatus the run returns. See the "Who Says Deserts Are Hot and Dry?" story in the Feb. 2007 issue of the AARO newsletter ([http://www.sahams.org/alamosag/2011BB50-AARO\\_Newsletter\\_Feb\\_2007.pdf](http://www.sahams.org/alamosag/2011BB50-AARO_Newsletter_Feb_2007.pdf)).

(Continued on page 8)

# \*You're Invited\*

All are WELCOME – You need not be a club member!

## AARC Christmas Party

Dec 7, 2010 – 6:00 PM

Cannoli Joe's Gourmet Italian Feast

4715 US Hwy 290W ·

Austin, TX 78745

- \* Live Entertainment from Austin Harmony
- \* Door Prizes
- \* HOTY (Ham of the Year) Award Presentation
- \* Door Prizes
- \* Great Food – Italian Gourmet Buffet
- \* Door Prizes
- \* QLF (left foot) Morse Code Contest
- ♦ Cash Bar

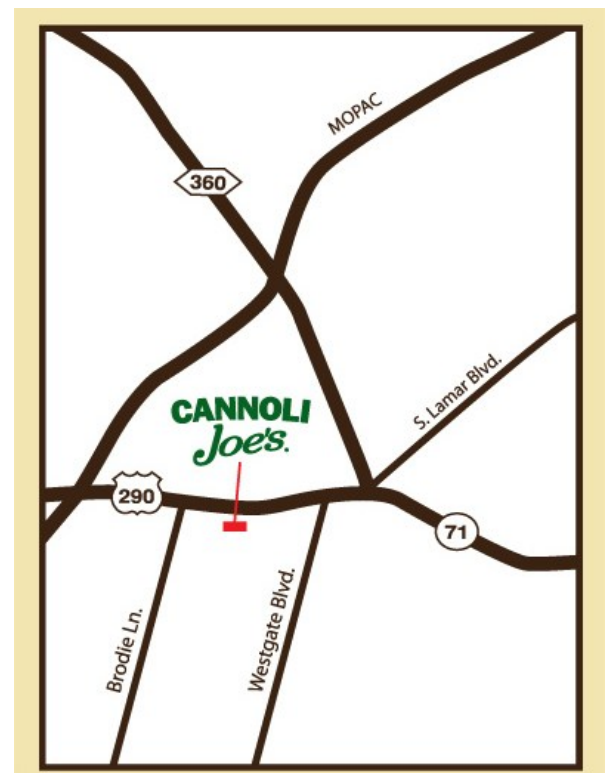
**GRAND PRIZE – TYT Dual  
Band Talkie with  
Programming Software/  
Cable \$160 Value**

(From Austin Amateur Radio Supply)

\$20 per person includes: All you care to eat, non-alcoholic beverage, dessert, parking, entertainment....

Space is limited – buy your tickets: RSVP by 12/2/2010 PLEASE

- \* Online at [www.austinhams.org](http://www.austinhams.org)
- \* By Mail: send \$20/person to AARC, PO Box 4739, Austin, TX 78765
- \* In Person: See Jay, KA5OST, AARC Treasurer at a meeting or event.



## AARC Meeting Minutes: November 2, 2010

**Meeting called to order:** 7:02pm by President Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW.

Meeting started with a welcome to all and quick look at the agenda.

We had 39 in attendance, 2 visitors, and 2 new members. No upgrades reported.

Treasurer Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, reported club's bank account totals, club just bought a dongle, and club will be buying a duplexer for the 440 D-Star repeater.

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

Editor Mitch London, KD5HCV, needs articles. Please send anything you have.

Tech Committee has done an inventory of the club's equipment at the Red Cross.

President Paul reported the new .94 repeater from Midland Radio was received; and an area hospital is donating a 440 D-Star module.

ARES reported the ARES/MARS/RACES SET on Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> will be using a lot of digital modes, including WinLink. Please prepare early if participating.

Vice-President Mike Brumleve, KC8VSE, talked about a recent acquisition of a tower and some equipment, possibility of another donation of a tower and equipment, and promoted a future presentation by a person involved with communications for the ISS.

**Ham of the Month:** no one nominated for this month.

**Door Prize:** Roger Wines, W5WIA, won a throw-down voltmeter.

Jay talked about the ARES 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Patch on sale thru ARRL. They are \$4.99 each, on sale for a limited time, and approved for Texas and Oklahoma only. He also talked about the magnetic flags that TAREF has for sale at \$2 each.

**Space Wx:** Lew Thompson, W5IFQ, reported things as relatively quiet and staying that way for the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> SET; however, a filament may be on its way. He also reported some exciting news. Central Texas may get an Ionosonde, which helps calculate MUF. Ours would probably be a model D2565 and use an inverted Delta Antenna.

**Old Business:** By-Laws Committee has met. Their research showed that the By-Laws were last passed in 2007. After a review, they see some edits to be made. For Standard Operating Procedures, they recommended we can and should have a separate document. They reminded the membership that the club is in good standing with the IRS. A motion passed to allow the By-Laws Committee to continue and report again in January. The Christmas Party is at Cannoli Joe's off Ben White. There will be door prizes, live singing, and the QLF Contest (with trophy, so practice "ben's best bent wire"), and more.

**Items for the good of the Club:** Communication volunteers are needed for the Big Bend 50 Ultra Marathon to be run in Big Bend National Park. It has a 50K, 25K, and 10K race. Be sure to check out items, other upcoming events, and scheduled presentations that are listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter, at [www.austinhams.org](http://www.austinhams.org), and on the Yahoo user group.

There was a five minute recess prior to the elections.

**Elections:** Mitch and Mike Brumleve were nominated for president. Mike declined. Mitch London, KD5HCV, self nominated for president and was elected. Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ, self nominated for vice-president and was elected. Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, self nominated for treasurer and was elected. Alan Russell, KE5DTR, self nominated for secretary and was elected.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:19pm

**Presentation:** no presentation for this month due to elections.



## Hints & Kinks: Sealing PL-259 UHF Plugs and SO-239 UHF Connectors

Forwarded by Pete Jordahl, K5GM

Don Dorward, VA3DDN, of Pickering, Ontario, sent us this idea for seals for PL-259/SO-239 connectors . Contact Don via e-mail for more information.

The popular and low-cost PL-259 UHF plug and its mating SO-239 UHF connector were never designed to be waterproof. In spite of this, many of us find ourselves having to use these connectors out-of-doors for an antenna or cable connection and then have the experience of trying to apply some form of weatherproofing.

If this is not done, and done well, then intermittent connections soon result, especially with wet freezing and thawing conditions, resulting in moisture and corrosion getting into the connectors and even into the coax itself.

Place the O-ring(s) at the base of the SO-239 barrel and use the PL-259 coupling ring to compress them into a weather-tight seal.

One well-known solution is to use a bondable rubber tape wrapping. That often seems to work using one of the soft, moldable, stretchable tapes that are available for the purpose. In practice, I have found that the hardest area to seal effectively using this method is the area from the rim of the male PL-259 shell to the mating SO-239 socket face. This is especially true when the SO-239 socket is located partially inside the cowl of the antenna mount (such as the Solarcon/Antron vertical or other similar types) and it is impossible to get sealing tape up into this tight location.

To overcome this problem, simply slip as many tight fitting O-ring(s) over the SO-239 barrel as needed to fill the space between the base of the SO-239 and the coupling ring. Lubricate the O-rings with a generous amount of silicone grease, often sold in the automotive part stores as "dielectric tune-up grease."

Important: Check that when the mating PL-259 plug is installed and tightened down, the outer rim of the PL-259 shell butts up against and slightly compresses the "O"-ring(s). The "O"-rings I used were ones I had on hand, about 9/16 inch ID x 0.10 inch thick. I am sure anything that's a snug fit will work. Of course, you will still need to wrap the lower half of the PL-259 shell and the spot where the coax exits the connector with tape to seal that part.

Pete Jordahl, K5GM  
k5gm@amsat.org

## Club Dues for 2011 are Due!

Please send your payment of \$20 for individuals or \$30 for family (hams in same household) Be sure include any change of contact/license info.

You can pay online here - <http://www.austinhams.org/join.htm>

Print form to mail can be found at

[http://www.austinhams.org/Docs/AARC\\_ARRL\\_Membership\\_Form\\_%202008.pdf](http://www.austinhams.org/Docs/AARC_ARRL_Membership_Form_%202008.pdf)

And mail to:  
The Austin Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 4739  
Austin, TX  
78765-4739



Attention all AARC members. We are approaching the end of another year. This means that it is almost time to do an inventory of all club property. As the newly appointed Quartermaster, I am asking all members that have club equipment or property loaned or borrowed to contact me so we can account for all items. Contact information: email ka5fzu@arrl.net (preferred) or cell (512) 923-7900.

**Just a reminder to secure or HIDE equipment in your vehicle.**

A local ham just had his truck lock punched out and two notebook PC's taken.

While there they also took a firearm. If the PCs/radios were covered the break-in may not have happened.

Also please remember that **logging your equipment and serial numbers**

helps get them back and helps law enforcement solve crimes and put puzzle pieces together.

**Marking your equipment** helps a great deal as well. You should even mark things that you don't expect back.

A DL number on an ice chest, MagLite, or camera can be more helpful in solving the crimes than most people realize.



(Continued from page 3) Big Bend Ultra

The run is organized by Carroll Voss, of Fleet Feet Sports (<http://www.fleetfeetsanantonio.com/index.php>) in San Antonio and benefits Friends of Big Bend National Park (<http://www.bigbendfriends.org/>).

What we do is provide communications for the event. Out in these wilds there are no cell phones, radio is the first and last means of communications. This is a legendary Texas amateur radio event! The communications support is provided by two groups, amateur radio operators from the San Antonio/Central Texas area and the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club (BBARC) (<http://www.bigbendarc.com/>). The organization of the San Antonio/Central Texas hams has been organized by Charlie Land (KC5NKK). This year Charlie has asked me Milton Johnson (N5HMJ) to assist. The web site <http://www.sahams.org/alamosag/2011BB50-About.html> is part of that effort.

\* Sounds ambitious, how many volunteers will be required?

Right now it look like we will be covering about 22 stations. These stations include start/finish line, transportation vehicles, race official shadows, base camp and aid/break points.

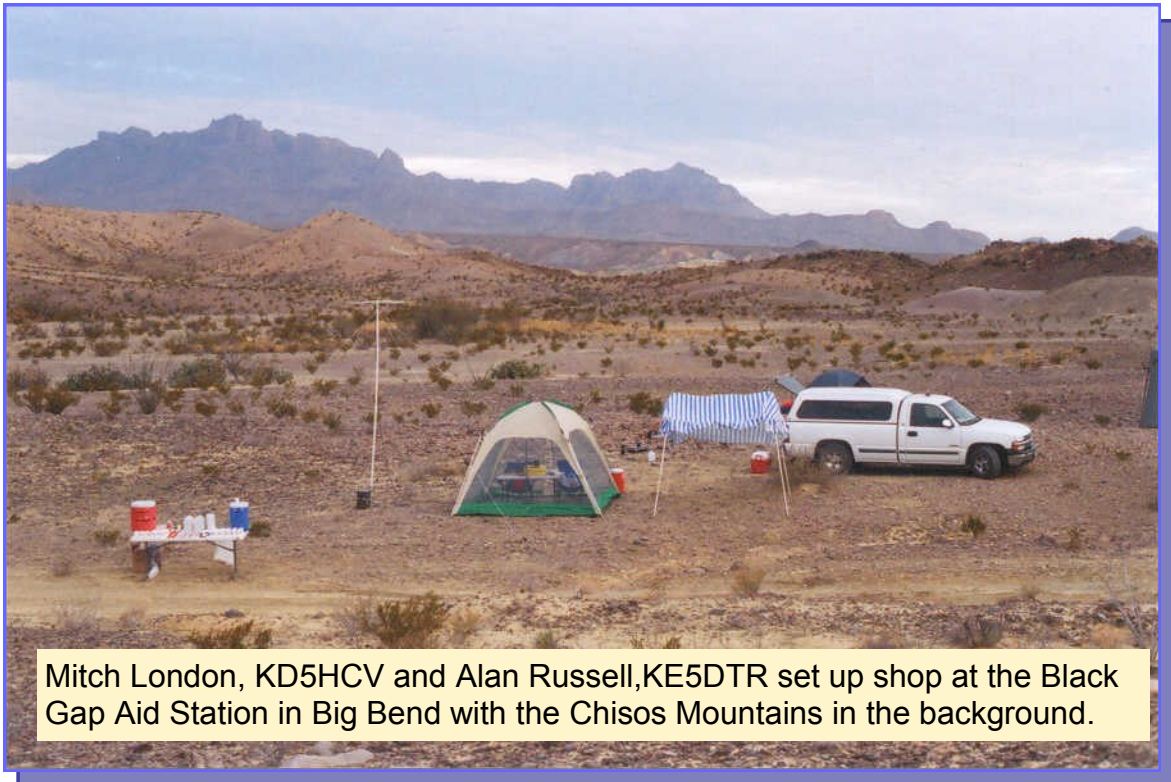
\* It's pretty remote, what's required?

**RADIO EQUIPMENT:**

VHF mobile units with ~50 watts output are the minimum requirement. HTs cannot be counted on. A good antenna on a mast for non-mobile stations is also pretty much required. For mobile units a good mag mount is required. You will also need to supply your own power (think batteries, generators, etc.).

**TRANSPORTATION:**

All volunteers will have to furnish their own transportation to Big Bend, approximately 400 miles from San Antonio. Depending on your assignment and desire you may be able to car pool with other volunteers. Volunteers assigned to aid stations located on the trail have the option of camping out at the aid station the night before the run. The rough terrain requires having a high clearance vehicle.



Mitch London, KD5HCV and Alan Russell, KE5DTR set up shop at the Black Gap Aid Station in Big Bend with the Chisos Mountains in the background.

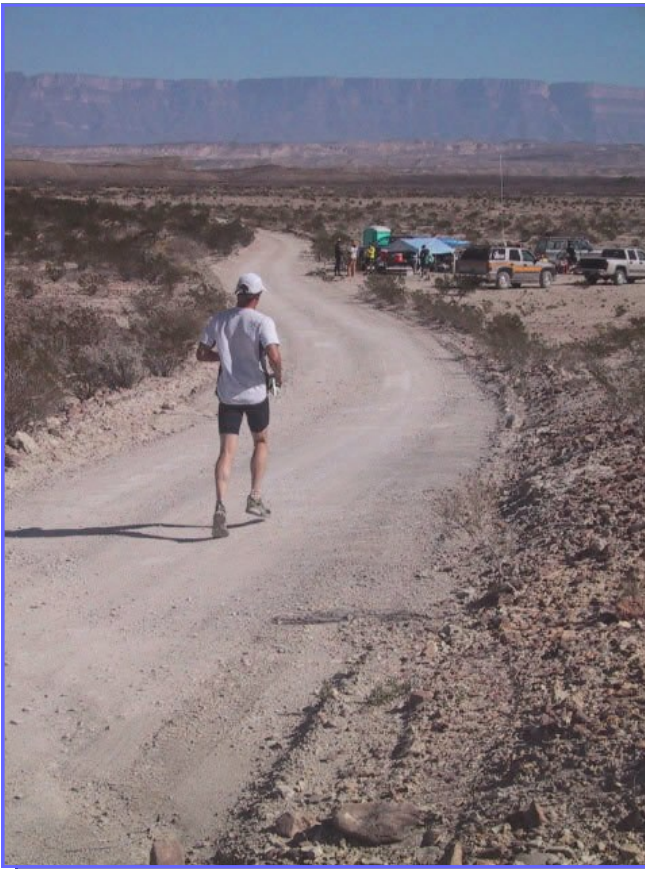
**SHELTER:** You really need to furnish your own. Forms of shelter that have been used range from tents to recreational vehicles. Most volunteers stay at the Rio Grande Village campgrounds. The RGV campgrounds have multiple choices for accommodations as detailed below under "PARK ENTRY AND CAMPING FEES". Remember that this is January and the weather can vary from hot and dry to freezing and very wet. Be prepared is the motto!

**FOOD AND WATER:** A couple of community meals are provided at the base camp (the Rio Grande Village campground). Beyond that you provide your own food and water. Remember - this is desert country - have adequate containers to take water with you wherever you go.

**PARK ENTRY AND CAMPING FEES:**

We realize that all volunteers will incur substantial costs to travel this far. The Amateur Radio operators do have one event to raise money to help defray some of the costs. On Saturday night Charlie Land puts on a pre-race dinner. The runners buy their dinner and it is free to volunteers (radio operators and others) and the profits from that dinner are

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8) Big Bend Ultra

divided among the Amateur Radio operators that help prepare and/or server the dinner. In the past operators have designated their shares for donation to the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club (which incurs some expenses to get repeaters set up for us) or to the friends of Big Bend Park (the non-profit group that raises money for park improvements), but there is also a choice to use it to defray a portion of your travel costs. This year we'd like to reimburse the park entrance fees for radio operators, and let those helping with the meal decide individually what to do with the rest. We could see as much as \$1000 total profit if the weather is good and all of the runners who have reserved a meal show up. But you know how that can go. So please let us know if you can help with the meal and wish for good weather.

1) **Park Entry Fees:** This year the park is charging an entry fee for volunteers of \$20/vehicle for a seven day pass. You pay at any park entrance station or visitor center (covers all passenger in the vehicle). If you have a valid National Park Pass it should cover this fee.

2) **Camping Fees:** "Tent Camping" at Rio Grande Village Campgrounds has no charge for volunteers.

3) **RV Choice 1:** Rio Grande Village RV Campground ([http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv\\_hookups.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv_hookups.htm))

-This is the ONLY campground with hookups in the park. It is a concession operated trailer park.

-25 sites. 20 sites are available for reservation, 5 are held for first come, first serve campers.

-Register at the Rio Grande Village Store/Service Station.

-Although there is no size restriction, periodically a few sites may not be available for a 40' or longer RV due to the size of the parking lot and orientation of the spaces, which may prevent traffic from passing between two 40' rigs.

-There are no restrooms thus your vehicle must be equipped with water and electrical hookups as well as a three inch sewer connection.

-Register at the store. The cost is currently \$29 (double) with a \$3 additional per person charge.

Make your reservation via the phone number at [http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv\\_hookups.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv_hookups.htm)

4) **RV Choice 2:** Rio Grande Village Campground ([http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv\\_campground.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv_campground.htm))

-This is your typical campground for "vehicle camping".

-You get a paved pad, water, picnic table & grill. Some have "overhead shelters".

-If your RV, pop-up camper, etc. will fit on the pad you can use it.

-No hookups.

-\$14 per night (\$7 per night for bearers of applicable passes).

-You make your reservation via the link/phone number at

[http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv\\_campground.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/rgv_campground.htm)

5) **Back Country Camping:**

-Backcountry-use permits - Big Bend offers a variety of primitive camping and backpacking options.

-A backcountry use permit is required and can be obtained in person at park visitor centers up to 24 hours in advance of the trip.

-The permit may be issued for up to 14 consecutive nights in the backcountry.

-See regulations and safety information for required information regarding backcountry use.

-Permit Fee - A backcountry use fee of \$10.00 per permit will be charged for all overnight use, with all revenue being used for backcountry-related projects.

\* OK, I am stoked! What do I do to become a member of The 2011 BB50 Communications Team?

Complete information on how to join can be found at <http://www.sahams.org/alamosag/2011BB50-Join.html>

Thanks,  
Milton - N5HMJ

## **AARC Meeting Info.**

**Waterloo Icehouse**  
8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183

### **Business Meeting 7pm**

**December 7** - \*\*\*No Meeting\*\*\*...instead, it is party time! See page 4 for details on this years Christmas party! Buy tickets today!

### **Officers Meeting 7 pm**

**December 21- Waterloo Ice House**

## **2010 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

ARRL VEC– **December 4th & January 8th** 9a.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$15 fee.

W5YI VEC- **December 18th & January 15th** 2p.m. in room 106, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184) for more info.

<http://texasparadise.com/w5yi-austin>

## **2010/2011 Calendar of Events**

**Dec 7 AARC Christmas Party** ~7PM-10PM – See Page 4 for details.

**Dec 12 Decker Challenge/Brown Santa 5K** <http://decker.austinrunners.org/>  
Jim@K5KTF.com  
[www.k5ktf.com/decker2010/](http://www.k5ktf.com/decker2010/)

**\*\*\*2011\*\*\*** [www.AustinHams.org](http://www.AustinHams.org)

**Jan 16 Big Bend Ultra Run**  
Big Bend National Park  
<http://sanantoniohams.org/alamosag/2011BB50-About.html>  
See Page 3 for details

**Feb 12 WCARC Hamfest**  
[www.wcarc.com](http://www.wcarc.com)



## **Upcoming Meetings...**

<b>Dec.</b>	<b>Jan.</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Address</b>
7**	4	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
11	8	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
21	18	HSMM/Packet SIG at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
18	15	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:00 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
14	11	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
28	25	ARES Training -CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd.
27	24	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:15 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
28	25	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
23	27	CERT Meeting CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd.

\*AARC Business Meeting is at Waterloo Ice House Come early and grab dinner before the meeting.

\*\* Holiday Party! Details announced at the next meeting!