

AARC OVER

Keeping Austin Wireless for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

February 2011

Happy Valentines Day

Issue 2-2011

Another D-Star Repeater Added to the Lineup

From the Austin Swapnet Newsletter

By Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW

Thanks to Paul Gilbert KE5ZW and Jim Trulove WB5EMI (and I'm sure at least a half-dozen others), the Austin D-star repeater is now fully populated.

The newest edition is the 440 module on 440.650.

Repeater Information:

- * The repeater call is W5KA (Full D-Star Stack, A, B, and C-modules, plus A-DD)
- * The 2m repeater output frequency is 146.480 MHz (+1 MHz split)
- * The 440 repeater output frequency is 440.650 MHz (+5 MHz split)
- * The 23cm repeater output frequency is 1293.100 MHz (-20 MHz split)
- * The 23cm DD module frequency is 1248.200 MHz (Half-duplex Data)

W5KA Registration: <https://w5ka.dstargateway.org/Dstar.do>

Central Texas DSTAR Group : DARN-CTX.yahogroups.com

DSTAR Digital Group : dstar_digital.yahogroups.com For additional information see

www.austinhams.org/dstar.htm Don Dudley – AC5YK District 7 DEC

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 January 8th at Bethany United Methodist Church :

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Larry E. Cooper, KF5JLH
Aaron W. Zwahr, KF5JLF

Mark A. Davis, KF5JLG

John M. White, KF5JLE

General Class Licenses Processed

Michael E. Butterfield, KF5JLK
Kevin L. Stotz, KF5JLI

Andrew S. Howell, KF5JLJ

Leonard W. Leslie, KF5ELB

Extra Class License Processed

James C. Ramirez, AE5VU

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE
Joe Jelinski, KC2KG

Howard Glueck, K5ZUA
Joe Makeever, W5HS

Larry Gunter, WB5BEK
Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

February 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213

March 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

1-15-2011



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

Extra Class –

General Class –

David K. Troxell, KF5JJF
Mark W. Southwell, KE5ABE

Technician Class (none) –

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW
Bud Blackburn, KC5IAJ
Hugh Brown, NT5O

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Anthony Lanni, AE5JQ
Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on February 19th
and March 19th 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>

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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	No	
146.880	Yes	General
146.940 107.2 PL Tone	No	Most popular, WX, Swapnet & Newline
224.800	No	
444.100	No	
444.650 +5	No	70cm D-Star Repeater [W5KA]
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 .

Capital 10K Packet Stuffing Slated for February 26th

Here's a heads-up for the annual fundraiser for the AARC Capitol 10K Packet Stuffing Party 2011.

The Stuffing Party is scheduled for Saturday February 26 at the AAS Main Office. 8AM-6PM 8AM-1PM, noon -1PM Pizza Lunch, 12noon-6PM shifts, snacks, Genie Muscle Massager and usual antics are anticipated. ;-)

The Capitol 10K Run will be Sunday March 27.

I will be sending out a more detailed and wider distribution note in early January.

Please RSVP, mark your calendars for these events and get ready for a great time!

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV

What is a LID?

Forwarded by Rick Herndon, K5FNI

A fairly new operator asked me about calling someone a LID/lid. I just knew it first as a CW abbreviation that meant "poor operator".

But then he asked me what L I D stood for. I was flummoxed, so I did a little research. Here is what I found that sounded good to my ole ears:

==

K9STH

09-26-2010, 11:53 AM

Going back to the telegraphy days, some of the less experienced operators, as well as a number of the relatively poor operators, would place a tobacco can (i.e. "Prince Albert" brand) on their "sounder". This would then mechanically amplify the "clicks" from the sounder. It is possible to use the lid of the can as a volume control to vary the intensity of the sound.

Those operators who used the tobacco can amplifiers were not considered good operators by those who did not use any means of amplifying the sound. Eventually the "tobacco can lid" operators got shortened to just "lids". This, in turn, carried over into describing a poor operator whether or not he/she actually used a tobacco can.

The term "ham" is generally traced back to the early days of the theater where poor actors and/or actors who "over acted" their parts, were called "ham actors". As far as I can tell, the origins of "ham actor" have been lost to history.

During the early days of wireless telegraphy, commercial and amateur communications basically shared the same wavelengths. Because of this, there was friction between the commercial operators and the amateur operators. The commercial operators, taking their cue from the theater, started calling the amateur operators "ham operators".

For some reason, many of the amateur operators took being called "ham operators" a badge of honor rather than the "put down" which was intended by the commercial operators.

This is akin to the British calling the American Colonists "Yankees".

The term was a "take off" of the Dutch word which, when loosely translated, meant "country bumpkin". The Colonists took the name as a badge of honor rather than the insult which was intended.

Unfortunately, the term "ham radio operator" has been blemished by the illegal "CB" operator and by those "freeband" operators. Many of those people, trying to gain some recognition, started calling themselves "ham radio operators". The result is that, to the "unwashed masses", the term "ham radio operator" has become attached to anyone involved in any kind of personal communications rather than to licensed amateur radio operators. Whenever there is RFI, TVI, etc., it is too easy to blame that "ham operator" down the street no matter if the person is actually a licensed amateur radio operator.

In fact, the number of RFI, TVI, etc., problems that can be attributed to those illegally operating exceeds the problems caused by legitimate amateur radio operators by a wide margin. However, to the masses, "ham radio operator" is not confined to licensed amateur radio operators.

Because of the stigma which has become attached, by the general public, to the term "ham radio operator", I never refer to myself as a "ham radio operator". Every one of the licenses that I have received over the 51 years that I have been licensed concerning amateur radio operation states "Amateur Radio" on the form and not "ham radio". Therefore, I state myself as being an "amateur radio operator" whenever I need to describe my operations.

Glen, K9STH

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This is from a conversation at

<http://forums.qrz.com/archive/index.php/t-260058.html>

73,

Rick Herndon
K5FNI



The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Membership Form for the year ending December 31, 20____

Application for: (check applicable box and enclose payment)

AARC	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (all with same mailing address)	\$30	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student rate (thru 12 th grade, no mail)	\$ 5	_____
ARRL	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual ARRL (new or renewal)	\$39	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior ARRL (new or renewal)	\$36	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family member ARRL(at same address) - \$Sea x _____ =		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> First time ARRL discount	-\$15	_____
	Total Enclosed		_____

Mail this form with payment to:

AARC – P O Box 4739 – Austin, TX 78765-4739

Check One: New member Renew membership
 Information change

ARRL member **Y N** License class **E A G T+ T N** Year first licensed _____

Call sign _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mail Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Hm Ph _____ Cel Ph _____ Wk Ph _____

Pager # _____ e-mail _____

Please list additional family members here and check the family member box above.

2nd Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem **Y N**

3rd Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem **Y N**

4th Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem **Y N**

I/WE have interest in the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Working Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Transmitter Hunts
<input type="checkbox"/> Talking on 2 mtrs	<input type="checkbox"/> DXing	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Holding Office
<input type="checkbox"/> Presenting programs	<input type="checkbox"/> CW	<input type="checkbox"/> Net Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Comm's
<input type="checkbox"/> Holding ARRL office	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Working w/Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Others _____			

----- (for office use only) -----

Rcvd ___/___/___ Amt \$ _____ Ck ___ Cash ___ Dep ___ Post ___

JMH 20100803



It's the New Year!

Don't forget to sign up Today!

Fill it in, cut it out send it in....or go online!

www.austinhams.com/join.htm

Over the WWWaves...

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

http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2011/01/how-to_simple_coin_cell_battery_hol.html

A quick coin cell battery holder for experimentation.

Rick Herndon, K5FNI

<http://www.findmespot.com/en/>

Find a hiker product that uses smart phone and GPS.

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Here's a nice ham experimenter project:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Build-a-ResistorCapacitor-Selection-Box/>

And one of the comments points to a supplier of small parts.

<http://www.smallbearelec.com/>

Rick Herndon, K5FNI

Club Minutes

AARC Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2011

Meeting called to order: 7:06pm by President Mitch London, KD5HCV.

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

We had 46 in attendance, 4 visitors, and 3 new members. No upgrades reported.

Minutes: November's minutes approved as written in AARCOVER.

Upcoming Events: Big Bend 50, Cap10K Packet Stuffing, LZ Class, SkyWarn, and various hamfests. Be sure to check out a YouTube video from the Christmas Party along with these items, other upcoming events, and scheduled presentations that are listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter, at www.austinhams.org, and on the Yahoo user group.

Announcements: Copeland Fund Scholarship deadline is Jan. 31st; 70cm D-Star module is here and being prepped; the .94 is going to be swapped out with something better; the .78 is back on the air and for now located in North Austin; and over 70 attended the Christmas Party with these winners: John Stratton, N5AUS (HOTY), Lew Thompson, W5IFQ (QLF), Alan Russell, KE5DTR (Tabletop Decoration), and Lynn Jalinsky, AG4IU (Grand Prize). John Stratton talked about the ham related legislation to be pushed in the upcoming legislative session, so please watch for and respond to emails regarding it. It stops HOAs from prohibiting ham radio antenna towers, generators, solar panels, and flag poles. John also gave insight into how the process works and our part in it.

REPORTS

President: Mitch had no report, but noted it took longer to do the meeting's PowerPoint presentation than to do the newsletter, so now has more appreciation of past presidents.

Vice-President: Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ, had no report but wished everyone a "Happy New Year".

Treasurer: Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, reported totals for the club's bank accounts (along with income/expenses), funds, and membership (now at 251). TAREF is still selling the ARRL approved 75th Anniversary ARES Patch.

Editor: Mitch had hardcopies of the newsletter for handout. He gave examples of stories, articles, or anything you can send because he needs anything you have.

Tech Committee: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reminded us we are a 501(c)3, and reported the cause of the .94s occasional repetitive IDing problem and what not to do in response.

ARES: reported they are looking for new or newer net control operators. The more operators we have, the better. The scripts they follow are on the ARES website.

Others: The By-Laws Committee is still on it and working to make sure that they spell out the club trustee portions properly.

Space Wx: Lew Thompson, W5IFQ, reported this solar cycle is still coming up but being more consistent; there is a sunspot that may throw flares; and the forecast is quiet then unstable over next couple of days. He also recapped move of an Ionosonde to Austin.

Old Business: none discussed this time.

New Business: Copeland Fund had one elected and one appointed position expiring. A motion was made and passed to keep the leaving persons in those positions. The club's only fund raising event, the Cap10K Packet Stuffing, is Feb. 26th, please sign up to work.

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

Bob Morgan, WB5AOH, had a "show & tell" item. It was a 3-band switcher built from an article in the December 2010 QST.

Door Prize: Marcus Gellner, W5MRG, won a calendar; and Glenn Welch won a Midland Wx Radio.

Stuart had a late reminder that the QCWC meets every 3rd Saturday.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:08pm

Presentation: "County Hunting" by Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL; and "Fundamentals of Antennas & Propagation" by Barry A. Boothe, W9UCW.

XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



“What’s wrong with ‘acid-core’ solder?”

Austin Hams Help in Big Bend 50 Ultra Marathon

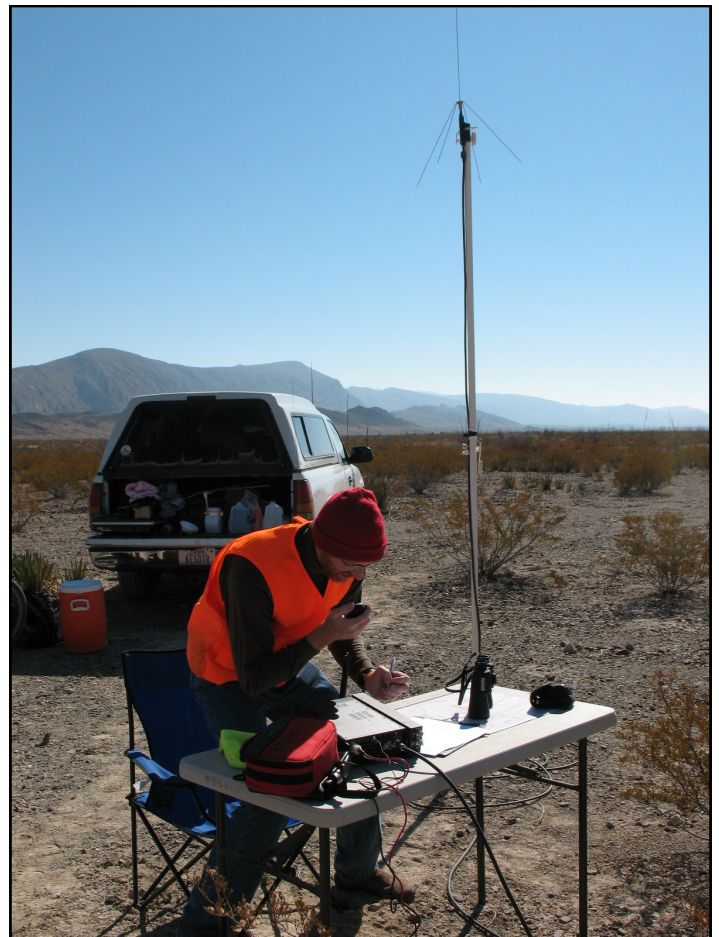
By Mitch London

The Big Bend 50 Ultra Marathon was brought back after a 2 year hiatus by popular demand and it took off in a big way! Selling out both the 50 and 25K races the only remaining spots were in the 10K race. Over 200 runners made their way to Big Bend where they laced up their running shoes and prepared for an experience like no other, as the Big Bend 50 is the only marathon allowed in a National Park. Hams from Austin, San Antonio and other places converged on Big Bend to help provide communications for the race, since there is no cell phone service whatsoever in most of Big Bend, ham radio was the best choice for reliable communications.

Happily, no runners were lost during the race even though one overslept and started 45 minutes later than everyone else. A great time was had by all and the race proceeds benefitted Friends of Big Bend National Park.



Runners stop for a little refreshment while park ranger stands by to give medical help if needed.



Alan Russell, KE5DTR manning the station at the 19 mile point along the 50K route.

AARC Meeting Info.

Waterloo Icehouse

8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183

Business Meeting 7pm

February 1st - Topic TBD in the next few days...stay tuned!

Officers Meeting 7 pm

February 15th - Waterloo Ice House

2011 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- February 5th & March 5th 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- February 19th & March 19th 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>

2011 Calendar of Events

Feb 12 WCARC Hamfest Georgetown Community Center
<http://wcarc.com/wcarc.com/swapfest.html>

Feb 12 13th Annual MSET/ PHI STAT Air Landing Zone (LZ) Safety Training Class 15201 Burnet Rd
www.mset-tx.org/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=55

Feb 19 21st Annual Lou Withrow SKYWARN Austin/ South Central Texas Severe Weather Spotter Training Session
www.utexas.edu/depts/grg/kimmel/skywarn2011.html

Feb 19 South East Texas Amateur Club Fox-Hunt
Brazos Bend State Park 9AM
www.setxac.com/?q=node/86

Feb 26 Capitol 10K Packet Stuffing Party (\$2k AARC fundraiser) AM, PM and all-day shifts available, drinks, snacks & Pizza lunch provided. Contact Jeff N5MNW@arrl.net

Feb 26 Orange Co/Jefferson Co ARC Hamfest 8AM-2PM
Delores Heintschel (409)-962-1435 kc5neo@gt.rr.com
Rocky Wilson (409)-988-8906 orangearc@live.com
GPS Coordinates- 30 08.36 N & 093 45.05 W (30.139333, -93.750833) www.qsl.net/w5nd



Upcoming Meetings...

Feb. Austin Meetings/Happenings

			Time	Address
1	1	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
12	12	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
8	8	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
19	19	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:00 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
16	16	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
28	28	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:15 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
22	22	ARES Training -CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd.
22	22	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
24	24	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.*