



AARC COVER

Keeping Austin Wireless
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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April 2011

Issue 4-2011

Kudos to the 2011 Packet Stuffing 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 -
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 March 5th at Bethany United Methodist Church :

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Derek M. Crocker, KF5KCB	Anne E. Gattiker, KF5KCF	Oliver Kaven, KF5KCA
Jeffrey T. Lewis, KF5KCC	Dane E. Maron, KF5KCD	

General Class Licenses Processed

Patrick A. Caldwell, KF5KCE	Michael J. Hanley, KF5KBZ	Roy M. Jenevein, Jr., KF5JTS
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Extra Class Licenses Processed

Richard A. Avery, N5SAU	Ronald D. Baldwin, AE5WW	David R. Henderson, KF5IEF
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Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram, W8NUE	Howard Glueck, K5ZUA	Curt Goodson, W4QBU
Larry Gunter, WB5BEK	Joe Makeever, W5HS	Joe Thiel, N5SMN

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

April 9th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213 (Belton Swapfest is on 1st Saturday)

May 7th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

3-19-2011

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

Extra Class – -none-

General Class – Gary Hicks, Jr.

Technician Class (all new) –

Charles Gaede

Paul Babuchna

Nancy Hanson

Justin Degrate

Noe Vela, Sr.

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Anthony Lanni, AE5JQ

Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on April 16th
and May 21st 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/>

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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 & Newslite
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 .

QCWA Invites You!

Chances are, many were first licensed 25 or more years ago. Time flies, doesn't it? If this fits you, Quarter Century Wireless Association would like you to join them for lunch Saturday, along with fellowship. QCWA promotes scholarship programs, cruises, and international conventions with Canada and USA hams.

The Central Texas Chapter meets the 3rd Saturday each month in Austin, along 183 southbound access road, just South of Duval at the IHOP restaurant, back room. We gather for lunch at 1:30 PM and 2 PM for our meeting.

Remember, if you know a ham who has been in and out of ham radio, they too are eligible to join QCWA. IF their first license was in 1986, invite them to join you! Why 1986 seems like just yesterday, doesn't it?



Was That an NVIS Contact?

Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

For those forum members interested in NVIS and are attempting to determine if their communications are ground wave, skip, or NVIS, here is a list of questions which will help that determination. The more "YES" answers to this list, the more likely your contact is via NVIS:

- 1). Is the frequency used for contact at or below the Critical Frequency?
- 2). Are the two stations of the contact located beyond line of sight?
(over the Earth curvature horizon, on the other side of a mountain or other geographic obstruction)
- 3). Antenna is horizontally polarized. (length of radiating element is oriented more parallel to the Earth surface than it is vertical)
- 4). Are the two stations of the contact less than approximately 700 miles apart?
- 5). Are the two stations of the contact more than approximately 25 miles apart?
- 6) In summer conditions, or thunderstorm season, are static crashes reduced in noise level?
- 7) Do received signals seem to "pop" out of the background, and is there a low background noise compared to a full height dipole?

Cheers,

With additions from Stuart

Jim M

Communications Vols Needed in New Orleans

Forwarded By Steven Polunski

The C.C.A.R.G. Crescent City Amateur Radio Group is looking for volunteers to assist in communications for the 2011 Crescent City Classic Road Race, which is schedule for Saturday morning April 23 rd. 2011.(In New Orleans)This event, is one of the largest public service events in the greater New Orleans, area. last year they had over 22,000 runners that ran the race. Like always immediately after the race is the concert and festival. Our responsibilities as Ham Radio Operators are to start each clock at each mile maker at the same time when the signal is giving over the radio. In addition, observed and report any problems on the race course or with the runners to net control. As normally any one who volunteers will receive a FREE T- Shirt and a Blue Polo Shirt that says Emergency Communications Amateur Radio Operator. If anyone is interested in participating please contact Joe at Joen5ozg@cox.net or call him at [504-288-7084](tel:504-288-7084).

Thanks 73;s Joe N5OZG

Over the WWWaves...

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

For those of you who are stuck in a time warp, the conversion of Roentgen, RAD and REM to the international Sievert (SI) can be found at

http://www.safetyoffice.uwaterloo.ca/hse/radiation/rad_laboratory/dose/conversion_table.htm

Jack Ward, N5TLW

Compromise Antenna: Compromise Tuner

By Rick Herndon, K5FNI

This article is written to show one person's persistence in getting on the air in the face of spatial adversity from foliage, how you can network with other hams to help solve the problems you face, and how homebrew solutions frequently triumph over commercial equipment in getting you on the air.

I never thought when I moved to Mathis, Texas, in 2008 that I would have such problems with antennas. But, after moving in, I started reviewing just how much of the church parsonage property and the vacant lot between the parsonage and the church is totally occupied with very dense oak foliage above about 8 feet. I've done endless thought and measurement processes with sketches of the property to not much avail. In December 2010 I decided I needed to get on the air in some way on HF. My wife volunteered to climb on ladders and roof to use pruners and a saw to remove foliage around a path I'd identified as a likely way meandering through the trees. My son came for a visit before Christmas and hung the 110 feet of stranded antenna wire for me. (I lost half my balance center in 2007 and am no longer very good on ladders.)

The antenna is a serious compromise, starting out at about 6 feet high, sloping up to about 12 feet high in the first tree, where it changes directions through an insulator held up by a rope and then slopes up to a final height of about 17 feet. The lowest point in the last slope is about 9 feet, because I didn't want parishioners to bump into it as they walk down a sidewalk. And I couldn't have it too tight (higher) because of the trees swaying in the really gusty and high winds we have down here near the Gulf coast. This antenna just yells out NVIS! due to the very low elevation. [For you who want details, I will be including links in this article. NVIS: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_Vertical_Incidence_Skywave]

I dug out my trusty (but cheap inexpensive) MFJ-207 HF SWR Analyzer and my Vectronics VC-300DLP antenna tuner and began to twist knobs and watch the analyzer's SWR meter. This is a very inexpensive analyzer. It does not have the fancy LCD panel of the much later and more elaborate units. The antenna tuner has a very odd variable inductor. It is tapped by a rotary wiper and feels almost like you're adjusting a 25 watt 20 ohm rheostat when you use it. [You can see them: <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1166> and <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1335>]

I quickly exhausted the range of the tuner. I was feeding the antenna with RG-8x through a small hole drilled in the mortar between the bricks in the parsonage wall. I was working against an 8 foot ground rod a foot outside the wall with 8 gauge copper welding cable going through another hole in the mortar. There were tiny pieces of a few HF bands where the SWR looked like it would be low enough so the ICOM radio's SWR protection wouldn't drop the output power near zero. But tests on contacting the 7290 Net on 40 meters did not show they could hear ME very well. I could hear them. They could BARELY pull me "out of the mud" with careful listening.



Many, many emails during this time went from me and back and forth between Gene Preston, K5GP, Bill Byrom, N5BB, Pete Jordahl, K5GM, and Jim Dear, W5LOG. We just about wore out each other and cyberspace discussing the problems.

Gene provided an MFJ-969 Deluxe Versa Tuner II [<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/175>] for this station. Corrosion on either the inductor's roller contact or the coil made contact between the two really intermittent. It would tune sporadically on 80 through 10 meters, but I could never predict when the coil was making contact. So, that one is standing by for the next antenna project.

The next attempt (I failed to write down who said what) was to give up on the coax shield connection and go for my tried and true homebrew long-wire antenna tuner I

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

built in 1964. The antenna is now configured as the 110 feet of wire in series with the approximately 20 feet of coax with the shield not connected to anything. The tuner is an L-network configured as the inductor in series with the antenna and the capacitor across the transmitter output. The inductor is a nice roller inductor surplus from a Korean-War vintage Navy TCS-12 transmitter and the capacitor is a surplus 200 pF with quarter-inch shaft. These two elements are mounted to the lid of a kitchen canister (part of a set I bought in a sidewalk sale at the San Angelo Woolworth's store with a few cents of my meager college income supplement while working as a stock clerk and part-time janitor). This tuner works well on all bands from 3.5 to 29 MHz with the transmitter seeing SWR between 1:1 to 1.5:1. It does not work on the FM portion of 10 meters (above 29 MHz).

The antenna still remains a serious compromise. Tuning the kitchen canister tuner has to be done while standing up. BUT, I can now get on the air and am planning the next step in compromise antennas for K5FNI on HF.

If you have gotten this far in the article without being bored, it shows that you can write an article on your adventures or misadventures in various ways in ham radio, submit it to the AARCOVER editor, and it will be printed. And someone else may gain a little use from your efforts. What say? Get busy and write something up! ■

A really great article could have gone here...but no club member sent in anything...so this space remains empty...



**think of the children...
...submit an article**

Officers Meeting Recap

March 15, 2011 Officers Meeting

APRS Trackers

14 APRS Trackers from Motorola will be given to Club, and be refurbished at a cost of approx. \$1500 which the club will try to get back the cost from various Race organizations that borrow the use of the equipment.

Field Day

Preps are starting. Jeff and Stewart will be the goto guys. A \$50 gift certificate to ARRL will be up for grabs for people who come out to Field Day and make at least 1 contact.

HAM PAC

The officers approved that we donate \$1 per paid full member on behalf of the club to Texas HAM-PAC. Also it was suggested that we add a \$1 donation choice to the membership application.

Cap 10K

Cap 10 K is still looking for a few more members. Jeff and Lori will put together the volunteer packets again and be handing them out at Saturday Breakfast and on the morning of Cap 10K.

94 Repeater

Discussion about the new 94 repeater location and about where to find feed line.

Ham Cruise

Lori talked about the upcoming ham radio cruise in October. It was suggested that info be brought up to club members at next meeting for those who may be interested. She will make some flyers.

Door Prizes

More door prizes were acquired for meetings.

Non Profit TANO

The officers approved the idea to join TANO, a non profit organization resource guide. The cost is \$50 per year. We will try it out for a year and see if it is of enough benefit to warrant continued membership. TANO offers online resources, webinars, and seminars for non profit groups.

Sister City ?

Our 100th year is coming and it was suggested to find a "sister city" that was founded the same year as AARC to possibly do some joint collaboration for an event.

By laws

By Laws committee has renewed its efforts to come up with a cleaner set of by laws with a standard operating procedures manual so that future bylaws do not have to be changed as often.



It is getting to be that time again!

2011 BP MS150 APRIL 16-17, 2011 Ham Radio Operator Information / Sign Up

<http://bpms150.n0xfd.com>



Come join the Ham Radio fun that is the BP MS150. Participate in providing communication support for one of the largest MS150 bike tours in the United States. Many volunteer assignments are available in a wide range of areas. Please check out the website (link above) for additional information.

The website will have all the information you need to know about volunteering as a Ham Radio Operator for this event. Ham Radio Communication information will be disseminated through this website as well as through e-mail for those who have filled out the web sign up form.

All Ham Radio Operators who will be volunteering for the 2011 BP MS150 are asked to fill out the web sign up form (on the above site under 'How to Volunteer'. Even if you will be primarily volunteering in a different function (i.e. SAG Driver, Motorcycle Marshall, etc.) we want you to fill the Ham Sign up Form out. The form is being used to gather all of our Ham Radio Operators information so that we may better communicate updates and meeting information to those who will be volunteering this year. Please see the additional information on the website.

It is requested that this information be passed on or posted to other interested parties and websites.

-Charlie N0XFD

AARC Meeting Minutes: March 1, 2011

Meeting called to order: 7:05pm by President Mitch London, KD5HCV.

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

We had 42 in attendance, 2 visitors, and no new members. One upgrade reported.

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

Upcoming Events: South Texas Convention (3/5), Rayne Hamfest (3/11), Weatherford Hamfest (3/26), Cap10K (3/27), and Belton in early April. These items, other upcoming events, and scheduled presentations are listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter, at www.austinhams.org, and on the Yahoo user group.

Announcements: The UT Project 2011 was good. The students learned about Ham Radio. More ham volunteers would have been nice, but everything was okay. 48 showed up at the packet stuffing. Over 20,000 packets were stuffed, including some T-shirts. We are getting more streamlined each year, and no more circles. Red Cross held their state-wide drill, and some hams during breaks at the packet stuffing actually made contacts using NVIS. 230 showed up at SkyWarn. The March Ham Class is full, so another one for April is being planned. Field Day will be June 25th & 26th, so start preparing. (A quick review of what we do was given.) All the repeaters are good, no bad news to report. Reminder: the .78 is back up; and never acknowledge deliberate interference. The club is looking into refurbishing the Motorola APRS trackers, and how to fund it.

REPORTS

Treasurer: talked about monies coming in and going out, especially the \$2K from AAS for packet stuffing; reported totals on the club's bank accounts/funds and on funds for ARES; and membership is now 264 w/ 4 life members.

Editor: reminder the newsletter is still on the website. Submit any weblinks you like. The newsletter has a page of binary code, convert it to Morse code then to Alpha to decipher; plus a fun article from an old Edison booklet has been included.

ARES: needs net controllers for Sunday nights, a script is available to follow. There will be a planning meeting after all.

SIG's: Digital group should bring their equipment to the meeting if it needs fixing.

Space Wx: February was an active month. An X2 flare (very serious stuff) occurred on 2/15, greatly increasing the solar flux. The flare came with a CME that was aimed directly at us and took 3 days to hit us. This created a short geomagnetic storm. A smaller M flare occurred on 2/18. As of meeting time, good activity, including solar wind from a Coronal Hole hitting us. Watch the DX beacons to show when bands open up. The 10M band should be open.

Old Business: none discussed this time.

New Business: The 700MHz block of spectrum was to be auctioned off by the government, but bids were too low. So, HB607 was introduced to give 700MHz to Public Safety if they give back some other block of frequency that can be auctioned off at a much higher price. They want the 410-470MHz block. Be prepared to help defend the 70cm band with donations and a letters to Congress campaign.

Ham of the Month: Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW.

Door Prizes: Dustin Curran (no call) – 2pc. Carabiner set; David Rivenburg, AD5OO – dashboard grip pad; Joe Canfield, N5HPC – 25' of Ethernet cable.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:09pm

Presentation: "Programming HT's for Event & 'Normal' Operations" by Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW.

AARC Meeting Info.

Waterloo Icehouse

8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183

Business Meeting 7pm

March 1st - - Presentation on NASA and the International Space Station

Officers Meeting 7 pm

March 15th - Meeting at Waterloo Icehouse

2011 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC– April 9th & May 7th 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- April 16th & May 21st 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>

2011Calendar of Events

Apr 2 Belton Hamfest

Admission \$5 www.tarc.org/hamexpo/
www.beltonhamexpo.org/

Apr 2 7th Annual Spokes 'n Spurs Ride for the Ranch

Benefits the Spirit Reins Ranch in Liberty Hill. Contact Jim, KB7UQD with your name, call sign, email address, and T-Shirt size. Jim, KB7UQD jim@mischel.com

Apr 16-17 MS150 Houston

LaGrange - Austin bike ride
Lee N5NTG - 210-771-7075 (cell) or email info@sanantoniohams.org

Apr 16 Red Poppy Festival

Bike Ride & 5k Run Craig W5TSN w5tsn@suddenlink.net
www.redpoppyride.org/ <http://poppy.georgetown.org/>

May 7 Smithville Hamfest

NOTE: new location VFW Hall 557 on NW Loop 230 in Smithville.
Don N5JDQ 512-237-3328 or send checks to
BCARC PO Box 307 Smithville, TX 78957.

May 7 K5ATX-Friendly Frontier ARC Hamfest

Abilene Elmdale Flea Mkt I-20 Exit 292-b
Talk-in - 444.750 (+) 88.5 tone
Gerald-N5OGD 325-280-9210 info@friendlyfrontier.org
<http://ffarc.net>

Upcoming Meetings...

Apr.	May	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
5	3	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
9	14	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
12	10	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
16	21	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
20	18	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
25	23	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
26	24	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
28	26	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.*