



# AARC OVER

Keeping Austin Wireless  
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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Issue 5-2011

## Hams Help in Texas Wildfires

ARRL Letter April 14, 2011

On April 9 at 4:15 PM (CDT), ARRL West Texas District 5 Emergency Coordinator Bob Ward, WA5ROE, received a call from Jeff Davis County (Texas) Fire Marshal Stewart Billingsley, N5HXZ. Billingsley informed Ward that a fire had begun in the West Texas town of Marfa and was rapidly approaching Fort Davis, 22 miles to the northeast.

“Stewart asked me to call the National Weather Service to get it on the alert system, as well as the AM and FM radio stations in Alpine,” Ward told the ARRL. “He wanted it broadcast over the radio stations that he needed the Mano Prieto and Fort Davis Estates sub-divisions evacuated. People in the area know that when an emergency happens, they need to tune into these stations for the latest information. This was the Rock House Fire. At the same time, another fire, the Roper Fire, had started on the eastern edge of Alpine.”

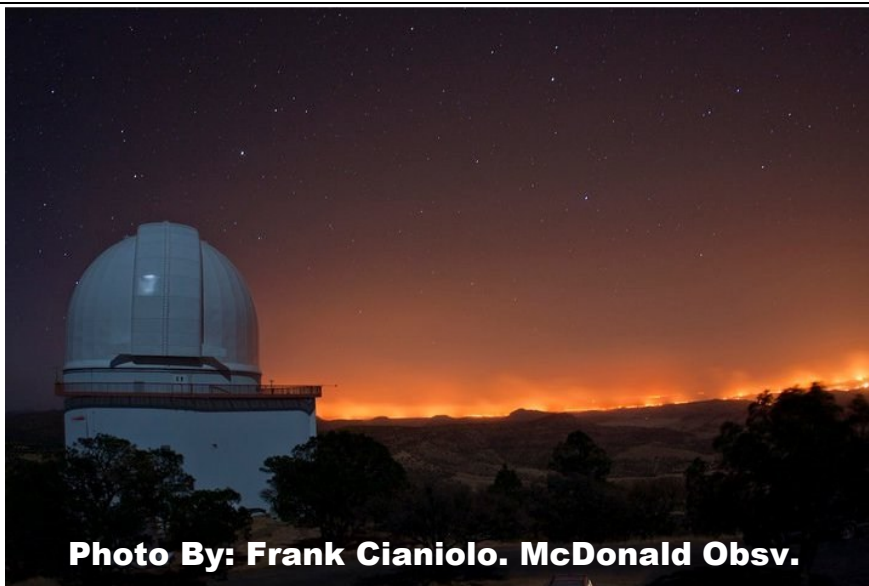


Photo By: Frank Cianiolo. McDonald Obsv.

### 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 April 9th at Bethany United Methodist Church :

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Steven M. Arestie KF5KOS  
Szu-Chun Hung KF5KOL  
Robert L. Klem KF5KOH  
Norman S. Pitou, Jr. KF5KOG  
son KF5KON

Charles H. Cullen KF5KOO  
David R. Jovel KF5KOJ  
Andrew Lo KF5KOP  
Reid H. Richards KF5KOQ  
Carl R. Wied KF5KOM

Shawn M. Gillen KF5KOF  
Jerry W. Kidwell, Jr. KF5KOE  
Juan C. Ortiz KF5KPA  
Quentin H. Stephen-

## General Class Licenses Processed

Robert J. Bowie KF5KOR  
Wallace L. Lively, Jr. KF5KOI

James D. Higgenbottom KJ6ELE  
Harmony D. Mones-Murphy KF5GMM

Jeffrey T. Lewis KF5KCC

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram W8NUE  
Rick ;Hanson W5GPW  
Joe Thiel N5SMN

Mark Esslinger W5MAE  
Joe Jelinski KC2KG

Larry Gunter WB5BEK  
Joe Makeever W5HS

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

May 7th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213  
June 4th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 213

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS  
Joe

4-16-2011

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our April 16<sup>th</sup> session:

**Extra Class** – -none-

**General Class** – Paul M. Babuchna, KF5KFX Noe A Vela, Sr., KF5KFY

**Technician Class** (all new) – Margaret E. Fidelman

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW Joe Jelinski, KC2KG  
Jim Greenwood, AB5EK Tony Lyon, KJ5XF  
Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on May 21<sup>st</sup>  
and June 18<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/>

President	Mitch London	KD5HCV	326-3096	president@austinhams.org
Vice President	Lori Schmidt	KM5MQ	632-6789	vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST	388-4404	treasurer@austinhams.org
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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	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 .**

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## Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ - SK

Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ is a sk at age 100. He passed away last night (Apr. 13). Leo was owner of a ham store, "

World Radio Laboratories", in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and very successful making quartz crystals for the allies during WW2. He was the subject of a biography on his long time contributions to amateur radio, by Jim Musgrove, K5BZH, who used to live in Austin, and was an active member of QCWA and AARC. The book was a sell out. Leo did not think many hams would remember his Globe line of transmitters, but the books soon became collector's items.

Ward contacted the NWS and the radio stations and then put out a call on 2 meters, asking for Alpine amateurs to report to the Emergency Operations Center in Brewster County. "When I arrived, ARRL Brewster County Emergency Coordinator David Cockrum, N5DO, and Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Santry were there. Tom asked us to activate a net on the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club repeater system."

Ward said that a ham was dispatched to Jeff Davis County -- 26 miles to the northwest -- to assist ARRL Jeff Davis County Emergency Coordinator Jim Fowler, KD5KBU: "Jim, in addition to being the EC for Jeff Davis County, is also with their fire department, so he was dealing with a lot of things. We also sent hams to assist at the Alpine Police

Department and the dispatch in Brewster County, as well as at the radio stations. Due to the fire, there was no electricity or phone service, so hams at the police department and dispatch handled traffic. The ham at the radio station received messages from the Emergency Operations Center in Brewster County concerning public safety, highway closures and evacuations to be broadcast over the air."

Ward explained that later that day, the repeater system was linked to the West Texas repeater system to handle traffic for the American Red Cross. "We also provided phone patches for American Electric Power, the local electric company, as they came in to install a large generator to supply power to the Fort Davis area," he said. "We finally secured our net at noon on April 11."

As of April 13, the 30,000 acre Roper Fire is completely contained, but the 108,000 acre Rock House Fire is only 60 percent contained. According to Terry Allison, K5TDA, a firefighter in Alpine, about 30 houses and two businesses in Fort Davis were destroyed by the fire, while two houses in Marfa were destroyed. County, State and Federal firefighters are in control of the operation and no further Amateur Radio involvement has been requested. ■



Photo By B. John McDaniel, KE5PL

### Over the WWWaves...

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

<http://lifehacker.com/#!5790102/make-an-adjustable-diy-mic-stand-out-of-an-ikea-lamp>

This looks like a nice project for ham radio ops and budding singers, as well as those folks wanting to do a podcast.

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  Individual \$20  
 Family (all with same mailing address) \$30  
 Student rate (thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade, no mail) \$ 5  
 ARRL  Individual ARRL (new or renewal) \$39  
 Senior ARRL (new or renewal) \$36  
 Family member ARRL (at same address) - \$8ea x \_\_\_\_\_ =  
 First time ARRL discount -\$15  
 TEXAS HAMPAC (Political Action Committee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with payment to:

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

**Check One:**  -New member  -Renew membership  -Update Info

ARRL member Y N License class E A G T+ T N Year first licensed \_\_\_\_\_

Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Str/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Hm Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Cel Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Wk Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Pager # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL mem Y N

3<sup>rd</sup> Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL mem Y N

4<sup>th</sup> Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL mem Y N

**I/WE have interest in the following.**

Monthly meetings  Field Day  Working Events  Transmitter Hunts  
 Talking on 2 mtrs  DXing  Newsletters  Holding Office  
 Presenting programs  CW  Net Control  Emergency Comm's  
 Holding ARRL office  Education  Public Awareness  Working w/Youth  
 Others \_\_\_\_\_

Rcvd \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ck \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Dep \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 (for office use only)

JMH 20110315

## Dues are Due for 2011

If you have not paid your dues, the time is now! Just print this form and mail it in, you can pay online at [www.austinhams.org/join](http://www.austinhams.org/join) . Become a member today!

## Officers Meeting Recap

### April 19, 2011 Officers Meeting

#### APRS Trackers

Some of the trackers have been bought, and the cases are being worked on. Cables are being made and hardware acquired.

#### Field Day

The question of whether we will have the solar trailer again this year was brought up. If not, we will have regular generators on standby.

#### Summerfest

The club will try and have a booth at Summerfest this year again to have information available to people. We will try to get some various club members to help staff the table for an hour or two.

#### Red Cross Radio Room

It was brought up that the radio room at the Red Cross still has not been cleaned up even after the Emergency Services Director asked us to nearly a year ago. Steps will be taken to see that this is rectified. Also, it was noted that the rotor at the Red Cross has been out of commission for some time. The officers voted to spend up to \$500 to replace the rotor and controller with a new or refurbished model, whichever is determined to be best. We will try to contact AFD to see if a ladder truck can be used to help hold the antennas up while rotors are swapped out. No date has been set for the trade until a purchase is made.

## **AARC Meeting Minutes:** April 5, 2011

**Meeting called to order:** 7:01pm by President Mitch London, KD5HCV.

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

We had 49 in attendance, 6 visitors, and 4 new members. No upgrades reported.

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

**Upcoming Events:** 1-Day Tech License/Exam in San Antonio (4/9), MS-150 (4/16&17), Smithville Hamfest (5/7), WCARC Spring Picnic (5/14), and Tour De Cure (6/4&5). These 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.

**Announcements:** The Cap10K was fun and went well. This year we had flags on poles to help EMS locate us. We receive our money from the Cap10K packet stuffing. Belton was one of the best it has been in years. Our Ham Class ended in March: 19 started, 12 tested, 10 passed, 9 techs, 1 general. Another class is planned. Pete Jordahl, K5GM, got an 80M DXCC Award. One more volunteer needed for MS-150. Field Day (6/25&26) will have 3 stations; and anyone who makes 1 or more contacts will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card. Joe Fisher, K5EJL, will be cooking again. August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> is Austin Summerfest. The return of the AARC Demo Tent Station is being planned. ARES needs NC operators, every Sunday @ 7:30pm on the .36 repeater. The club is donating \$1/member to TAREF. A 7-day Ham Radio Cruise is planned for late October.

### **REPORTS**

**Treasurer:** The Motorola Trackers (APRS) need to be rebuilt. The cost is ~\$1500. The Livestrong Foundation has pledged \$500. The MS-150, Tour De Cure, and others are being asked for the same donation. The club will receive half of \$1104 made at Belton from an Estate sale of ham equipment. Jay reported monies in & out last month, totals on the club's bank accounts and funds, and on funds for ARES. Membership is now 245. A .94 repeater fund is reserved to cover the move of the repeater, which is coming soon.

**Editor:** handed out a few hardcopies of the newsletter. You can find it on the website. The History Museum has old issues. Submit articles and stories.

**Tech Committee:** Everything running good. Let them know of any problems found.

**ARES:** Glen Reid, K5FX, is the new EC.

**SIG's:** Various meetings/reminders were announced. Info was given on the QCWA.

**Space Wx:** Solar Cycle 24 is still cranking up. March had the highest solar flux readings of the season, which means better propagation and 10M opening. We had a storm lasting a couple of days. X-rays have been okay during the day and the Planetary K rating has been low. There are 9 sunspots currently, all is quiet, and forecast is quiet. A very serious X-Flare occurred March 10<sup>th</sup> followed by high solar winds and geomagnetic storms.

**Old Business:** none discussed this time.

**New Business:** A motion passed to spend \$1000 to refurbish the APRS Trackers.

**Ham of the Month:** Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX.

**Door Prizes:** Ed Cates, KE5TWU – 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit; James Robbins N5OUJ– dummyload; Oliver Kaven, KF5KCA – 4GB Flashdrive.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:08pm    **Presentation:** "ISS" by Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW.



# The ARRL National Convention hosted by Ham-Com

June 10-11, 2011 at the  
Plano Centre in Plano, Texas

[www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo)

[www.hamcom.org](http://www.hamcom.org)



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Ham-Com** – “The BIGGEST Hamfest in Texas,” will feature equipment dealers, manufacturers, forums, license examinations, transmitter hunts and more. Tailgate Market opens at 7 AM each day!

**ARRL EXPO 2011** – A special exhibit area including ARRL program representatives, activities and a huge ARRL bookstore.

**DXCC Card Checking** – and other ARRL operating awards.

**W5DXCC Dinner** – Friday evening, sponsored by the Lone Star DX Association.

**ARRL Youth Activities and Youth Lounge**

**Boy Scout One-day Radio Merit Badge Program** – sponsored by Ham-Com.

**WIAW/5 Special Event Station**

**ARRL Wouff Hong Ceremony**

...and much more!

See [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo) for lodging options and links to travel information.



Photo by Caroline Anshel  
Radio Group - K4LFG CPG

### TICKETS

[www.hamcom.org](http://www.hamcom.org)  
Purchase advance tickets online  
by May 31.

General admission  
in advance \$8  
at the door \$10

Additional family members  
in advance \$6  
at the door \$8

Children 12 and under and  
uniformed Scouts are FREE.

Visit [hamcom.org](http://hamcom.org) for exhibit  
booth reservations.

Tailgaters \$8 per space per day,  
first-come, first-served.

### ARRL SPECIAL GUEST

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

Before his retirement from the Federal Communications Commission in 2008, Riley Hollingsworth was recognized as the man who embodied Amateur Radio Enforcement. Today, he continues to champion good amateur practice, responsibility for our radio spectrum privileges, and respect for the Amateur Radio Service as part of the American heritage.

**Riley, K4ZDH, will give the ARRL National Convention keynote address.**

### NEARBY

Historic downtown Plano  
Interurban Railway Museum  
The Shops at Legacy  
Bring your family & friends!

Southfork Ranch



## **AARC Meeting Info.**

### **Waterloo Icehouse**

**8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183**

### **Business Meeting 7pm**

**May 3rd - - What the Heck is HSMM? By Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW**

### **Officers Meeting 7 pm**

**May 17th - Meeting at Waterloo Icehouse—  
Members welcome to watch the officer at work!**

## **2011 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

**ARRL VEC— May 7th & June 4th** 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- May 21st & June 18th** 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**

**May 7**

### ***Smithville Hamfest***

NOTE: new location VFW Hall 557 on NW Loop 230 in Smithville.

Tables are \$10 each.

Don N5JDQ 512-237-3328 or send checks to BCARC PO Box 307 Smithville, Tx 78957.

**May 7 K5ATX-**

### ***Friendly Frontier ARC Hamfest in 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

**May 14**

### ***WCARC Spring Picnic***

San Gabriel Park (Area A)

73, Rick W5NR

rhrommer@suddenlink.net

w5nr@suddenlink.net

**May 14**

### ***7290 Picnic***

[www.7290trafficnet.org/](http://www.7290trafficnet.org/)

**May 14**

### ***Panhandle ARC's 11th Annual Picnic/Swapfest***

Amarillo, TX

Panhandle Amateur Radio Club

[www.w5wx.org](http://www.w5wx.org)

## **Upcoming Meetings...**

<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Address</b>
3	7	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
14	11	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
10	14	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
21	18	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
18	15	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
23	27	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
24	28	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
26	23	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.*