



AARC COVER

Keeping Austin Wireless
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

November 2011

Happy Thanksgiving!

Issue 11-2011

Copeland Scholarship—Spread the Word!

Club members are reminded if there is a ham you know who plans on going to college in 2012, that ham scholarships applications will soon be due for the Jesse Copeland Austin Amateur Radio Club Scholarship Fund.

The completed application must in the hands of the Austin Community Foundation Office on Guadalupe St. across from the state hospital before Jan. 31, 2012.

Given the upcoming holidays, that is really not much time.

The applicant must download the application form from the Austin Community Foundation web page.

With the completed and signed application, (check your entry!), there must also be ALL required materials: 1) a copy of the Amateur Radio license. Both sides of the smaller license should be copied and attached to the application sent to ACF.

2) in addition, there must be a certified copy by the last school attended, of the most recent transcript. No on line transcripts accepted. Certified means the Registrar of the School affixes the school seal.

3) Accurate financial resources of the family must be reported on the application.

4) An essay following the instructions of the ACF application must be written and attached to the application.

(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	11:00 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+

In This Issue

Story	Page
JOTA Report	5
Christmas Party	6
Club Minutes	7
Ham Classes	8
Club Shirts	8

Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on October 8th at Bethany United Methodist Church :

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Juliana M. Johansson KF5NAK

Charles T. McCormick KF5NAL

General Class Licenses Processed

Robert W. Burson N5NXO

Chris W. Cottingham N5CWC

George T. Masterson KF5NAJ

Brad A. Medford KF5MPT

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Dave Anderton AE5XY

Craig Bean AC5KW

Steven Bonds KF5KZO

Joe Makeever W5HS

Tom Nevue W2MN

Joe Thiel N5SMN

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

November 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 202

December 3rd - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 202

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

10-15-2011

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

Extra Class – (none)

Patrick A. Rueckert, KF5MBT

General Class –

Louis T. Fuka –new-

Marcus L. Gitterle, KF5IAE

Technician Class - (new)

Steven S. Bucek

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Tony Lyon, KJ5XF

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at
2 PM on November 19th and December 17th 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 & 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.

“NOUJR and His Friends” is reprinted with permission by Greg Trook, Trook Enterprises. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission. For information: <http://incolor.inebraska.com/n0ujr>.

“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 .

Over the WWWaves...

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

Why does ham radio survive in a world of tweets?

Sent by Tom Adams, W5WTA

www.wired.com/epicenter/2011/02/ham-radio-tweets/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Reading Circuit Diagrams by the people at Makezine

Sent By Rick Herndon, K5FNI

<http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2011/01/reading-circuit-diagrams.html>

Obtain Your Magnetic Declination (the bearing from true North of the magnetic north pole, and hence the error when using a magnetic compass)

Sent By Pete Jordahl, K5GM

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomagmodels/struts/calcDeclination>

(Continued from page 1) Copeland Scholarship

- 5) ACF may require additional information, thus review the requirements on the form you download from the web site of ACF.
- 6) The radio club does not keep blank applications. It is the responsibility of the applicant to meet all required submissions.
- 7) It is recognized that the Transcript will be the last information the student can obtain, and that will likely be after the exams of the Fall semester, but it must be sent in with the other required materials, or sent direct from the school to ACF, but by Jan. 31, 2012.

No guarantee of how much a student may qualify for can be given, as it depends each year on the earnings on the fund principal for the previous year and number of applicants who qualify. However greater amounts are given for a four year college, than for local community college attendance. The Board may reject applications for other than "brick and mortar" fully recognized institutions. Non degree or non certificate courses are excluded from support, such as professional continuing education. The focus of the program is for new college students with a ham radio background. However, a graduate student may apply, or a student "older than average" with a degree plan.

All funds when granted, are sent by ACF directly to the school upon proof of the applicant's enrollment. Funds may be applied to the usual college expenses of tuition, books, and in some cases for special needs (if approved). Unused funds must be returned by the college to ACF.

Once a scholar is granted, they must maintain a B average and reapply each year. They will be evaluated on progress and compared to other applicants.

This program has granted about \$250,000 in scholarships over its history. It was endowed by a bequest from Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Copeland. Jesse was W5TQ and a long time club member. His call is now on our CETECC club station and regularly heard during ARES activations.

Prospective scholars can download the application forms at any time, and then have ample time to work on their essay during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Participation in radio clubs and/or AARC, as well as other activities factors into awards, especially when there are several similarly ranked applicants.

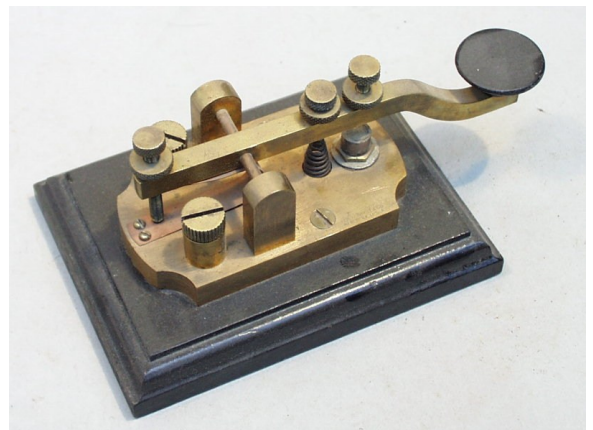
Let ham families with college age hams know about this program for the Greater Austin area, ie Austin/Travis Co., and the counties touching Travis Co. ■

Silent Key

Earlier today (10/3) we received confirmation from persons close to the family of Tex Kennedy N5TX, that he had passed away this morning at the age of 87. Tex was well known in the ham radio & commercial radio community. Kennedy Communications over on Rigsby Road, was a tremendous support to the REACT Teams since the mid 80's, supplying REACT with multiple GMRS Repeater sites & equipment on a very affordable site lease. Tex also operated KComm The Ham Store, and KB Tower company.

Most recently in 2010, he allowed Hill Country REACT to change out their GMRS 462.600 repeater up near Startzville, for an Amateur Radio repeater on 445.500 MHz, which is now linked by IRLP to other area repeaters in Hays/Caldwell Counties via the "Devils Backbone" (where do they come up with these names?). Kennedy Communications was sold back in the early 2000's (time?), but first they arranged for 99 year leases to be signed on behalf of REACT to preserve our GMRS repeater sites. Only the original 462.675 site in NE San Antonio is still on the air, due to the above mentioned change to the 462.600 site.

Lee N5NTG



Austin Amateur Radio Club gets Scouts on the air during "Jamboree on the Air"

Ronny Risinger, KC5EES

On Saturday, October 15th, 2011, several members of the Austin Amateur Radio Club met at the Fickett Center (the new Austin Boy Scout Headquarters at Parmer/IH-35) to assist with "Jamboree on the Air." The effort was headed by Steve Sullivan, W2IEG, who brought his 12 year old son, Sean, KF5MFO. Steve and Sean, who are active in Scouts, were joined by Pack 155 Cubmaster, Ronny Risinger, KC5EES. Of course, Stuart Rohr, K5KVH, provided great advice and loaned the group coax to make it all work. Ronny brought a home-brew version of the "Minuteman 20" (original borrowed from Stuart) that his students at the Liberal Arts & Science Academy built last year in their Amateur Radio class (see the K5LBJ QRZ.com page for pics of the antenna). While only built from PVC, a wire coil that uses weed-eater cord as a spacer, a whip, and stereo wire for ground radials, the antenna can work 17-40 meters with ease. Steve brought his new Icom-7000 rig which was a joy to use. With everything in place, we were ready to go by about 10 a.m.

While Steve had procured the special event call, K5A, we used Ronny's school club call, K5LBJ, to work HF. The bands were "wide open" and there were many stations on the 20 meter calling frequency. So many, in fact, that there was quite a bit of QRM. Plus, working with kids, many stations were hard to work or took way too long for our Austin kid's attention span to hold. Thus, we listened up on 17 meters and found a gold mine. Working primarily on 17m, we had 12 Boy Scouts and 1 Cub Scout make contact with operators in California, Alabama, Georgia, Arizona, and maybe a few other states. But, the best contacts were with other Scouts in Alberta, Canada, Saskatchewan, Canada, and a Troop in Mexico City, Mexico. While these DX stations were fun, the "drop your jaw" moment came when one of our Scouts made contact with T32C, the DXpedition to Christmas Island! This island, located about 200 miles south of Jakarta, Indonesia (and NW of Australia) was about 4400 miles from our QTH! Sometimes, it is absolutely amazing what you can do with 100 watts of power and a little wire.

Later in the afternoon, Harmon Moore, K5HDM, and his wife, Heather, dropped by to provide a demonstration of the VHF digital mode P25. Harmon has a "jump box" that contains his Motorola rig and power supply. Once his mag-mount antenna was affixed to the metal railing on the back patio of the Fickett Center, he was ready to go. Working through the 146.68 repeater, he made contact with another local ham. The crystal clear signal was a great display of this mode of communication. Harmon also discussed how to make contact with the ISS and demonstrated the Orbitron tracking software (where we saw that the Space Station was on the other side of the planet).

With this great display of HF and VHF Amateur Radio communication, the radio operations area at one point had about 15 spectators. Each Scout that made a contact was given a card that Steve printed which certified their QSO and commemorated the event. I'm sure that with the smiles on the boys' faces, they will keep those cards with pride. By 2:30 p.m., the Scout Gift shop closed and our traffic subsided. Having had fun and put smiles on faces, we called it a day.

I would like to thank Steve Sullivan for taking the lead role in making this event happen. His efforts yielded great results and fun for those boys that made contacts. Hopefully, next year, we can expand our efforts to include a more active VHF/UHF component, a CW table (even sending their name is fun for young kids), along with our established HF table. So, pray that band conditions hold and improve for next year. And, of course, mark your calendar for this time next year so YOU can get involved.

73,
Ronny Risinger, KC5EES
Trustee, K5LBJ, the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club
Liberal Arts & Science Academy High School
Austin, Texas



2011 AARC Christmas Party!!

When: December 6th at 6pm

Where: Cannoli Joe's Gourmet Italian Feast
4715 US Hwy 290 W

Tickets are \$20 per person & includes:

All you care to eat Italian Buffet

A non-alcoholic beverage

Dessert

Ham of the Year Presentation

Entertainment!

Space is limited so RSVP by 12/2/2011

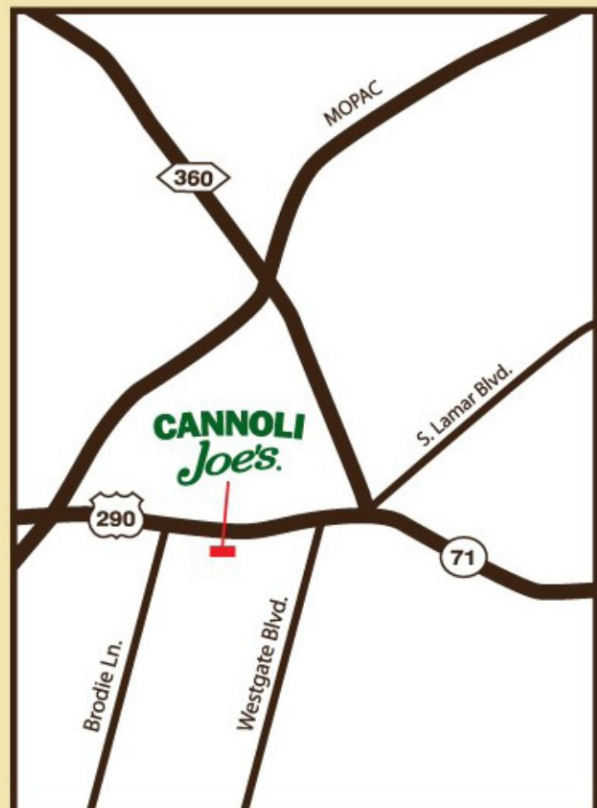
Tickets can be purchased:

*Online at www.austinhams.org

*By Mail—AARC, PO Boc 4739 Austin, TX 78765

*In Person: See Jay, KA5OST, AARC Tresurer at a meeting

Don't forget, we will have the famous QLF competition so get your left foot ready! Also, there is the table top decoration contest as well as door prizes!



AARC Meeting Minutes: October 4, 2011

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

Meeting started with a welcome to all.

We had 43 in attendance, 3 visitors, and one new member. No upgrades were reported.

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

Past Events: Texas QSO Party had 3 members participate, 2 were mobile. Mitch recounted his experience operating mobile. Others were Mamma Jamma Ride, Plano Balloon Festival, and Belton.

Upcoming Events/Announcements: Outlaw 100 (10/8), details given and volunteers desperately needed for SAG Wagons; Scouting JOTA (10/15&16); Texoma Hamarama (10/21); Coast Bend Hamfest (10/22); SoTx SET (11/5), contact Glen Reid, K5FX; Walk to Stop Diabetes (11/5); Warrior Dash (11/19-20), need 13 more volunteers (not comm related); Ham Classes, now in Cedar Park, need students (starting 10/15), the 4 classes are 4hrs each; student radio clubs competition (10/17-21); and CATRAC Hospital Drill (11/10). Gary Schmidt, W5ZL, is battling colon cancer; caringbridge.org has his blog. The QRP group (those interested in low power) meets 2nd Saturdays. The QCWA group (those licensed over 25 years) meets 3rd Saturdays. 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.

REPORTS

President: working on having club t-shirts again, looking into pricing right now.

Vice-President: Happy Birthday Darlene Schmidt, WD5DAR. (Jeff & Lori's mom)

Treasurer: not available.

Editor: if you have anything, please send it in.

Tech Committee: none.

ARES: along with MARS, will be active and actually participating in the SoTX SET (11/5), so listen to your radios and pagers.

SIG/Other: The repeater move could take place late October or early November. The triplexers are in.

Space Wx: A graph showed the current solar cycle is coming up but behind compared to other cycles. Solar Flux is up. There are currently 11 sunspots. There have been recent C & M-Flares. Geomagnetic field is relatively quiet and Solar Wind is minimal. The critical frequency is up 10.9MHz. The period between a solar flare and arrival of a CME is a good time for propagation. Forecast: calm now, but unsettled once 3 CMEs arrive. Last was a recap of September's conditions and events.

Old Business: none discussed this time.

New Business: Officer Nominations. Mitch recapped the role of each officer and then opened the floor for nominations. Nominations were: President: Mitch London, KD5HCV; Vice-President: none; Secretary: Alan Russell, KE5DTR; and Treasurer: none. Christmas Party in 2 months, we need 2 or 3 committee members; also need help finding door prizes. If interested or can help, please contact Mitch.

Ham of the Month: Roy Walker, WA5YZD.

Door Prizes: Deroy Howard, AA5R – light jacket; Paul Lippa, KF5KLLK – splicing tape; Darlene Schmidt, WD5DAR – ear light.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:09pm.

Presentation: "Ham Radio Cruise" by Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ.

Technician Classes Scheduled—Students and Instructors Wanted!

The first ham classes for 2012 are scheduled for *January 7, 14, 21, and 28th at the Austin State Hospital*. We are looking for both students and instructors!

If you would like to be a student in this class, you can go to www.austinhams.org/hamclasses.htm for more information about costs and where to get the study materials.

If you would like to be an instructor * contact HamClasses@austinhams.org to get on the list. New for 2012, Instructors will receive one of the new AARC Polo shirts with the word "Instructor" on it. Don't worry, if you have not taught a ham class before, help is available. The classes are taught using a powerpoint presentation already put together.

ANNOUNCING—New Club Polo Shirts!

The AARC has designed a new polo shirt and we are also bringing back the popular "Ham Are Radioactive" t-shirts!

The meeting in November will be the grand unveiling of these new polo shirts! But to give you a general idea of what they will look like I have made up the graphic below. Keep in mind it is not exactly what they shirts will look like, but it will give you an idea.



Not seen, is on the sleeve we have our slogan, "Keeping Austin Wireless Since 1919" You will also be able to add your first name and call sign to these shirts for an extra fee. Preorders will be taken at the meeting so bring your checkbook. An exact prices has not been set yet as of the time this article was printed.

Officers Meeting Recap

Red Cross Radio Room—The officers discussed the Radio Room at the Red Cross and it was determined that we would like to see it more streamlined and functional. We are looking into a day where we can go by and help clear out old non usable equipment, replace some equipment thereby consolidating space. Mitch will discuss with Stuart.

Warrior Dash— After multiple attempts at communicating with the Warrior Dash people what all would be required of us to participate and receiving no feedback, it was decided to not partake of the event.

Antenna Analyzer—The officers to decided to purchase a new antenna analyzer that covers more VHF/UHF spectrum to accompany our MFJ-259B. The new device will be an Autek RF5 VHF Analyst covering 35-75 and 138—500MHz.

Christmas Party—No one has stepped up to help put the party together yet. The officers will start the preliminaries with hopes of someone coming forward to help at the next meeting.

Club Shirts—Mitch brought in final designs for the new club Polo and t-shirts. Prices for the polo were not finalized until the stitch count can be done by the embroiderer. Members can have their name and call on the shirts for an extra fee.

Elections—Some of the officers will not actively seek reelection and replacements are being sought. One candidate for Treasurer was discussed. No other nominations were received.

SET Nov 5—The people running the SET on Nov asked if they could use the club repeater for the drill. The officers agreed to let them use it but were told no guarantees that it might coincide with the transfer of the repeater to the new tower.

Ham Classes—Dallas asked the club for funds to pay volunteers to be instructors for upcoming classes due to lack of response for volunteers. The officers declined, but instead offered to give instructors a club polo shirt, and it would have "Instructor" put on the shirt.

Donation—Mitch relayed a list of equipment donated to the club by a local ham. Mitch suggested some of the equipment could be used in the Comm Trailer he and Alan are building. One item was also discussed as being used for a door prize.

Randall's Card—Mitch mentioned to the officers about a program that Randall's has whereby a charity (AARC) could receive a gift card when people link their Randall's card to the charity. Jay mentioned that the program done mainly in Dallas, and had been tried by other local clubs with very limited gains especially due to the work put in to get the cards.

XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS

"Hon! How do these vacuum tubes work"



AARC Meeting Info.

Waterloo Icehouse

**8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183
(Come early and have dinner!)**

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

November 1—Elections for 2012! Bring your nominations! Also: Club shirts, and Christmas Party!

Officers Meeting 7:00 pm

**November 15 - Newly Elected officers,
please attend!**

2011 Calendar of Events

Nov 5 South Texas SET

Glen Reid K5FX Travis County ARES Emergency Coordinator k5fx@arrl.net

Nov 5 Enid Hamfest

www.enidarc.org/enidhamfest

Nov 5 Walk To Stop Diabetes (short walk, possibly simply need course monitors)

Kirk K5TOC kbrandau@yahoo.com

Nov 9 FEMA & FCC's National Emergency Alert System Test 1:00 PM

Nationwide test will simultaneously involve television stations & broadcast radio stations across the U.S. and U.S. territories www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm

Nov 10 Multi-County Hospital Drill

Joe N5HPC@arrl.net

Nov 11-13 Dstar QSO Party

www.icom.co.jp/world/d-starparty2011/

Nov 12 NCTECH 2011 Azle Community Center

www.wc5c.org/WC5CClub/NCTECH/tabid/152/Default.aspx

Nov 19 Air Race in Taylor NQ5L@arrl.net

2011 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— November 5th & December 3rd 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- November 19th & December 17th 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>

Upcoming Meetings...

Nov	Dec	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
1	6**	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
12	10	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
15	20+	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
19	17	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
23	28+	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
28	26+	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
22	27+	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
24	No+	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.*

*** AARC Christmas Party—See Page 6*

+Some meeting may not take place due to their proximity to the holidays, check with the clubs for the latest info.