



AARC OVER

Keeping Austin Wireless
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

February 2012

Happy Valentines Day

Issue 2-2012

Capitol 10 K Packet Stuffing Sunday Feb 26th!

The date for this years Cap 10 K Packet Stuffing has been set. Normally we hold the event on a Saturday but due to the possible dates falling on ham radio events, we have decided to move the event to **Sunday February 26th**.

In years past we have gotten together a great bunch of hams happy to volunteer their time to help with this project and we are looking for some volunteers again this year. We have morning and afternoon shifts available. Snacks will be served as well as a lunch for the volunteers. As usual, the back massager will be on hand to help work out any kinks you may receive.

Please come out and support the Austin Amateur Radio Club as this effort will make the club a tidy sum of \$2000. It is this kind of project that helped fund the recent transfer of the 146.94 repeater.

If you would like to help, you can contact Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW at [n5mnw \(at\) arri.net](mailto:n5mnw@arri.net) or be at the next AARC meeting and sign up there. We look forward to hearing from you!

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 7th at Bethany United Methodist Church :

Technician Class License Processed

Marshall H. Wyatt KF5NZE

General Class License Processed

Perry K. Buch KC2QJA

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram W8NUE

Curt Goodson W4QBU

Larry Gunter WB5BEK

Joe Makeever W5HS

Tom Nevue W2MN

Joe Thiel N5SMN

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

February 4th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 202

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

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

1-21-2012

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following persons who earned their new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our January 21st session:

Extra Class –

Paul M. Babuchna, KF5KFX

General Class – (none)

Technician Class - (new)

Jason M. Howard

Richard C. Patterson

Danny L. Sparks

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK

Wally Marusa, K5WLY

Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two sessions are set for February 18th and March 17th.
For the February date, please come to room 207 of Fleck Hall and
for all following dates come to Fleck Hall room 118 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	368-2566	president@austinhams.org
Vice President	Lori Schmidt	KM5MQ	632-6789	vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST		treasurer@austinhams.org
Secretary	Alan Russell	KE5DTR	851-1806	secretary@austinhams.org
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.	Glen Reid	K5FX	263-5700	k5fx@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 & 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.

AARCOVER Information: ISSN 1067-0262, CODEN AAOVE3. ©Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Published monthly by the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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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

ka5ost@arrl.net

Jay handles all changes for membership information .

Silent Key

I'm sad to report, not too long after his wife Toni DeVane N5ADH died, Alvin DeVane WB5HZQ has passed away. He was 88.

Alvin was a long-time Austin Police officer, a very active Ham Radio operator & Barbershop singer and a good friend to a great many people. We are sad to see another of our dear friends pass on but we know they are in a better place.

Jeff N5MNW & Lori KM5MQ



Here are a few (of many) snips:

Retired Austin police lieutenant and street's namesake Alvin DeVane dies

http://m.statesman.com/statesman/pm_23035/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kzQDgKBU

<http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/statesman/guestbook.aspx?n=alvin-devane&pid=155312361&cid=full>

Toni's obit:

<http://wcfish.tributes.com/show/Antoinette-Toni-DeVane-92862949>

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.

- 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.

AARC Meeting Minutes: January 3, 2012

Meeting called to order: 7:03pm by President Mitch London, KD5HCV.

Meeting started with a welcome to all.

We had 51 in attendance, 4 visitors, and 1 new member. No upgrades were reported.

Minutes: No minutes from December due to the Christmas Party.

Past Events: Christmas Party had ~70 people attend, good music, and Roy Walker, WA5YZD, won HOTY. The repeater project is coming along and hopefully be finished soon. We have spent ~\$7800 with another ~\$2500 due, which is way under budget.

Upcoming Events/Announcements: Big Bend 50K Ultra Marathon (1/15); Copeland Scholarship deadline is January 31st (be sure to meet all requirements for submission, such as including copy of your license). Bandera 100K (1/7-8) is a 24hr all-weather event with various communication volunteer positions/needs. Ham Class (1/7, 14, 21, & 28) needs an instructor for the 14th and has changed locations; Cowtown Hamfest (1/20-21); 3M Half Marathon (1/29) needs ham volunteers; Livestrong Austin Marathon (2/19); Greater Houston Hamfest needs programs; Landing Zone Class (2/11); SkyWarn (2/18); 2012 Membership Dues are now due; ARES meets every 4th Tuesday and needs net control operators; club Polo shirts and T-shirts are available; the Trail of Lights may take place next year, but thanks to volunteers who helped at the holiday light display that replaced it. 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: none.

Vice-President: always looking for presentations.

Treasurer: account totals given with amounts taken in and paid out; ~235 members; and officers may look at having renewal dates based on paid date instead of January 1.

Editor: send articles.

Tech Committee: none.

ARES: program this month deals with response teams they are looking to create; and the ARES net may move to a 7pm start time instead of 7:30pm.

SIG/Other: HSMM-Mesh recently received some special recognition from ARRL.

Space Wx: Cycle 24 may beat Cycle 23. There was a very active sunspot recently that threw M-Flares and CME's. The Geomagnetic Field is low. Solar Winds are near minimum, but are denser. Solar X-Ray Flux is low, but today's C-Flare raised it some. Forecast: a small chance exists for some C- & M-Flares, but mainly quiet. 10M is open. Texas Army MARS website is good for solar weather info, along with others.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Joe Canfield, N5HPC, was elected and Jim Bryce, W5HFS, appointed to the Copeland Fund Board to fill positions coming open. Packet Stuffing will be either 2/25 or 2/26 depending on the interest and availability of the volunteers from the club.

Ham of the Month: none, no one was nominated.

Door Prizes: Deroy Howard, AA5R, & Stuart Rohre, K5KVH – QLS Card Box w/ 2 disposable cameras; Kirk Brandau, K5TOC – Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer.

A motion was made and passed to make Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, an honorary lifetime member.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:13pm.

Presentation: "Ham Radio 101" by Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV.

Federal Land Passes for Portable Radio

Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

If you're a senior citizen or are disabled and you've been thinking about doing some traveling, activating a SOTA, or just wanna get away and operate from a mountain top in your local forest without spending a ton of money - then I highly recommend getting an Inter agency Senior Pass or Inter agency Access Pass available from the US Forest Service.

The ISP is \$10 and good for a lifetime while the IAP is free and also good for a lifetime. Both of these passes are good at all federal sites that has an entrance or standard amenity fee whether it be USFS, NPS, BLM, even USFWS. Follow the links below to find out how to get your own pass.

Interagency Senior Pass (Seniors)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/senior.shtml>

Interagency Access Pass (Disabled)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/annual.shtml>

Bryan Herbert - KE6ZGP

Happy New Year..... Club Dues for 2012 are Due!

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

Just print and fill out the form below!

And mail to:

The Austin Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4739

Austin, TX

78765-4739

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 12th 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/St/Zip _____

Hom 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"/> Newsletters	<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 _____			

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

(for office use only) _____

JMH 20110315

Big Bend 50 Draws Hams From Across Texas

The 2012 Big Bend 50 Ultra Marathon took place Sunday January 15th in Big Bend National Park. Ok, wait a sec...what is an "Ultra Marathon" ? Well, as you know a marathon is a 42 kilometer foot race, usually held in big cities. Ultra Marathons are runs that are longer than the regular marathons and sometimes they take place in more out of the way places in any type of conditions. The Big Bend Ultra Marathon is a 50K 25K or 10K race that takes place in the middle of Big Bend National Park. Runners are driven to the starting location in heavy duty vans as there are no paved roads in most of the park, and many of those are not maintained except by the occasional off road vehicle driving along.

This time of year in the park morning temps are at or below freezing, but by mid day are well into the upper 60's or lower 70's. With a 30—40 degree swing of temps throughout the race runners have to be prepared. There are multiple aid stations along the course where runners can get refreshments in the

form of water, power bar type snacks, and bananas (potassium helps prevent cramps) They also can shed a layer of clothes as the temps rise during the race. At each of the aid stations there is also a ham radio



Alan Russell, KE5DTR (in orange vest) keeps track of runners as they come through Aid station 5.



Finish Line for the 25K and 50K Races

operator. Like the Cap 10 K here in Austin, they provide communications during the race with vital information such as runners that may look fatigued, or are injured. But unlike the Cap 10 K where runners who do not want to do the whole race can just stop and walk home, in the Big Bend 50 we have to keep track of every runner and make sure we end up with the same number of runner we start with!

This year hams from Alpine, Austin, San Antonio and other Texas cities came down to help out in this years event. In years past communication could be difficult due to line of sight being blocked

by mountains and sometimes antennas on masts were almost a necessity. Fortunately a second emergency mobile repeater was positioned to cover more areas that the net control repeater could not. These repeaters were then linked so that no matter what repeater you were on you could talk to everyone. This made it extremely more convenient and reaching the net control station could be done from almost anywhere on the race course with a HT and a rubber duck antenna.

When the race started we had 150 racers on the 50K course, 117 on the 25K and 66 runners for the 10K. Most of the runners finished the race with only a few dropping out due to injury or fatigue. After the last runner crossed the finish line approximately 8 hours after the start, the last aid station broke down and headed back for Rio Grande Village for a well deserved dinner.

As with each successive year, more was learned about the race: what to do next year, what not to do next year, etc. But all in all a great time was had by runners and volunteers alike. Each year the race is help on the MLK Jr. Weekend so if you would like to be a runner or a volunteer next year, go for it! You can get more info about the latest Bug Bend Ultra Marathon at <http://www.bigbend50.com>.

The 146.94 Repeater is Back!

By Jay Hoffman, KA5OST

The 146.94 and the 224.8 AARC repeaters were put back on the air at their new home 425' up the new KVUE tower in west Austin. Brand new antennae, 1-5/8" Heliac feedline, triplexers, controller, and an NA6M tweaked Motorola Mastr II 50 watt repeater (2m). The audio quality is most excellent. The IDer and the timeout work the way Hams expect. Early reports show a significant improvement in coverage to the west. The 224.8 Repeater is running a Icom transmitter at 5 watts as before and also has better coverage with it new antenna and low loss feedline.

Photos may be found on the Yahoo! Group, Photos tab. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinhams/>

Please let us know how it works where you are! Report online at

<http://tcares.org/forms/repeateruse/form.html>

Here is the Team that made it happen:

Roy Walker, WA5YZD (2011 AARC Ham of the Year)

Mark Stennett, NA6M

Ross Snyder, N0GSZ

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

Jay Hoffman, KA5OST

Rick Kirchhof, NG5V

Hal Miles, AD5L

Jim Trulove, WB5EMI

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW

Nick Broline, W5FUA

Don Dudley, AC5YK

Lee Cooper, W5LHC

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Mike Rea – WB5GPO *

Russell Stanphil, N5CBT *

*Not AARC Members

Of course, we must acknowledge **all the volunteers for the Statesman Capital 10K race packet stuffing events for the past years.** The donations from the Statesman for our efforts funded this project. BTW, the next packet stuffing event is 2/26/12. N5MNW at arrl.net for details.

Thank you to everyone involved.



AARC Meeting Info.

Waterloo Icehouse

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

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

February 7—Lori Schmidt will discuss the ham Radio activities that took place during the ham cruise in October.

Officers Meeting 7:00 pm

February 21 - Come by and watch the officers at work!

2012 Calendar of Events

Feb 4 TCARES Mid Winter Drill Travis Co. and other CAP-COG counties are encouraged to participate. All are encouraged to be alert for the drill activation at any time on Saturday, K5FX

Feb 11 14th Annual MSET/ PHI STAT Air Landing Zone Safety Training (LZ) Class Shoreline Christian Center, 15201 Burnet Rd Helicopters: 8a – 8:15a LZ Class: 8:30a – 12:30p
<http://www.mset-tx.org/>

Feb 18 22nd Annual Lou Withrow SkyWarn Austin / South Central Texas SkyWarn Training Session 8am-4pm Big Tex Auditorium / The Commons - UT Pickle Campus in north Austin
www.utexas.edu/depts/grg/kimmel/skywarn2012.html

Feb 19 Livestrong Austin Marathon and Half Marathon
<http://youraustinmarathon.com/>

Feb 25 Williamson County Hamfest 8AM-? Community Center San Gabriel Park Georgetown, TX Admission price is a meager \$2 per person Seller tables are only \$8 each
<http://wcarc.com/wcarc.com/swapfest.html>

Feb 25 Orange Hamfest Orange ARC and Jefferson County ARC VFW Hall 5303 16th Street, Hwy 87 North, 1-mile North of I-10 Rocky 409-988-8906 orangearc@live.com Delores 409-962-1435 kc5neo@qt.rr.com
www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm

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

2012 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— February 4th & March 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- February 18th & March 17th 2p.m. in room 207, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184) for more info.

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

Upcoming Meetings...

Feb	Mar	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
7	6	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
11	10	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
20	19	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
18	17	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
22	28	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
27	26	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
28	27	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
23	22	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.*