



# AARC COVER

Keeping Austin Wireless  
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

April 2012

Belton Swapfest—April 14th

Issue 4-2012

## AARC and the Austin Makers Fair

Lee Cooper, W5LHC has received letter inviting the Austin Amateur Radio Club to participate in the 2012 Austin makers Fair...

The Austin area amateur radio clubs have been invited to take part in the Maker's Faire this year. For those that may not be aware, AARC presented during two past events. We did a combination of two things; 1) Was a live working VHF and HF radio stations that could be used by visitors and Kids to talk on ham radio and Jeff setup a series of hands on events for the kids such as microphone tied to an oscilloscope, some Morse Keys of various types, a digital multimeter that let them measure the resistance in their bodies, etc.

Austin



To put it mildly, we were a pretty big hit. In fact we were the winners of a Blue Ribbon for Jeff's interactive presentations, and I think pretty much all who participated had a lot of fun.

I would like to throw out this opportunity to ALL of the local clubs to participate as a group effort, and I hope I am addressing not only folks that have helped in the past but key folks from each group.

We will be soliciting participants at future meetings, as well as ideas for demonstration products. See info about the May12th event. <http://austinmakerfaire.com/>

### 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 3rd at Bethany United Methodist Church:

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Steve A. Blackburn KF5OWB  
Kevin L. Head, Jr. KF5OWA

Craig A. Buesing KF5OWD  
Greta L. Jones KF5OWC

## General Class License Processed

Walter P. Hart W5WLT

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Tony Davee KM5JH  
Steve Lang WB5ZIL  
Jack Stankus W2JS

Larry Gunter WB5BEK  
Joe Makeever W5HS  
Joe Thiel N5SMN

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

April 7th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 202  
May 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 202

3-17-2012

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following persons who earned their new amateur radio licenses at our **March 17<sup>th</sup> (St. Patrick's Day)** session:

### Extra Class –

John K. Whistler Jr., KF5OUB

### General Class –

Harold W. Allen, KF5OOK  
Joe M. Bryan, K5BRY

### Technician Class - (new)

Caleb W. Anderson  
Michael K. Chastain  
Taleena D. French  
Christopher W. Loss

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig O'Bean, AC5KW  
Jim O'Greenwood, AB5EK

Wally O'Marusa, K5WLY  
Gary O'Popp, AE5JR

Our next two sessions are set for April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>  
in 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
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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

ka5ost@arrl.net

**Jay handles all changes for membership information .**

## New ARRL Membership Benefits

The ARRL is excited to announce two new membership benefits that will be introduced in June 2012. In addition to the print copy of QST, all members will have access to an online digital edition of QST -- at no extra cost. You will be able to access QST from anywhere -- on nearly any computer, laptop, mobile device, smartphone and tablet (including Apple iPad, iPhone, iTouch and devices using the Android operating system). Members will also gain access to archived issues of QST from December 1915 to the present; previously, only issues through 2007 have been available to members. If you are familiar with the current periodicals archive, that platform will be expanded to include all of QST from December 1915 through December 2011. A second, new archive will be introduced for issues beginning January 2012, featuring enhanced functionality including full-text search. Members must have a valid ARRL website login to access the current digital edition of QST and the archived editions. Please follow these step-by-step directions to log in to the ARRL website:

Go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

At the top center of the page in “Site Login,” enter your username and the password you selected during registration. If you have forgotten your password, here are some steps to help you obtain a temporary password that you can use to log in. We recommend writing this temporary password down prior to logging in, then log in using your username and

*(Continued on page 5)*

## The Cap 10K 35th Anniversary a Success!

The 2012 version of the Capitol 10K marked the 35th anniversary of the footrace which is now the largest 10K race in Texas with over 20,000 people. The top honors went to Kara June and Scott Mac Pherson as they were the top Female and Male at the event. Their accomplishment no doubt brought them accolades and perhaps even a trophy. However, the people who should be given their share of accolades and even a good old "atta-boy!" are the numerous ham radio volunteers who again came out to help support the race.

The AARC had nearly 40 volunteers stationed around the race course ready to help. With flags and whistles at the ready and radios in hand, they kept a watchful eye looking for signs of fatigued or injured runners and even the occasional lost parent and child. The first check-point after the start was stationed by Bob Morgan, WB5AOH who again pulled double duty by noting the last runner to pass, and then went over to the finish area to help cover the last bridge before the finish.

New this year the club was given the use of 2 golf carts, at least one of which was equipped with APRS and manned by Paul KA5FZU and Ed KE5TWU. These proved to be useful tools in this years race as we could now talk directly with some of the "sag wagons" This year both Alan Russell, KE5DTR and Mitch London, KD5HCV provided mobile communications on their bikes. They were able to ride the course just before the start to find last minute debris or potential hazards. After all was said and done, they totaled 37 miles each riding back and forth along the course.

Paul, KD5VRU celebrated his own victory of a sort as the past number of years, near his station was a City of Austin water valve in the road making for potential trip hazard He had gone out the previous day to see if it had ever been fixed and when it had not, he contacted the city and when he got to his station on race day, the problem was fixed!

A huge thanks goes out to Lori KM5MQ and Jeff, N5MNW not only for helping organize the hams, but for also putting all the ham t-shirt/parking pass/whistle/flag packets together and having them available Saturday before the race and at the crack of dawn on race day at the Taco Cabana parking lot.

As for the race itself, luckily no major injuries were reported; a couple of downed runners that needed some medical attention, most of which need hydration. There were a couple parents and children separated during the race but reunited later on in the race or at the end.

In all, the race went very well and the help of all the volunteers made for a fun and great way to help support the Austin Amateur Radio Club. We look forward to seeing you at the Cap 10K 2013!



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## Big Bend Ultra MESH-Testing Phase

Many thanks to Rick NG5V for his time in testing an inexpensive yagi for 2.4 GHz. I had purchased it on eBay from a Hong Kong seller for \$9.95 with free shipping. At that price we could afford one for every MESH node in the county.

Rick came out and met me Friday evening at Barton Creek Mall, where we entertained the security guards as we tested the antenna over a ¼ mile clear path. The yagi showed no appreciable gain over that distance, and we judged it completely ineffective. We also tested a 12 dBi vertical and a 15 dBi flat panel, both of which were very effective over that path.

The test method was interesting because it used only the inherent signal strength sensing abilities within the Linksys MESH node. We had a decade box available for use, but didn't have to employ it. Many thanks to Dave AD5OO, for building that interface into the software.

This complicates the path planning for the BB50, since I was counting on using a high gain antenna that was both lightweight and had low wind resistance. Looks like this isn't the one.

Joe Jelinski  
KC2KG

(Continued from page 3) ARRL Membership

the temporary password. Select "Forgot Password" on the log in page

To reset your password by e-mail: Select "By E-mail" from the dropdown menu.

Enter your username and e-mail address. You must use the e-mail address that you used to originally register for a website login account. Click "Submit."

To reset your password by member credentials:

Select "By Member Credentials" from the dropdown menu.

Enter your username.

Enter your call sign or last name

Enter your Member ID (found on your QST mailing label).

Click "Submit."

Once you are logged in to the website, select "Edit your Profile" to change your password to something you can more easily remember.

Questions? Please visit the Digital QST FAQ page. You can also contact Member Services via e-mail or by telephone at 860-594-0200 or 888-277-5289 (US only).

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

You can pay online at- <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 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/St/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  Newsletter  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

## Over the WWaves...

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

"2O12L - that's Two Oscar One Two London - will be the callsign of the London ham radio station celebrating the London Olympic Games and Paralympics."

Check Out: <http://www.2o12l.com/>

Forwarded by Juanita Miyasaki, KD5OIE

Discovery Channel discovers ham radio comeback. Umm....when did it leave?

<http://news.discovery.com/tech/ham-radio-operator-amature-grow-111123.html>

Forwarded by Jay Hoffman, KA5OST

Some say don't let the past haunt you, well, here are some QSL cards of the past.

<http://oldqslcards.com/>

Link forwarded by Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW

From the, "Why didn't I think of that?" department

<http://blog.makezine.com/2012/02/24/using-a-washer-as-a-soldering-aid/>

Forwarded by Rick Herndon, K5FNI

### Austin Autism Bike Ride Needs Hams

Attention all Amateur Radio Operators who like working public service events. On Sunday, April 1st, the Austin Autism group will be having a bike ride starting in Georgetown. It will be essentially the same route as the Red Poppy ride uses except for a different starting location. The Lone Star Amateur Radio Association (LSARA) will be in charge of providing communications for this event. There is a need to fill slots at 6 rest stops, 3 SAG wagons and a supply vehicle (all provided by the group) and one or two more working at the start/finish area for a fun walk and other activities. I would like to have a couple of radio operators at each rest stop. Thanks to Mark, we will be using the 147.08 repeater that day. Because of the distances involved and the terrain, it is recommended those who will be riding in a SAG vehicle use a high power radio with a 5/8 mag mount antenna and some of the rest stops may need to use something larger than a handheld.



If you would like to participate please contact John Trickey via email: **KB0IW at Yahoo.com**. I will need your name, call sign, t-shirt size, email address and a contact phone number no later than Wednesday, March 21. After that date, you can still volunteer but I can't guarantee the right size shirt or food.

The day will start about 7:00 am when those riding along in the SAG wagons and supply vehicle will need to put their equipment in the SAG vehicles. The first SAG is scheduled to leave the start area about 7:30 and the others shortly thereafter. The race officially starts at 8:00 when those going the longest distance leave, other groups, by distance, will be starting every half hour. The rest stop workers will need to be in place at different times during the day.

For more information about Austin Autism and the bike ride, you can check out their web site at

[austinautismbikeride.org](http://austinautismbikeride.org).

Thanks for volunteering.

John Trickey, KB0IW

## **AARC Meeting Minutes:** March 6, 2012

**Meeting called to order:** 7:04pm by President Mitch London, KD5HCV.

Meeting started with a welcome to all.

We had 51 in attendance, 2 visitors, and 1 new member. No upgrades were reported.

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

**Past Events:** Packet Stuffing (pictures shown) netted the club \$2000 (plus some shirts); Livestrong Marathon; Williamson Co. Hamfest; Orange Hamfest; Houston Hamfest.

**Upcoming Events/Announcements:** Cap10K (3/25) needs volunteers, contact N5MNV; Spokes & Spurs Ride for the Ranch (3/31) need 12 hams for SAG Wagon ride along; Belton Hamfest (4/14); the officers are looking at selling the club's old equipment at Belton; BB50 Ultra Marathon (1/20/13) wants to run HSMM-Mesh nodes for the race; 2012 Membership Dues still due; Copeland Scholarship gave out a total of \$7500 to 6 recipients; the By-Laws have been submitted by the committee to the officers and work started to develop an operations/procedures manual; Field Day is in June and the officers are looking to find a more public location; the Christmas Party is looking to be at Cannoli Joe's again (hopefully with the Sweet Adelines again); remember, get your club shirts. 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.

## **REPORTS**

**President:** none.

**Vice-President:** none.

**Treasurer:** membership at 221; account totals reported and they all look good; the .94 repeater move has been paid off.

**Editor:** send articles, very easy by email.

**Tech Committee:** repeater issues can be reported online at our website.

**ARES:** the statewide drill (Sat. 5/4) will utilize different bands; second Tuesday is the planning committee meeting; ARES net Sundays at 7pm; Daylight Savings starts 3/11.

**SIG/Other:** none.

**Space Wx:** Solar Flux has been low, but increasing. A sunspot has appeared that is throwing M- & C-Flares and a CME that will probably graze Earth. Solar X-Ray Flux shows spikes during M- & C-Flares. We are currently experiencing a Proton event. The Geomagnetic Field is fine and relatively normal. Solar Winds are a little dense. The forecast is unsettled to major storms possible. 10M is open during the day. Visit the Texas Army/MARS website and other solar weather websites for more info.

**Old Business:** none.

**New Business:** Reminder, the West Gulf Division QSL Card Contest is in progress, has 3 categories of entries, and the grand prize will be awarded at HamComm in Plano.

**Ham of the Month:** Marie Vander Wheele, KA5HFH.

**Door Prizes:** Norm Sprott, KE5DTP - Grab Bag #1; Crockett Grabbe, KF5LTT - Grab Bag #2.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:00pm.

**Presentation:** "The 146.940 Move & Operating Practices" by Roy Walker, WA5YZD.

## **AARC Meeting Info.**

### **Waterloo Icehouse**

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

### **Business Meeting 7:00 pm**

**April 3rd**—HT Programming/Using Elmering Session with N5MNV

### **\*\*\*Officers Meeting 7:00 pm\*\*\***

**April 17th - Come by and watch the officers at work!**

**\*\*\*Officers Meeting will be held at The Pit BBQ 4707 Burnet Rd.\*\*\***

## **2012 Calendar of Events**

**Apr 14 Belton Hamfest** Admission \$5 Talk-in 146.82(-)PL 123.0 [www.tarc.org/hamexpo/](http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/) [www.beltonhamexpo.org/](http://www.beltonhamexpo.org/)

**Apr 15 Austin 10/20** 7 AM - 11 AM 10 Mile Race in North Austin in the area of The Domain HSMM-MESH folks to setup along the route with their IP Cameras. Need a minimum of 10, one at the start line, one at each mile 1 -9 but the more the merrier. Contact Kirk K5TOC [k5toc@arrl.net](mailto:k5toc@arrl.net)

**Apr 21 7290 Texas Traffic Net Picnic** 4 PM SPJST Hall #48 in Beyersville, [www.7290trafficnet.org/\\_mgxroot/page\\_10801.html](http://www.7290trafficnet.org/_mgxroot/page_10801.html)

**Apr 21-22 BP MS150** Houston to Austin Bike Tour Saturday & Sunday 7:00 am Mike Hardwick [N5VCX@att.net](mailto:N5VCX@att.net)

**Apr 28 WCARC Spring Picnic** Arbors - Area B at San Gabriel Park Rick W5NR [w5nr@suddenlink.net](mailto:w5nr@suddenlink.net)

**Apr 28 Red Poppy Ride** – Georgetown Texas <http://www.redpoppyride.org:80/>  
Contact Craig W5TSN [w5tsn@suddenlink.net](mailto:w5tsn@suddenlink.net)

**Apr 28 Multi Club Tailgate Sale** The Summit High School 1838 E Sam Houston Pkwy, Pasadena, TX. 7am  
Contact- [pattyallenboi@skynethouston.com](mailto:pattyallenboi@skynethouston.com)

**Apr 28 "T-town Twister" Special Event Station** Mike Manshack STX PIC11:00AM – 5:00PM The Tuscaloosa Amateur Radio Club (TARC) Special Event Station in remembrance of the 44 people that died when an EF-4 tornado struck Tuscaloosa on April 27, 2011  
Our operating frequencies will be +/- 14.270 and 7.270MHz. We will also be operating an RTTY station in the data portion of both the 20 and 40m bands.  
Ken Malgren, K7MAL South Texas Assistant Public Information Coordinator 208-830-6290

## **2012 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

**ARRL VEC**– April 7th & May 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**- April 21st & May 19th 2p.m. in room 207, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards Univ. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK @arrl.net, (327-6184) for more info.

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

## **Upcoming Meetings...**

<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Address</b>
3	1	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
14	12	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
16	21	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
21	19	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
25	23	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
23	28	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
24	22	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
26	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.*