

# AARC OVER A

Keeping Austin Wireless  
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

May 2012

Tour de Cure—May 5th

Issue 5-2012

## AARC and the Austin Makers Fair

The Austin Amateur radio Club is participating in the Austin Mini maker faire on Saturday May 12th. We will be there demonstrating Morse code, antennas and other aspects of ham radio.

We hope to get both kids and adults interested in Amateur radio by demonstrating some of the different aspects of ham radio there are. We hope you will find time to come by and see our booth as well as look at some of the other great maker projects there on display.



The HSMM-MESH group will also be there demonstrating their MESH system and using the MESH as a way to look at a wireless camera that will be making its way around the maker faire.

This years maker faire is at Pine Street Station located at East 5th street and Waller, which is just east of IH-35 on 5th Street. Advance tickets can be bought online or at the door for \$10. For more information about this years maker faire and the makers, go to...

<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+

### In This Issue

Story	Page
Ham Exams	2
New ARRL Benefits	3
CAD e-Shack?	4
FCC Seeks Input	5
Club Minutes	6
XYL Cartoon	7

# Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on April 7th at Bethany United Methodist Church:

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Andrew C. Campbell KF5PMS                      John S. Gerboc KF5PMT

## General Class Licenses Processed

Kevin D. Stuart KF5GEH                      Stuart A. Wolfe KF5NIX

## Extra Class License Processed

Alex Kilpatrick, Jr. AF5DH

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Steven Bonds NQ2S                      Milt Cram W8NUE  
Dave Harrell KJ5LW                      Joe Makeever W5HS  
Joe Thiel N5SMN                      Jeff Whisnant AE5VA

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

May 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 202  
June 2nd - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 202

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS  
Joe

4-21-2012

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

## Extra Class –

Charles W. Kirtland, WB5LOW

## General Class – (none)

## Technician Class - (new)

Ira T. Andrews

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW                      Jim Greenwood, AB5EK  
Scott Bryan, W5TS                      Wally Marusa, K5WLY  
Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two sessions are set for May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 16<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
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.

Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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

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)

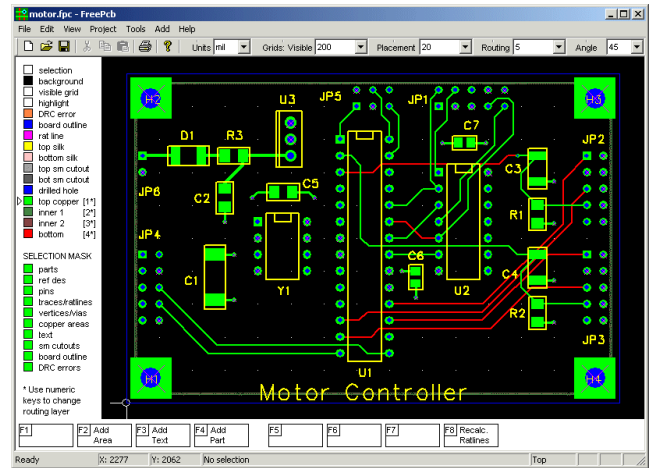
At the top center of the page in “Site Login,” enter your username and the password you selected during registration. If you have forgotten your password, here are some steps to help you obtain a temporary password that you can use to log in. We recommend writing this temporary password down prior to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

## CAD in the Shack

Rick Herndon, K5FNI

I queried an Austin area ham recently: "What sort of schematic CAD have you used at home? Have you ever used Cadsoft Eagle?" because I was searching for some good way to produce nice-looking schematics. I was employed for a while as a draftsman back in the late 1960s, but my old hands won't perform that well in 2012.

Here was his reply, which I wanted to share with all of the AARCOVER readers, some of whom may have the same need for schematic drawing as I have.



I have not used Cadsoft Eagle. It seems to be popular, judging from the comments/reviews that I have seen when surfing for "SPICE" programs.

I mostly use ExpressPCB, which is free, practical, and easy to use right from the start. Not elegant, but it has most of the symbols needed for modest projects. It has the added advantage of net checking and the link to the express PCB layout program. Custom symbols can be made and saved. Another nice feature: it is easy to remove from the computer if you don't want it -- apparently no writing of junk to the Windows registry. Look at [www.expresspcb.com](http://www.expresspcb.com) (Caution: not the same as PCBexpress, which is a different PCB program).

When I was working part-time, we used ExpressPCB for many, many schematics and a quite good number of PCBs. Very good service, quick, reasonable prices, excellent quality. Only disadvantage is that the user is captive to that supplier for fabrication -- as with most other on-line PCB suppliers. The design can be sent via the internet to ExpressPCB for fabrication. Their mini-boards are almost affordable for home projects -- I have used them for one project.

I also use Visual Spice from Island Logix. Good schematic capture and good spice simulation, but no in-built PCB layout. Visual Spice is relatively easy to learn and use. I have Visual Spice Advanced, Version 6.50a, which is one step up from their least and cheapest non-advanced version. There is a free, but limited, trial version. (Caution: Island Logix has poor, virtually non-existent product support.) The cheapest version may be buggy. I have had no trouble with the advanced version.

There is an offering from SpiceCreator.com that seems to be the same as Visual Spice; They have a trial version, plus pay-for versions. I have not had any dealings with them, but from their website it appears that they may be more responsive than Island Logix.

There are schematic capture programs that accompany many of the spice programs. Look at 5Spice, Biege Bag, MicroCap (really pricey) and many others.

Look also at TINA-TI, which is a freebie from Texas Instruments. I would probably be using it if I did not have Visual Spice. There is a more capable pay-for version, just called "TINA", for several hundred dollars.

Some schematic programs from overseas use different, i.e., non-US symbols for transistors, resistors, etc.

-----  
A lot depends on what you want to do in the way of schematic drafting.

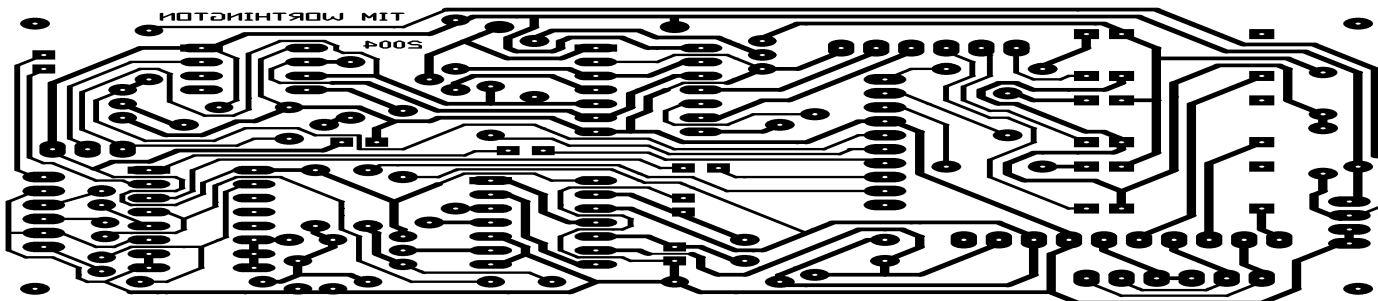
(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Perhaps do some surfing and look for programs and reviews. With the internet, there is always somebody, somewhere, who has something to say!

For purely CAD drafting, there are a number of options, but these drafting programs do not have the specific "schematic capture" feature that a home project person would want. Very capable programs, considerable learning curve, pricey, and possible without the electronic symbols that one would want.

I have tried IntelliCad, but have lacked the patience to become adept at it. There is a free program called A9cad, which is a simplified version of the big CAD programs, but which will produce drawings in a format compatible with the big boys. No electronic symbols in A9cad, so it is necessary to either make your own or find some from another program. ■



## **FCC Seeks Public Comments on Emergency Communications by Amateur Radio and Impediments to Amateur Radio Communications**

In response to the Congressional directive to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC issued DA 12-523 soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012.

"As part of the study contained in Public Law No. 112-96, the Commission has opened a 45 day period for comments to be filed on the issue," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Because of the short deadline for the study to be completed and presented to Congress -- before the end of August -- the ARRL and the amateur community must quickly mobilize their response."

The FCC *Public Notice* focuses on two specific areas for comments. The first is the role that Amateur Radio has played and continues to play to support emergency and disaster relief organizations, such as FEMA and local/state emergency management agencies. The second is to determine impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications. This would include the impact that private land-use regulations -- such as deed restrictions and homeowner association covenants -- have on the ability of licensed amateurs to fully participate in providing support communications to the served agencies.

"This study is not about zoning ordinances or regulations adopted by the local or state governments," Henderson explained. "Amateurs already have the limited protection of **PRB-1** to assist them with those situations. The areas of concern here are the limitations that are placed on a property when it is purchased, either as part of the deed of sale or by restrictions imposed by the neighborhood/homeowner's association. Those restrictions -- sometimes referred to as CC&Rs -- are not currently covered by the FCC's PRB-1 decision from 1985."

To allow the ARRL to quickly collect and collate relevant information from the amateur community to help support the filing it will make with the FCC on this issue, a website has been setup. The site -- [www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information](http://www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information) -- provides details about what kind of information is needed by the ARRL.

(Continued on page 7)

**AARC Meeting Minutes:** April 3, 2012

**Meeting called to order:** 7:09pm by President Mitch London, KD5HCV.

Meeting started with a welcome to all and a look at weather radar (storm was currently hitting Dallas, Texas).

We had 37 in attendance, 5 visitors, and 1 new member. One upgrade was reported.

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

**Past Events:** Cap10K (pictures shown); Spokes & Spurs Ride for the Ranch.

**Upcoming Events/Announcements:** Belton Hamfest (4/14), we will be selling old club equipment; Austin 10/20 (4/15) needs hams for HSMM-Mesh nodes along the race; BPMS150 (4/21-22); Red Poppy Ride; T-Town Twister Special Event Station (4/28) by Tuscaloosa ARC; Austin Mini Maker Faire (5/12), club will be there to demo ham radio the same way we did last time; 2011 Taxes & 2012 Membership Dues are due; ARES Drill (5/5) will be statewide; Field Day 2012 still looking at new location; ARRL Rookie Roundup this month; K-Comm San Antonio is closing; Odyssey Round Rock has job openings; ARRL needs war stories from hams who dealt with HOA's during emergency comms; 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:** next officer's meeting will be at "The Pit Bar-B-Que" on Burnet.

**Vice-President:** none.

**Treasurer:** none.

**Editor:** none.

**Tech Committee:** continue reporting repeater issues; still looking to reposition the .94 antenna to get rid of the coverage gap in Cedar Park; new 440 repeater coming soon; and another Ham Cruise is slated (cabins filling fast).

**ARES:** the .94 repeater is again the primary source repeater.

**SIG/Other:** HSMM-Mesh meeting (4/4) will discuss the BB50 race.

**Space Wx:** Solar Cycle 24 is lagging Solar Cycle 23. Solar Flux low, Planetary A Index calm, no major sunspots, and both coronal hole and sunspot counts are low. Solar X-Ray Flux in B range and stable. Solar Wind is low with low density. Forecast: calm, for now. Visit the Texas Army/MARS website and other solar weather websites for more info.

**Old Business:** none.

**New Business:** none.

**Ham of the Month:** Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, & Joe Makeever, W5HS.

**Door Prizes:** Kelly Hoag (no call) & Priscilla Jefferys, KF5FFM, both won a Carnival Cruise Lanyard & mini multi-tool.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:08pm.

**Presentation:** "HT Front-Panel Programming & Practical Use 'In the Field'" by Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV.

---

## **A QRP Challenge**

Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

QRP ARCI issued an Accessibility Challenge in January, 2012. It was announced in the Winter 2012 QQ, the club website (see <http://fdim.qrparci.org/content/view/128/>) and various QRP lists. The core of the challenge is for QRPers to create a kit that can be built by our visually impaired hams. The rules are found at the web site above. The intent was to make this a special category in the FDIM 2012 (Dayton) building contest. Entries would be on display at FDIM 2012 and a team of three judges would select the winning entries.

Since issuing the challenge, we have received feedback from a number of sources stating that a four month timeline was overly optimistic to perform all the needed steps to develop such a kit. We have discussed various alternatives and have decided to extend the timeline. The rules will stand as initially stated, however this will be a special category at FDIM 2013. Thus giving a full year for the development and design effort.

This extension will also give time to adequately publicize the challenge and insure a high level of participation. We apologize for our overly optimistic start. Form your design teams and heat up the irons. We look forward to seeing the results at FDIM 2013.

Ken Evans, W4DU President - QRP ARCI

(Continued from page 5)

Also on the site, you will find links to two online data collection forms. The first form allows you to provide information about specific emergency communications in which Amateur Radio has played a role since January 2000. The second form asks for specific information on the CC&Rs/deed restrictions that control your property. It also asks you to provide information on how those restrictions have impacted your ability to fully support emergency communications.

"Whether you are an ARRL member or not, your information and situation are important to helping us make the case for all amateurs," Henderson said. "Whether your support communications are with ARES®, RACES, SKYWARN, CERT or other emergency and disaster groups, your voice should be heard. If you cannot operate effectively from home during an emergency because CC&Rs prohibit adequate antennas on your property, that is important to document and quantify. This issue affects all of Amateur Radio, not just ARRL members."

Henderson said that due to the short timeframe that the FCC has allotted for public comment, time is of the essence. In order to allow the ARRL to develop its comments, the ARRL asks that all information sent by the amateur community be received at the ARRL no later than April 25, 2012: "We realize this is a very short turnaround asking for your response, but this is based on the time provided by the Commission for the comment window."

It is important that when you provide specifics of your CC&R, you also provide the ARRL with a copy of its

# XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



actual wording. If you have the CC&R in a digital format (or you can scan the document into a file), it can either be uploaded through the website above or it can be sent via an e-mail to [CCRinfo@arrl.org](mailto:CCRinfo@arrl.org). If you do not have an electronic format, a hard copy may be sent via US mail to: CCR Study Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"We need factual, specific details," Henderson said. "The more accurate information we have -- including copies of the CC&R language -- the stronger case we can make. Having copies of the exact CC&Rs is important. It allows us to demonstrate the wide variation of restrictions. Including the specific text is as important as any other piece of information you provide."

If you have questions about what is being requested, you may contact the ARRL Regulatory Information Office via [e-mail](#). "Again, time is of the essence in this matter," Henderson said. "This is the best opportunity that amateurs have had to address the impact of overly burdensome private land use restrictions. If Amateur Radio is to succeed in this effort, it is going to take all of us working together."



“And why shouldn’t I add a Martin house?”

## **AARC Meeting Info.**

### **Waterloo Icehouse**

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

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

**May 1**—Alan Russell, KE5DTR and Mitch London, KD5HCV will be discussing amateur Satellites and ways of contacting them.

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

**May 15 - Come by and watch the officers at work! \*\*\*Meeting held at Mangia's 12001 Burnet Rd\*\*\***

## **2012 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

**ARRL VEC— May 5th & June 2nd** 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 19th & June 16th**  
2p.m. in room 207, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards Univ.  
Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK @arrl.net,  
(327-6184) for more info.

<http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin>

## **2012 Calendar of Events**

### **May 5 Smithville Hamfest -**

Johnny Pittman Memorial Swapfest  
VFW Hall 1309 on 557 Loop 230 in Smithville. Loop 230 / HW 95 @ the West end of Smithville Just North of the river. [www.bcarc-hams.org/](http://www.bcarc-hams.org/)

### **May 5 Tour De Cure**

(Austin Event) Start/Finish at the Travis County Expo Center Ham voice & APRS ops needed!  
Contact Jeff N5MNV@arrl.net

### **May 5 Statewide combined ARES/MARS/CCG Exercise** 9AM to noon timeframe

### **May 12 Austin Mini Maker Faire**

<http://austinmakerfaire.com/>

Pine Street Station 1101 E 5th St (E. 5th & Waller) in Austin Lee Cooper W5LHC 512-658-3910  
[w5lhc@arrl.org](mailto:w5lhc@arrl.org)

### **May 18-20 Dayton Hamvention**

Dayton, Ohio

[www.arrl.org/hamfests/dayton-hamvention-3](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/dayton-hamvention-3)  
[www.hamvention.org/](http://www.hamvention.org/)

### **May 19 Tour De Cure**

(San Antonio Event) May 19 Tour De Cure (San Antonio Event) Start/Finish in San Antonio Ham voice & APRS ops needed! Contact Lee N5NTG [tdc@sanantoniohams.org](mailto:tdc@sanantoniohams.org) or 210-771-7075 to volunteer

## **Upcoming Meetings...**

<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Address</b>
1	5	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
12	9	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
21	18	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
19	16	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
23	27	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
28	25	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
22	26	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
24	28	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.*