

ARRC COVER

Keeping Austin Wireless
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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July 2012

Issue 7-2012

Field Day 2012 Completed



www.arri.org

As the saying goes, "There we were between a rock and a hard place", this year we said, "what are we doing on this side of the rock?" The rock being the 103° temperatures. The other side being the cool air conditioned rooms of the Red Cross. With people not dropping like flies from the heat we

were able to concentrate more on the task at hand, making contacts!

The day started out with people getting antennas and cables set up and run though the windows into the Red Cross. With radios set up and most everything ready it was time for a quick bite to eat before jumping on the air. Alan Russell, KE5DTR and Mitch London, KD5HCV set out a variety of meats and cheeses and fruits to snack on, as well as peanut (or almond) butter and homemade jam sandwiches. The variety of jams went from the normal to the exotic; Strawberry, Peach, Cherry and Kumquat!

With lunch out of the way we were able to get on the air with a mountain of energy that we hoped would carry us till dinner. Pete Jordahl, K5GM was one of the first on the air operating CW with alacrity. Logging scores of contacts and getting us off to a great start. At the same time, the Get on the Air (GOTA) station was being populated by new hams and non-hams alike with ages ranging from 8 to mid 60's.



Pete, K5GM Operating CW

(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+

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Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on June 2nd at Bethany United Methodist Church:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Samuel D. Bryan KF5QNG
Michael Ponton KF5QNI

Kaelan S.A. Lindauer KF5QNJ
Scott H. Whitehead KF5QNF

Patrick T. McColgan KF5QNH

Extra Class License Processed

Michael J. Wenglar KE5OAP

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Mark Esslinger W5MAE
Jim Kinter, K5KTF

Larry Gunter WB5BEK
Joe Makeever W5HS

Joe Jelinski KC2KG
Joe Thiel N5SMN

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

July 7th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204
August 4th - Austin Airport Marriott South Hotel @ 1230 PM in the Bluebonnet Room
(a part of **Austin Summerfest**, the ARRL Texas State Convention)

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

6-16-2012

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following persons who earned their new amateur radio licenses at our June 16th session:

Extra Class – none

General Class –

Michael K. Chastain, KF5PES
Joseph J. Plano, KA1MZY

Annmarie M. Clattenburg –new-
Connly Willman, N5TYE

Lee D. Pinion, KF5PSE
Timothy P. Woodard, -new-

Technician Class - (new)

Marco Bukvic

Zachery B. Itkoe

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW
Scott Bryan, W5TS

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
Wally Marusa, W5WLY

Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two sessions are set for July 21st and August 18th
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
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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.

“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 .

World Naked Bike Ride Comms

A Big Thanks to those that helped with the World Naked Bike Ride Comms. We have received a number of thanks from those in charge of the ride for our providing not only comms during the ride but also for helping with directing riders. Since we had only a handful of comms operators available we basically played leap frog. When all the riders had passed a check point, that ham would go ahead to the spot ahead of the furthest ham and set up there. When the ham before them had finished, they skipped ahead too and in this manner, we were able to cover a 10 mile or so course with just 4 hams.

There were only a couple of minor scrapes and bruises but they were quickly scooped up by the sag wagon and they rode along to the finish line. There was a stop at the capitol where people took the opportunity to take a few pics of the capitol and after a while we moved on for the last half of the ride.

After the ride was completed, riders were offered the opportunity to stay for a little music for a small fee. A good time was had by all and the help of the Austin hams made a difference in getting the ride done safely.

Throughout the day the team of Alan Russell and Mitch London attempted several satellite contacts but to no avail. Sadly part of the problem was a time calculation error, which fortunately was found after the first pass. Unfortunately that led to the loss of 3 of the potential contacts. Another factor which was a problem was that this year the International Space Station was not turned on to the Voice mode and so contacts were unable to be made using it. The other factor was that all but one of the VHF/UHF FM satellites were non functioning. Even the Hope Oscar-68 (HO-68) gave no hope this year even though it was a relatively new satellite as it ceased to



GOTA Station Attracts Newcomers



Alan, KE5DTR Gets the Grill Ready

function for unknown reasons earlier in the year.

One of the concerns this year was the well being of people's stomachs, mainly because Joe Fischer, K5EJL was out of town for Field Day and so cooking duties were left to Alan and Mitch. They performed admirably as they brought out a grill and cooked up smoked Kielbasa sausages and burgers as well as some fresh grilled corn on the cob. Some people brought desserts and a chili pie even made its way to the site which disappeared quite rapidly!

As appetites for food were sated, the appetite for contacts grew once again and people buckled down for the night for the long haul into the wee hours. During the night the 40 meter band opened

up like a box of donuts at a Field Day site and we were ready for it. Both Phone and Digital went for a good number of hours picking up contacts left and right. Every now and again a jump over to 15 and 20 meters provided a few contacts to fill in the gaps when 40 was misbehaving. Even 60 meters was heard every now and then. Probably the only band nothing was heard was the 10 meter band, though partially because very little if any time was spent there.

As the hours went by, a couple of hams would retire to the next room for a quick snooze in the cot or the hammock that were brought in, and another ham would fill their station. There seemed to be just enough people to cover any of the stations that were vacant so we could maximize our contacts.

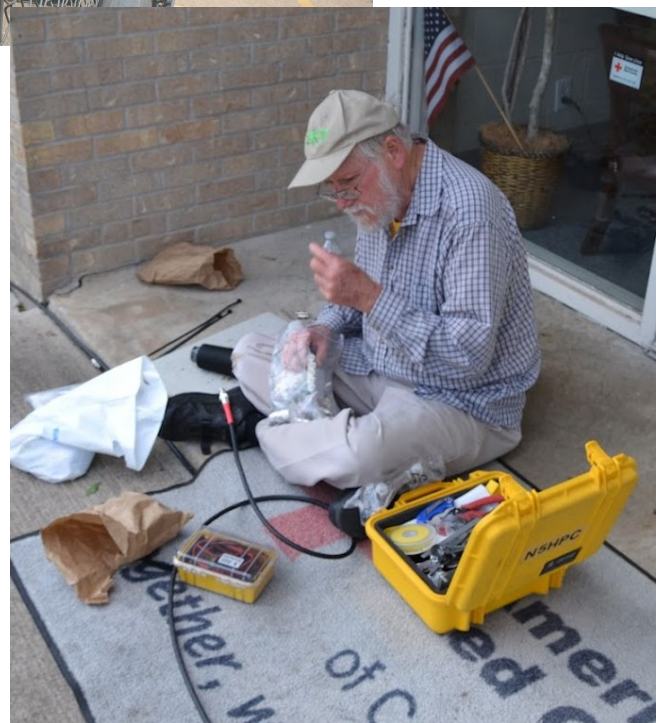
When morning rolled around Lew Thompson, W5IFQ made his entrance, through the window (the front door was locked) and he started up the RTTY segment of Field Day 2012 and he worked one band, and after getting everyone there, would move on to the next band and work all the RTTY there and racked up a good number of points.

When 1pm rolled around there were perhaps 5 sections that were not gotten such as Alaska, Netherlands/Labrador and such. But after a quick glance we had made over 1000 points in CW/Digital and Phone contacts alone. This turned out to be one of our better Field Day efforts and the temps outside only made it miserable when taking down the antenna farm. A huge thank you to all those who helped set up, operate and take down the 2012 Field Day Operation. See you next year!



Jeff, N5MNW Works the 15 Meter Band

FIELD DAY 2012 PICTURES



Photos By:
Alan Russell, KE5DTR
Steven Polunsky, W5SMP
Mitch London, KD5HCV
More pics on the web in the upcoming weeks!

AARC Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2012

Meeting called to order: 7:02pm by President Mitch London, KD5HCV.

Meeting started with a welcome to all.

We had 42 in attendance, 3 visitors, and 4 new members. No upgrades were reported.

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

Past Events: Austin Mini Maker Faire (pictures shown); San Antonio Tour De Cure (pictures shown); ARES/MARS Statewide Drill, both groups reported things went well.

Upcoming Events/Announcements: ROT Rally (6/7-10), needs hams; WNBR (6/9), needs hams; Ham Com (6/8-9); Austin Summerfest (8/3-4), may need volunteers; VHF QSO Party (6/9-10); Ham Radio Cruise (2/10-17); job opening at Silicon Labs available; ARRL now has Digital QST available; the club has a new email address for the officers, please use "AARC-Officers" at "austinhams.org" to send them emails; certificates for participating in ARES events were handed out. 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: will not be able to attend the July meeting.

Vice-President: none.

Treasurer: quick recap of account totals, money in/money out, and total amount spent last month on the 444.2 repeater (which is now on the air); membership at 239.

Editor: remember, newsletter is online; send articles and/or pictures.

Tech Committee: the 146.94 & 444.2 repeaters are still blocked getting into Cedar Park due to their position on the tower, but great for everywhere else. The committee is still looking at fixing this. One solution, if allowed, could be the addition of a second antenna on the north side of the tower.

ARES: none.

SIG/Other: 2nd Saturday QRP club meeting; 4th Wednesday HSMM-Mesh group mtg.

Space Wx: Solar Cycle 24 may be a suppressed cycle after all. Solar Flux has been up and down. A large coronal hole appeared 6/4. X-Ray Solar Flux spiked on 6/3. Geomagnetic Field is quiet. Solar Wind is high, but density is normal. Forecast is quiet, then active, then quiet. Some solar events that affect propagation were discussed. The coronal hole forecast for Field Day looks okay. Visit the Texas Army/MARS website and other solar weather websites for more info.

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Ham of the Month: Lee Cooper, W5LHC.

Door Prizes: Cliff White, WB5DYA – antenna; Norm Sprout, KE5DTP – Flashlight Radio; & Fred Brynell, KD5DKB – Flashlight.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm.

Presentation: "Field Day 2012" by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, & Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV.

News Brief:

I have updated the repeater reporting system. The repeater issues link on Austinhams.org and on TCARES.org both point to the updated reporting page.

The reporting process has been changed to include the new 444.200 repeater. There are also multiple entries for the different parts of the D-Star system. To use this report page, go to <http://tcares.org> and then click on "Repeater Issues" across the top of the page. Note that the frequencies for the D-Star system are correct. This is the new 2m frequency to be used after the changes in the next 60 days.

Each report you submit is permanently retained and your submission is immediately emailed to repeater committee members.

Please use this process to tell us when things are broken, describe how far out they will work and to submit comments about system operation.

73,
Rick, NG5V



Ham Classes Scheduled

We have a Technician Class starting on July 7... Classes will be from 8-12 Noon, July 7, 14, 21, and 28 with a VE session right after the last class...

The classes will be at the Williamson Co Jester Annex, Old Settlers Blvd, Exit 254, in Round Rock...

Info will be posted on <http://www.austinhams.com/> Some info is there now, more will be posted soon...

We will be using the ARRL License Manual for the class... We have 10-15 signed up and have room for 20 more...

We are also working on holding a General Class starting the Saturday after Summerfest... It too will be 4, 4 hour classes... 8AM - 12 PM... We may use the same site as above or one of the hospitals... Depends on where most of the students come from... This class ends the weekend before Belton...

AUSTIN SUMMERFEST 2012

August 3 & 4, 2012

Austin Airport Marriott South
4415 South IH-35

Austin, Texas
78744

Continuing a Ham tradition!

Once again it's time for fun in the sun in central Texas as we make the Capital City the place to be in the middle of the Texas summer. Come and enjoy old friends, the swapfest, and all the events at Austin Summerfest 2012, the ARRL Texas State Convention. And as always, we also host the Summer Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society.

Same great location!!!

Check out
www.austinsummerfest.org
for late breaking news!

Schedule

All the activity is concentrated on Friday night and Saturday, to allow you flexibility in your weekend travel plans. But do come early, as things fire up at 6 Friday evening and go 'till 9, and start up again Saturday at 8 am, with swapping 'till 3:30 and dealers & sessions 'till 4:30.

The Texas VHF-FM Society meeting will run from 1 to approximately 3 pm, so mark your schedule.

Dealers

There'll be our usual fine contingent of dealers, ready to help you with their knowledge of the latest products, and a great selection of them too. Think of those little odds and ends that you've been thinking of getting for the shack—well, here's your chance to get them while they're on your mind.

Prizes

Prizes Galore! You have a chance at a slew of them, including these four Major Prizes:

- *Grand prize* is a **Yaesu FT-857D** HF/6M/2M/70 cm compact all-mode transceiver.
- Our *Featured Prize* is a **FLEX-1500** HF Transceiver, courtesy of **FlexRadio Systems**.
- Our *Chairman's Prize* is a **Yaesu FT-7900R** 50W/45W 2M/70CM mobile transceiver.
- A special *Bonus Prize* is a **Yaesu FT-60R** 2M/70CM 5W heavy-duty handheld.



Bonus Prize,
Yaesu FT-60R

Furthermore, if you register in advance by mail you have a shot at still one more prize—another **Yaesu FT-60R!**

With your registration you get one ticket good for Saturday's door prizes and the Major Prizes, and you can buy more tickets at \$1 each. Plus, if you rent a room at one of the Convention Hotels, you'll get five bonus tickets for each room-night, up to a total of ten tickets. (See next page for prize rules.)



Chairman's
Prize, Yaesu
FT-7900R



Featured Prize,
FlexRadio
FLEX-1500



Grand Prize,
Yaesu FT-857D

Swapfest

For lots of folks, our main event—wall-to-wall goodies of every description, brought to you in carpeted, air-conditioned comfort on Friday evening and Saturday.

Rules:

- Full-sized tables: 6 feet by 30 inches. \$10 each, limit of 3 to a customer. First come, first served.
- AC power is available at an additional \$5 per customer, through advance registration only.
- We'll attempt to honor requests from groups of sellers for adjacent tables, if we receive your registrations in the same envelope.
- If you advance register for swap tables, we'll attempt to notify you in advance if they are unavailable due to being sold out (a rare occurrence). Be sure to give us your email address so we can notify you that way.

- Your table(s) will be held for you until 10 am Saturday.
- Swapfest hours are 6 to 9 pm Friday and 8 am to 3:30 pm Saturday. Opening times are for both sellers (for setup) and shoppers.
- Buyers and sellers must be registered at the convention.

We'll be holding a Tailgate swapfest on the east side of the Marriott hotel. You need not be registered at the Convention to sell at the tailgate, but of course you'll want to attend the indoor swapfest and sessions, so it would be a good idea to register.

Technical Sessions

- ARRL West Gulf Division Director **Dr. David Woolweaver K5RAV** conducts this year's **ARRL Forum**, with Vice Director **John Robert Stratton N5AUS**. Together, they welcome **Ward Silver N0AX**, Lead Editor of the ARRL Handbook and the ARRL Antenna Book, and an avid contestester. Ward will speak on Ham topics of national importance.
- The **Central Texas DX & Contest Club**, widely recognized for its excellent Summerfest presentations, has yet another outstanding program lined up for us.
- **FlexRadio Systems** personnel give us the latest on the Software Defined Radio project.
- Find out how to do "the mostest with the leastest" in our QRP workshop.
- The **Roadrunners Microwave Group** hold their annual meeting and host a session on the latest topics on the "high end."
- **Keith Pugh W5IU** leads a wide-ranging discussion on communications through **Amateur Radio Satellites**.
- **Tom Whiteside N5TW**, South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator, hosts a session on **Emergency Communications**.
- **Weather?** ? Learn about the latest in forecasting technology, and learn about recent weather events in the Central Texas area from leading Austin meteorologists.

Directions

The Austin Marriott Airport South is at 4415 South IH 35, Austin TX 78744. The SpringHill Suites are in the same complex, at 4501 South IH 35. Talk-in is on 146.34/94 MHz (tone 107.2 Hz).

IH 35 Southbound: Take Exit 229, go 1.3 Mi. to E. Stassney Lane and turn left. Turn left again onto IH 35 northbound service road and travel 1.0 Mi. to Marriott Hotel.

IH 35 Northbound: Take Exit 230 and travel 0.7 miles north on service road to Marriott Hotel.

US Hwy 71 Westbound: Exit at Bureson/Woodward and travel on the service road under IH 35. Turn left onto the IH 35 southbound service road. Continue 1.4 miles to E. Stassney Lane and turn left. Turn left again on the northbound service road and travel 1 mile to the Marriott Hotel.

US Hwy 71 Eastbound: Take the S. Congress exit. Proceed through S. Congress traffic light and take the southbound IH35 service road exit. Proceed 1.4 miles on the southbound service road to E. Stassney Lane and turn left. Turn left again onto the northbound service road and travel 1 mile to the Marriott Hotel.

Prize Rules

We'll award door prizes throughout the day Saturday, until noon. For these, you must claim your prize by 12:45 pm Saturday. We'll post your name/call or ticket number at the prize drawing table.

At 1:00, we begin drawings for our four Major Prizes.

For the Major and Advance Registration Prizes, you need not be present to win. If you're a winner, we'll post your name and hold your prize. If you haven't claimed it by the end of the day, we'll send it to you.

License Exams

An exam session Saturday afternoon will cover all elements. Bring a photo ID and one other form of identification, and \$15.00; if you're upgrading, bring your current license, any applicable CSCE's, and a photocopy of each. For more info email **Larry Gunter WB5BEK** at wb5bek@arrl.net

After the exams, **Jeff Schmidt N5MNW** and **Ron Hambric N5SBN** have just what you need: **A Welcome and Information for New Hams**.

Amenities

Come on up to our hospitality suite—that's where you'll find your old friends and new ones too. There are soft drinks and munchies on Friday night, and refreshments on Saturday morning. Saturday evening we'll serve soft drinks, munchies and eyeball QSOs lasting into the night.

The Marriott will again serve a specially priced buffet lunch on Saturday.

Administration Matters

Exchange views with West Gulf Division Director **David Woolweaver K5RAV**, Vice Director **John Robert Stratton N5AUS**, and our special guest from ARRL HQ, **Ward Silver N0AX**, QST Contributing Editor. Find out what's going on and offer your opinions and insights. The ideal way to get or stay involved!

As always, we host the Summer Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society, scheduled for 1:00 Saturday afternoon.

Craft and Skills Events

Sandy Talen hosts our crafts session. No prior experience required. Come for a short while or the whole session and take home a completed crafts project. Did we mention, no charge? Children are welcome, but an adult must be with the children to supervise and help.

AARC Meeting Info.

Waterloo Icehouse

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

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

July 3rd—Whole-house AC generators.
and Solar WX summary, both by Lew W5IFQ

*****Officers Meeting 7:00 pm*****

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

2012 Calendar of Events

July 14 *Tidelands Amateur Radio Society 25TH annual TEXAS CITY HAMFEST*

Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Avenue
North 8am-2pm
TALK IN 147.14 Mhz Tone 167.9 (Secondary)
442.025 Mhz Tone 103.5
Joe AA5OP, P.O. Box 73, Texas City, TX 77592
409-945-6794 aa5op@yahoo.com
<http://tidelands.org/2012hamfestinfo.htm>

Aug 3-4 *Austin Summerfest*

www.austinsummerfest.org (not populated
yet) Until then:
[www.arrrl.org/hamfests/texas-state-
convention-austin-summerfest-2](http://www.arrrl.org/hamfests/texas-state-convention-austin-summerfest-2)

Oct 6 *Belton Hamfest*

Admission \$5 (Includes a \$2 Raffle
Ticket)
Talk-in 146.82(-)PL 123.0
www.tarc.org/hamexpo/
www.beltonhamexpo.org/

2012 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— July 7th & August 4th (Summerfest)
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- July 21st & August 18th
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>

Upcoming Meetings...

July	Aug	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
3	7	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
14	11	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
16	20	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
21	18	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
25	22	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
23	27	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
24	23	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
26	23	CERT Meeting CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd.

**AARC Business Meeting is at Waterloo Ice House Come early and grab dinner before the meeting.*