



# AARCOVER

Keeping Austin Wireless  
for Over 91 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

August 2012

Issue 8-2012

## Austin Summerfest 2012 is here!

Austin Summerfest continues the tradition of holding the Texas VHF-FM society meeting, a huge swapfest with tailgating, and also the ARRL Texas State Convention! This year will be packed with informative technical sessions including a craft session. There will also be dozens of tables of swap fest items. Everything from old boat anchors, to the latest and greatest HT's, bench-top models and Software Defined Radio will be available for your perusal, and hey, if ya feel like buying something, I don't think anyone will mind.

There will be the hospitality suite as per usual where you can go and take a break from the days events, and you might even be able to help with the talk in! The events start 6pm Friday until 9 pm. Then get up bright and early as 8 am is the starting time for events on Saturday. Multiple informative sessions will be going on and lots of people will want to see them so be sure and get your seat early! It may be standing room only!

Don't forget to get some extra door prize tickets as there will be a plethora of great prizes up for grabs, and the grand prize is something you do not want to miss; a Yaesu FT-857D! For more information go to page 7 in this issue of the AARCOVER. See you at the Convention!

### 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
Over the WWaves	3
Noises!	4
XYL Toon	5
Summerfest	6
Happenings	8

# Ham Radio Exams Results

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

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

James W. Dowe IV KF5REA  
Kevin D. Lubojacky KF5REC

John D. Fisher KF5RDZ  
Fredrick E. Shadd KF5RDY

Michael L. Fisher KF5REB

## General Class License Processed

Charles T. McCormick KF5NAL

## Extra Class License Processed

Darrel P. Heckendorf WA7OIB

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Scott Bryan W5TS  
Steve Lang WB5ZIL

Larry Gunter WB5BEK  
Joe Makeever W5HS

Bruce Harrell KJ5LW  
Joe Thiel N5SMN

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

August 4th - Austin Airport Marriott South Hotel @ 1230 PM in the Bluebonnet Room  
(a part of **Austin Summerfest**, the ARRL Texas State Convention)

September 1st - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

## 7-21-2012

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

### Extra Class – none

### General Class –

Ronald E. Bass, -new-  
Jerry W. Kidwell, Sr., KF5KOE

Alexander G. Cole, -new-  
Douglas H. Riffey, Jr., -new-

Harry B. Kelton, Jr., N5WQH  
Robert L. Robinson, -new-

### Technician Class - (new)

Jason T. Dykes  
George G. Kraber  
Sharon D. Sarles

Michael W. Hancock  
Robert L. Morris  
Robert D. Sartin

James L. Johnson  
Keith D. Rizzo

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW  
Hugh Brown, NT5O

Jim Greenwood, AB5EK  
Sam Mihalik, KM5MY

Gary Popp, AE5JR

Our next two sessions are set for August 18<sup>th</sup> and September 15<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/](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	
440.650 +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 .**

---

## Over the WWWaves...

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

Heathkit is now officially out of business.

**<http://www.eetimes.com/electronics-blogs/break-points/4373376/Heathkit-shuts-down>  
From Rick Herndon, K5FNI**

I liked this image:

**[http://www.shorpy.com/node/13303?size=\\_original#caption](http://www.shorpy.com/node/13303?size=_original#caption)**

One comment said it was a particular DeForest WW I surplus crystal set:  
BC14A.

I looked that up on eBay and found one going for \$880 last year!

**<http://www.ebay.com/itm/BC-14A-WWI-DeForest-Signal-Corps-Crystal-Radio-NR-/180645015543>**

Holy cowabunga! That is a lot for a crystal set. Someone must've like the large number of knobs.  
73,Rick Herndon, K5FNI

## **Executive Order Poses No Threat to the Amateur Radio Service**

ZCZC AG19  
QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 18 ARLB018  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT July 12, 2012  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB018  
ARLB018 Executive Order Poses No Threat to the Amateur Radio Service

On July 6, 2012, the White House released an Executive Order that addresses National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) communications functions of the federal government. Contrary to some concerns raised in a few Amateur Radio circles, the Order does not appear to contain any threat to the Amateur Service or its ability to continue support communications during times of emergency or disaster. It also poses no threat to amateur spectrum.

"The purpose of the new entity, which would be created by this Order within the Executive Branch, appears to be to plan for future NS/EP communications and to insure survivability, hardness and interoperability, as well as to develop a long-term strategic plan for NS/EP communications," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Based on the Amateur Service's ongoing, positive working relationship with officials at the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications, it is hard to envision that any new management plan would not include Amateur Radio. Nothing in this Order directly affects Amateur Radio's daily operations."

A good summary of the content of the Order can be found online at, <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/519/2933910/Obama-assigns-new-responsibilities-for-keeping-government-connected-in-case-of-emergency>.

## **Where is that %\$@#! Noise Coming From?!?**

By Jeff Steinkamp, N7YG

Over the past couple of months I have had serious interference issues from my Netgear WNR2000V3 wireless router. This interference was present in two or three places on every ham band from 80 – 6 meters. My problem child was 28.118 MHz where the 10 meter PropNET frequency is, along with some junk at 28.120 MHz, the 10 meter PSK frequency.

This device was definitely not in compliance with Part 15 requirement for unlicensed electronic devices. So, for the past 2 months or so I have been going back and forth with Netgear on this when I finally determined their so-called "engineers" must have received their engineering degrees from the University of Cracker Jacks.

To make a long story short, the problem is not necessarily the router, but the extremely poor quality switching power supply that comes with this device, even though their head engineer told me there was no way a switching power supply could cause any type of radio interference.

I built a pig-tail with the proper power connector and first hooked this router up to 2-6 volt lantern batteries in series. Guess what? Absolutely no RF or switching hash was found anywhere from 80 – 6 meters. I found 2 other suitable 12 volt, 1 amp supplies in my junk box. One was another generic switcher and the other is an old Radio Shack, linear unit. I tried the linear unit and no hash. I then tried the generic switcher and had the same exact hash and noise as before. As a last test, I hooked the routers power directly to the output of the radios supply just to see if we might have some common mode interference playing around and still no problems.

So the moral of this story is – if you are getting interference that you have narrowed down to your router, try replacing the power supply with a good regulated linear unit and 99% of you problems will disappear.

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm by Vice-President Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ.

Meeting started with a welcome to all.

We had 38 in attendance, 4 visitors, and 1 new member. No upgrades were reported.

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

Past Events: ROT Rally; WNBR; Ham Com; Field Day (brief breakdown of contact totals, map, and reminder that the full report will be the August program).

Upcoming Events/Announcements: Tech Class (7/7,14,21,28) at Williamson Co. Jester Annex.; Texas City Hamfest (7/14); TCARES has a webpage for reporting repeater problems; Austin Summerfest (8/3-4) will have a great special speaker Friday Night plus the hospitality room; ARES SET Drill (10/27); Ham Radio Cruise (2/10-17) over half booked; Douglass Foxworth, KE5KGD, is blind and needs help installing audio cards. 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 (not here).

Vice-President: none.

Treasurer: none (not here).

Editor: none (not here).

Tech Committee: none.

ARES: none.

SIG/Other: none.

Space Wx: Solar Flux rising again. There are 10 sunspots, some throwing M- & C-flares, and a coronal hole. Solar X-Ray Flux has been spiking. Geomagnetic Field is settling. Solar Wind is high with low density. Forecast is quiet to unsettled with low to moderate solar activity. On Field Day 2012, solar flux was at its lowest in a long time, geomagnetic field was quiet, and solar wind was low. Visit the Texas Army/MARS website and other solar weather websites for more info.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, wanted to make a motion to buy equipment for the Red Cross; but did not after being informed the officers were still discussing it.

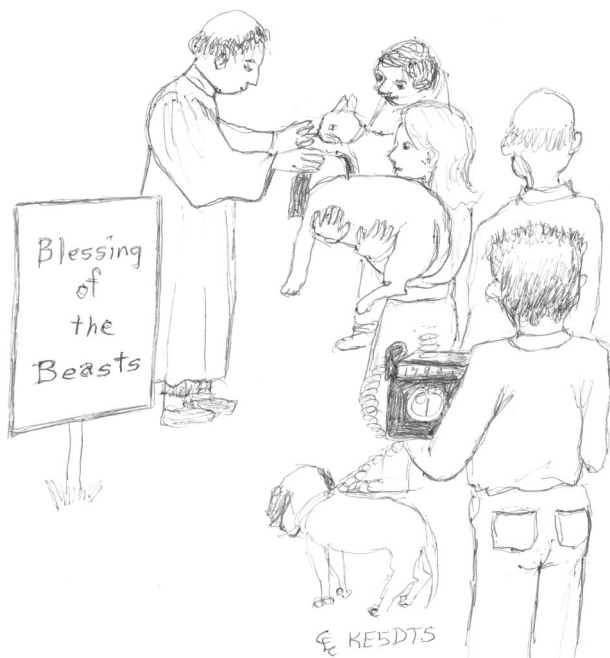
Ham of the Month: Jim Kinter, K5KTF.

Door Prizes: Marshall Wyatt, KF5NZE – safety light; Joe Canfield, N5HPC – dual band mini mag mount antenna.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:49pm.

# XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



# 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](http://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.

## 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](mailto: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**

**August 7th**—AARC Field Day Results & Pictures-  
Stu K5KVH and Jeff N5MNW and Solar WX  
summary, by Lew W5IFQ.

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

**August 21st - Meeting at Super Nacho Mex-  
ican Grill 9515 N Lamar Blvd. Come by and  
watch the officers at work!**

## **2012 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

ARRL VEC— **August 4th** (Summerfest See pg7 ) &  
**September 1st** 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- **August 18th & September 15th**  
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**

### **Aug 11-Sept 8 General Class**

Williamson Co. Jester Annex 1801 East  
Old Settlers Boulevard in Round Rock

Aug 11 8-12 noon

Aug 18 8-12 noon

Aug 25 8-12 noon

SKIP SEPT 1 due to Labor Day

Sep 8 8-16 (Last chapter, final review,  
guest speakers, break, VE Session)

Dallas KD4HNX

mylastname@yahoo.com

[www.austinhams.com](http://www.austinhams.com)

### **Oct 6 Belton Hamfest**

Admission \$5 ( Includes a \$2 Raffle Ticket)

Talk-in 146.82(-)PL 123.0

[www.tarc.org/hamexpo/](http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/)

[www.beltonhamexpo.org/](http://www.beltonhamexpo.org/)

**Oct 27 TCARES local drill** - Hospital/ARCHES  
intensive exercise

[www.tcares.org](http://www.tcares.org)

Fall SET Exercise - another statewide  
exercise

<http://www.wc-ares.org/>

## **Upcoming Meetings...**

<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Address</b>
7	4	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House*	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
11	8	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop	11:00 a.m.	12200 Research Blvd.
20	18	ATV Club Meeting Mangia's Pizza	7:00 p.m.	12001 Burnet Rd.
18	15	QCWA IHOP 183 Near Duval	1:30 p.m.	11654 Research Blvd.
22	26	Digital Wednesday at Red Cross	7:00 p.m.	2218 Pershing
27	24	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
23	27	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Auditorium	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
23	27	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.*