

AARC OVER

Keeping Austin Wireless
for Over 93 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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The Austin Tornado Drill-March 2nd

By Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

March 2, 2013 dawned bright and cold (41 degrees) but Red Cross Oklahoma and Texas Chapters conspired to bring about the (Drill) Tornadoes of the night before.

A two state outbreak of (Drill) tornadoes called out scores of Damage Assessment (DA) Red Cross volunteers in the two states affected. How to report all that damage locally found in the Austin Mueller development?

ARES was asked to man their radios and provide portable (mobile) stations to collect Damage Assessment "Street Sheets" which had been created by the Red Cross volunteers walking/driving the affected (drill) neighborhood, and filling in forms after viewing a picture of damaged houses on signs placed in each actual front yard of a (real) Mueller address.

Originally, ARES was expecting only 10 homes to be subject to inspection. By drill morning, the total had grown to 58 homes, and 5 Damage Assessment teams, of up to 4 members each. Red Cross had decided to maximize the training by having EACH team assess (estimate) the damage on ALL 58 homes. The "street sheets" cover one street and can hold 10 entries, (buildings). Teams determine an address, apt. no., and description, whether a house, mobile home, etc. including number of floors, basement, etc. Also damage surveyed from Major (destroyed) to Affected (minor). This replicated a real incident where teams often do not

(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 April 6th at Bethany United Methodist Church:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Brett E. Etter KF5UVO Joshua T. King KF5UVL Scott G. McKinlay KF5UVM
Jacob S. Yarnell KF5UVN

General Class License Processed

Rob W. Simmons KF5UVP

Extra Class License Processed

Michael M. Brennan AF5JI

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Howard Glueck K5ZUA Larry Gunter WB5BEK Jim Kinter K5KTF
Joe Makeever W5HS Joe Thiel N5SMN

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

May 4th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

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

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

The South Austin W5YI VE Team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or up-graded amateur radio licenses at our April 20th session:

Extra Class -

Reginald Ackerman, Jr. - KF5OOH

Gordon S. Novak - (new)

General Class -

Matthew Martinez (new)

Robert Neves (new)

Technician Class - (new)

Tollie Buie

Alfred Daves

Henry Groover

Kathy Jared

Jeffry Lane

Clyde Riddle

Pasquale Savone, Jr.

Kevin Stone

Scott Strecker

Sharron Sullivan

Ximone Willis

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW

T. Scott Bryan, W5TS

Gary Popp, AE5JR

Sam Mihalik, KM5MY

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on Saturday, May 18th and June 15th in room 118 of Fleck Hall 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 Craig AC5KW 512-474-6443 or by e-mail to hamradioexams@hotmail.com or visit our web page at

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

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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 & Newline
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.

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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 .

Club Dues for 2013 are Due!

The new year is here and you might as well get a jump on things by paying your dues for the 2013 year.

Besides the admiration of your friends, you also get guilt free use of all club repeaters, access to club equipment, online help through the use of the Austin Hams Yahoo group and much more! Be the first on your block to be a renewing member in 2013!

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

Just fill out the .pdf form and mail to:

The Austin Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 4739
Austin, TX 78765-4739



(Continued from page 1) Tornado Drill

know how many buildings are affected until they drive or walk the streets in the path of a storm.

Fortified by donuts and coffee, 20+ Red Cross volunteers and 6 ARES operators undertook the tasks of the drill. Tom Eagan KF5DMP, and Don Dudley AC5YI, parked their mobiles at a central neighborhood park off Threadgill and Berkman St., and Red Cross Damage Assessors were directed to go to them with their completed street sheets. Each 10 house sheet, uses a one line per report starting with the address, with one street to a page. One more character, the number of the team reporting, was added to the string.

Disregarding any water damage or flooding, (what's that?), The figures and characters describing one damage estimate line took less than 30 seconds to transmit back to Rik Chapman K5RIK, Bob Morgan WB5AOH, Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, operators and runners; and Glen Reid, K5FX, EC, who supervised that the Frequency 217 plan was strictly followed. A repeater was designated, but then a test showed that at even 5 watts, a simplex channel was all that was needed to contact the Red Cross Chapter house nearby. Later testing showed that a medium power simplex Mueller mobile with gain antenna, carried to the SW part of Austin. The 5 minutes of each message relay gave the Red Cross folks a welcome break to warm up in their cars.

No drill or real event happens without some form of Murphy's Law being proved once again. While the deployed teams were doing their thing, things proved more than exciting at W5KA, the Chapter Net Control point.

First of all, the usual radio for FM voice work was reported to be scratchy to the field radios. In an attempt to determine if it was a rig or antenna issue, a back up radio that was monitoring on an indoor antenna was to be switched to a different outdoor antenna than the suspect one. Reaching for the antenna plug, the unfortunate tester suddenly found that the back up rig had developed a stuck push to talk switch, and was painfully energized with full RF!

The field was calling in, time to pull the switch on the back up and answer the field on the scratchy radio. That taken care off, testing resumed; but keying down on the back up radio, it was discovered to be dark, with the power supply still powered on. Shutting down again, the fuse was checked--OK.

The radio still refused to power on. Greatly mystified, the assembled experts turned back to radio 1. After some examination for loose connections, radio 1 was left on and radio 2 was again studied to see why it did not power up. But, miracle--(divine intervention?),- it came on. We suppose the attempt to take off the antenna while its mike was stuck, caused a thermal shut down device to take the radio off line. It powered back up normally and worked flawlessly the rest of the drill. And retained all memories.

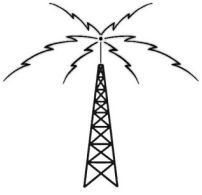
Not to be caught again, Bob Morgan jumped to the task of installing another spare radio, to provide a third 2m voice station or two voice stations and the packet station. After the drill, the latest radio was programmed for the primary repeaters used by W5KA. Bob had previously prepared a J pole antenna that will be installed later. Bob then went up 50 foot of the tower to remove a dual Microwave mesh node for servicing, and brought that down to close out a very busy morning for W5KA. Oh did I mention? Murphy also caused a Red Cross low band radio to fail with stuck squelch. All in a day's work, or drill for ARES!

KEYE TV appeared to document the drill event, but did not make it to the radio room. (Maybe that was just as well). Now, if you are looking for some Sat. excitement, we invite ARES members to drill with the Red Cross,-- we promise---not a dull moment.

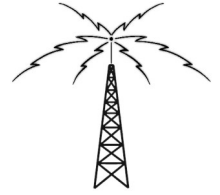
Thanks go out to the operators, EC/s, and Damage Assessment volunteers who made this a good test for ARES.

The Red Cross hot wash thanked ARES for coming, and Drill monitors and supervisor were impressed at the ARES relays that were accomplished.

This drill definitely handled more messaging then the previous DA drill near FM 2222, and in less time. 290 messages were handled. ■



Over the WWaves...



A Collection of useful and interesting Websites sent in by our readers (All links have been checked by editor as working at time of publication)

The Austin Public Library has a number of publications related to amateur radio available for checkout from the Central Library or any of the 22 branches and more are being ordered over the next few months. Many operators reside outside of Austin, but you don't need to be an Austin resident to get a card, all you need is to verify that you live in the state of Texas. There is no fee to check out or to get a card, and the materials are available for checkout for 3 weeks. If you want to inquire, here's some useful linkage:

How do I get a library card? <http://library.austintexas.gov/basic-page/adult-library-cards>

Browse the catalog: <http://austin.bibliocommons.com/>
Try "ARRL" or "amateur radio" for keywords that yield good results

The APL collection is an excellent resource for hams who may be of limited means, want to do research, or just gain more knowledge in our exciting hobby. Best of all, it's free and available anytime you want it. Get a library card today!

Jorge KF5IED



Silent Keys **Robert Wolf, KE5HLS** lost his battle with Hepatitis C and cancer at 5:30 this morning at MD Anderson. He leaves behind his wife Kerry and his son Daniel. I know he has other children but Daniel is the only one I know.

(Forwarded by Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV)

I am deeply saddened to report that **George Hart, W1NJM** is a silent key. He passed away Sunday at age 99 at Avery Heights. A memorial service is planned late April. George founded The National Traffic System and managed the Communications Department at ARRL for many years. We'll share many memories in another letter. May he rest in peace."



Betsey M. Doane, K1EIC - Section Manager
(Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH)

Pat Hawker G3VA the long time editor of Technical Topics column published by the RSGB Radio Communications Magazine, passed away at age 90.

Not too long ago a wonderful compilation of 50 years TT column was edited in a CD, and previous to that several very nice fully illustrated books were published with the contents of the TT column. The column began in 1959, so the publications cover a most interesting period of the development of radio and electronics technology.

Arnie Coro, CO2KK
(Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH)

Clear Weather? Beware!

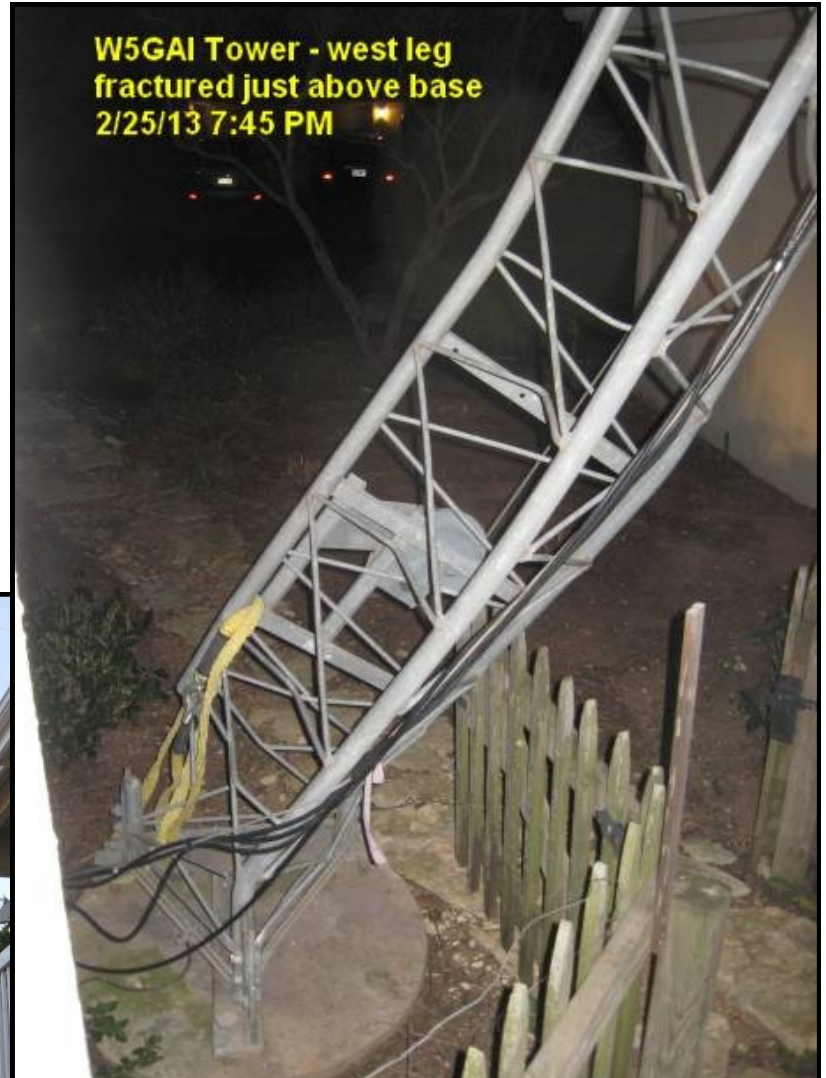
By Mitch London, KD5HCV

Pictures by Skip Cameron, W5GAI

The sun is shining, the birds are singing, you are inside and enjoying a nice glass of lemonade. There is a front moving in later but no rain or thunderstorms, just breezy. This does not sound like a precursor to a ham radio enthusiasts nightmare, but it could be.

Just because the weather is nice does not mean a good wind storm can cause a major headache and major damage to your equipment. On February 25th, 2013 Skip Cameron, W5GAI found this out first hand!

High winds, topping 50 miles per hour, on a clear night gave Skip's tower more than it could handle. Swaying to and fro, and twisting about in the wind was enough to fracture one of the tower legs. Luckily the tower did not crash through his



roof or into the street, but ended up leaning against part of the covered walkway. The next day, Skip assessed the damage and contemplated how to get the tower down to make repairs if possible.

It is times like these when it is good to have friends. Friends in high places, friends with connections but more importantly, friends with access to a really large crane!



Here we see the crane lifting the entire tower with antenna still attached off the ground and a lot of thanks to the expertise of Larry and Terry.



As responsible ham radio operators we can take lots of precaution when it comes to our equipment: unplugging rigs during electrical storms, making sure everything is grounded, etc. But sometimes Mother Nature is just bound and determined to beat us, or at least beat up on our towers! So take the necessary steps to keep yourself and your neighbors safe.

To see more pictures from the wind damage, go to <http://tinyurl.com/axahrcr>



Club Minutes

AARC Meeting Minutes: - The minutes were not available at the time of publication. They will be inserted later when they are available.

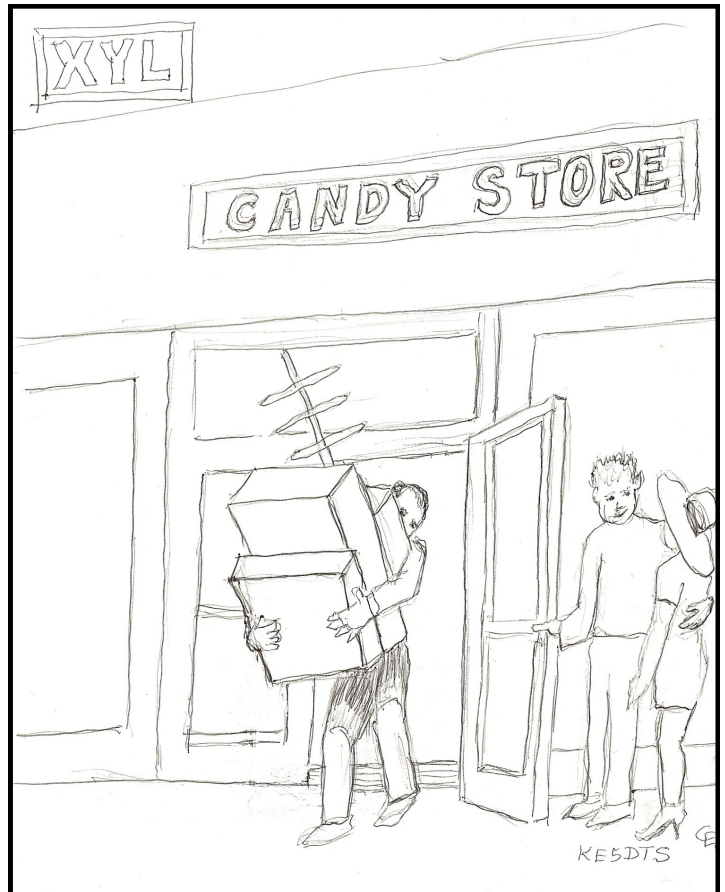
Thanks,
-Editor

XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



“Taking notes? No, she’s doing Sudokus”



“It’s an ‘all you can carry’ coupon!”

AARC Meeting Info.

Waterloo Icehouse

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

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

May 7th - Clipperton Island DXpedition-
By Ed Cox KE3D.

Officers Meeting 7:00 pm

May 21st - Officers meetings are open to
club members.

2013 Calendar of Events

May 4 Johnny Pittman Memorial Swapfest

VFW hall in Smithville
Bastrop County Amateur Radio Club
www.bcarc-hams.org

Jun 7-8 HamCom in Plano

www.hamcom.org/

Jun 21-23 ARRL Field Day

AARC- Red Cross on Pershing (inside w/
AC!)
WCARC- NQ5L QTH

Jul 13 Texas City "HAMFEST 2013"

Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave-
nue North, Texas City
Tidelands Amateur Radio Society
TALK IN 147.14(+)/PL 167.9 (Secondary)
442.025(+)/PL 103.5
www.tidelands.org

2013 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- May 4th & June 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- May 18th & June 15th

2p.m. in room 207, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards Univ.
Contact Craig Bean, AC5KW@arrl.net,
(474-6443) for more info.

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

Upcoming Meetings...

May	Jun	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
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	17	ATV Club Meeting La Palapa %	7:00 p.m.	6640 Hwy 290 E
	15	QCWA Tres Amigos \$	1:30 p.m.	7535 U.S. 290
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.
28	25	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.
27	25	CTDXCC Meeting Old Quarry Library	6:30 p.m.	7051 Village Ctr Dr.

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

% New Meeting Location for ATV

\$ QCWA Now meets quarterly visit <http://www.qcwa.org/chapter067.htm> for info