



# AARC COVER

## Keeping Austin Wireless for Over 94 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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December 2014

Issue 12-2014

### New Morse Code Class Starting in January

When I was a kid, I wanted to get my ham ticket. I listened to ARRL code tapes for hours on end. I could never get it down. Over the years I made many attempts. Fast forward nearly 4 decades; enter the no-code license. Great, I'm a ham, but there is this nagging hole that can only be filled by conquering the code.

Now I had radios, software and time to practice. I still wasn't getting it. Finally, ready to throw in the towel, I heard about Bill's class. Ok, why not? I probably won't learn anything, but its worth a shot. Was I wrong.

First off, Bill was great at putting us at ease. Then we learn of "Bill the enforcer". He kept us on our toes in a friendly way, and with a great sense of humor. We learned the code, but that was just to beginning. He teaches it as a language, showing us the flow of a QSO. After the 599, then what? Making conversation is another part of the art he teaches. Over the twelve Sunday's we learned a lot.

Am I at 20 WPM? No, its still a struggle. But now its different. He gave us the confidence that we can do this. Now I feel naked if I get my car without my key strapped to my leg, tapping out license plates, street signs and random thoughts.

Confidence is what I need to fulfill his request of us: make 3 contacts a day for a year. A tall order, but worthy one. Oh those poor operators out there, they have now idea what's coming at them.

Give Bill's class a shot, you'll be happy you did.

Andy Howell - KF5JLJ

\*\*\*See Page 4 for info\*\*\*

### Periodic Events

Sun	7:00 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	147.100 +
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 November 1st at Bethany United Methodist Church:

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Gary M. English KG5ERD

Edwin E. Eubank KG5ERB

Mark A. Wesley KG5ERC

## General Class License Processed

Dale W. Davis KG5DRV

## Extra Class Licenses Processed

Peter C. Hokanson AF5UL

David E. Pimentel WB5RAU

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Craig Bean AC5KW

Milt Cram W8NUE

Larry Gunter WB5BEK

Jim Kinter K5KTF

Joe Makeever W5HS

Joe Thiel N5SMN

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

December 6th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

January 3rd - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

11-15-14

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our November 15<sup>th</sup> session:

## Extra Class

William Hielscher, KG5DYI

Joseph Broussard, Jr., KG5EIG

Cynthia Sawtelle, WA3PUI

## General Class

Pemo Vincinelli, KG5DWV

George High, KG5EBE

Mary A. Steelman, KF5ZXI

Stephen Hall, KG5EJR

Clayton Moore, (NEW)

## Technician Class (NEW)

John Woodall

Joe Bain, Jr.

Mary L. Steelman

Timothy Schaible

John Leader

George Monnat

Donald Nguyen

George Humbert

John Audlee, Jr.

Colin Wright

Harlan Frey

Cathy Jaster

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW

Gary Popp, AE5JR

Wally Marusa, K5WLY

James Peisker, AF5NP

Ted Iglehart, KF5END

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at  
2 PM on December 13<sup>th</sup> (SECOND Saturday) and January 17<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 Craig, AC5KW at (512) 474-6443 or by e-mail to  
hamradioexams@hotmail.com or visit our web page at <http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/>

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., PO BOX 4739, AUSTIN TX 78765-4739, Web site: <http://www.austinhams.org>

President	Lori Schmidt	KM5MQ	512-632-6789	president@austinhams.org
Vice President	Rich Kerschner	KC9VFT		vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST		treasurer@austinhams.org
Secretary	Jorge Harada	KF5IED		secretary @ austinhams.org
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ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord.	Mark Esslinger			ec @ austinhams.org
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, simp./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 22nd of the month.**

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**For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:  
See Jay Hoffman, KA5OST ka5ost @ arrl.net  
Jay handles all changes for membership information .**

# **CW Operations Code Course**

**Hey, a new CWOCC is about to start!**

If you're interested in learning all the facets of CW and want a jump start at 20 WPM, this class is for you!

**HOWEVER!**

You know anything worthwhile takes **Effort & Sacrifice!**

So, if you have the **TIME** 😊, join us at the:

**W C Jester Annex 1801 E Old Settlers  
Blvd Round Rock, TX 78664**

On Jan 4<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 PM to Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Same Day and Time for 12 weeks of CW FUN!

Please RSVP prior to the class starting.

Thank you.

**For more information on class availability/signup,  
please contact Bill at [K5LN@austin.rr.com](mailto:K5LN@austin.rr.com)**

# **Austin Amateur Radio Club General Meeting November 4, 2014**

Meeting Start: 1904 hrs

**Members in Attendance:** 37

**Birthdays:** Jeff N5MNW, Pete Jordahl K5GM

**Visitors:** Karen Morgan KG5EJO, Eric Jordahl

**New Hams:** Karen Morgan KG5EJO

**New Members:** None

**Upgrades:** None

**Call Sign Changes:** None

**Approval of October '14 Minutes:** All approved

## **Announcements:**

Past Events:

Tour De Cure - APRS and ham radio had an excellent showing and public service staff were appreciative of hams. Pete Jordahl suggested submitting the comment to the Public Service column in QST.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Nov 7-8: 16th Annual South Texas Hamfest - Contact [info@southtexashamfest.org](mailto:info@southtexashamfest.org) or visit web at [www.southtexashamfest.org](http://www.southtexashamfest.org)

Nov 10th- Bob Heil will speak at ARL Research Labs via Skype. Arrival 6:30pm, doors will close at 6:50 with no further admission.

Dec 2nd - AARC Xmas party at Baby A's. Dinner \$20pp 9505 Stonelake Blvd - register before Nov 24th. After that, prices go up to \$25.00pp Also, this will be the first meeting at the new location at Baby A's.

## **General Announcements:**

2015 dues are due - see Jay or Lori

T-Shirts and polos available, contact Lori

## **Officer Reports:**

**President:** Lori KM5MQ None

**Vice President:** Rich None

**Treasurer:** Jay KA5OST - None

**Secretary:** Jorge KF5IED - Thanks everyone!

## **Other Reports:**

**Newsletter** - Mitch London KD5HCV - Send in your articles!

**Technical** - Stuart Rohre K5KVH - Report any repeater issues at [austinhams.org](http://austinhams.org)

**ARES** - Mark Esslinger W5MAE - ARES drill on Saturday morning, not well attended. Hospital drills postponed to further dates

**Broadband Hamnet/HSMM MESH** - Rick N5GV - Updated group about further support for LINKSYS equipment. Broadband HAMNET will also not have meetings November or December because of close proximity to holidays

**AARC Ladies** - Lori KM5MQ - None

**QCWA**- DeRoy AA5R - new meeting will be held in January for new eligible candidates. Watch for the announcement

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

Officer Election - Current Nomination

President: Lori Schmidt KM5MQ

Vice president: Lew Thompson W5IFQ, William Moyes KC6ARO. Lew has chosen to drop his nomination to assist William Moyes KC6ARO

Treasurer: Jay Hoffman KA5OST

Secretary: Angie Steelman KF5ZXI

Officers elected by the membership as above

### **Ham Of The Month**

You Decide - nominate someone at [austinhams.org](http://austinhams.org) - Jorge Harada KF5IED as per Lew Thompson. (What's wrong with you guys? Are you crazy? All kidding aside... thanks a bunch friends!)

### **Door Prizes:**

Set of Screwdrivers: K5OUJ

ICOM Cap - Thom McCarthy

Mousepad - Sally

### **Space Weather** - Lew Thompson W5IFQ

Cycle 34 keeps surprising! Sunspots still going up - currently 219 sunspots during CQ Sideband worldwide contest! Sunspots as of 03NOV are quiet. 2201 is throwing some C-Flares, but 2205 is quite active with flares, CME's, and proton events. Solar flux between 02-04NOV is M2.2, M6.5, M3.0. Planetary K-Index is fluctuating between 2 and 4 during the week of 02NOV-05NOV. Solar WX is 450km/sec, Dynamic pressure is 9nPo. Geomag field expected to be quiet 04-06NOV, 30-70% chance for M/X flares. FoF2 today was at 14mhz - MUF was at 40.40mhz! Super Sunspot 2192 was the largest in 25 years - 26 M Flares and 6 X-Flares, shutdown ARMY MARS exercise for 2 hours! Produced no CME's or proton events. For further info, and resources, visit the Consolidated Solar Weather page at [txarmymars.org](http://txarmymars.org).

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2015 hrs

### **AARC Presentation:**

Voice of Victory, Part 2

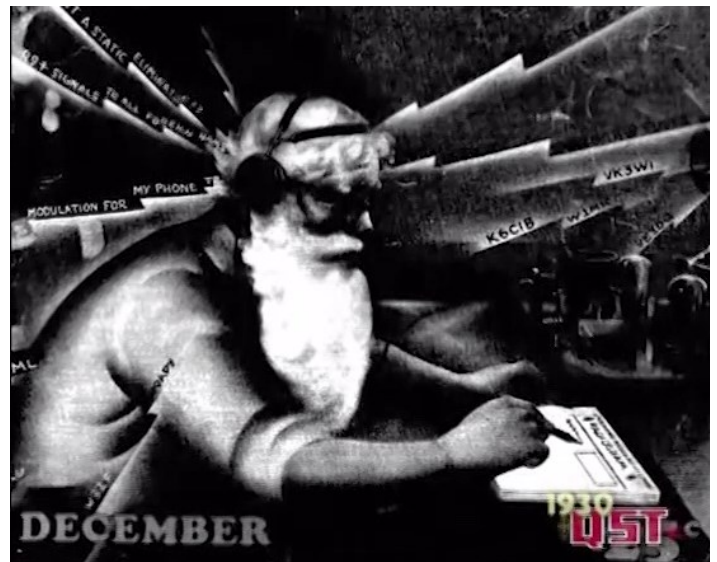


## "The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,  
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;  
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,  
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.  
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,  
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.  
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,  
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.  
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,  
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.  
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,  
When he ended transmission with the words,  
"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,  
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!  
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,  
Then he came back and said,  
"I've emergency traffic!"  
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,  
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.  
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,  
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.  
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,  
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:  
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!  
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!  
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!  
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"  
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,  
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplow!  
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,  
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"  
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,  
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--  
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,  
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.  
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,  
And he handed me a card that read,  
"QSL Via Bureau".

His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;  
I felt like a novice taking his test.  
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,  
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.  
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,  
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.  
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,  
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.  
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,  
And placed in it a large present for me.  
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,  
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.  
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,  
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"  
Merry Christmas from my house to yours!



# AARC Christmas Party

The Austin Amateur Radio Club Christmas Party is on Dec 2, 2014  
All are Hams WELCOME – You need not be a club member!

Dec 2, 2014 – 6:00 PM

**Baby Acapulco's**

9505-B Stonelake Blvd., Austin, Texas 78759



Live Entertainment from ***Ruby Dee and the Snakehandlers***

- Door Prizes
- HOTY (Ham of the Year) Award Presentation
- Door Prizes
- Great Food – Fajita Buffet
- Door Prizes
- QLF (left foot) Morse Code Contest
- Cash Bar
- GRAND PRIZE – TBA

**\$20 per person includes:** Dinner and dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, tax, tip, door prize ticket, Free DIY parking...

**Space is limited – buy your tickets by 11/24/13**

**After that Prices Go up to \$25 per person!**

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***NOTE: Starting in January—Baby-A's will be our new meeting location for AARC meetings.***



## **AARC Elections Held at November Meeting**

Please congratulate our officers for 2015!

### **President:**

Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ

### **Vice President:**

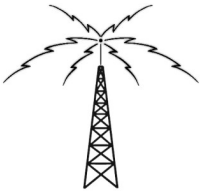
William Moyes, KC6ARO

### **Treasurer:**

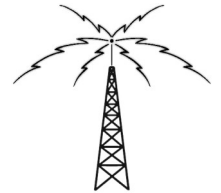
Jay Hoffman, KA5OST

### **Secretary:**

Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI



# 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)

Broadband-Hamnet is proud to announce a new firmware release, the most recent in a series of advancements that build on the Ubiquiti firmware released for the 2.4GHz and 5.8 GHz Ham bands earlier this year.

With this BBHN 3.0.0 release, Broadband-Hamnet now includes the Ubiquiti M9-series airMAX devices, giving Hams use of the 900 MHz band for mesh networking.

Among the release's new features is the ability to easily control the spectrum utilization of the RF links.

Please visit <http://www.Broadband-Hamnet.org> for more information.

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## **K5LBJ Takes 1st Place!**

Ronny Risinger, KC5EES, would like to announce that he has the BEST Amateur Radio Club in the nation!

"The Oct. 2014 "School Club Roundup" will be remembered for all time!" says Risinger. "The students learned what '10m is wide open' really means. Several times, we had pile-ups that lasted for almost an hour. The number of contacts was almost 1,000 (40 CW), with 48 states, 49 countries, and 47 schools. Truly an SCR for the ages. Thanks for the memories."

The LASA High School Amateur Radio Club's effort in the "School Club Roundup" this week was tremendous. They put in a phenomenal effort breaking all previous records. They spoke with 959 stations (40 via Morse Code), in 48 states (missed AK & VT), 49 countries, and 7 Canadian Provinces. The stations included 45 other schools and 8 clubs. Total points: 344,655 (trust me, that is a huge total!) Wow! What a way to end a work week. K5LBJ Rules!

**See K5LBJ in action on the ARRL website!**

[School Club Round Up](#)

## **AARC Meeting Info.**

### **Baby A's**

**9505-B Stonelake Blvd.  
(Come early and have dinner!)**

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

**December 2**—Christmas Party! See Page 8!

### **Officers Meeting**

**Officers meet via Skype and meetings are open to club members. Contact an officer for more information.**

## **2014/2015 Calendar of Events**

### **Dec 2 AARC Christmas Party**

Arboretum Baby Acapulco 9505-B Stonelake Blvd.

<http://babyacapulco.com/locations-4/>

Ruby D and the Snakehandlers will be Rock-A-Billy-ing around the Christmas Tree!

\$20 early registration, after Nov 24 deadline- \$25

That includes: Dinner and dessert, non-alcoholic beverage, tax, tip and your door prize ticket,

Space is limited so order your tickets by Nov 30, 2014!

You may register & pay on the AustinHams website!

<http://austinhams.org/christmas2014.htm>

### **Dec 5-6 WX5EWX - Skywarn Recognition Day**

Austin/San Antonio National Weather Service Office - in New Braunfels

1800hrs 5 Dec 2014 (Friday) to 1800hrs 6 Dec 2014

(Saturday) Local Time.

National Guidelines and Operating Procedures can be found here:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/opsprocedures.php>

Coordinator/IC - K5STX - Louis Upton [k5stx@k5stx.net](mailto:k5stx@k5stx.net)

### **Dec 20 Minden Hamfest**

Minden Amateur Radio Association - -

Minden City Hall 520 Broadway St, Minden, LA.

Times: 8:30am doors open. Grand Prize (Kenwood TS-480SAT) drawing held approximately 2:00pm

Talk-In: 147.300 PL186.2 (NLA Link System)

Swap tables \$5 (To reserve swap tables, contact Fran

[fran@n5rd.org](mailto:fran@n5rd.org) )

## **2014/2015 Upcoming Amateur Exams**

**ARRL VEC— December 6th & January 3rd** 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- December 20th & January 17th** 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...**

<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Address</b>
2	6	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
No	17	QCWA Tres Amigos	1:30 p.m.	7535 U.S. 290
No	28	Digital Wednesday at CATRAC	7:00 p.m.	4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
22\$	24	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
23\$	27	Travis County A.R.E.S. Pickle Research Ctr	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
25\$	22	CERT Meeting, CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd.
23\$	27	CTDXCC Meeting Old Quarry Library	6:30 p.m.	7051 Village Ctr Dr.

*New Meeting Location for TCARES*

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

*\$ Dates may change due to proximity to Thanksgiving or Christmas*