

AARC OVER A



Keeping Austin Wireless for Over 94 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

March 2015

Issue 3-2015

RadioShack's Long, Slow Downward Slide Nears the End

From ARRL website (Forwarded by Juanita Miyasaki, KD5OIE)

The end is near for RadioShack. It seems inevitable that the once seemingly ubiquitous electronics and cell phone retailer will liquidate its assets, after which RadioShack would cease to exist. A number of legal steps would have to come first, including a bankruptcy filing. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) de-listed RadioShack on February 2, after the company failed to maintain a required minimum value.

BloombergBusiness has reported that behind-the-scenes talks are under way to sell approximately half of RadioShack's owned-and-operated stores to Sprint and shutter the remaining outlets, although other scenarios involving other entities are possible.

The nearly century-old Fort Worth, Texas, based retailer -- once a go-to shop for electronic components and, at one point, even Amateur Radio and shortwave receivers -- has lost 90 percent of its value over the past year, despite efforts to refinance and modernize its stores. Before being de-listed on February 2, RadioShack's stock was selling for just 24 cents a share.

The hedge fund Standard General LP loaned the retailer \$535 million last fall and would be the lead

(Continued on page 6)

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+
Thu	11:45 a.m.	Lunch Whataburger Oltorf & Burleson	146.94-(107.2)
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 Exam Results	2
W5KUB.com	4
Membership Form	5
Over the WWaves	6
Club Minutes	7

Ham Radio Exams Results

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

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Nathan A. Coffey KG5FWF
Harold T. McReynolds KG5FWB

David A. Delguzzi KG5FWC
Randall A. Raymond KG5FWD

Kenny R. Huang KG5FWE
Dustin S. Williamson KG5FWG

General Class License Processed

Michael E. Lawson KG5DWP

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Kipp A. Aldrich AF5WL

Jaylon D. Loyd AF5WK

Alexander Nicolson IV KG5FJS

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Dave Anderton AE5XY
Steve Lang WB5ZIL

Gary Becker AF5QB
Joe Makeever W5HS

Larry Gunter WB5BEK
Joe Thiel N5SMN

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

March 7th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

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

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe



2-21-15

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our February 21st session:

Extra Class

Stanley Law, KG5FSW

Floyd Cureton, Jr., W5FEC

General Class

Gary Bowers, K5GPB

Technician Class (NEW)

Kenneth Edick
Richard Davis

Teionne Woods

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW
Ted Iglehart, KF5END

Sam Mihalik, KM5MY
Keith Watson, N9TX

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at
2 PM on March 12th and April 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 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/>

President	Lori Schmidt	KM5MQ	512-632-6789	president@austinhams.org
Vice President	William Moyes	KC6ARO		vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST		treasurer@austinhams.org
Secretary	Angie Steelman	KF5ZXI		secretary @ austinhams.org
Editor, AARCOVER	Mitch London	KD5HCV	512-368-2566	aarcover @ austinhams.org
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	512-255-3932	k5kvh @ arrl.net
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.

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 22nd 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.

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





W5KUB.COM

Bringing Ham Radio To You



Don't forget Amateur Radio Roundtable, a new series of W5KUB.com live weekly webcasts airs every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM Central Time (0200 UTC Wednesdays) at W5KUB.COM

Amateur Radio Roundtable is an informal discussion of all aspects of ham radio with the intent of allowing viewers to watch this live webcast or be a guest via Skype or Google Hangout. A question and answer session with viewers will follow each topic.

The show covers all aspects of ham radio; such as, balloon launches, Satellite, go-kits, emergency comm, SDR, digital modes, DXing, home brewing, and much more. This weeks guests include Arnie Shatz, N6HC who has been a team member of many of the great DXpeditions, Eric William showing the prototype of a Cubesat that he is building, and a special guest from Sweeden, SM4VPZ.

During the last half of the roundtable, every viewer is invited to make a virtual appearance on the show. Guests will need a Google+ account, microphone, and camera. Viewers will be provided a link allowing you to join. This part of the show is very informal. Just pop in to say hello, or stay a while and join in on a wide range of topics. We can have up to 10 people in the roundtable at all times.

We need your help with programming. If you have a specific subject that you would like to present in a future show, send an email to tom@W5KUB.com.

Thanks, Tom W5KUB



Ham-burgers at Watt-a-burger

A small group of Hams meet every Thursday (that doesn't fall on a holiday) at the Whataburger at the intersection of E. Oltorf St. and Bulerson Rd. We gather from 12:00-1:00 for lunch and most grab a burger for lunch, hence the name Ham Burgers at Watt-a-burger. Topics run the full gamut of Amateur Radio. Feel free to join us and bring your show-n-tell items.

Send Dallas your e-mail and you will get reminders. [mylastname \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:mylastname@yahoo.com)

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Membership Form - DATE _____

Application for: (check applicable box and enclose payment)
 AARC Individual \$20
 Family (all with same mailing address) \$30
 Student rate (thru 12th grade, no mail) \$ 5
 ARRL Individual ARRL (new or renewal) \$39
 Senior ARRL (new or renewal) \$36
 Family member ARRL (at same address) - \$8ea x _____ =
 First time ARRL discount -\$15
 TEXAS HAMPAC (Political Action Committee (\$10 Max)) \$ _____
 Total Enclosed _____

Mail this form with payment to:
 AARC - P O Box 4739 - Austin, TX 78765-4739

Check One: New member Renew membership Update Info
 ARRL member **Y N** License class **E A G T+ T N** Year first licensed _____
 Call sign _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Mail Address _____
 City/St/Zip _____
 Hm Ph _____ Cel Ph _____ Wk Ph _____
 Pager # _____ e-mail _____

Please list additional family members here and check the family member box above.
 2nd Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem **Y N**
 3rd Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem **Y N**
 4th Call _____ Name _____ ARRL mem **Y N**

I/WE have interest in the following:
 Monthly meetings Field Day Working Events Transmitter Hunts
 Talking on 2 mtrs DXing Newsletter Holding Office
 Presenting programs CW Net Control Emergency Comm's
 Holding ARRL office Education Public Awareness Working w/Youth
 Others _____

Rcvd ____ / ____ / ____ Amt \$ ____ Ck ____ Cash ____ Dep ____ Post ____
 (for office use only)

JMH 20150207



The national association for
ARRL AMATEUR RADIO

Membership Application

New Renew Previous Member Unlicensed
 Name _____ Call Sign _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Email _____
 Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Phone _____
 My Family Member is Joining or Renewing:
 Name _____ Call Sign _____
 Name _____ Call Sign _____
 Please Note My New Address!

Your Annual Membership Dues - Circle Your Choice/s.

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	
Regular	\$39	\$76	\$111	Monthly QST via standard mail for US members
Canada	\$49	\$93	\$132	Monthly QST via standard mail for Canadian members
Intl QST	\$62	\$118	\$167	Monthly QST via air mail for international members
Intl CD	\$39	\$76	\$111	Annual CD-ROM (QST, NCJ and QEX) for international members
Blind	\$8	\$16	\$24	No QST delivery, all other member benefits apply
Family	\$8	\$16	\$24	Reside at the same address as the primary member, no additional QST. Membership dates must correspond with primary member.

If you are 21 or younger a special rate may apply. Contact ARRL for more details. Additional membership options available online at www.arrl.org/join.

\$ _____ TOTAL

US Memberships include \$15 per year for subscription to QST. Dues are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable.

If you do not wish your name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings, please check this box

Charge to: Visa MasterCard Amex Discover Check Enclosed

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

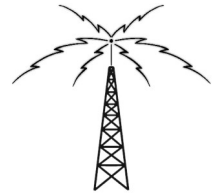
Cardholder's Signature _____

Toll free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 ■ Online www.arrl.org/join
 ARRL ■ 225 Main Street ■ Newington, CT 06111-1494 ■ USA

-----> The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. <-----
www.austinhams.org
 PO Box 4739, Austin, TX 78765-4739



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)

John Pape, W5UP presentation on programing HT's with CHIRP.

<http://www.austinhams.org/Docs/WCARC-W5UP-BaofengHTs-CHIRP>



Looking at the Radio Shack story on the front page had me looking at old logos. Check out this page of the Radio Logo History.

<http://www.radioshackcatalogs.com/history-2.html>

https://www.municode.com/library/tx/austin/ordinances/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=671048

This is an important link for those that use mobile radios in your vehicle. This is a link to the Austin Ordinance on hands free driving and its exemptions. Keep this one handy in your phone.

You can also print it out at <http://www.austinhams.org/Docs/ordinance.pdf>

Sent by Roy Walker, WA5YZD

(Continued from page 1)

bidder in a bankruptcy filing and debtor-in-possession financing, BloombergBusiness said. RadioShack once offered entry-level short-wave receivers, Citizens Band gear, a wide array of discrete components -- including transistors, resistors, and capacitors -- and, for a time, a fairly popular 2 meter hand-held transceiver and two different models of 10 meter single-band transceivers, although it failed in its effort to develop and market a VHF/UHF hand-held radio. Over the years, RadioShack has offered fewer discrete components in its brick-and-mortar stores, moving that stock and other products to its online outlet, as it shifted its marketing focus to cell phones, consumer electronics, and various battery-operated gadgets.

A year ago, after a dismal holiday showing, RadioShack announced plans to close 1100 stores, including 900 company-owned outlets. Due to the high costs involved with closing the stores, liquidating merchandise, lease penalties, and severances, however, the company has been able to shut down fewer than 200 outlets.

RadioShack was reported to have about \$60 million in cash heading into the 2014 holiday season.

RadioShack has made no comment on the reports.



Club Minutes

Austin Amateur Radio Club General Meeting February 3, 2015

Start time: 7:00 pm

Members in attendance: 43

Birthdays: none announced

Visitors in attendance:

Clyde Springen, WA5VLB

Barbara Slough, KE5OLY



New hams: none

New members: none

Upgrades: none

Call sign changes: none

Approval of minutes: motion to accept, seconded and approved

Announcements

Upcoming events:

February 21: 24th annual Lou Withrow SkyWarn training session

Eastview campus of Austin Community College

Hosted by Troy Kimmel, KE5BCK

morning session: basic training, afternoon session: advanced training

March 7: Irving Hamfest

Betcha Bingo Hall #12420. Irving, TX

Hosted by Irving Amateur Radio Club

March 14: WCARC Swapfest

Georgetown Community Center in San Gabriel Park, Georgetown, TX

Hosted by Williamson County Amateur Radio Club

March 14: West Texas Section Convention, Midland St. Patrick's Day Hamfest

Midland County Horseshoe Arena, Midland, TX

General announcements:

2015 dues are due, see Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, or Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ

T-shirts and polo shirts are available, see Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ

Officer reports

president:

presentation of check to AARC for \$334 from sale of items donated from the estate of Bill O'Connell, W5YO

vice-president:

Please fix my call sign.

treasurer: no report

secretary: no report



Other reports

newsletter: no report

technical:

from Roy Walker, WA5YZD: Just happened today - removed repeater, antenna and feedline at Mount Larson (146.78). Retired the old equipment and replaced with a mixed mode Quantar P25 owned by Ross Snyder, N0GSZ. 146.86, PL 146.2

ARES:

Not specifically ARES but on a side note: Lone Star Amateur Radio Association (LSARA) recently sponsored a Technician license class. The exam was administered at the end of the last class session and, including drop-ins, close to 40 licenses will be issued. They are looking to put together a General license class for March

BBHN: no report

AARC ladies: no report

Old business: none

New business

Stuart Rohre, K5KVH: Applications for scholarship fund have been closed, will be certified by the Austin Community Foundation and turned over to the scholarship committee for selection. Scholarship committee is comprised of three elected members and three appointed members and are on a rotating 3-year basis. Two places are up for election/appointment: Jim Bryce, KF5LKD (elected), and Joe Canfield, N5HPC (appointed). Motion made by Stuart that Lori Schmidt announce the appointment and the club vote on re-electing Jim Bryce. Motion was seconded by Roy Walker. Lori announced the appointment of Jim Bryce, and the club voted to re-elect Joe Canfield.

Ham of the month Paul Fenrich, KA5FZU

New business from the floor

Motion made and seconded to print a list of members for distribution this year.

Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ: This has been discussed before; it was determined not to do so in order to maintain the privacy of those who did not want their information listed. Perhaps it could be discussed again in a future board meeting?

Jay Hoffman, KA5OST: Parts of the prior discussion included privacy - everyone would have to be asked what information could be published and it gets to be tedious to maintain. There is also the decision regarding how to distribute such a list. Using the internet can present privacy issues again, while printing and mailing introduces additional expenses. Anyone who asks can get a list of names and call signs, but for any other information...the membership has not been asked what information can be published.

William Moyes, KC6ARO: By show of hands, who would be interested in a directory of names and call signs? (many) Names, call signs and phone numbers? (fewer) Including email addresses? (many) Would anyone be willing to compile the list? (Mitch London, KD5HCV volunteered)

As the discussion started to close it was pointed out that there was a motion on the floor that a roster be printed and distributed this year. A vote was held; it was decided to create a roster to be distributed this year consisting of name and call sign at a minimum; the board will discuss the possibility of adding additional specific information in a future board meeting.

Door prizes

23 - William Moyes, KC6ARO

43 - Mitch London, KD5HCV

Space weather

presented by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ



Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm

Presentation Trip to Big Bend 50 by Mitch London, KD5HCV and Alan Russell, KE5DTR



Alan Russell, KE5DTR checks runners numbers as they approach aid station Hotel.

AARC New Meeting Location!

Baby A's near the Arboretum

Our next meeting is February 3rd starting at 7:00 p.m. – drop by at 6:00 p.m. and grab a bite to eat!

Baby Acapulco's

[9505-B Stonelake Blvd.](#), Austin, Texas 78759 Click the map for a Google Map Link!



Club Dues for 2015 are Due!

The new year is here and you might as well get a jump on things by paying your dues for the 2015 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 2015!

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



AARC Meeting Info.
Baby A's near the Arboretum
9505-B Stonelake Blvd.
(Come early and have dinner!)

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

March 3rd—TBD

Officers Meeting

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



2015 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— March 7th & April 4th 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- March 21st & April 18th 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/>

2015 Calendar of Events

Mar 7 13th Annual Irving Hamfest

Betcha Bingo Hall #1
 2420 West Irving Blvd. #125 Irving, TX
 Irving Amateur Radio Club
 Talk in: 146.72(-)110.9Hz
<http://irvingarc.org>



Mar 14 WCARC SWAPFEST

Georgetown Community Center in San Gabriel Park
 Community Center San Gabriel Park,
 (455 E Morrow St Georgetown TX 78626)
 Talk-in on the 146.64(-)162.2 Hz PL
 Kees Talen K5BCQ@arrl.net 512-258-4282

Mar 14 West Texas Section Convention Midland St. Patrick's Day Hamfest

Midland County Horseshoe Arena
 2514 Arena Trail, Midland, Texas
 n5ovh.01@gmail.com 432-683-7328
<http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>

Mar 21 Weatherford Hamfest

Central Christian Church, Cuppett Hall
<http://mapq.st/1dJSkcC> Talk in: 147.040 PL 110.9
 Phil W5PRD 3510 Bluebonnet Circle Weatherford, TX
 76087 cwodalton@gmail.com 757-201-8652
<http://w5sh.org/280675/>

Mar 28 Greater Houston Hamfest

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds- Rosenberg, Tx
www.houstonhams.org <http://www.houstonhamfest.org/>

Upcoming Meetings...

Mar	Apr	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
3	5	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
	18	QCWA Tres Amigos	1:30 p.m.	7535 U.S. 290
25	22	Digital Wednesday at CATRAC	7:00 p.m.	4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
28	25	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
24	28	Travis County A.R.E.S. Pickle Research Ctr	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd.
26	23	CERT Meeting, CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd.
24	28	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

If your club is listed here and has incorrect time or dates, please let us know!
editor@austinhams.org

