



# AARC OVER

**Keeping Austin Wireless  
for Over 96 Years!**

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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**October 2016**

**Issue 10-2016**

## It's Election Time!

*(No... Not U.S. Presidential elections. Something more fun!)*

*Calling all members! Calling all members!*

The Austin Amateur Radio Club will be holding Officer Elections for the 2017 calendar year at the November 1st meeting. Nominations will be taken at the October 4th meeting. Those nominated in October will be allowed to publish information about themselves to be sent out to the membership. Please consider serving your club.



### 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
		(*in UNPROTO, change N5HPC-5 to W5OEM-5)	
Sun	8:00 p.m.	Williamson ARES net	146.64 MHz - (162.2)
Sun	9:00 p.m.	ARO Swapnet	146.94 MHz - (107.2)
Sun	(After Swapnet)	Newsline	146.94 MHz - (107.2)
Mon.	7:30 p.m.	STX ARES Net	3.873 MHz
Tues.	7:30 p.m.	Hays ARES net	147.100 MHz +
Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Bastrop ARES Net	443.750 MHz + (114.8)
Wed	11:30 a.m.	Ham Social Luncheon, Jim's	146.94 MHz - (107.2)
Thu	9:00 p.m.	2m SSB Net	144.250 MHz (USB)
Thu	11:00 a.m.	Lunch, Pokey Joe's 183&Great Hills	444.1 MHz+
Thu	11:45 a.m.	Lunch, Whataburger Oilorf & 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
Sat	7:00 p.m.	AARC Elmer Net	146.94 MHz- (107.2)
Daily	6:30 p.m.	Central Texas Traffic Net	147.14 MHz+

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# Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test session held on **September 10th** at Bethany United Methodist Church:

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Aric R. Cates KG5PKA	Patrick M. Crouch KG5PJU	Christopher P. Hirt KG5PJW
Jesse B. Johnson IV KG5PJX	William H. Kay KG5PKD	Andrew J. Konosky KG5PJV
Frank W. Pribble, Jr. KG5PJY	Dean W. Rose KG5PJZ	Kyle D. Teegarden KG5PKB

## General Class Licenses Processed

Anonymous KG5PKC	George R. Wood KG5ABP
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## Extra Class Licenses Processed

Christopher E. Howell KC5DVR	Anonymous KG5OUU
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## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Dave Anderton AE5XY	Larry Gunter WB5BEK	Gene Hinkle K5PA
Jim Kinter K5KTF	Blaine Kubesh K5KUB	Joe Makeever W5HS

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

October 8th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204 @ 9:00a.m.

November 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204 @ 9:00a.m.

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

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9-17-2016

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our **September 17th** session:

## Extra Class

Edward Carstens KG5AVX

## General Class

Clifton Speer KG5PAQ	Richard Coleman KE5FHL	Pasquale Savone KF5VGA
Jon Baker KG5CUW		

## Technician Class (NEW)

Jose Hernandez	Neal Singer	Taylor Henry
Nicholas Caspers	Joshua Sorenson	Gerald Cardwell
Brooks Coleman		

## Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW	Gary Popp, AE5JR	James Peisker, AF5NP
David Glosson, N5DPG	Bill Duke, AF5JD	

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at **2 PM** on **October 15th** and **November 19th** in Fleck Hall, Room 118 on the campus of St. Edward's University. All sessions are walk-in and the exam fee is \$14 (cash or check).

For additional information regarding our amateur radio examination sessions, please contact  
Craig, AC5KW at **(512) 474-6443** or by e-mail to **hamradioexams [at] hotmail.com**  
or visit our web page at: <http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/>

The **W5KA D-Star System** at the South Austin Hospital is on the air. The frequencies are 146.78 MHz (offset -600 KHz), 440.65 MHz (offset +5MHz) and 1293.1 MHz (offset -20 MHz). The coverage is most of Austin on UHF and VHF. East of MOPAC (Loop 1) to Manor, and from south Round Rock to Buda on 1.2 GHz band.

The gateway server to connect the system is not online yet, so only local QSOs are possible for now.



Get your D-STAR junk (sic) on the air and give a call. There is usually someone on most of the time.

DE WA5YZD (Roy)



Nominations at the AARC meeting on **Tuesday, October 4th.**



Elections to follow at the AARC meeting on **Tuesday, November 1st!**



## GRLevelX and Other Radar Program Updates

DE WX5U (Mickey)

If you use the GRLevelx radar programs, an update is needed. The NWS has changed the location of its public radar data server that GRx and other programs use.

If you're a GRLevelx user, go to the owner forums on [grlevelx.com](http://grlevelx.com) and download the update. If you use GRlevel3 version 1.x, you are out of luck, unless you upgrade to GRLevel3 Version 2.50 or higher. If you use another radar program, you should check that it still works after the NWS change.

For GRlevel3, at least, the failure was not obvious. It still displayed a radar view, but it was several days old. If you're a PYKL3 user, it appeared to work for me.

Pardon me if you're not a weather guy, but GRx is an important tool for many of us weather nuts.

73 de WX5U

President	Don Dudley	AC5YK	president@austinhams.org
Vice President	Lew Thompson	W5IFQ	vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST	treasurer@austinhams.org
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TC ARES PIO	Steven Polunsky	W5SMP	tcares-pio@gmail.net

Please contact a club officer, attend a meeting, or 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/ -600kH	No	2m D-STAR Repeater [W5KA C]
146.880 107.2 PL Tone	No	Analog/Digital Fusion
146.940 107.2 PL Tone	No	Most popular, WX, Swapnet & Newslite
224.800	No	
444.100	No	
444.200 107.2 PL Tone	No	
440.650 +5	No	70cm D-STAR Repeater [W5KA B]
1293.100/-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.

**The Austin Amateur Radio Club offers annual scholarships to licensees living in Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Hays, Blanco, Caldwell, and Burnet counties.** Please see <http://austinhams.org/copeland.htm> for more information.

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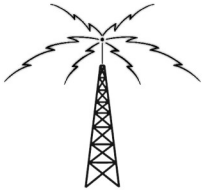
Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

Members and other readers are *encouraged* to submit material for publication. Contact Michael Skurka, if mailed submissions are required. Email and/or electronic files are encouraged! Submissions may be edited for publication (for content and/or space). **Deadline is the 25th of each month**, but late articles may be considered for future publication.

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.**



# Over the WWaves...



## Awesome Links and other Useful Info!

(submitted by members and others at-large)

- Article on Radio in Texas by the Texas State Historical Association:  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/abr01> (DE AC5YK, Don)
- On October 15th, the Texas Country Reporter (<http://texascountryreporter.com/>) will present a segment on Ham Radio on RFDTV. Consult your cable or satellite guide for channel info. (DE NE5V, Christopher)
- The International Space Station is getting an upgrade, as reported on [Amateur Radio Newslines](#)
  - Audio - <http://www.arnewsline.org/storage/audio/2016/Report2031.mp3>
  - Script - <http://www.arnewsline.org/storage/scripts/2016/nsln2031.txt>
  - Donations are accepted at the [AMSAT.ORG](http://AMSAT.ORG) website and anyone that donates \$100 or more gets the specially developed ARISS Challenge Coin. Look for the Donate button on the main page.



## Hurricane Matthew Amateur Radio Emergency Network

Hurricane Matthew is crossing the Caribbean heading toward Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba. The American Hurricane Watch Net is operating on 14.325 MHz and 7268 kHz as the storm works its way through the region. Other nets have formed in Cuba on 7110 primary, 7120 secondary in the daytime, with provincial nets on 7045, 7080 and possibly others. At night, the primary is 3740 and secondary 3720. The Dominican Republic is using 7065 kHz LSB. **Amateur Radio operators should avoid operation on or near these frequencies while emergency nets are active.**



## Bluetooth Headsets?

DE K5FNI (Rick)

I watched this video (<http://youtu.be/6ypVUoRVv3U>) again today. It is by Randy, K7AGE, and it deals with using a Bluetooth headset with ham radio transceivers. He replied to my email quoted here by saying he lost his interface in a move, too, and he no longer keeps up with the technology in this venture. Quoting my email:

*I watched your now-several-year-old video on YouTube about interfacing Bluetooth headsets with ham rigs. Have you found any newer bidirectional BT units to replace the Jabra? It is getting long of tooth, and, if I recall correctly, it won't work if you try putting power in, as if you are charging it, while you operate it. That seems a severe limitation.*

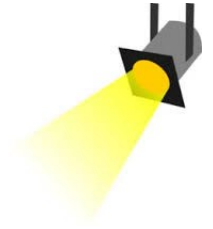
*I have a wonderful Plantronics Voyager Pro+ (the + is very important), that lets me connect to three devices at the same time (and gives me 6 hours of talk time!). That is the one I will use with the interface. I'm finally getting back on the air after some years away. The Jabra interface seems to have flown the coop in the intervening move back to Austin.*

Is there anyone in the group that is successfully using such an interface? Or do you know of a useful bidirectional BT audio interface currently on the market that would lend itself to this project? All the equipment in the video is 8+ years old. It is no longer being sold.

73 DE K5FNI



# Spotlight on... Nearby Clubs



While we all like to think the universe revolves around each of us, the fact is that there's a LOT more out there in the world. I've heard it said... "We're not alone!" That applies to Amateur Radio Clubs, as well. Well, I'm going to attempt to broaden your horizons by sharing a little info about other nearby clubs!

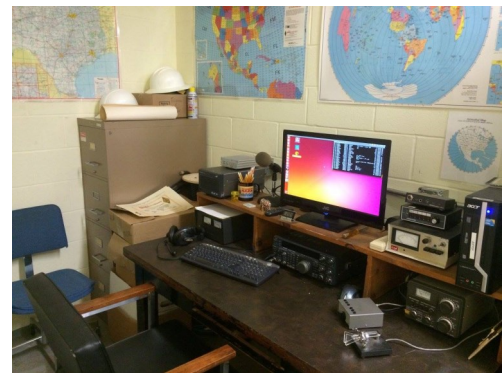


The University of Texas Amateur Radio Club (**UTARC**) takes the spotlight this month. The Club is affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin through the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Michael Becker (KW5F) is the faculty advisor; Dr. Derek Wills (AA5BT) is the **N5XU** station trustee.

UTARC has been affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for over 25 years. The club has a history dating back to an experimental station (5XU), which was established on October 1, 1921. The station was licensed for both Amateur and certain limited broadcast uses. The station was used to transmit crop and market reports, and was also used to receive concert broadcasts from around the country, in addition to passing Amateur traffic.

Since then, groups of hams have held several different callsigns, including W5GJC (1938), W5LNH (last 1940s), W5EHM (1960), and finally N5XU (2006 <http://www.fccbulletin.com/callsign/?q=N5XU>). Recently, UTARC [challenged](#) Texas A&M Amateur Radio Club to a 20m/40m QSO contest, to be held later this month—October 15th at Camp Hope, supporting our veterans and first responders in their efforts to recover from PTSD. We'll provide an update when we learn of the results. Good luck! And if you're in the Houston area, visit Camp Hope for this Annual BBQ event.

Current equipment includes: Kenwood TS870 (main rig), Yaesu FT-847 (secondary), Yagi rotatable tri-bander antenna (main), 40m wire dipole (secondary), Heathkit SB-220 tube amplifier, Yaesu FT7900R (VHF/UHF rig), and various old equipment for 220MHz, AM military amps, oscilloscope, external tuners, and more. The club meets on Wednesdays per the schedule posted on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UT-Amateur-Radio-Club-N5XU-932501420103251/>). You can download a complete history of the club at [http://austinhams.org/Docs/UTARC\\_History.pdf](http://austinhams.org/Docs/UTARC_History.pdf). Thanks to Andrei (KF5QYW) for providing the info and photos of the shack!



## A Look at Amateur Radio Test Prep Sites & Apps (part 2)

Over the next few months, I'll be taking a look at a few sites & apps that can help someone study for the Amateur Radio License Exams. The focus will be on free or low cost sites and apps. These articles will focus on the features provided by sites/apps.

My second installment takes a look at: **Ham Test Online** (<http://www.hamtestonline.com/>).

This one's not free, but at least you can get a free trial before purchase. All courses are sold separately. The Technician, General, and Extra Class study courses are currently \$24.95, \$29.95, and \$34.95, respectively. The subscription is valid for two (2) years, with an option to renew all previously purchased subscriptions for another two years for \$24.95. I couldn't find any discounts for purchasing all three at one time; however, active volunteer examiners can get the Extra course for free.

The study material seems thorough, and provides questions to test your understanding as you progress through the study material. It provides photos, symbols and diagrams in appropriate places (i.e. schematic symbols). If you want to stop and take a break, the site will remember where you are in your studying so you can jump right back in at any time to continue.

The exams are easy to navigate and read, and gives you a progress indicator as you answer questions. You can choose specific topics to study, making it easy to review specific material that you need and skip over the topics you in which you are already proficient. The site keeps track of your progress and displays graphs to indicate topics you haven't seen yet, are weak in, just need a review, or have learned.

Disclaimer: I didn't sign up for a paid account and only went through a portion of the sample study material and practice exams. The price seems a *bit* high, especially when there are other free sites available. But if you need the extra features this site provides, it may be worth it to you. But compared to printed test materials, this may be a good option. You can access it from any browser and you don't have to lug around any books!

Next on the list: [Amateur Radio Exams 1.5.0](#) / smartphone app by CStructor LLC / Found on *Google Play Store*

Here's a quick look at another smartphone app.

This app is a teaser! It only includes a limited number of sections in the free version. The paid version (\$2.99), however, includes all the latest questions. Important: This is not a study app *per se*. It is an app for taking practice exams. If your main interest is to take the exam, this is a decent app. If you are looking for help to learn the material before taking an exam, you'd be better off trying Ham Test Online (above).

When you start the app, you have choices for Element 2, 3 or 4, or Resume Test, if you were previously taking an exam. If you choose one of the Elements, you then get to choose between a random test, a random test of unanswered questions, random questions that were answered incorrectly, or a test of all questions (all, unanswered, or incorrect).

One thing I really like about this app is the size of the images that are displayed for questions with schematics or symbols. The images fill the width of my display and are very easy to see. As you answer each question, you get an instant indicator of whether you answered correctly or not. Unfortunately, a running tally of your score is not displayed as you answer questions. The only indication is when you answer correctly, it displays how many correct... so far.

When you finish the exam, you get a short summary display of the number of questions that were answered correctly out of the number presented and a percentage score.

Once again, the free version includes only a subset of the questions for each Element. But if you like the way it works, \$2.99 is not really all that expensive. And you can take it with you on your smartphone, and take a practice exam anywhere, any time!

Do you have a favorite study site or smartphone app? I don't have an iPhone, so I can't demo any iPhone-specific apps. I'd be happy to include some information on your experiences in a future issue of AARCOVER. Feel free to email: editor [@austinhams.org](mailto:editor@austinhams.org)

QUESTIONS	
1-	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
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6-	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D

# AARC Club Meeting - Reminder: Firearms Not Allowed!

DE Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

Some of you may have heard of Campus Carry, the state initiative to allow Concealed Carry permit holders to carry on UT property beginning Aug 1, 2016.

HOWEVER, because Federal Security Regulations apply to defense contractors such as ARLUT; the ARLUTX secured compound is considered Federal Property for contractor security purposes.

It has always been, and will continue to be, PROHIBITED to carry ANY weapon(s) into the premises of ARL, including open areas such as the Lobby and Auditorium, and the grounds in front of the building.

Concealed Carry Permit holders must remove any weapon from their person, before attending meetings at ARL. "Campus Carry" is a TX state law, that is overruled by the Federal Law applying Contractor Security Regulations.

As a violation could cause of loss of group access to this meeting place, please share this email with all Amateur Radio Club members, and Travis County ARES members who meet at ARL.

Violations would be handled by the UT Police and the FBI, as well as Federal contractor Security agencies.

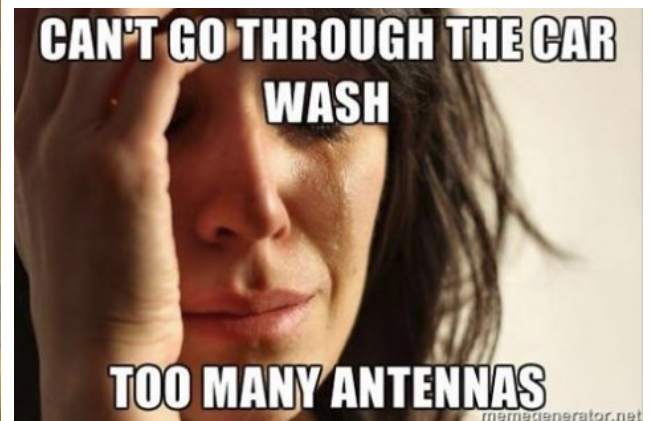
(Thanks for the reminder, Stuart! -Editor) ∇

## Just for Fun

DE K5FNI:



Borrowed from N5XU's Facebook page:



## Meeting Minutes — AARC General Meeting, 6 September 2016

**Start:** 7:00 pm

**Attendance:** 49 signed in

**Visitors:** Seven visitors tonight. Welcome!

**New hams:** Cliff Speer, KG5PAQ

**New members:** none

**Upgrades:**

Two upgrades this month. (Congratulations!)

**Call sign changes:** none

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes of the August meeting were approved as distributed in the AARCover.

### Announcements:

#### General:

- ◆ DStar status report: All modules are working. Gateway is not in place yet, but the repeater is working.

#### Events:

- ◆ CTX Tour de Cure, Sep 17-18
- ◆ Belton swapfest, Sep 30 – Oct 1
- ◆ Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), Oct 14-16
- ◆ Hospital drill, Nov 2

**Ham of the Month:** No nominations were submitted; Taking nominations from the floor. Hearing none, we will table until next month.

### Officer and committee reports:

- ◆ Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, treasurer: no report (not present tonight)
- ◆ Don Dudley, AC5YK, president: no report (not present tonight)
- ◆ Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI, secretary: We had 50 sign in for August. Please sign in!
- ◆ Lew Thompson, W5IFQ, vice-president: Looking for presentations...
- ◆ Mike Skurka, K5MSK, newsletter editor: Thanks to the contributors; keep sending me stuff!
- ◆ ARES: Nov. 2 is an area hospital drill; ARES is planning an additional drill on the following Saturday (Nov. 5)
- ◆ BBHN: no announcements

Space weather presented by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ



### REMINDER

**The Austin Amateur Radio Club offers annual scholarships to licensees living in Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Hays, Blanco, Caldwell and Burnet counties.**

Please see <http://austinhams.org/copeland.htm> for more information.



## 2016+ Calendar of Events

### AARC Meeting Info.

Applied Research Lab  
10000 Burnet Road

### Business Meeting 7:00 pm

Topics: **Amateur Radio Satellites**  
by W5RKN, Dr. Ron Parsons;  
**Solar WX Summary** by W5IFQ, Lew

### Officers Meeting

Officers meet from 6:00 to 7:00p.m. prior to regular club meeting and is open to all. Contact an officer for more information.

## 2016 Upcoming Amateur Exams

### **ARRL VEC - October 8th & November 5th**

9 a.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church. Room 203/204. \$15 fee. For more info, contact: Joe Makeever, W5HS (512-345-0800)

### **W5YI VEC - October 15th & November 19th**

2 p.m. in **Room 207**, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University. \$14 fee. Contact Craig Bean, (512-474-6443) hamradioexams [at] hotmail.com for more info. \$14 fee.

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

### **All Through 2016 - National Parks On The Air**

<http://www.arrrl.org/NPOTA>

Amateur Radio will be helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams from across the country activate NPS units, promote the National Park Service and showcase Amateur Radio to the public!

### **October 14-16 - Scout Jamboree On The Air/Internet**

**JOTA-JOTI** jota.joti @ scout.org

<http://www.scoutlink.org/>

### **November 2 - Hospital Drill -**

Will start at remote location, simulating transported patients.

<http://www.tcares.org/>

### **November ? - NCTECH Hamfest**

Azle, Texas - near Fort Worth

North Central Texas Emergency Communicators Ham-festival.

<http://www.wc5c.org/>

### **December 11 - Decker Lake Challenge**

Contact: jim @ k5ktf.com

### **Jan 8-15, 2017 MPMT Ham Cruise 5 (all rooms booked)**

Listen for Carnival Breeze Maritime Mobile!

Galveston, Jamaica, Grand Caymen & Cozumel on Carnival Breeze. Two HF radios installed on the rear of Deck 10 Lido.

### **Jan 15, 2017 Big Bend Ranch State Park Marathon**

(yes, a food run across the park) DE KC5NKK, Charles Land: If you want to assist, please email ASAP: charlesland @ gmail.com, to put you on the update list.

### **Feb 11, 2017 - 26th Annual Lou Withrow Skywarn**

**Class** - Mark your calendar! **Full details will be available in future newsletters.**

## Upcoming Meetings...

Oct	Nov	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
4	1	AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
25	22	Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
27	24	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

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