



AARC OVER

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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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November 2016

Issue 11-2016

It's Election Day!

(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 were taken at the October 4th meeting, but are still open at the meeting. **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* <small>(*in UNPROTO, change N5HPC-5 to W5OEM-5)</small>	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 - (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 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
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 **October 8th** at Bethany United Methodist Church:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Isaac A. Braud KG5PUU	Curtis P. Fowler Jr. KG5PUR	Grayson K. Head KG5PUW
Joshua L. Hobson KG5PUV	Christian R. Lewis KG5PUX	Matthew N. Ludlum KG5PUT
Ryan S. Nold KG5PUQ		

General Class Licenses Processed

None

Extra Class Licenses Processed

None

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Craig Bean AC5KW	Larry Gunter WB5BEK	Gene Hinkle K5PA
Joe Makeever W5HS	Henry Palmeto W3JMY	Steve Schreiber KG5LAA

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

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

December 3rd @ 9:00a.m. - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

10-15-2016

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our **October 15th** session:

Extra Class

Edward Carstens KG5AVX

General Class

Mark Hedley KG5JOU	Kevin Triplett (NEW)	Isaac Braud KG5PUU
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Technician Class (NEW)

Scott Weber	Jeremy Kahn	Alpar Erdei
Kevin Loeffler	Fred Wilson, Jr.	

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean AC5KW	Gary Popp AE5JR	Wally Marusa K5WLY
Shankar Thirunakkarasu, KG5KWS	Greg Dew AF5ZB	

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at **2 PM** on **November 19th** and **December 17th** 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 **AC5KW@ARRL.net**
or visit our web page at: <http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/>

Making Up Temporary Cables

Joe Fisher, K5EJL

ARRL Technical Specialist

The “Electronic Junque Lover”

Here's an electronic workbench tip for those of you who need, from time to time, a cable to connect some special connector on a piece of equipment to, well anything else really. This can happen when you have need of a power cord with an unusual (not IEC) socket on one end and a common US 120 VAC 3 circuit plug on the other end. Or you might need to go between different types of audio or video connectors, including coax, even ribbon cables.

“European Connector Blocks” (Photo 1, page 4) as they're called are available in two sizes: 15 Amp, spaced ~8 mm and 20 Amp, spaced ~10 mm. These ratings seem very conservative. I paid \$2.29 for a 12 pole stack of the smaller blocks and \$2.79 for a 10 pole stack of the larger. Two poles of the larger blocks pictured have already been cut off for use. An X-acto® or utility knife can cut through the nylon insulator body fairly easily.

Between each block pair is a hole to accommodate a fastener for surface mounting. I typically use them loosely since the actual connector is pretty much “dead front”, meaning that the conductive connector and set screw are recessed in the insulator and are “captive”. A little care on the bench should prevent any unwanted “live” contact.

The set screw actually forces down a plate to hold a wire or wires, thus this type of connector is called a “pressure plate” as opposed to a “set screw”. An 1/8” common slotted screwdriver blade is just a tad to wide to go all the way down into the body to set the screws, so using a large “Jeweler's” screwdriver, is better.

My bench practice is to never toss out a cord or cable with a new, to me, molded connector without first cutting off ~18” of cord and stripping the ends of the wires to fit into the blocks. These I hang in the cable rack on the workshop wall. Some cables have wire sizes smaller than are easily accommodated by the pressure plates. Just strip off a little more insulation and double or triple fold the wire to make a better fit. Tin a little solder on the wire to keep it from untwisting if necessary.

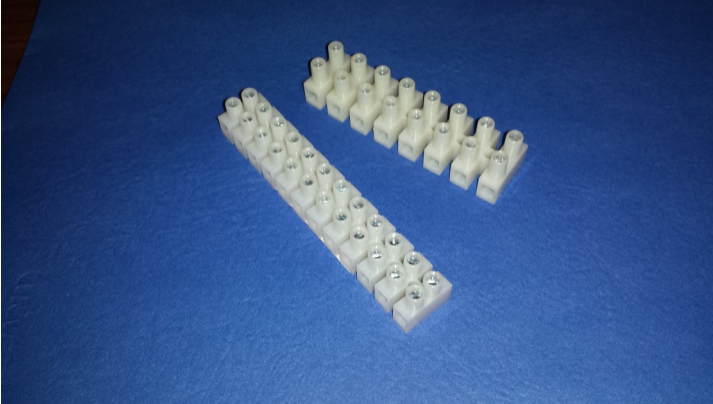
Access to the set screw makes it easy to probe the circuit with a voltmeter (Photo 2, page 4). Or use extra poles to setup an open circuit and connect meter probes to close the circuit and measure its current. “Pin tip” connectors or meter probes fit nicely in the connectors.

A “test” switch in series with the circuit, maybe a momentary contact push button, can be wired in, handy if the circuit blows fuses after a short time in the equipment being repaired. Or a fuse holder and be wired in series with a circuit if necessary. Might better have a large stock of fuses at hand though!

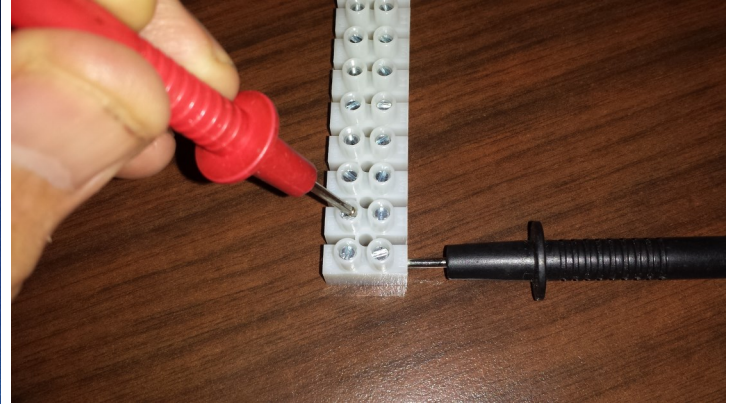
(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

What does all this buy us? Well, instead of trying to keep a cord or cable of every possible termination connector combination (could be thousands), just keep “the ends” and connect 'em with these blocks. Since they're reusable, the blocks don't cost much more than the time it takes to put a “cable” together. And you get a lot of flexibility in the mix.



(Photo 1)



(Photo 2)

Broken Screen on Your Tablet? No Problem!

I had a nice sony vaio duo tablet. Then the touchscreen failed and I had to disable it. That worked for about 6 months. Then the screen started delaminating. I hooked up an external 27 inch monitor (photo). That worked for another month and then I noticed the Sony screen went to just a bunch of stripes. I thought to myself I have to make the external monitor the only monitor or else this pc is going to fail and I cannot restore it because the main screen has failed.

Searching on the internet, there were no screen replacements for my model of pc. Also there seemed to be no easy way make an external screen the main screen from what I was reading on the internet. So I thought, well at least I should turn off the main tablet screen. So I went into the display settings options for the pc and told the system to display only the number 2 screen. That worked and I noticed there was an extra question being asked. Did I want to make the number 2 screen primary? I said YES! Wow that was easy.

But here is the acid test. If I tried to do a restore of an image, would the external screen display at the low level bootup? I thought that if the large screen just remained blank I would force power off and boot up using the regular windows bootup. But that would mean I could never do a restore if that happened. So I said - here goes.

I went to the pc setup and selected recovery and then advanced recovery and it said I would need to boot up at that low level. Crossing my fingers, I tried it and sure enough the screen popped up on the 27 inch monitor for the options for low level recovery. I selected turn off the pc. It had passed the low level bootup test.

Now I have a fully functional desktop pc with a large screen, and a back-lit keyboard, and bluetooth mouse, and the sony vaio has several ports, so I now have a new desktop pc. The sony screen is forever dead, but now that doesn't matter.

I bought an LG gram laptop to replace the sony when on the road.

73 de k5gp gene

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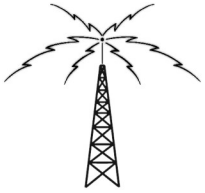
Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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.

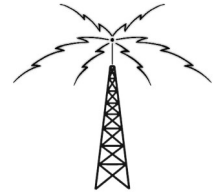
Material may be used in a later issue. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint AARCOVER articles, provided you credit the author and the AARCOVER.



**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 WWWWaves...



Awesome Links and other Useful Info!

(submitted by members and others at-large)

- Put That Amateur Radio License to Use on 915 MHz:
<http://hackaday.com/2016/10/31/put-that-amateur-radio-license-to-use-on-915-mhz/>
- Broadcasters, Jammers Wreak Havoc on Amateur Radio Frequencies:
<http://www.arrl.org/news/broadcasters-jammers-wreak-havoc-on-amateur-radio-frequencies>
- Got any cool links or info? Send them to editor austinhams.org for consideration to be included in a future newsletter.



FCC Petition for Rule Making

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB039

ARLB039 Rule Making Petition to FCC Calls for Vanity Call Sign Rule Changes

The FCC is inviting comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11775) from a Nevada radio amateur that seeks changes to the rules governing the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program. Christopher LaRue, W4ADL, of North Las Vegas, is proposing that any licensee obtaining a vanity call sign be required to keep it for the full license term. LaRue contends in his petition that excessive and frequent vanity call sign filings are hampering the ability of other qualified licensees to obtain vanity call signs in one of the more desirable 1 x 2 or 2 x 1 formats. LaRue said that since the FCC dropped the fee to file for a vanity call sign, some applicants are taking advantage by regularly obtaining new call signs, thereby keeping them out of circulation.

The petition can be found on the web in PDF format at <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1004220986407/Petition%20.pdf>



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.

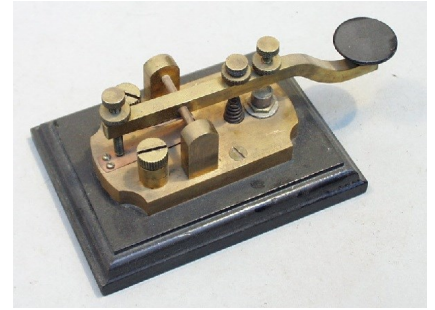
(Thanks for the reminder, Stuart! -Editor)



Silent Key

George ("Zeke") Harvey, W5NFC - SK

by Paul N. Nix, WB5AGF, Garland, TX



Dear AARC;

Within the past few days I received my November 'QST' and shortly thereafter (I'm getting 'to that age') I looked at the 'Silent Keys' page (it didn't used to take so much space). I was saddened to see George ('Zeke') Harvey, W5NFC, listed and I wanted to pass along my condolences to the Amateur Radio community in-and-around Austin.

My teenage years were in the 1960s and during that period my mother and I lived in San Marcos.

Somehow I'd gotten interested in shortwave listening (I became an 'SWL') in 1963/64 and that introduced me to Amateur Radio (thought I had a brief exposure while in elementary school, as a small child in Houston, but it didn't 'take' back then).

I must have convinced my mother to take me to an AARC meeting (when I first became interested in Amateur Radio I wasn't aware of any hams in San Marcos though later I became friends with W5AEQ and W5APM) and I believe that's where I met George Harvey.

Several times, over a summer-or-two, my mother would drop me off at the bus station in San Marcos on a Saturday morning and Zeke would pick me up at the bus station in Austin. Then it was over to Hargis Electric (corner of 5th & Baylor) for the Saturday morning ham get-together (a lot of coffee was drunk and Saturday afternoon antenna projects scheduled).

Then (frequently) lunch at the old Night Hawk Steakhouse south of the lake and off to Zeke's tiny place on Ford Street (with a Mosley TA-33 tri-band beam on a short tower over it). Saturday afternoon several hams would be there and I remember Zeke's converted BC-610 (I believe he used it as an amp for RTTY) and his Collins 75A-3 Receiver (I was intrigued with its variable bandpass tuning). Late Saturday afternoon Zeke would drop me off at the bus station and it was back to San Marcos for me.

I remember Zeke's car (he roved all over the state for Texas Parks & Wildlife maintaining their VHF repeater system) was equipped for ham HF (Collins KWM-2) plus VHF Parks & Wildlife, 2M FM ham (Zeke had, so far as I know, the 1st 2M FM repeater in Austin) and 450MHz FM ham.

Time passes and the old movers-and-shakers move-on with it.

73

Paul N. Nix, WB5AGF
Garland, Texas

paulnix@verizon.net

Meeting Minutes — AARC General Meeting, 4 October 2016

Start: 7:03 pm

Attendance: 42 signed in

New hams: Sheldon Phelps, KG5PAN

Upgrades: none

Visitors: Two visitors this month. Welcome!

New members: none

Call sign changes: none

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

Announcements:

General:

- ◆ Roy Walker: 444.2 repeater is temporarily off the air, but fixed the door handle on the building. Dstar is working well, but still is not connected to internet.
- ◆ Roger Wines (via Don Dudley): There will be a tech class that begins Monday, Oct 10 from 6 pm-9 pm. Contact Roger (w5wia@arrl.net). Location is unknown – will be arranged based on enrollment.
- ◆ Don: The next meeting will be club elections. Consider running for an office.

Events:

- ◆ See the swapnet newsletter!
- ◆ ARES drill on Nov 2. St Davids specifically wants amateur radio involved in the drill. Volunteers needed - contact n5hpc@arrl.net for further information.
- ◆ Lew Thompson: Oct 31-Nov 1 - The national MARS organization is having their last exercise of the year. The emphasis is to operate on 60 M during the day and they will be asking general questions about what is going on in your county.

Ham of the Month: none

Officer and committee reports:

- ◆ Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, treasurer: Expenses for attorneys and such for the Greenwood estate for ~\$2600. Renewal of ARRL insurance for \$300. There is approximately \$12000 in checking, \$13000 in savings, \$365 in Paypal and \$230 for ARES. Name badges are available for \$13 each.
- ◆ Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI, secretary: I forgot to get the number; Jeff Schmidt says it was 53. it is in the minutes in the newsletter. Please sign the sign-in sheet!
- ◆ Lew Thompson, W5IFQ, vice-president: Let me know what you want to hear.
- ◆ Don Dudley, AC5YK, president: Greenwood estate summary – we're working on it. I will stay on to help if wanted after the new president is elected.
- ◆ Michael Skurka, K5MSK, newsletter editor: Thanks for the contributions; keep sending me stuff!
- ◆ Club station W5KA: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH: We are working on the last part to get the setup completed.
- ◆ ARES: Kirby Spruiell: Trailer: KXAN has asked to keep it through end of football season; they will also be giving us a 15KW generator to go with it.
- ◆ BBHN: Check the website; make sure to monitor the talk-in so that you can get in.

Officer Nominations

Secretary: none

Treasurer: Jay Hoffman

Vice President: Lew Thompson

President: Ed Cox

Each person nominated will have an opportunity to write something down to publish by email.

Anyone who wants to come forward can do so between now and the next meeting (please announce via email).

Space weather presented by Lew Thompson

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 pm

Presentation: Dr. Ron Parsons, W5RKN

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: **HF Radio Emergency Communications**
by W5IFQ, Lew;
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 - November 5th & December 3rd
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 - November 19th & December 17th
2 p.m. in **Room 207**, Fleck Hall,
St. Edwards University. \$14 fee.
Contact Craig Bean, (512-474-6443)
AC5KW [at] ARRL.net
for more info. \$14 fee.
<http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/>

All Through 2016 - National Parks On The Air

<http://www.arrl.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!

November 2 - Hospital Drill -

Will start at remote location, simulating transported patients.

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

November 5 - Enid Hamfest -

Enid Amateur Radio Club will hold the 2016 Enid Hamfest on Saturday, November 5th at the Garfield County Fairgrounds.

Contact: Bill W5E1Y 580-716-4788.

nokes3139@gmail.com / Talk-in: 145.290MHz

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

November 14 - SKYWARN Training Class -

Cedar Park Recreation center, 1435 Main St, Cedar Park, TX 78613. Open to everyone and is free. Register online at:

<http://www.skywarntraining.eventbrite.com/>

November 14 - December 12: ARRL EC-001 Class

Attendees must have completed the IS-100 and IS-700 FEMA courses. Williamson County Jester Annex, 1801 E Old Settlers Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78664

Map:<https://goo.gl/maps/Lo5aCPQ8Gb22>

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-emcomm-class-exam>

More info in the SWAPNET Newsletter.

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

Upcoming Meetings...

Nov	Dec	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
1	6	AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
22	27	Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
24	29	CERT Meeting @ CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd
28	26?	CTDXCC Meeting @ Old Quarry Library	6:30 p.m.	7051 Village Ctr Dr

? This is the day after **Christmas Day**. Probably no meeting in December.

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