



# AARC OVER

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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

ISSN 1067-0262

**December 2016**

**Issue 12-2016**



## Congratulations to Our New Officers!

*Elected at the November meeting:*

President - James Hollan  
 Vice-President - Lew Thompson  
 Secretary - Angie Steelman  
 Treasurer - Jay Hoffman



To our outgoing President, Don Dudley:  
 We thank you for your service to our wonderful club!

Please thank and congratulate all our fine officers when you see them.  
 These are all volunteer positions, and it takes time and dedication to  
 serve as an officer.

**We hope to see you all at the Christmas Party, December 6th!**

### 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 **November 5th** at Bethany United Methodist Church:

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Melanie G. Blackman KG5QFJ	Ricky R. Cahill KG5QFE	Anonymous KG5QFL
William B. Gaston KG5QFK	Jeffrey B. Mery KG5QFG	David K. Oliver KG5QFF
Kurt O. Schneider KG5QFH		

## General Class Licenses Processed

Matthew D. Blackman KG5JYU	Raymond L. Eckel K5BZI	Curtis P. Fowler Jr. KG5PUR
Robert D. Gowin Jr. KG5QFI	Joshua L. Hobson KG5PUV	Andrew J. Konosky K5BFH
James H. Matthews KG5QFD		

## Extra Class Licenses Processed

Erich S. Ellsworth KG5KEY

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Milt Cram W8NUE	Larry Gunter WB5BEK	Gene Hinkle K5PA
Joe Makeever W5HS	Donald Sitze AF6VA	Johnny Twist K5ACL

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

December 3rd @ 9:00a.m. - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204  
January 7th @ 9:00a.m. - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS  
Joe

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11-19-2016

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our **November 19th** session:

## General Class

Joe Wessels, (New)	Jeffrey Genung, WD5EOD	Carroll Leger, N5YOW
Mack McCall (NEW)	Jeremy Kahn, KG5PVW	

## Technician Class (NEW)

Erling Holey	Alexander Watson	James Kirchner	Derrick Evans
Steven Zettner	Todd Thatcher		

## Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW	Sam Mihalik, KM5MY	Wally Marusa, K5WLY
Stuart Wolfe, KF5NIX		

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at **2 PM** on **December 17th** and **January 21st** 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/>

# Greater Houston Hamfest

## NEWS Issue 2-2017



### ARRL Texas State Convention 2017

March 24 and 25

Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds Rosenberg, Tx



#### Tim Duffy, K3LR, of DX Engineering fame to be Featured Speaker at GHH 2017.

Tim will be talking about his Ham Radio experience of over 25 years, the challenges of building and maintaining a large station and new products that may be in the works at DX Engineering.

Tim enjoys bringing new people into the hobby by mentoring them in the fun of amateur radio. He is

President of his local ham club and active in RACES, ACS and ARES. K3LR is a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame and was on Team USA for the World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) four times. He is founder and chairman of Contest University (CTU), President of the Radio Club of America – the oldest wireless club in the world. K3LR serves as ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University. Tim is the recipient of the 2015 Amateur of the Year Award presented by the Dayton Hamvention® Awards Committee and the 2016 YASME Excellence

#### More of What You Like! - GHH 16th Annual Hamfest

Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, CQ Magazine Kit Editor returns for a special session on Kit Building. Build the new EZ Build Tuna Tin Trans-

mitter. Kit includes all parts. Bring your own Tuna can. Watch the next newsletter to reserve your kit.

More classes too. Look for Ham Radio Boot Camp on Friday too.



President	Don Dudley	AC5YK	president@austinhams.org
Vice President	Lew Thompson	W5IFQ	vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST	treasurer@austinhams.org
Secretary	Angie Steelman	KF5ZXI	secretary@austinhams.org
Editor, AARCOVER	Michael Skurka	K5MSK	editor@austinhams.org
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	512-255-3932 k5kvh@arrl.net
ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord.	Mark Esslinger	W5MAE	ec@austinhams.org
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 & Newsline
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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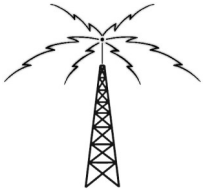
Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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.

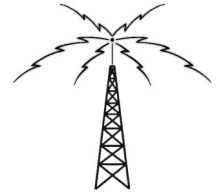
Material may be used in a later issue. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint AARCOVER articles, provided you credit the author and the AARCOVER.



**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)

- Here's a link to N6LF's (Rudy Severns) website, with access to all the "QEX" articles (a series of articles on RF ground system experiments for antennas) - DE K5KVH, Stuart - as submitted on the QRL list:  
<http://www.antennasbyn6lf.com/2009/12/series-of-qex-articles-on-ground-system-experiments.html>
- **Kerchunk!** FCC Affirms Penalty for Unlicensed Amateur Operation, Making False Distress Call  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-affirms-penalty-for-unlicensed-amateur-operation-making-false-distress-call>
- Slow-Scan Television Transmissions Scheduled from ISS - **December 8 & 9**  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/slow-scan-television-transmissions-scheduled-from-iss>
- N5DUX Ham Resources. He has many publications and construction files, as well as some programs for the ham operator: <http://www.n5dux.com/ham/> - DE K5FNI, Rick
- Buzz Kill: Could LED Street Lights Drown Out Ham Radio Signals? (NBC News, Philadelphia)  
<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Buzz-Kill-Could-LED-Street-Lights-Drown-Out-Ham-Radio-Signals-389115072.html>
- OFF-TOPIC, but seasonal: Check out some Christmas fun at Google:  
<https://santatracker.google.com/village.html>
- **Got any cool links or info?** Send them to editor @austinhams.org for consideration to be included in a future newsletter.



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## Amateur Radio Parity Act — Update

The Amateur Radio Parity Act successfully cleared the US House on September 12, 2016 and now awaits action in the US Senate. If the bill is not passed before the Senate adjourns for the year in December, it will "die" and the entire process has to begin again in both houses of Congress when the 115th Congress is sworn in, January 2017.

The ARRL is urging amateur radio operators to support this bill. Some operators believe it to be a step in the right direction, while others caution that if this bill is approved, HOAs will continue to reign with terror to operators. The bill does not give operators carte blanche to do whatever she/he pleases. It provides: "Community associations should fairly administer private land-use regulations in the interest of their communities, while nevertheless permitting the installation and maintenance of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antennas. There exist antenna designs and installations that can be consistent with the aesthetics and physical characteristics of land and structures in community associations while accommodating communications in the Amateur Radio services." Many argue that HOAs don't have the expertise or knowledge to fairly administer this and fear that it will only empower HOAs to restrict antennas even more.

For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-passes-in-the-us-house-of-representatives>

To contact your US Senators: <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-pass-amateur-radio-parity-act>



## Meeting Minutes — AARC General Meeting, 1 November 2016

**Start:** 7:02 pm

**Attendance:** 40 signed in

**New hams:**

David Teague, KG5PAF

Jesse Johnson, K5JBJ

**Upgrades:** none

**Visitors:** Four visitors this month. Welcome!

**New members:** none

**Call sign changes:** none

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

### Announcements:

#### General:

- ♦ Roger Wines (via Don Dudley): This Saturday from 10am-12pm is GPS training course, afternoon is exercises. Email Roger for information at w5wia@arrl.net.

#### Events:

- ♦ See the swapnet newsletter!

### Officer and committee reports:

- ♦ Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, treasurer: not here
- ♦ Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI, secretary: 42 signed in last month. Please sign the sign-in sheet! I will assemble attendance data and pass it along....
  - \*Note from the secretary: Here are the attendance counts for the last several months:

February: >40	July 42
March: 53	August 50
April: 56	September 49
May: 65 (started meeting at ARL in May)	October 42
June 58	November 40
- ♦ Lew Thompson, W5IFQ, vice-president: As you think of subjects, let me know. I prefer more general topics; let ARES handle emergency communications topics.
- ♦ Don Dudley, AC5YK, president: I don't know why we don't get volunteers for officers.
- ♦ Michael Skurka, K5MSK, newsletter editor: not here. Don: If you like what you read, send him an email.
- ♦ Technical committee: Roy Walker, WA5YZD – Presented photos and report of KVUE tower work. The triplexer has been repaired and put back in service. I have acquired a wiresx node.
- ♦ Club station W5KA: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH: We're testing the station when possible on Monday nights. I would be happy to make an arrangement to go to Red Cross and look at the station. We are rapidly reaching completion of the antenna work. We have antennas for all bands and have had good luck with statewide stations. Email me if you are interested in visiting the station at k5kvh@arrl.net
- ♦ ARES: Mark Esslinger, W5MAE: not here. Joe Canfield, N5HPC: Tomorrow is the hospital drill. We will call ARES at 8:30 am. The event may last until 4 or 5 pm. We can still use somebody. We also have a SET planned by Ed Cox on Saturday, Nov. 5. We can use lots of people Saturday, 9 am, 147.36 repeater.
- ♦ BBHN: none

(continued)

(continued)

#### Officer nominations for 2017

- secretary: Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI
- president: James Hollan, KG5SGR
- treasurer: Jay Hoffman, KA5OST
- vicepresident: Lew Thompson, W5IFQ

Nominations are closed.

Officers were voted upon and elected as listed above.

Christmas party will be at the same time as the regular monthly meeting (1 st Tuesday at 7:00 pm).

Location: Spare Time Texas

1784 FM 685

Pflugerville, TX

5127661900

Cost is \$30 and includes tax and tip

We will have a QLF contest along with a table top decorating contest as well as door prizes.

Space weather presented by Lew Thompson

Meeting adjourned following the space weather presentation.

Presentation: Lew Thompson, Emergency Communications

#### **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.



## CALL FOR ARTICLES

You may have noticed that this issue is a little light on articles. Okay, okay... *very* light. We're all volunteers here and sometimes work does get in the way of things we'd rather do otherwise. Don't worry. I *do* have an excellent article from W5IFQ for next month. It's longer than most articles we've had lately, but very informative, so stay tuned! In the meantime, if you have any articles you'd like to share through this newsletter, please send them to me at: [editor @ austinhams.org](mailto:editor@austinhams.org) I'll try not to edit them toooooo much, but I will help where I can with grammar and spelling. Please note that if you're submitting something from another publication or website, I must obey copyrights and may be limited in what I can publish here. Original articles are best. Thanks for your attention and your submissions. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

*-Editor*



## 2016 Calendar of Events

### AARC Meeting Info.

SpareTime Texas  
1724 FM 685, Pflugerville TX 78660

No regular meeting in December. It's time for a

### Christmas Party @ 7:00 pm



Food, Folks, Fun!  
Door Prizes -- QLF Contest



### 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 - December 3rd & January 7th**  
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 - December 17th & January 21st**  
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.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!

### December 11 - Decker Lake Challenge

Contact: jim @k5ktf.com or fill out the online form at:

<http://www.k5ktf.com/decker2016/volentry.cfm>

### Jan 14, 2017 San Antonio Radio Fiesta in Schertz

San Antonio Radio Club / <http://w5sc.org/>

### 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 - 8:15am-4:15pm**

Location: ACC Eastview Campus, Building 8500

3401 Webberville Rd, Austin TX 78702

NWS Basic/Advanced SkyWarn Training Instructor:

Paul Yura, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

Keynote Speaker/Talk: TBA

Hosted by Troy Kimmel, KE5BCK, tkimmel @mail.utexas.edu

NWS Austin-San Antonio tweeting live during the session

#ATXSKYWARN

### Feb 25, 2017 Orange Hamfest

Orange County Convention & Expo Center

11475 FM 1442 Orange, Texas 77632

Rocky Wilson 409-988-8906 or Email: n5mtx55 @gmail.com (or

Chuck Vincent 409-540-0477 or Email: batmo @aol.com

[http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index\\_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm](http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm)

[http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index\\_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm](http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm)

## Upcoming Meetings...

Dec	Jan	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
6	3	AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
27	24	Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
15	26	CERT Meeting @ CTECC ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	7:00 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd
26?	23	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*