



AARC OVER

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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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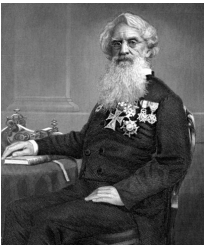
Issue 02-2017

The W1UL Ham Radio & Technology Trivia Trilogy (part 1)

by Urb LeJeune (W1UL)

Is the Code We Know and Love Morse Code or Vail Code?

Introduction



Samuel Morse (pictured here), in conjunction with Joseph Henry and Alfred Vail, invented a telegraph system, before the invention of telephones. Their system was capable of sending messages over long distances using pulses sent to a machine which, in turn, made marks on a moving paper tape.

It is irrefutable that Samuel Morse invented a code based on dots and dashes which subsequently became dits and dahs to more closely resemble the actual sound of transmitted code. However, Morse's code is not what we use today on the ham bands.

(continued on page 5)

* **Updates Needed** * Are **these nets** active? Web site seems quite stale.

Periodic Events

Sun	7:00 p.m.	Travis ARES net	147.36 MHz + (131.8)
Sun	8:00 p.m.	Travis ARES Packet (*in UNPROTO)	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)
<i>Sun</i>	<i>(After Swapnet)</i>	<i>Newsline</i>	<i>146.94 MHz - (107.2)</i>
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 **January 7th** at Bethany United Methodist Church:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

(Anonymous) KG5RHM	Rhys A. Bowley KG5RHL	Matthew L. Domsch KG5RHO
Alice H. Fales KG5RHK	Dewey L. Landrum Jr KG5RHS	Michael S. Thomas KG5RHR
Morgan C. Williamson KG5RHQ		

General Class Licenses Processed

Derrick N. Evans KG5QMR	William A. Griffith KG5RHP	John H. Mandell KG5RHN
Joseph A. Talafous Jr KG5QVW	Matthew S. Tyrney KG5IYM	(Anonymous) KG5EJJ
Glenn R. Wilkerson KE5WUY		

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Gary Becker AF5QB	Larry Gunter WB5BEK	Gene Hinkle K5PA
Sallie Howard AB5YL	Jim Kinter K5KTF	Joe Makeever W5HS
Jim Peisker AF5NP		

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

February 11th @ 9:00a.m. - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204
March 4th @ 9:00a.m. - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

1-21-2017

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

General Class

Gordon Calderwood, Jr., KG5RAI

Technician Class (NEW)

William Taylor	Donald Fermaint	Elzbietha Ledwosinska
Jeff Daniell	Ty Weaver	

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW	Gary Popp, AE5JR	Tony Lyon, KJ5XF
James Peisker, AF5NP		

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at **2 PM** on **February 18th** and **March 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 (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@ustin/>

2017 Officers

President	James Hollan	KG5SGR		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
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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.

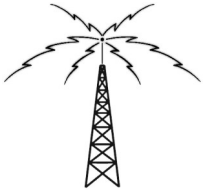
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Members and other readers are *encouraged* to submit material for publication. Contact the Editor, if mailed submissions are required. Email and/or electronic files are encouraged! Submissions may be edited for publication (for content and/or space). **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 original author and the AARCOVER. If material is included in another publication, a courtesy copy to the Editor is appreciated.



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



Over the WWaves...



Awesome Links and other Useful Info!

(submitted by members and others at-large)

- <http://www.sdr.hu/>
Lots of SDRs worldwide to tune around (DE N5MNW, Jeff) [Use the site to tune in using a distant SDR and transmit on that frequency. See if you're signal is getting out there! -Editor]
- <http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/baig/2017/01/31/t-plans-deliver-fast-internet-over-power-poles/97260568/>
AT&T plans to deliver fast Internet over power poles (DE Bill Eastman)
- <http://www.ve3erc.ca/antennas/>
Check out the Poynting Vector antenna. The small footprint may be just what HOA-dwellers need. Link found on <https://hackaday.com/> -Editor

Amateur Radio Parity Act (Update)

It's Alive!



The latest bill, H.R. 555, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill is the new incarnation of H.R. 1301, named the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and has the same wording as H.R. 1301. On January 23, 2017, the House suspended their rules and passed the Act by unanimous consent. The bill has now been sent to the U.S. Senate for its consideration.

Debate (sometimes very heated) continues on various message boards whether the bill is a benefit to amateur radio operators, or just a feather in some ARRL administrators' caps.

If you — the licensed operator — feel strongly either way whether the bill should go through, be sure to contact your Senator to voice your opinion.

New Web Site Almost Ready!

Austin Amateur Radio Club will have a new website soon. We're getting a LOT closer. We're switching to WildApricot.com as our provider. We are putting the finishing touches on it, so we haven't flipped the switch yet. But stay tuned! It will have some new features for members and a whole new look all around.

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.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Joseph Henry

Henry was a scientist who served as the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and he was highly regarded during his lifetime. While building electromagnets, Henry discovered the phenomenon of self-inductance. He also discovered mutual inductance. Henry developed the electromagnet into a practical device. He invented a precursor to the electric doorbell that could be rung at a distance via an electric wire and the electric relay. The unit of inductance is the henry, named in his honor. Henry's work on the electromagnetic relay was the basis of the practical electrical telegraph, invented by Samuel Morse and Sir Charles Wheatstone, separately.



Albert Vail



Alfred Lewis Vail was an American machinist and inventor. Along with Samuel Morse, Vail was central in developing and commercializing American telegraphy between 1837 and 1844. Vail and Morse were the first two telegraph operators on Morse's first experimental line between Washington, DC, and Baltimore. Additionally, Vail took charge of building and managing several early telegraph lines between 1845 and 1848. He was also responsible for several technical innovations of Morse's system, particularly the sending key, an improved recording registers and relay magnets. Vail also created the modified Morse's concept of code which is virtually unchanged with the code we know and love to this day.

The Controversy

Morse's concept of a code for use on his telegraph system required a three part process. A message first required that the individual words be converted to a series of numbers contained in a codebook. The sending operator would send the numeric sequences corresponding to the original message. The receiving operator first copied the numeric codes and then converted them into plain English words from the codebook the transmitting operator used. Vail composed a code system virtually the same as we use today. He demonstrated the code to Morse. At a press conference, later that day Morse dubbed Vail's code "Morse Code."

Unfortunately, Vail was a shy and retiring person and never claimed the code he developed. The only thing that the Morse and Vail codes have in common is that both codes sent characters using dits and dahs. Fort Monmouth New Jersey, for decades the home of the Signal Corps, was originally named Camp Vail. Will history ever give Alfred Vail the credit he so richly deserves? Probably not!

About the author: Urb LeJeune (W1UL) is the creator of the Official W1UL FREE Ham Cram Website. Visit <http://ham-cram.com/> for more info.

[Editor's Note: The complete submission is being presented in three parts—one each month. Stay tuned!]



←—————→
Do you have an article for the AARCover? Send it to editor @ austinhams.org for consideration to be included in a future newsletter.



Meeting Minutes — AARC General Meeting, 3 January 2017

Start: 7:01 pm

Attendance: 43

Visitors: One visitor tonight. Welcome!

New hams: Joe Talafous, Jr. KG5QVW

New members: none

Upgrades: none

Call sign changes: none

Approval of minutes

There were no minutes for December (but there was a great Christmas party). The November minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Announcements

- ◆ Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ: Ham cruise is next week. Tune around for frequencies; listen for maritime mobile. Carnival Breeze is the ship.
- ◆ Roy Walker, WA5YZD: 146.88 fusion is connected to WIRES-X network. The 444.2 repeater is now networked to Oak Hill and Leander.
- ◆ Mike Skurka, K5MSK: The website is back up. (It was down about 5:00 pm). New website coming soon....
- ◆ Joe Fisher, K5EJL: The annual Paul Hargis birthday celebration is on Jan 12 at Waterloo Ice House on Burnet Rd at 7:00 pm.
- ◆ Ham of the month: None. If you don't want to have one, let James know and we'll stop.
- ◆ Events: See the swapnet newsletter.

Officer and committee reports

- ◆ Jay Hoffman, KA5OST, treasurer, not present tonight
- ◆ Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI, secretary: Sign in!
- ◆ Lew Thompson, W5IFQ, vice-president: Send me your ideas
- ◆ Mike Skurka, K5MSK, newsletter editor: See announcement above. Articles, ideas, links – let me know.
- ◆ Kerbey Spruiell, ARES: Come join ARES to assist with MARS operation at the request of DoD and Homeland Security
- ◆ BBHN: Joe Fisher – if you're interested let me know after the meeting.

Space weather presented by Lew Thompson

Meeting adjourned at: 7:48 pm

Presentation: NCDXA Beacon System from Lew Thompson, W5IFQ

2017 Calendar of Events

AARC Meeting Info

7:00pm to 9:00pm / Tuesday, February 7
 Location: Applied Research Lab
 10000 Burnet Road, Austin TX

Topic:

Yaesu Fusion—Local information and operating details, including coverage and modes

Solar WX Summary: 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 - February 11th & March 4th

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 - February 18th & March 18th

2 p.m. in **Room 207**, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards University. \$14 fee.

Contact Don Dudley
 AC5YK @ARRL.net
 for more info. \$14 fee.

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

Feb 11-26th 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.gsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm

Mar 3-5 Highland Lakes Amateur Radio Club

3-day Ham Slam Technician Class
 Marble Falls EMS building—609 Industrial Blvd, Marble Falls TX
 Register by contacting Riley Carruthers at riley.carruthers@datavise.net
<http://hlarc.org/slam2017/hamslam2017.htm>

Mar 10-11 Belton Spring Ham Expo

Bell County Expo Center
<http://www.hamexpo.org/>

Mar 18 WCARC Swapfest and License Testing

San Gabriel Park Community Center, 455 E Morrow Street
 Georgetown TX 77626 — Seller/Vendor setup @ 7:15am
 Doors open from 8am to 12-noon. Talk-in 146.64 (PL 162.2)
 WCARC N5&& Repeater by Williamson County ARC
<http://wcarc.com/>

More events listed in the SWAPNET Newsletter!

Upcoming Meetings...

Feb	Mar	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
7	7	AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
28	28	Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
23	23	CERT Meeting @ CTECC (Link)	7:00 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd
27	27	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