



AARC COVER

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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Club

ISSN 1067-0262

September 2017

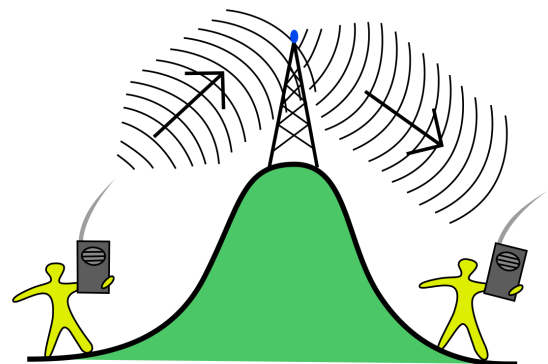
Issue 09-2017

AARC - Repeater System Status

and other repeater activity

DE WA5YZD (Roy)

146.94 located at Buckman Mt./KVUE tower is running on the primary MASTR II hardware. The transmitter is running at 50 W. This is producing about 100 W ERP in the system. The antenna is located at ~450 feet AGL. Coverage has returned to normal after the repair was made to the power amp. Plans are to make some improvements in the system to double the power output and provide ~200 W ERP.



(continued on page 5)

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

Please note that two exam sessions were held at Austin Summerfest 2017, the ARRL South Texas Section Convention. Even though they both took place at the same time on Saturday, August 5th in the same hotel they cannot be combined into one report because the room locations, the examiners and the examinees are unique to each test session.

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on August 5th at the ARRL South Texas Section Convention in the **Waterloo Room** of the Crowne Plaza Hotel :

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Damon L. Acton KG5UNP	Alan A. Bernstein KG5UNO	Douglas E. Bickford KG5UNK
Christian B. Cordoba KG5UNL	Ivan T. DeHaas KG5UNR	John W. Jory III KG5UNN
Major R. Mathis KG5UNT	Roy A. Ott KG5UNU	Charles C. Randall KG5UNQ
Ian W. Robertson KG5UNM	Holden R. Smith KG5UNV	Grant M. Ullman KG5UNS

General Class Licenses Processed

Jack B. Woods KG5UNJ

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Mark S. Dommers AG5MB Michael S. Johnson AG5MA

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Gene Hinkle K5PA	Sallie Howard AB5YL	Jim Lindley K5EWS
Joe Makeever W5HS	Jim Peisker AF5NP	Roy Walker WA5YZD

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on August 5th at Austin Summerfest 2017, the ARRL South Texas Section Convention, in the **Austin Room** of the Crowne Plaza Hotel:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

None

General Class Licenses Processed

Dustin M. Curran KF5TNO	Benjamin B. Koerner KG5TZG	Harry D. Scott KG5PAI
Bruce W. Toney KB5GXO	Nyah Way KG5UGC	David L. Wilkins KF5YAH

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Robert A. Nelson Jr. W5ADB

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Joe Bryan K5BRY	Russ Cook KK5E	Mark Esslinger W5MAE
Larry Gunter WB5BEK	Mark Hunt K5NM	Ted Iglehart KF5END

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

September 2nd - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204
October 14th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

(More exam results on the next page! -Editor)



Ham Radio Exams Results (continued)

8-19-17

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

Amateur Extra Class

Giles Andrews, KG5VGF Fred Wilson, KG5PWA

General Class

Russell Bennett, WZ5BBS Travis Campbell (NEW)

Technician Class (NEW)

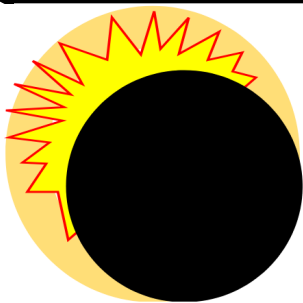
William Degnan	Mark DeFrance	Matthew Brake
Luke Lovelace	Charles Howard	David Shapiro
James Busby	Alexis Zinni	Stephanie Langford
Jana Cuberovic	Anna Ly	

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW	Stuart Wolfe, KF5NIX
Gary Popp, AE5JR	Wally Marusa, K5WLY

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on September 16th and October 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.

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**



Solar Eclipse

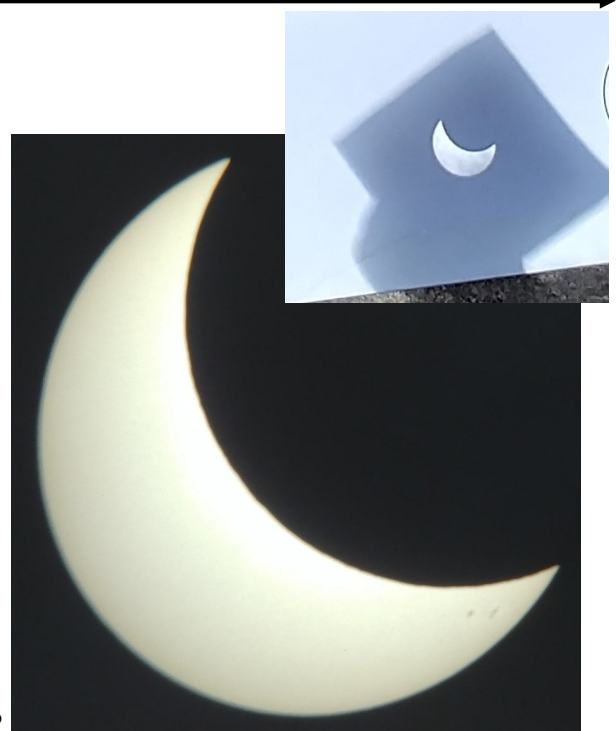
August 21, 2017

Did anyone perform any amateur radio experiments during the eclipse? I did turn the HF radio on and listened in for a while. There was the [Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#) going on from 1400-2200 UTC. It was sponsored by HamSCI (<http://hamsci.org/>).

I haven't seen any articles online yet with results, but there were quite a few QSOs going on during the eclipse. I didn't key up and participate as I went outside to (safely!) view the eclipse personally.

The smaller inset image to the right was taken with a hole punched in a piece of cardboard and projected to a piece of paper on the ground. Small, but it was clear and even shows the clouds passing by. The larger image was captured by projecting the image from my 5" telescope to a white paper. Much bigger! And you can even make out a couple of spots on the right.

Do you have any radio activity during the eclipse you'd like to share? Any long distance DX? Let me know! -Editor



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
Editor, AARCOVER, website	Michael Skurka	K5MSK	editor@austinhams.org
Technical (Repeater Contact)	Stuart Rohre	K5KVH	512-255-3932 k5kvh@arrl.net
ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord.	Kerby Spruiell	KG5DLD	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.

Sorry... Online membership registration is temporarily unavailable.

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	USE
146.780/ -600kHz	2m D-STAR Repeater [W5KA C]
146.880 107.2 PL Tone	Analog/Digital Fusion
146.940 107.2 PL Tone	Most popular, TCARES WXnet, Swapnet
224.800	
444.100	
444.200 107.2 PL Tone	
440.650 +5	70cm D-STAR Repeater [W5KA B]
1293.100/-20	23cm D-STAR Repeater[W5KA A]
1248.200	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.

Note: **No** AARC repeater has **autopatch** capability any longer.

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/scholarships> for more information.

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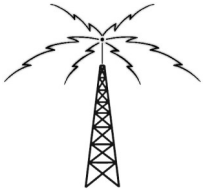
Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of the club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

Members and other readers are *encouraged* to submit material for publication. Contact 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@arrl.net
Jay handles all changes for membership information.





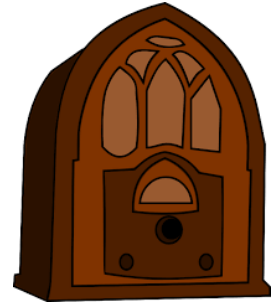
Over the WWaves...



It's Alive! (or... *at least it could be!*)

Here's a two-part piece from Nuts and Volts Magazine for those wanting to bring an old, old receiver back to life. It is well written, but don't think you have to go to the extremes the author does to simulate very old components.

In addition to all given in the articles, I suggest you keep a tablet nearby to document your efforts. The steps you take (along with any stumbles) will then be available for the next time you go down the same path.



Enjoy...and remember that your Austin ham community contains quite a few that have likely trod your path. If you get into a bind, ask for help.

If you already know the steps shown here, why not do your part to share them with others coming down the path behind you? (That's what I'm doing here.)

Links to the articles:

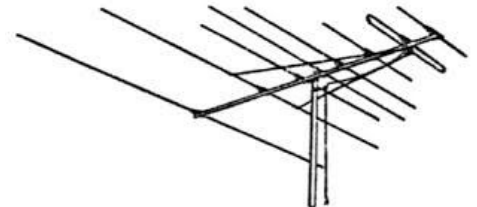
http://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/may2015_Koebel

http://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/june2015_Koebel

73,
Rick Herndon K5FNI

New(?) Technology!

Oh, the humanity! It is entirely amazing to me, that folks do you not understand that broadcast television still exists, and it is relatively free to receive almost everywhere. (I say relatively free, because there is a commercial advertising on it, which means you pay a little bit every time you buy something from the advertisers.)



See this (paywalled –Ed):

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/millennials-unearth-an-amazing-hack-to-get-free-tv-the-antenna-1501686958>

(alternate link: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/millennials-unearth-an-amazing-hack-to-get-free-tv-the-antenna/ar-AApmlwm> –Editor)

(Thanks to Wes, AC8JF.)
Rick Herndon K5FNI

[*What ARE these alien devices that millennials don't recognize?!
If it's not an app on a smartphone, it doesn't exist. Right? -Editor*]



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/scholarships> for more information.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

444.2 located at Buckman Mt./KVUE tower is running primary MASTR II hardware. The transmit antenna is located at ~450 feet AGL. Transmitter power output is 100W. The ERP for this system is ~120W. The receiver is located at the 1000 foot level on a shared antenna with other systems. Coverage is the best in the county for Amateur systems. It is connected to the Allstar, Echolink and Asterisk/Linphone networks. This repeater is connected full-time to 443.075 – K5TRA in Bee Cave and 224.36 – WD5EMS in Round Rock.

224.80 located at Buckman Mt./KVUE tower is running ICOM hardware. It is transmitting with 7W TPO and an ERP of ~30W. The antenna is at the ~450 foot level. It shares a feedline with the 444.2 transmitter and the 146.94 receive and transmitter system. Coverage is Travis County and most surrounding counties.

1.2924 located at Buckman Mt./KVUE tower is running primary ICOM hardware. The system is platform mounted at 1000 feet AGL with very short receive and transmit cable runs to the two antennas. It is running 10W TPO and 40W ERP on the transmit side of the system. Coverage is very solid for Travis County and hill-top in the surrounding counties. The system is networked via Allstar to the Austin Area 900 Mhz. system of repeaters that ranges over several counties. Nationwide network connections to other 900 Mhz. systems across the US is normally maintained. The system has a Round Rock association with the 1293.0 operated by WD5EMS. This repeater covers most of Williamson County.

146.88 located at Pickle Research Center LCRA tower. This is a Yaesu System Fusion repeater running in the Automatic Mode System configuration. This means it repeats FM if the user transmits FM and it repeats YSF if user is in the digital (Fusion) mode of transmit. The antenna is at 250 foot AGL. It is running 20W and an ERP of 60 W. This YSF system is normally connected to the Texas-Nexus Room (21636) of the Wires-X network. The system can be connected to any Wires-X Room or Node for up to 30 minutes at a time. After 30 minutes it will return to the Texas-Nexus room. Other Austin area repeaters in the network/room are 145.37 Cedar Park, 444.95 and 444.85. There usually 14 repeaters connected to 146.88 in the Wires-X system. They cover Dallas, Ft Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Temple/Waco/Killeen. When you key up in the Fusion mode on this repeater you are being heard in a large part of the State of Texas! (**See the coverage map on the next page!**) The Wires-X node support is provided by RF link to off-site datacenter managed by Dirk AF5WW using equipment provided by AARC.

444.10 located at Pickle Research Center LCRA tower. This is a standard FM repeater. Antenna is at 250 foot AGL. TPO is 30W and the ERP is ~60W. The hardware is MASTR Pro. It provides Travis County-wide coverage in most directions.

Current Plans:

Replace 444.1 hardware with Yaesu Fusion C4FM.

Add Allstar network capability to the 146.94 System for Skywarn/Weathnet extended coverage to adjacent county coverage.

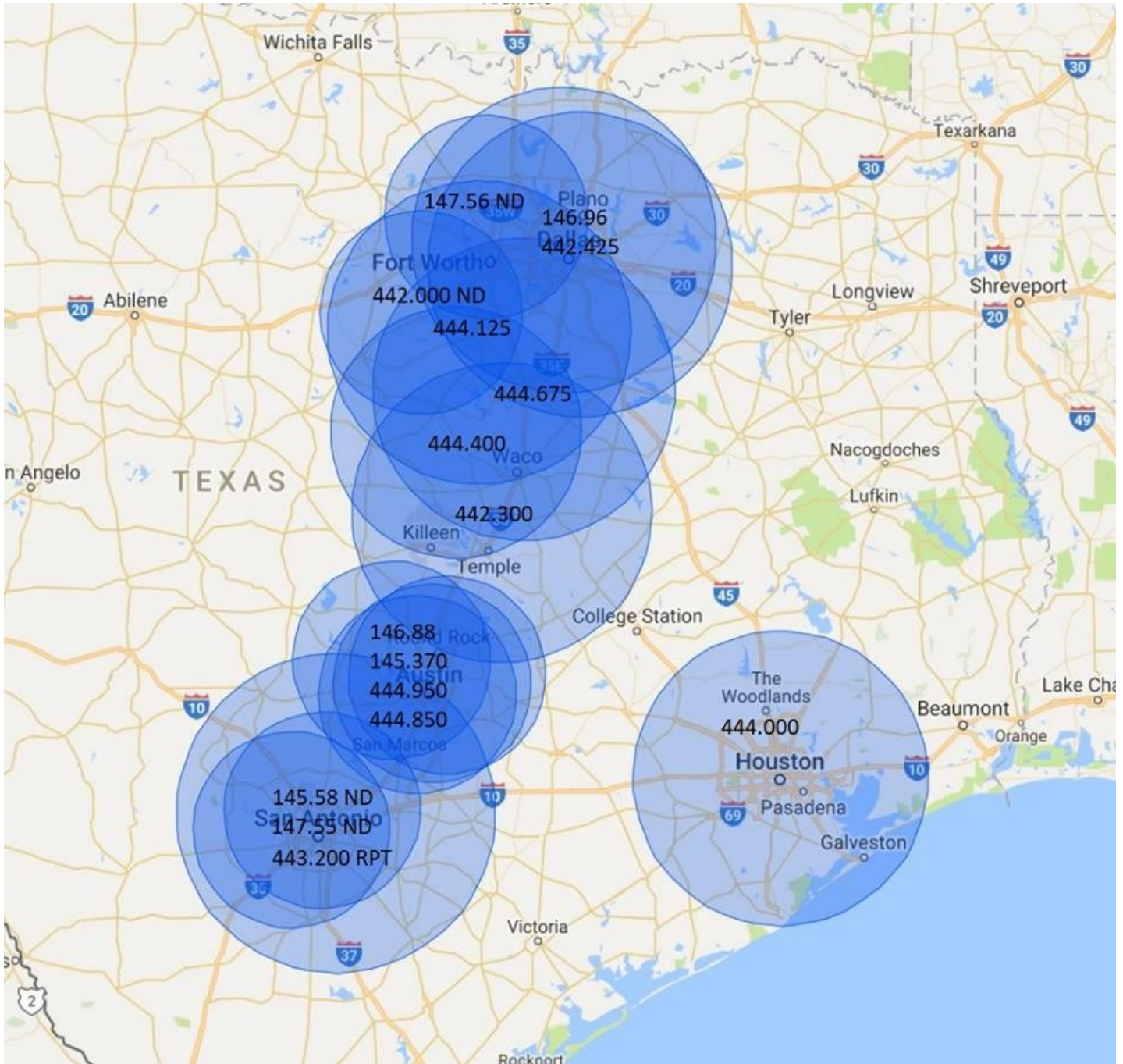
Comments and Observations can be sent to Roy at WA5YZD @ARRL.NET



146.88 Repeater Coverage Map

Below is the Texas-Nexus Room coverage map provided by Cevan - K5ORN. These repeaters are ones that get keyed when a user on our 146.88 repeater is in the C4FM – Fusion digital mode with their radio. The user will be heard in all of these coverage areas.

Roy
WA5YZD



FEATURED EVENT



October 6th & 7th, 2017

Bell County Expo Center ([Google map](#))
Belton, Texas

"The friendliest Ham Radio Swapfest in the world!"

Commercial vendors and individuals from Texas and surrounding states meet up at HamEXPO to display amateur radio equipment and supplies for sale. Come join us at this Swapfest, sponsored by Temple Amateur Radio Club,

It's only 50 miles north of Austin! Admission fee is \$5.00 per person at the door (children under 12 free). This includes one free raffle ticket (a \$2.00 value).

Visit <http://tarc.org/hamexpo> for more information!

And if you miss this one.. you'll have to wait until April 6th & 7th, 2018 for the next **HamEXPO**. But we hope you'll be able to make it in October!

Do you have any news, events, interesting links or articles for the AARCover?

We'd be thrilled if you'd send them to editor@austinhams.org
for consideration to be published in a future AARCover!

Meeting Minutes — AARC General Meeting, 1 August 2017

Start time: 7:05 pm

Attendance: 33

We had two visitors this month. Jim and Sue Caldwell, WB5IHG and WB5WOG Welcome!
We had no new hams, new members, upgrades or call sign changes this month.

The minutes from June were approved as printed in the AARCover.

Announcements:

- ◆ The Salvation Army SATERN is looking for operators
- ◆ A planner is needed for the club Christmas party; Jay has offered to help said planner.
- ◆ Jeri Wines is looking for volunteers for helping at the registration desk at Summerfest. Contact her if interested
- ◆ Joe Canfield says that there won't be any amateur radio participation for the hospital drill on 11/1
- ◆ See the swapnet newsletter for upcoming events.
- ◆ See the swapnet newsletter for upcoming events.

Officer reports

- ◆ Treasurer: Jay Hoffman, KA5OST - There have been no significant expenses outside of the repeater upgrade.
- ◆ Secretary: Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI - Thanks for signing in if you have, please do sign in if you haven't yet.
- ◆ Vice-President: Lew Thompson, W5IFQ - I handle the presentations and am always looking for presenters or topics. Email me if you have ideas.
- ◆ President: James Hollan, KG5SGR: no report
- ◆ Newsletter: Michael Skurka, K5MSK - not present.
- ◆ ARES: Kerbey Spruiell, KG5DLD: We are trying to work with served agencies to have a coordinated response. Remember: if you belong to more than one group, you may be called multiple times.
- ◆ Technical committee: Roy Walker, WA5YZD via Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV: Gave power summary for W5KA repeater system

Space weather was presented by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ.

End of business meeting: 7:57 pm.

The subject of tonight's presentation was An Introduction to Solar Weather and HF Propagation by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ.

~~~ End of Minutes ~~~



## AARC Meeting Info

Tuesday, Sept 5, 2017 / 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: Applied Research Lab  
[10000 Burnet Road, Austin TX](#)

### **Presentation Topic:**

**TBD**

Solar WX: W5IFQ (Lew, if he's back)

### **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.

## **2017+ Calendar of Events**

### **Sept 23-24 Texas QSO Party**

9AM to 9PM Saturday 23rd (Texas time)

9AM to 3PM Sunday 24th (Texas time)

The exchange is simple - we give signal report and county; we receive signal report and state/province/DX.

Full rules and info here: <http://www.txqp.net/>

### **Sept 29-30 Six Meter BBQ (6m VHF Enthusiast Convention)**

Co-Hosted by DX Engineering and FlexRadio Systems  
Lonestar Court in Austin, TX.

Near the Domain, off Mopac/Loop 1

Friday afternoon-evening for a meet n greet

Main events Saturday from 9:00am to 5:00pm

You -must- preregister for admission

The 6M BBQ website: <http://www.sixmeterbbq.com/>

### **Oct 6-7 Belton Ham Expo**

Bell County Expo Center

Temple Amateur Radio Club

<http://tarc.org/hamexpo/>

### **Oct 14 Main Trading Company - Ham Radio Day**

2707 Lamar Ave., Paris, TX / 8AM - 2PM / 903-737-0773

145.130 (PL 100.0) Analog or Fusion

442.125 K5PTR DStar is online in Paris

[sales@maintradingcompany.com](mailto:sales@maintradingcompany.com)

<http://www.maintradingcompany.com/>

### **Oct 27-28 Texoma Hamarama & Family FunFest**

Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 North Rockford Drive,

Ardmore, OK; Sponsor: Texoma Hamarama, Inc.

<http://texomahamarama.org/>

### **Feb 3, 2018 Basic & Advanced SkyWarn Training**

27th Annual Lou Withrow Austin and South Central SkyWarn Training. 9:00am-4:00pm Saturday.

DE Troy Kimmel KE5BCK

Location: Austin Community College, Eastview Campus, Austin

**More events listed in the [SWAPNET Newsletter!](#)**

## **Upcoming Amateur Exams: 2017**

### **ARRL VEC - Sep. 2nd & Oct. 14th**

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 - Sep. 16th & Oct. 21st**

2 p.m. in **Room 118**, Fleck Hall,  
St. Edwards University. \$14 fee.

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

## **Upcoming Meetings...**

| Sep. | Oct. | Austin Meetings/Happenings                                               | Time      | Address             |
|------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 5    | 3    | AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Lab                                      | 7:00 p.m. | 10000 Burnet Rd     |
| 26   | 24   | Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab                               | 7:00 p.m. | 10000 Burnet Rd     |
| 28   | 26   | CERT Meeting @ TBD (see <a href="#">Link</a> / <a href="#">Contact</a> ) | 7:00 p.m. | TBD                 |
| 25   | 23   | 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*

Visit our website at <http://austinhams.org/>