



# AARC COVER

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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Club

ISSN 1067-0262

**December 2017**

**Issue 12-2017**

## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like...

Well... I'm not exactly expecting snow around here, but 'tis the season! And 'tis the tradition that the Austin Amateur Radio Club will have a **Christmas Party** in lieu of a regular business meeting. Join us Tuesday, **December 5th** at the **Buffet King Party Room** in Capital Plaza! You don't have to be a member, or even a ham, to attend! There is no door fee for the party - just pay for your buffet dinner (about \$12 plus beverage). There will be the traditional QLF (left foot) Morse Code Contest, HOTY (Ham Of The Year) Award Presentation, and Tabletop Decoration Contest. Lest we not forget all the raffle prizes! Buy raffle tickets at the door for \$1/each or 6 tickets for \$5. The Grand Prize will be a Yaesu FTM-3200DR, 2M FM/C4FM mobile radio. The Christmas buffet starts at **6:00pm**, so come and decorate your tabletop and enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship. Buffet King, 5451 North Interstate 51, Austin TX 78723 (just north of 51st Street, off of the I-35 northbound access road).



### 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 November 4, 2017 at Bethany United Methodist Church:

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Nihal N. Dhamani KG5VVU	Axel H. Durham KG5VWB	Andrew B. Forey KG5VVZ
Joseph G. Hanstein KG5VVO	Jake A. Janssen KG5VVW	Taben J. Malik KG5VWA
Jeremy P. O'Rarden KG5VVX	Naishal C. Patel KG5VVS	Robert K. Powell KG5VVQ
Carson D. Schubert KG5VVY	Cassandra M. Serrano KG5VWC	Gayle C. Wald KG5VVP

## General Class Licenses Processed

William B. Drury KG5VWE	Patrick W. Hensley KG5VWD	Heather Morrison W2HVJ
Darrell A. Scott KG5VVT	Gregory O. Stearman KG5VVV	Harold W. Woodall KG5VVR

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Larry Gunter WB5BEK	Gene Hinkle K5PA	Sallie Howard AB5YL
Chris Howell KC5DVR	Joe Makeever W5HS	Jim Matthews KG5QFD
Steve Schreiber KG5LAA		

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

December 2nd - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

January 6th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

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11-18-17

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our November 18th session:

## Extra Class

Michael Taleff (NEW)	Charles Wolfson, KG5SCN
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## General Class

Thomas Sanders (NEW)	Sankarsh Rao, KG5VKF	Harrison Tran (NEW)
Charles Hinkle, KG5VCS	Darrel Branhagen, K5ATB	Nola Stowe, KG5UXR
Jorge Quiroga (NEW)		

## Technician Class (NEW)

Robert Light	Johnny Anderson	Adoni Poledicha
Christopher Schneider	Angelo Powell	Garrett Roeder
Michael LePere	Carlos Ventura	John Halliday
Timothy Lamb	John Hearn	

## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Craig Bean, AC5KW	Wally Marusa, K5WLY	James Peisker, AF5NP
	Albert Karch, N5OVH	

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on December 16th and January 28th 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](mailto:AC5KW@ARRL.net)



# Sorry Connectors

by Joe Fisher, K5EJL

ARRL Technical Specialist

the "Electronic Junque Lover"

My continuing outrage with really sorry electronic product designs has now reached a new level: proven designs of component parts which have been made nearly unusable by manufacturing shortcuts. To wit – coax connectors. The photos tell it all (or most of it)!

The venerable old "SO-239", as it's known in the ham world, has been around for "who knows how long". It's really a chassis mount, UHF series, female connector with "solder cup" center connector. The one in Photo 1 (right) was installed in an antenna patch panel and the center conductor, while being soldered from the back, melted, then migrated right through the insulator. Nice thermal property for the insulator of a solder cup connector, right!



The type N chassis mount female shown in Photo 2 (left) fared no better; ruined by the same procedure. And it cost about \$5! The "center" conductor has moved way off center. This is maybe an extreme case, but only a little movement renders the connector useless.



"OK", some may say, "use less heat while soldering." Well, that's easy for them to say! Especially if the one soldering is a new ham who has only found "Lead-Free" solder which melts at considerably higher temperature than good old 60% tin/40% lead solder. My recommendation: buy good quality stuff instead. It isn't that much more expensive and even if you have to order it on the web, do it!

Photo 3 (right) shows an Amphenol "SO-239", still in package, ordered from Mouser Electronics. Notice the dark colored insulator. It's phenolic, the old standard thermoset material used forever. You won't hurt that stuff with your soldering iron! Trust me.

*(I'll second that! -Editor)*



Photo 4 (below) shows another SO-239 that was successfully soldered and was being used in a patch panel. But after a few months it seemed to develop the dreaded "intermittent". The problem was that at times it was being used with "push on" coupling nut male connectors, which relieve one from having to screw connectors together.



Though it's difficult to determine, the metal "fingers" of the center conductor are much too thin and there's apparently little temper or "spring" left in the material. Thus the center conductor has stretched to the point that it will not grip a male center conductor reliably. This connector actually wobbles around the center pin of the mating connector! Really sorry!

But wait! There's more! Photo 5 (right) shows a type N male to UHF female adapter. Same problem: no reliable center conductor contact. And this one was surely more than \$5!



Notice that these connectors have no manufacturer's name or numbers on them. Good quality connectors will. And although these failed connectors are bright and shiny, and maybe cheap, they're worse than... worthless. They cause the technician to spend time on problems that should never have happened in the first place. So if you're buying just a few connectors for your next secret weapon, killer project, get the good ones. They're worth the money, at least by the time saved.

### **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)	Roy Walker	WA5YZD	wa5yzd@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:

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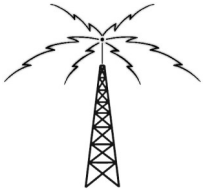
Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of the club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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**  
**Contact: Jay Hoffman, KA5OST / ka5ost@arrl.net**  
**Jay handles all changes for membership information.**





# Over the WWaves...



## Quiet Genny...

Drop the sound level of a portable generator 10dB (10:34)

<http://www.brilliantdiy.com/diy-trick-make-your-generator-4x-quieter/2/>

This guy talks too much, but he does have a point. [I agree! -Ed]

DE Rick, K5FNI

## Electronics, Projects, RF, and more...

This site has a good number of electronics articles and projects.

<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/projects/category/wireless-rf/>

A couple of RF projects that caught my eye are

[Build an Arduino-Controlled AM/FM/SW Radio](#)

[Introduction to the RFM69HW Transceiver](#)

DE Michael, K5MSK (Editor)

## XYL

*No problem!  
I'm sure he's  
hanging around  
here somewhere.*



## DECEMBER Christmas Party!

As is the custom of AARC, there will be no business meeting in December. Instead, the AARC Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, December 6th at:

Buffet King - in Capital Plaza  
5451 N IH 35, Austin TX 78723

**More info on page 1!**

## REMINDER

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

## FEATURED EVENT



### Radio Fiesta 2018

A long time tradition in San Antonio is the San Antonio Radio Club's annual Radio Fiesta. This event brings together amateur radio operators, vendors, and those interested in the hobby for a day of exploration, testing, and informational sessions.

Radio Fiesta 2018 is scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2018, with setup for dealers and flea market participants on the afternoon and evening before. The operating hours will be 8:00 a. m. to 2:00 p. m. on Saturday, January 13, 2018. In addition to dealer and flea market tables, there will be a tailgate area, a program of presentations, and amateur radio license testing.

#### Fees

Admission – \$8 Advanced / \$10 at the door

Dealer Tables – \$10 Advanced / \$14 at the door

Flea Market Tables – \$10

Tailgate Spaces – 1 free space with admission

\* Extra spaces \$5 each

[Radio Fiesta Flyer](#) (PDF)

[Visitor Information](#) (PDF)

[Vendor Information](#) (PDF)

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**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](mailto:editor@austinhams.org)  
for consideration to be published in a future AARCover!



## AARC General Meeting, 7 November 2017

Meeting began this month with the presentation of ALE (Automatic Link Establishment) by Rodney Warner, KG5DWX, Region VI Arms Mars Director

Business meeting start time: 7:54 pm

Attendance:

We had two visitors this month. Welcome!

We had no new hams this month.

There was one new member: Mark Dommers, AG5MB. Welcome!

There were no new upgrades or call sign changes.

The minutes from October were approved as printed in the AARCover and shown during the meeting.

### Announcements

Next month is the Christmas party at Buffet King in Austin. Pay at the door.

Activities: QLF contest, others to be determined.

See the swapnet newsletter for upcoming events.

### Officer Reports

- Treasurer: no report
- Secretary: Angie Steelman, KF5ZXI - We had 29 people sign in last month. 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.
- Newsletter: Michael Skurka, K5MSK - Please send me articles.
- ARES: Kirby Spruiell, KG5DLD - Annual SET was October 14. AUXCOMM class will be coming up on 3/17-3/18. Sign up available at [preparingtexas.org](http://preparingtexas.org) (search for AUXCOMM)
- Technical Committee: no report
- BBHN: No report this month.

Officer elections for 2018

President: Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF

Vice president: Lew Thompson, W5IFQ

Secretary: Joe Talafous, KG5QVW

Treasurer: Jay Hoffman, KA5OST



New Business: Suggested that the club have a 10-meter net - try 28.410 at 3 pm on Sundays.

Space weather was presented by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

## AARC Meeting Info

### **Christmas Party**

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

Location: Buffet King (Capital Plaza)  
[5451 North Interstate 35, Austin TX 78723](#)

HOTY (Ham Of The Year) Award Presentation  
QLF (Left Foot) Morse Code Contest  
Tabletop Decoration Contest  
GRAND PRIZE: Yaesu FTM-3200DR (2M FM/C4FM mobile)

### No Officers Meeting in December

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

## Upcoming Amateur Exams: 2017

### **ARRL VEC - Dec. 2nd & Jan. 6th**

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 - Dec. 16th & Jan. 20**

2 p.m. in **Room 118**, Fleck Hall,  
St. Edwards University. \$14 fee.  
Contact Craig  
AC5KW @ ARRL.net  
for more info. \$14 fee.

## **2017+ Calendar of Events**

### **Dec 5 - AARC Christmas Party 7-9pm**

See article on Page 1 for details.

### **Dec 10 - Decker Challenge 2017 Half-Marathon & Brown Santa 5K runs**

Need a dozen or so Hams w/HTs & mobiles to station around the course/Walter E Long Lake. APRS use is encouraged, but not required. NC, as always, will be at the Travis County Expo Center. It's an early race, so please meet at NC by 7:00am. Usually done and gone by 1:00pm (sooner depending on where you are stationed). Contact Jim @K5KTF.com to sign up to work this fun race. (Please don't wait until the last minute to let him know you are interested. Give him time to plan you in!) Did we mention they usually have breakfast tacos/donuts/coffee in the morning, and free craft beers after?!

### **Jan 6-7 - 16th Annual Bandera 25k, 50k, and 100k Ultra-Marathon**

Location: Hill Country State Natural Area - Bandera County  
The team is responsible for communications, health and welfare, tracking, and occasionally Search and Rescue. Also manage parking at o'dark thirty to get the 900 runners and crews to the start/finish line on time. Little to NO cellular coverage. Participants, families, crews and promoters rely on the skill and expertise of the Amateur Radio Community.

Interested operators should contact the Communications Safety Team Coordinator: Louis, K5STX at k5stx10@gmail.com or call 830-305-2889. (More info in [SwapNet Newsletter](#).)

### **Jan 13 - San Antonio Fiesta Hamfest**

8:00 a. m. to 2:00 p. m. on Saturday, January 13, 2018.  
In addition to dealer and flea market tables, there will be a tail-gate. Friday setup for dealers and flea market participants the afternoon & evening. Programs, presentations, and amateur radio license testing. Please PRE-REGISTER for the test session at hamtest@gmail.com or call 210-273-5927  
Radio Fiesta Chairperson, JC Smith, N5RXS, at n5rxs2@gmail.com or call 210-522-6167  
<http://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta/>

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

## **Upcoming Meetings...**

<b>Dec.</b>	<b>Jan.</b>	<b>Austin Meetings/Happenings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Address</b>
5	2	AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
-	23	Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
-	25	CERT Meeting @ TBD (see <a href="#">Link</a> / <a href="#">Contact</a> ) <i>(CERT appears to not have meetings in December due to holidays. Next meeting Jan. 25.)</i>	7:00 p.m.	TBD
-	22	CTDXCC Meeting @ Old Quarry Library <i>(Several December meetings not held due to holidays.)</i>	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/>**