



AARC OVER

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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Club

ISSN 1067-0262

January 2018

Issue 01-2018

So... You Wanna Start a University Radio Club?

by Rich Compeau, AG5FA

(This will be a multi-part feature over the next several issues. Stay tuned to get the whole story! -Editor)



Part I - Making the Jump to Lightspeed

An amateur radio club was exactly what the 37,000 students at the Texas State University San Marcos campus needed. Such a club would draw young people into the hobby and provide fun and meaningful student activities. It could be of service to the community and to other organizations. Propagation research could be performed. We could even give ham exams on campus to make it easy for students to test!

How difficult could it be, really? Everybody loved the idea! The students were enthusiastic, faculty was abuzz with ideas, and my email inbox was pinging like a pinball machine! Surely the process would go smoothly and many would volunteer to assist in making the club a reality.



(continued on page 3)

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)
Sun	(After Swapnet)	<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 December 2, 2017 at Bethany United Methodist Church. All eighteen examinees walked away from this test session with either a new or upgraded license:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Zhongyu Chen KG5WJV	Christopher G. Klough KG5WJW	Lucas J. Mosiman KG5WJZ
Esteban A. Olivares KG5WJX	Jeffrey T. Pender KG5WJS	Billy G. Schwake, II KG5WJY
Arm Suwarnanaratana KG5WJT	Samantha K. Wallace KG5WKA	Jennifer E. Ward KG5WJU

General Class Licenses Processed

Joseph G. Hanstein KG5VVO	Chris J. Hennan KD5GIK	John W. Pelath KG5VKH
Robert K. Powell KG5VVG	Alejandro D. Ramirez KX5ALE	Malcolm M. Scholl KB5RUE
Gayle C. Wald WA5LDO		

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Heather Morrison W2HVJ	Harrold W. Woodall KG5VVR
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Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Craig Bean AF5KW	Larry Gunter WB5BEK	Jim Kinter K5KTF
Arlen Levin WA6AUF	Joe Makeever W5HS	Bill Wehling N5VE

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

January 6th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204
February 3rd - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

12-17-17

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our December 16th session:

General Class

Lloyd Fernung, KG5SOY	Adoni Poledicha, KG5WHC	Keith Yarbrough (NEW)
Norbert Rickert, KG5VSG	Joey Stanley (NEW)	Ojas Ahuja (NEW)
Konstantin Kuzmin (NEW)	Samantha Wallace, KG5WKA	Neil Kenagy (NEW)
Esteban Olivares, KG5WJX		

Technician Class (NEW)

Adrienne Augustus	Alfred Hernandez	Marielena Zendejas
Prahlaad Das	Terry Samford	Erin Risinger
Joshua Nutson	Ayush Bhansali	Walker Holmes
William Irby		

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW	Gary Popp, AE5JR	Jim Matthews, KG5QFD
	Ted Iglehart, KF5END	

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on January 20th and February 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.

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)



(continued from page 1)

Imagine the following in highlights: The Texas State University Amateur Radio Club. It had a certain professional sound, and interested folks on campus started using the name immediately. What's in a name, anyway? As Shakespeare said, "That which we call a rose by any other name would still smell as sweet." At least that's what I had to tell people after I read the fine print and discovered that only athletic organizations could use "Texas State University" prefixes for club names, and that everyone else had to come up with something different. Faculty member Michael Casey KI4GGK came up with, "Bobcat Amateur Radio Club," or simply, BARC. Catchy!

Armed with an approved club name it would be a simple matter to define a new student organization. While I was trying to navigate through the paperwork and get a charter together, faculty and staff members dreamed of a linked repeater, fox hunts, equipment-building parties and more. There was much discussion about what we could do after everything was in place. I was more focused on simply getting the club started, however.

Armed with a catchy club name - BARC - it should have been a simple matter to define and form a student club. While reading the fine print - again - a few interesting requirements were uncovered. The first was that new student organizations were only registered and listed once per year. The deadline was four days away, and if we missed that deadline we would have had to wait a year to have a registered club. Each new student organization had to name three elected student Officers plus a Faculty Advisor and Co-Advisor. The application also needed a set of meeting minutes documenting the officer election, along with a ratified club charter, along with the answers to about 20 questions.

This was the time when it paid off to be the instructor of a required-for-graduation, senior level class. Three of my trustworthy students were summarily voluntold (a somewhat more direct form of volunteered) that they were running for office as the founding student members of our new radio club, and that they would immediately call a general meeting of interested students to conduct an officer election.

Meanwhile, I worked on the charter. Having only a few days to construct such a document, it seemed wise to 'borrow' from an established university radio club. What better organization to model than Texas A&M's W5AC, one of the nation's oldest university clubs founded in 1912? W5AC was thoughtful enough to have posted their Constitution in editable form, saving me the dreaded and unpredictable task of performing online 'PDF-to-Word' conversion.

Finally, everything except the club registration application for the university was in place. It was an online form with multitudes of questions such as, type of club, meeting days/times, tax status, and so forth. Tax status? I'm an engineer, not an attorney or accountant! Another hour was wasted invested in learning about tax law as applied to student organizations.

After a few long days and late nights, the proper forms had been submitted - and suddenly BARC existed!

Oh wait - just kidding! TRAINING was required in order to be officially recognized. The club Advisor first had to complete training modules regarding Duties of an Advisor, Diversity & Inclusion, and Hazing! The first module made sense, the second we already do in a diverse university, but the third? Why anyone would haze someone wishing to join an amateur radio club was beyond me, however, every semester I am punctually recertified in anti-hazing practices. "No, you cannot use that whip antenna to initiate new members!" Mine was easy because advisor training was online. The club President & Vice-President however had to spend a Saturday afternoon in on-campus training, and if they did not attend then BARC would be delisted.

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Yes, delisted from the Student Organization Council's (SOC) list of registered, approved student clubs. That would be bad, right? Well, the SOC's list of organizations is publicly searchable and anyone can submit an inquiry which of course goes straight to the Advisor. This took the form of a few hundred emails asking me questions such as, "What are your activities? When do you meet? Who all's in the club?" which were difficult to answer given that we were new. I developed a boilerplate response and created an internal website for BARC so that activities and announcements could be posted. 'We' were going to update and maintain the site.

Finally, on Sept. 26 2016, BARC actually existed and was off and running! Now what? Surely the faculty, staff and students who had expressed so much interest and enthusiasm would help with fundraising, creating and hosting activities, and advertising the club now that the mundane paper-work had been completed. How hard could it be?

Trying to get students to perform fundraising and to define fun and meaningful activities was extremely challenging. I hesitate to invoke the over-used cliché of herding cats to describe attempts to manage the organization. Instead, we will use a phrase of similar meaning, "minding mice at a crossroads."

BARC members were excited over the prospect of a fox hunt. I had asked them to research the requirements for such an activity and to look in to the experiences of other university radio clubs. This of course would have detracted from problem sets and soldering, so it did not happen. Again, I asked the Officers to consider a foxhunt on campus from the big perspective. However, these are engineering students and they want to build things. They like building things and they do not consider ramifications in the manner that an experienced individual might.

They were ready to order some sort of kits for a foxhunt and I again convened the Officers. The discussion went something like this: "You have no idea what the transmission parameters or ID requirements are for a foxhunt. You don't know that it will work on this campus because you've never done a trial run - like I've asked 4 times now - with your HT's. You're going to build electronic devices with batteries and wires, and hide them around campus. What do you think will happen when somebody uncovers one? What might it look like to them, especially if they are not an engineering student? Do you think it could be mistaken for something that it's not? Who will they call? Who will have to explain this to the Provost or President after the campus was evacuated or was locked down due to the discovery of a suspicious device?"

Sometimes when you are attempting to mind mice at a crossroads you must show them a cat, or at least let them know that a cat is nearby.

Stay tuned next month for Part II, "Wheels in Motion."

About the author

Rich Comeau, AG5FA, is a new AARC member and has been a ham for over 17 months now. He had a 25-year career in the "real" world as a microelectronics engineer & manager before entering academia. An MIT graduate, he is a Professor of Practice and is the Electrical Engineering Program Coordinator at Texas State University, with a doctorate in Applied Electromagnetics (Antennas) - but claims to know very little about real antennas.



Paul M. Hargis, W5KA (SK), Birthday Celebration

by Joe Fisher, K5EJL

ARRL Technical Specialist and CLM
the “Electronic Junque Lover”
(and self-appointed AARC Historian)



It’s that time of year again for you old-timers; maybe new-timers too. January 12, 1907, was the birthdate of one who might be called the “patriarch” of AARC. Paul Hargis was born right here in Austin, but grew up mostly in Lubbock. He came back to go to school in engineering and later began a wholesale electronics supply business at 410 Baylor St. He died of a heart attack at age 49, but was, by accounts that I’ve heard, most generous and constant in his support of AARC.

Though AARC was in operation and officially affiliated with ARRL by 1919, we have few records of ham activity in Austin in the early years. I did find, though, that Paul Hargis was licensed as W5KA here in Austin as shown below in the June 30, 1931, AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES (p. 156) from the Radio Division, Department of Commerce:

W5KA | Paul M. Hargis | 1012 W. Thirtieth St., Austin, Tex.

At St. Mary’s Infirmary in Galveston in 1956, he made a nuncupative will, i.e., it was orally dictated an hour or so before he died. He left half of his business assets to several of his employees, but the admission of the will to probate was successfully challenged in State District court.

But the case was not over; that decision was challenged in Appeals Court by Walter Nance, one of the beneficiaries of the will. The Appeals Court reversed the District Court and the will was admitted to probate.

This year I think it’s time to go back to Waterloo Ice House, 8600 Burnet Rd, for the annual get together, 6:30 p.m. ‘til whenever. Any history of AARC’s near 100-year past that one can find would be of great interest. Bring it along.

CU there es 73 [Morse “shorthand” for “see you there and Best Wishes]

It’s a New Year!

Welcome to our New Officers!

I think the snowman is a fitting graphic for this New Year. Though it did not last long, nor stick on the ground, we did have a bit of snow on New Year’s Eve (2nd snow in as many weeks—wow!). What a change after all the warm weather we’ve had this past year.

That’s not all that’s changed. We have a new set of officers! Welcome back to the two incumbents who are graciously continuing their service as Vice President (Lew, W5IFQ) and Treasurer (Jay, KA5OST). And a warm welcome to our new President (Ruben, WB5WTF) and Secretary (Joe, KG5QVW).



Join us at the next AARC Meeting, **Tuesday, January 2nd @ 7pm** and welcome our new officers! See the last page of this newsletter for meeting details.

2017 Officers

President	Ruben Fuentes	WB5WTF	president@austinhams.org
Vice President	Lew Thompson	W5IFQ	vice-president@austinhams.org
Treasurer	Jay Hoffman	KA5OST	treasurer@austinhams.org
Secretary	Joe Talafous	KG5QVW	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:

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.

AARCOVER Information: ISSN 1067-0262, CODEN AAOVE3. ©Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Published monthly by the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

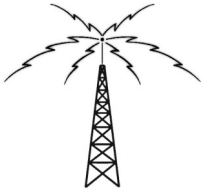
Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of the club, or of its members, directors, or officers. Material quoted from the ARRL Letter is supplied by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

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...



Old Tech Guy...

Kevin has many GOOD videos on YouTube covering many facets of amateur radio.

Kevin Loughin, KB9RLW, The old tech guy

His YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmOfhbZoll27G7vvifvnw3w>

Click on Videos to see what's available. A couple of samples include:

Radio History - A trip to the local history museum to see the Philo Farnsworth exhibit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Qh-d4114r4>

Ham Radio and Linux - Build the latest FLdigi from source under Linux

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl7Ps2tplic>

His links seem to be endless.

Paul Fenrich

KA5FZU

[Thanks for this source, Paul! -Editor] 

This is Ed Gobbel, W8EFG, reaching out from the Bastrop County Club.

I will be teaching a FREE Technician Licensing Class in January/February.

It will be January 20, 27, and February 3 from 9am - Noon

An ARRL testing session will be held after the final class.

The class will be held at:

Lumberyard Music Hall/Bastrop Academy of Music

1106 Main Street

Bastrop, TX 78602

73 DE W8EFG

Edward F. Gobbel

512-695-4085

bcarc.hams@gmail.com



REMINDER

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

FEATURED EVENT



It's time for the ARRL North Texas Section Convention and their 10th Year!

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

Open To The Public

Friday, January 19, 3pm-7pm & Saturday, January 20, 7am-3pm

Forest Hill Civic Center / 6901 Wichita St. / Forest Hill TX 76140

Talk in- 146.94 (-) 110.9

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

They are good for both days.

Children 12 and under are free.

Tables and Spaces Now Open

Tables/Spaces \$35 each (one non transferable door prize ticket comes with each presale table)

For purchasing information, contact: Betty Westmoreland, info@cowtownhamfest.com

Vendor Set Up

Vendors may set up at 10:00am Friday and 6:00am on Saturday

The Cowtown Hamfest was founded over ten years ago with a single goal: to offer quality, service, education, hands on ham gear to the Ham Community and to anyone desiring to further their Ham Experience. Our event strives to provide an activity that's conducive to meeting the needs of the Amateur Operator at all levels. Each year, our committee reviews and evaluates current operation procedures, the gear that is available and of interest to the Ham Community, and programs providing increased skills to ensure we are offering the best and most complete experience possible for each attendee. We then find ways to deliver on these objectives and include additional activities including returning a portion of the registration money in the form of quality door prizes.



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!

President's Corner

January 2018



Happy New Year, everyone! After having been elected to serve as your club president, I received many warm welcomes at the Christmas get-together. And for that, I am grateful. For those of you that haven't met me, my name is Ruben (WB5WTF). I retired from the Austin Police Department (APD) in 2012. I served there for 32 years and have 38 years total in law enforcement experience. I spent the last bit of my career as the supervisor of the Air Unit (the helicopters and a small Cessna). That last little bit of time was probably the most enjoyable in my 19 years as a Sergeant because I had such a great crew and enjoyed the flying time so much. By the way, for those of you who have been around for a while, I knew APD Lt. Alvin Devane, (an avid ham radio operator) and remember him driving his car that looked like a porcupine (with all the antennas) to and from work.

Changing the subject, On Thursday, December 7th, I was contacted by email by a man named Andrew Gani-Ikilama (5NGKA), a ham operator in Nigeria. He asked if there was any way that he could meet some local hams. Andrew was here as part of the US State Department's IVLP program. (<https://eca.state.gov/ivlp>)

On Saturday, I picked him up at his downtown hotel and brought him to the usual Saturday morning get-together at the Waterloo Ice House. I'd like to thank each of you that met him and greeted him with great Texas hospitality. A special thanks goes to Jay, KA5OST, for help getting me an AARC polo shirt on such short notice to present Andrew with that morning. In the short amount of time I was able to email and visit with Andrew, I learned a lot from him. As a couple of examples, I learned that there is only one licensing level in Nigeria. When I was telling him about our Christmas party and that there were 75 people in attendance, he said, "There are 75 ham radio operators in all of Nigeria."

I'm a relatively new ham radio operator, having received my Technician in April and my General license in September. But I'm looking forward to serving the club membership and learning as much as I can from all of you. 73.

No December Meeting Minutes

Reminder: There are no meeting minutes for last month since it was our Christmas Party and not a business meeting. Minutes to be approved at the January meeting are for the November meeting which were published in the December 2017 newsletter. [-Editor]

AARC Meeting Info

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018 / 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: Applied Research Labs
[10000 Burnet Road, Austin TX 78758](http://10000BurnetRoadAustinTX78758)

Meeting Topic:

NVIS or HF Mobile considerations by Lew, W5IFQ

Solar WX Summary by Lew, W5IFQ

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 - Jan. 6th & Feb. 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 - Jan. 20 & Feb. 17th

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

Contact Craig

AC5KW @ ARRL.net
for more info. \$14 fee.

2018 - Calendar of Events

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/>

Jan 14 - The Big Bend 50 Marathon

Comm. checks on Saturday the 13th at a time of each operator's choosing. Runners are on the road at daylight (about 7am), last runners in before dark (about 5:30pm). Many of the sites are at locations that are radio challenging. So, the stronger the equipment you can set up, the better. For those who pride themselves in being prepared to assist in emergencies, this event is the best drill situation you will encounter. Contact: Charlie, KC5NKK, charlesland@gmail.com

Jan 20, 27, Feb 3 - FREE Technician Licensing Class

Bastrop Country Club, 9am-noon. Testing after final class.
Lumberyard Music Hall/Bastrop Academy of Music
1106 Main Street, Bastrop, TX 78602
Contact: Edward, W8EFG, 512-695-4085

**More events listed in the [SWAPNET Newsletter!](#)
Visit <http://austinhams.org/swapnet>**

Upcoming Meetings...

Jan.	Feb.	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
2	5	AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
23	27	Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab	7:00 p.m.	10000 Burnet Rd
25	22	CERT Meeting @ TBD (see Link / Contact) (CERT appears to not have meetings in December due to holidays. Next meeting Jan. 25.)	7:00 p.m.	TBD
22	26	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/>